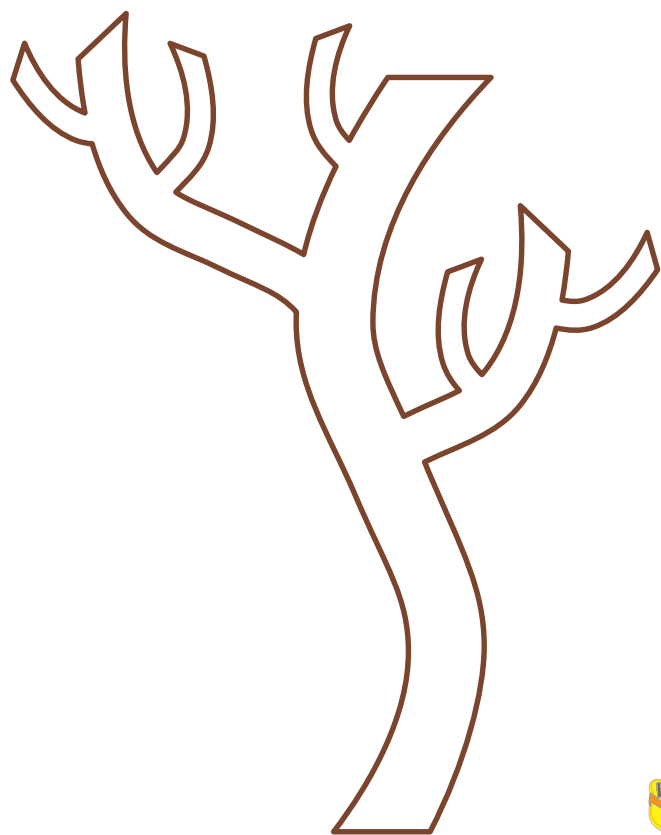


Kids Corner - This fig tree is going to be cut off, unless the tree bear fruits. Help the tree below by adding leaves, flowers and fruits. Colour the picture.



We welcome literary contributions to our weekly newsletter (articles, observations, book reviews, etc). Please email your submissions to spptheapostles@gmail.com. Include a short introduction of yourself to our readers. Thank you.

Sunset Mass
5.30pm

Rosary
4.40pm

Sunday Masses
8.30am (Mandarin)
11.00am (English)
2.00pm (Cantonese) Chapel, 3rd Floor
4.20pm (English)

Weekday Masses
7.20am
5.30pm

Intercessory Prayer
7.15pm (Eng, Thu, Adoration Chapel)

Infant Jesus Devotions
5.30pm (Thu, followed by Mass)
4.00pm (Sun, followed by Mass)

Divine Mercy Devotions
Fri, after 5.30pm Mass
Sun, 12.30pm (Mandarin)

Sion Adorers - Holy Hour
7.45pm - 8.45pm (Sat, Adoration Chapel)

Hour of Mercy (Adoration Chapel)
3.00pm (Daily)

Counselling at SPP
Family Life Society Counselling every Monday 11.00am - 2.00pm and 6.30pm - 9.00pm. Call 6382 0688 for appointment

Church of Saints Peter & Paul
225-A Queen Street, Singapore 188551
Tel: +65 6337 2585 Fax: +65 6334 5414 email: sts.peterpaul@pacific.net.sg
www.sppchurch.org.sg

We welcome literary contributions to The Apostles. Please email your submission to spptheapostles@gmail.com. You can also download The Apostles at: <http://sppchurch.org.sg/downloads.html>

Please note that our cash-card car park barrier system is implemented with effect from Mon 11 Jan 2010. The rate are as follows: **Monday to Saturday: 7.00 am to 9.00 pm - \$1.50 per half hour or part thereafter Sunday: Free parking (10 minutes grace period)** The Church gates will be closed from 9.00 pm to 6.00 am. Parking rates for vehicles parked in the Church compound after closing hours will be levied \$10/ per hour or part thereafter from Monday to Saturday. Church worshippers attending Masses, a 'Mass-Time' grace period will be granted from 6.00am to 9.00 am and from 4.30 pm to 7.30 pm.

The Lenten Light
written by The Littlest One (ARISE)

It has been commonly thought that youths today show an increasingly lack of concern for our Catholic festivals. Youths were more often than not being 'forced' into a religion that their parents believe in. However, in recent times, youths are being given more freedom, freedom to choose their religion. As a result, youths now truly chose to believe, to believe in our Catholic faith and in God. We are taking religious festivals more serious now, begun abstaining from our common temptations. In addition, we have not reach 18 yet, we do not 'need' to abstain.

Hence, it is our choice to pay for our sins, just as Jesus died on the cross for them. One of my friends has chosen to abstain from chocolate, all forms of chocolate, to forgo some of her worldly pleasure for Christ. We love Christ as a way of life, as path to walk, as a cross to carry.

Lent has become a period for us to reflect, to be in fervent prayer. It calls for us to be together with Christ, to let Christ take the wheel.

Let us pray: Dear Jesus, guide us through this period of lent, to bring us close to You. Let us grow in wholeness and let You become our light that will light our path. You are the truth, the way and the life. Nothing comes to the Father except through You. With another year has just begun, let us keep in mind that all things happen for a reason and that You have a much greater plan for us, much greater than what we can ever fathom. Help us put our trust in You and never be disheartened as we face daunting challenges, that we have the faith to carry on in Your path. Amen.

Parish Priest
Rev Fr Anselm Phang OCD

Asst Parish Priest
Rev Fr Joseph Koh OCD

Provincial-Delegate
Rev Fr Thomas Lim OCD

Parish Secretary
Ms Martha Loh, Ms Jannie Lui

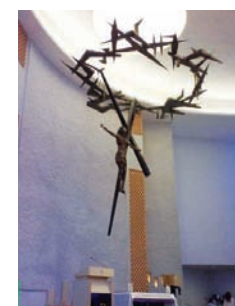
Church Donations
Please make you cheque payable to :

(i) **Church Of Sts Peter & Paul** -for contributions/donations for on-going maintenance of our Church or parish projects and Mass offerings;

(ii) **Church Of SPP Building Fund** - for contributions/donations to our Church building fund;

(iii) **Carmelite Fathers** for contributions/donations to the Carmelite Friars (SPP), OCD Missions, Frairs Formation.

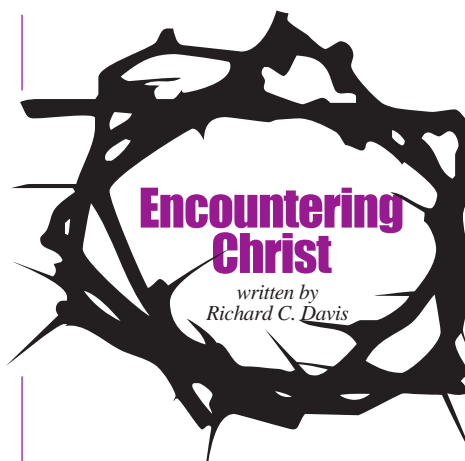
Rite of Election 2010
written by Y. C. Tan



20th of February 2010 is another cheery Saturday afternoon when the Catechumens and Candidates gathered at the Church of Sts Peter and Paul. However, this time we're not attending any Celebration of Mass at the Church of Sts Peter and Paul, instead we're heading to the Church of Divine Mercy in Pasir Ris where the Rite of Election will be hosted for some four hundred over Catechumens and Candidates in the East and City District (Church of St Bernadette, Divine Mercy, Holy Family, Holy Trinity, Novena, OLPS, Sts Peter & Paul, Queen of Peace, St. Stephen and St Teresa). The blessings we've received from our loving Parish Priest Fr. Anselm Phang, signing the Book of the Elect, every single prayer and even our bus journey to the Church of Divine Mercy is the most gratifying and unforgettable experience in our lives that becomes so deeply etched into our memories.

continued on page 2

CARMELITE LENTEN RETREAT 2010 - "ENTER THE CLOISTER"



Encountering Christ
written by Richard C. Davis

I have a confession to make: I am a grumbler. When my work takes an unexpected turn for the worse, I grumble. When my students don't take their work seriously, I grumble. When the people I love seem out of reach, I grumble. I even grumble when I don't think that people on escalators are moving fast enough.

You may wonder, "Is grumbling a sin? Should one really confess this? Isn't grumbling just a natural part of life?" Not according to the Bible, it's not. The Israelites grumbled quite a lot while they were wandering in the desert, and God made it clear that he was not happy about it. He even went so far as to let some of them die because of this. St. Paul tells us that this happened as an example for us, so that we might not do the same: *"Do not grumble as some of them did, and suffered death by the destroyer. These things happened to them as an example, and they have been written down as a warning to us..." (Corinthians 10: 10-11)*

This baffled me for a long time. How could grumbling be so bad that many people had to die as a warning against it? I eventually learned that grumbling is the beginning of sinful pride. When things do not go my way, I resent it. I resent events, which leads me to resent people, which leads me to resent God, and this leads to ever greater sin. This is how we become lost.

Lent is a perfect time to reflect on this and ask ourselves how we can avoid grumbling. When we begin to reflect, the first thing

we discover is that we can't stop grumbling on our own. Our habits are too ingrained, and we don't know how to let go of the things we think we need. Yet, if we simply ignore our troubles and force ourselves to keep our grumbling quiet, we may never find healing. Only an encounter with God will save us at these times, and this is why we need so very much to meet Him along the way as we walk through each day.

The most astonishing thing of all is that God is constantly trying to catch our attention. Sometimes it seems that God goes to outrageous lengths, as he did when He sent an angel to Moses in the form of a burning bush. But no matter how hard God tries, we must still be open to such encounters if we are to experience them fully. Moses could have said, "Wow, a burning bush. You don't see that every day," and continued tending his flock of sheep. It was only when Moses stopped what he was doing and approached the bush that God called to him, and what an awe-inspiring encounter it was!

"When the Lord saw him coming over to look at it more closely, God called out to him from the bush, 'Moses! Moses!' He answered, 'Here I am.' God said, 'Come no nearer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground.'" (Exodus 3:4-5)

Jesus is also trying to encounter us as we walk through life, though His tactics are usually more gentle, even playful. For example, look at how playfully he draws the woman at the well into a deeper conversation. He asks her for water, and when she hesitates, His next comment seems to come out of nowhere: *"If you knew the gift of God and who is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him and he would have given you living water."* (John 4:10)

What unexpected intimacy! What astonishing promises! Such is the gift of eternal life that Christ offers us every time we encounter Him. It may not be easy to see how this gift makes a difference here and now, but we can trust that we will encounter Him each day if we stop grumbling as we walk along the way. ■

**THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT
(7 March 2010)**

READINGS:
Sunday Missal (Year C): Page 95

Responsorial Psalm: "The Lord is compassion and love."

Prayers of the Faithful: Page 98

continued from page 1 - Rite of Election 2010

The Rite of Election is beautiful and exhilarating for all but we're soon greet by the Gospel for the First Sunday of Lent that brought us all down to earth again. On contrary to the beautiful rite and good ambiance, the Gospel presents us with the story of Christ's 40 days in the not so beautiful but harsh desert. I swallowed my pride and was immediately brought back to humility and vigilance as I listened to the Gospel. Staring at the huge Crucifix and Crown of Thorns, the Words of the Gospel just ran through my mind repeatedly. It's not just simply a period of sacrifice but also a time of testing and temptations: hunger, power and immortality. They're so irresistible but not to Jesus who knows everyone, including our suffering, disappointment, temptation and test.

As we journey through Lent, the Gospel reminds us that we're not in the desert alone. We are with Christ. He knows what we are living with and without. Thus, turn to him in time of temptation or need.

Likewise, all the RCIA Catechumens and Candidates will also be heading out on a journey – and we're won't be alone. We've been through the Rite of Election, joining hundreds of others from around the diocese, to continue our walk in faith with Him and moving closer to receiving our sacraments. On top of that, we'll carry with us all the prayers, hopes and joy, as we eagerly anticipate the day when we can join the rest of the Brothers and Sisters in Christ at the table of the Lord.

Besides careful elaboration on the important significance of the Word of God, community, one book of Elect, greeting of the Elect by the Archbishop and Liturgy of the Eucharist; His Grace, Archbishop Nicholas Chia has also emphasized that 'God has chosen us and not we chose Him'. The statement was a resounding 'Yes' that none of us is going to walk in the desert alone as He will not neglect us but is always with us.

I'll always keep in mind: Our Lord was also tempted. And in the days ahead, His understanding, His love, His grace will make what seems impossible possible.

For none of us is going to walk in the desert alone as He is always with all of us - His chosen children.

**Readings for the Week:
Mon 8 Mar – Sat 13 Mar '10**

Mon: Ex 17: 1-7/Jn 4: 5-42
Tue : Dan 3: 25,34-43/Mt 18: 21-35
Wed: Deut 4: 1,5-9/Mt 5: 17-19
Thu : Jer 7: 23-28/Lk 11: 14-23
Fri : Hos 14: 2-10/Mk 12: 28-34
Sat : Hos 6: 1-6/Lk 18: 9-14

Want a meaningful Lent?



The Passion Play is back again this year on the 2 Apr '10. Spearheaded by the *Arise Youth Ministry* over the last 5 years, the Passion Play has been an integral part of the Good Friday program. We welcome anyone who is interested in joining to come, be it acting, script writing or helping out in props and costumes. **Contact Jaslene @ 9649 8231 or Bernice @ 9710 8511 to sign up for a meaningful journey this lent.**

The Lighter side of The Apostles
the beagle with yellow slippers

NO MO!!!! DON'T DO IT!!!!
I AM NOT a bush fire... I mean I AM the bush fire... NO NO NO... I mean I AM NOT that kind of bush fire... I AM 'The bush fire... Mo... you get it... Mo????'



Exodus 3:2-6 There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up. So Moses thought, "I will go over and see this strange sight - why the bush does not burn up." When the LORD saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, "Moses! Moses!" And Moses said, "Here I am." "Do not come any closer," God said. "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground." Then he said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob." At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God.

Know Your Ministry

What is your ministry and the history of the ministry?

I am in the St Cecilia's Choir – Formed in 1965, we are a 45-year-young choir with an illustrious history in SPP church.

What does your ministry do?

Besides singing for the 11.00am Mass on Sundays (excluding 1st Sundays of the month), we often sing for grand church events (Christmas Midnight Mass, Easter Vigil, etc...), and join in nuptial festivities by singing for weddings. Aside from our core mission of spreading the word through song, we also have house prayers during Rosary months and various other fun activities (carolling, barbeques, overseas trips, etc...) to unite the members.

Who is in your ministry?

Our members range from those not yet enrolled in school all the way to senior retirees, all fuelled by a common passion for singing. Our different sounds - Soprano, Alto, Tenor and Bass, all come together as one collective voice to sing for God.

Does your ministry follow a motto or a way of service?

Our motto "LAUDES CANTEMUS DOMINO • QUI CANTAT BIS ORAT" means "Singing is Praying Twice" because we sincerely believe that singing together as one voice with our hearts is more powerful than any prayer.

When do you practice?

We rehearse every Sunday after the 11.00am Mass in church, always followed by a merry bonding makan session.

Who can join your ministry?

Anyone can join us to sing for the lord. As long as you have the heart to want to sing praises to the Lord, YOU should join us.

How can they join?

Just drop by during any of our practices after Mass to come say hello and join us! Alternatively, you may contact our ever-friendly chairperson Francis, via email: fst11@yahoo.com / or telephone: 98460075.

we are one big family. even if someone is out of pitch, the air of a family is there. we share, we love and in sorrow we are together.

Richard

besides the singing at mass and practices to cohesiveness of cecilians as a family is fantastic from young to old.

Josephine Suet-Tan

Events in our Parish

LENTEN PENITENTIAL SERVICES (City District) - We append the schedule for the for City District Churches. All services begin at 8.00 pm.

19 Mar 10 (Fri) : *Novena Church*
22 Mar 10 (Mon) : *Church of Sts Peter & Paul*
23 Mar 10 (Tue) : *Church of St Bernadette*
24 Mar 10 (Wed) : *Church of St Michael*
25 Mar 10 (Thu) : *Church of St Teresa*
26 Mar 10 (Fri) : *Church of Our Lady of Lourdes*
27 Mar 10 (Sat) : (Mandarin, 1.30 pm)
Church of Sts Peter & Paul

WAY OF THE CROSS - is held every Friday during Lent at 5.30 pm. Evening Mass will follow after prayers.

HELPERS NEEDED - Palm Sunday falls on 28 Mar '10. The palms will be delivered to our Church on Thu 25 Mar. **We appeal for volunteers to help to wash the palms on Sat 27 Mar at 10 am.** Please give your names to the Secretariat by 24 Mar. Thank you for your help.

SOLEMN PROFESSION - We are very happy to announce our Church of Sts Peter and Paul will be celebrating the Solemn Profession of Friar Paul of Christ Crucified, OCD (Anuphong Srisuk) and the Silver Jubilee of Religious Profession of Friar Joseph Koh of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, OCD at 6.30 pm on Fri 19 Mar '10. The Solemnity of St Joseph Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary and Principal Protector of the Carmelite Order. **(Please note the Way of the Cross will be held at 5.30 pm. The evening Mass is advanced to 6.30 pm on that day.)**

DIACONATE ORDINATION - We warmly welcome His Grace, Archbishop Nicholas Chia, DD. Archbishop of Singapore who will be present in our Church of Sts. Peter and Paul on Thu 25 Mar '10, The Solemnity the Annunciation of the Lord, at 6.30 pm to preside in the Diaconate Ordination of Friar Paul Anuphong Srisuk, OCD. **(Please note the Infant Jesus Devotion will be held as usual at 5.30 pm. The evening mass is advanced to 6.30 pm on that day.)**

NEW RCIA - Process Commencement - English - 1 Jun 10 7.30pm
Contact: **Joanna Tham (9753 6863)**
Mandarin - 4 Jun 10 7.30pm
Contact: **Corrina Cheong (9739 7694)**
Cantonese - 4 Jun 10 8.00pm
Contact: **Bosco Loi (9712 0452)**

VERTEX! FUNFAIR - "Willing Hearts" will be organizing Vertex! Funfair in joint collaboration with Highpoint Community Services Association on Sat 19 Jun '10 from

9.00 am to 4.00 pm @ Highpoint Community Services Association Centre, Blk 1 Lorong 23 Geylang. This food and fun fair is for the elderly and other marginalized members of the society. Volunteers from the organization will visit our church to sell food and fun fair tickets at this weekend Masses of 6 & 7 Mar 10. Let us be responsive and generous to their appeal.

INFANT JESUS DEVOTION - Please note that there will be NO Infant Jesus devotion on Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday and Easter Sunday.

CARMELITES CONTEMPLATION HOUR - Join an evening of contemplative prayer on Fri 26 Feb '10 (4 Fri of each mth) from 7.30 pm to 9.00 pm at SPP Adoration Room. All interested Catholics who wish to deepen their spiritual lives are cordially invited to attend.

PILGRIMAGE TOUR - Join a 5D/13N Italy Pilgrimage Tour from 14 to 28 May '10. The itinerary includes Milan, Turin, Venice, Assisi, Lancia, San Giovanni Rotondo, Rome, etc. For further information and reservation, please contact Lawrence Seet at 9799 2488.

THANK YOU - We thank you for your response to our appeal for funds for urgent structure repairs to our SPP Church building. Please note that cheques should be made in favour of: "**Church of SPP Building Fund**" and not "**Church of Sts. Peter & Paul**". Thank you once again for your kind contributions.

DAILY PRAYER - Our SPP Church prays the Lauds led by the Carmelite Friars every weekday morning after the 7.20 am Mass.

COUNSELLING SERVICES - Family Life Society (FLS) is making its counselling services available at our SPP Church every Monday from 11.00 am to 2.00 pm and from 6.30 pm to 9.00 pm. Lay Counsellors trained by FLS will be available to provide a listening ear and help to those in need. Parishioners may call 6382 0688 (weekdays from 9.00 am to 5.00 pm) to make an appointment. Website: <http://www.familylife.sg/>

Events around our Parish

LENTEN JOURNEY RETREAT ACCS (Archdiocesan Commission for Catholic Schools) - is organizing three Friday afternoon sessions on "Lenten Journey Retreat" for Catholic teachers and educators. This is part of an on-going spiritual formation. Fri, 5, 12, 26 Mar '10, 3.00 pm to 6.00 pm at St. Luke's, 2 Highland Road, CAEC, Singapore 549102. Speakers: Fr Aloysius Ong and Sr Susan Thom as FMM. The registration fee for all three session is \$35/person. For more

information or registration please contact Mr Louis Oo at 6858 7085 or email: louis_oo@catholic.org.sg by Mon 1 Mar '10

MARRIAGE PREPARATION COURSE (MPC) - For couples intending to get married - 2nd Quarter Course will be held from 2 May to 6 Jun '10. Allocation of places is on a first-come-first-served basis. Enquiries: John & Joan @ 9848 2864 or email: marthasohsk@yahoo.com. Application forms obtainable in church office or website: www.catholic.org.sg/mpc.

BEGINNING EXPERIENCE (BE) is a peer ministry for the widowed, separated or divorced individuals to help them resolve their grief towards a healing process. Join a live-in weekend programme from 19 Mar (Fri) to 21 Mar (Sun). Interested, contact Mr King 9632 7370, Christine 9833-4714, Jenny 9675 6940 or Mary 9755 4310 (after 6.00pm).

CHOICE WEEKEND - "It is not always easy to love those close to us. It is easier to give a cup of rice to relieve hunger than to relieve the loneliness and pain of someone unloved in our own home. Bring love into your home for this is where our love for each other must start." *Mother Teresa*. Young adults aged 18-40 yrs - Come for a CHOICE WEEKEND, 19-21 Mar '10. Visit www.choice.org.sg or email: choicewk@singnet.com.sg. Enquiries: Albert 9046 2297 or Madelene 9685 9416.



This season of Lent, let the love of Jesus shine through your actions and be a blessing to others. Our Archdiocesan annual fundraising Charities Week 2010 supports over 50,000 people in need across all races, languages and religions. Funds raised will enable the Catholic charity and community organisations reach out to the poor and marginalised, children and families, migrant workers, prisoners and persons with HIV/AIDS.

Please take a Charities Week appeal envelope this weekend to show your support and contribute generously to help these causes. You may wish to mail your donation using the appeal envelopes directly to Caritas Singapore (for cheques only) or drop them in the offertory collection boxes during the weekends of Lent.

Your contribution will make a difference in the lives of those in need. **Visit www.caritas-singapore.org or call 6337 3711 for more information.**