

# A Holistic Catholic Education

Patricia Ang

Catholic educators were reminded of the importance to ensure that every child is given an integral development. A holistic Catholic education should look into the dimensions of the emotional, moral, human and spiritual growth of a person, said Archbishop William Goh.

"As Catholic educators, you are instrumental in building a strong moral foundation for our young people, for them to grow in moral and spiritual life and to seek the ultimate truth. Jesus is the truth incarnated in love. We as Catholic educators, are the star to lead our children to seek the ultimate truth and wisdom in life for them to lead a purposeful and meaningful life so that they can in turn transform the world," said Archbishop Goh at the Commencement of School Year Mass on January 5.

The celebration at the Cathedral of the Good Shepherd was attended by principals,

vice-principals, teachers, Archdiocesan Commission for Catholic Schools (ACCS) commissioners, parents and students.

Archbishop Goh told the congregation with religious beliefs and a strong moral foundation, the children would have a greater motivation to render the gifts they received and contribute back to society, be more self-giving and have the ability to lead a life of integrity. "If a child is focused on serving God and society and the intention is to give the best to God, they will do well in his or her studies. They are studying with a higher motive and driven by a higher meaning in life."

Eight newly appointed principals of Catholic schools were commissioned during the Mass. They are:

1. Mr Poh Chun Lek (Catholic High School)
2. Mrs Jenny Leong (CHIJ St Theresa's Convent)
3. Mdm Cheryl Choo (De La Salle School)



The eight newly appointed principals of Catholic schools at the Commencement of School Year Mass.

4. Mr Kelvin Lim (Montfort Secondary School)
5. Ms Fiona Koh (St Anthony's Canossian Secondary School)
6. Mrs Roisin Paul (SJI International)
7. Mr Mark Minjoot (St Patrick's School)
8. Ms Wee Kheng Luan (Church of the Holy Trinity Kindergarten)

The commissioning ceremony also saw current principals and vice-principals receive a specially crafted candle from retired principals to remind them of the presence of Christ in their respective schools.

Many who attended described the occasion as an insightful and meaningful experience.

For Mdm Cheryl Choo, principal of De La Salle School, this is her first posting in a mission school and attending a Mass at the Cathedral. She found it special and heart-warming to be among all the Catholic educators. "The importance of Catholic education is about developing the mind, the heart and the entire being of a person. As educators, we teach children to find meaning and purpose in their lives and to have faith in themselves and others."

Mrs Jenny Leong, principal of CHIJ St Theresa's Convent, shared she felt humbled and privileged to be blessed by Archbishop Goh. "With the blessings from Archbishop and community, this allows me to carry out my leadership role to lead the school. On our own, we can do so little. However with God, we can do much more with the community. Our education must first and foremost be holistic. We must help our students grow their moral compass, develop their spiritual growth and character development. The academic achievements will follow naturally." □

## CHANCERY NOTICES

27 December 2019

CHN/CN/2019/021

The Chancery has recently received reports that certain members of the Filipino Catholic Communities here in Singapore have mistakenly believed that they belong to the Roman Catholic Church after they had been baptized into the *Iglesia Filipina Independiente*, or the Philippine Independent Catholic Church.

Having investigated this religious entity, the Chancery wishes to inform the clergy and faithful of the following:

- 1) The Philippine Independent Catholic Church is a schismatic group which separated from the Roman Catholic Church in 1902. The instigator of this schism was a man known as Isabelo de los Reyes, also known as 'Dom Belong', along with Gregorio Aglipay, an excommunicated priest.
- 2) The Philippine Independent Catholic Church also differs from the Roman Catholic Church in matters of doctrine.

3) In 1960, the Philippine Independent Catholic Church was received into the Anglican Communion.

Due to their status as first a Catholic schismatic group and later a member of the Anglican Communion, members of the Philippine Independent Catholic Church are not in communion with Rome.

On a pastoral note, the Chancery would like to encourage parishes to be diligent in verifying that those who have received Sacraments such as Baptism and Confirmation overseas have done so in a valid manner in Rites of the Roman Catholic Church. This especially pertains to those undergoing catechesis in preparation for receiving further Sacraments like Confirmation and Marriage. In the case of any possible discrepancies, Parish teams may contact the Chancery for clarification. □

31 December 2019

### APPOINTMENTS

1. Fr Vinukumar Nesamani is appointed Assistant Priest at the Church of St Francis Xavier for a term of two [2] years with effect from 9 December 2019.
2. The following have been appointed to the council of the Archdiocesan Commission for the Family for a term through to 31 December 2020:
  - a. Roderick Theseira – Chairperson
  - b. Kevin Kwek – Deputy Chairperson
  - c. John Hui
  - d. John Ooi
3. The following have been appointed to the council of the Archdiocesan Commission for the Family for a term through to 31 December 2021:
  - a. Msgr Ambrose Vaz – Spiritual Director
  - b. Eugene Ng – Asst Treasurer

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- c. Laura Snodgrass
- d. Benjamin Lim
- e. Irena Kit Phey Ling
- f. Kenneth Poon

### OTHER MATTERS

CHOICE Retreat House (CRH) will be repurposed and will cease operations at the current location by end April 2020. This includes CRH rentals and Choice weekends. CHOICE will be relocated to the Marriage Encounter House at: 201-B, Ponggol Seventeenth Avenue, Singapore 829651.

Choice weekends will resume from this location effective 1<sup>st</sup> May 2020 onwards. □

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06 January 2020 CHN/CN/2020/001

The Chancery wishes to inform the faithful that on the date of Friday, 24th January 2020, His Grace Archbishop William Goh DD has granted a dispensation from the regular discipline of abstinence from meat on Fridays in accordance with can. 87.

As the date falls on the eve of the Lunar New Year when many families in the Archdiocese are expected to celebrate a reunion dinner with their families and friends, this dispensation is granted to allow families to celebrate and appreciate the gift of family and friends. □