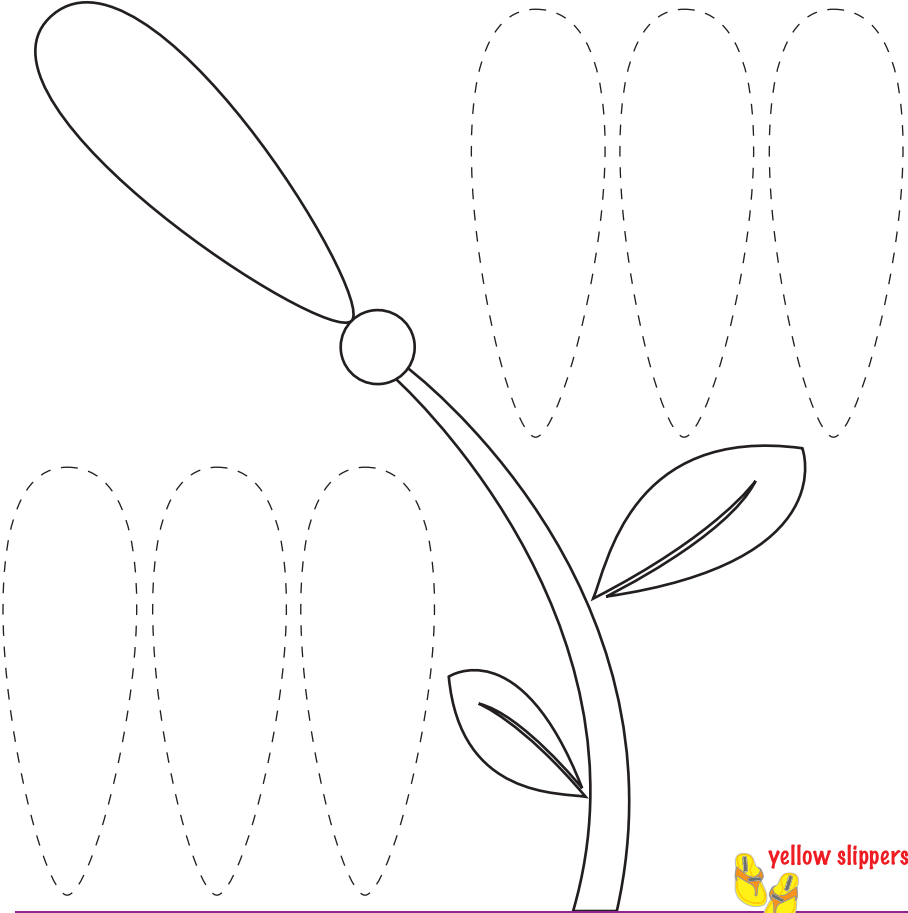


Kids Corner

Lent is here. While your parents are fasting and praying preparing in this season of Lent, you can also do your part. Do something nice for the people around you. They can your friends or your teachers in school. You can also say a little prayer for someone who you know is in need of our prayers. You can give up your favourite television program as your 'fasting'. For every deed you do, write it on one of the petals below and if you need more petals, simply cut out one on your own... then colour them and paste it on the flower bud. When Lent is over take a look at your accomplishments, you should have a colourful flower!



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

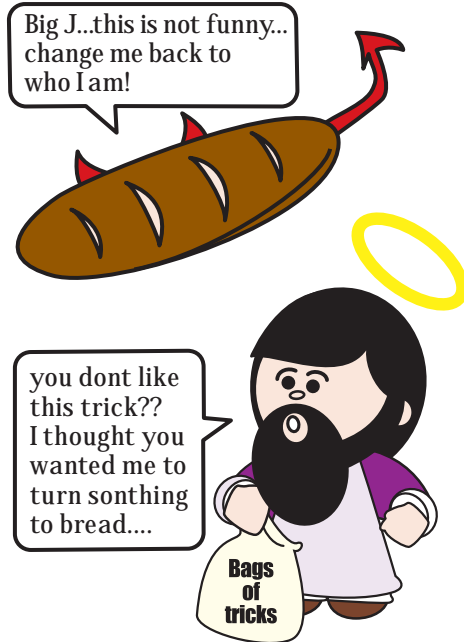
Church of Saints Peter & Paul
225-A Queen Street, Singapore 188551
Tel: +65 6337 2585 Fax: +65 6334 5414 email:
sts.peterpaul@pacific.net.sg
www.sppchurch.org.sg

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 Lighter side of The Apostles

the beagle with yellow slippers

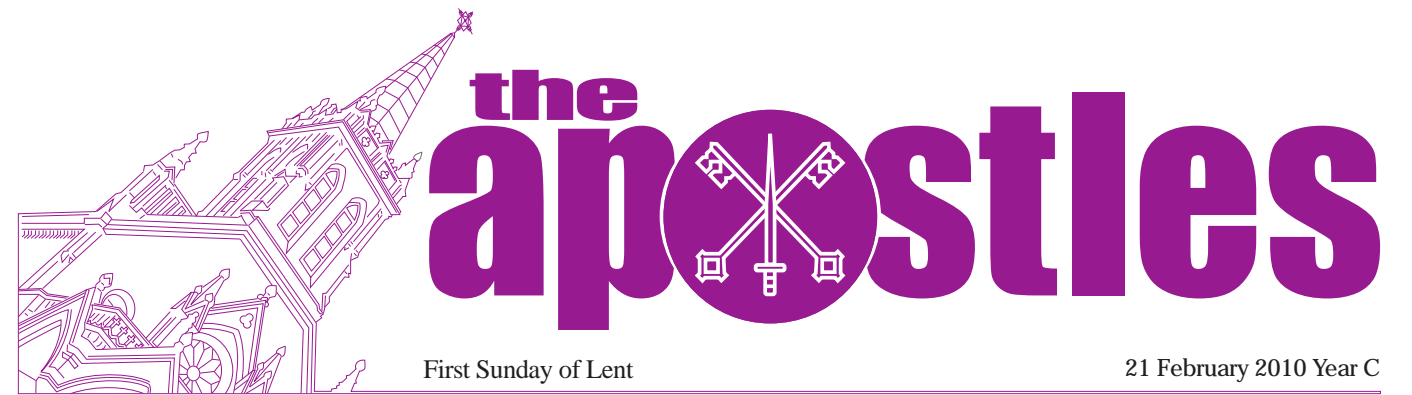


Luke 4:1-8 Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the desert, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing during those days, and at the end of them he was hungry. The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread." Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone.'" The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And he said to him, "I will give you all their authority and splendor, for it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. So if you worship me, it will all be yours." Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.'"

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.

Information is correct at time of publication.



First Sunday of Lent

21 February 2010 Year C

Anointing of the Sick

- written by Emily Yeo (ARISE)

"Is any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. And their prayer offered in faith will heal the sick, and the Lord will make them well. And anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven." – James 5: 14

This phrase has since become the chief biblical text for the Sacrament of the anointing of the sick. And in this line alone, we are able to see the fruits that this Sacrament bears – faith, forgiveness, strength, healing.

We recently completed a series in our weekly cell group on the Anointing of the Sick, a sacrament not known to many of us. Most of us hadn't ever witnessed the actual administering of the Sacrament. Prior to starting this session, this Sacrament was most "foreign" to us; we had experienced and/or witnessed the rest of the Sacraments before. Through this, we gained a much deeper understanding on the significance and richness of the Sacrament of the anointing of the sick.

We now know that the emphasis of the sacrament is not just purely for bodily healing, but rather the forgiveness of sins and the grace for the state into which people enter sickness. It prepares the sick with a gift of the Holy Spirit, and inspires the sick person to continue having hope in God's salvation. It gives comfort to the sick, that God is endlessly blessing him and present in his every suffering, and will remain with him, especially into the sick person's eternal life.

We looked into scripture, and recounted and re-experienced the ways in which God promised healing to his people (e.g. in the story of Moses and the serpent), and the many ways in which Jesus Christ

continued on page 2

"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom" (Proverbs 1:7)

The other day, a young gentleman said to his father, "I don't want to go to the Universal Studios since it is linked to the casino." I am thankful to his parents for his moral upbringing. I am grateful to the Holy Spirit for sending wisdom to direct this youth.

The contemporary parallel to the temptations of Christ (Luke 4:1-13) can be found in our own backyard. Ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls; they will all taken in by casino and leisure packages; fine dining; eat-all-you-can banquets; 5-star hotels and a chance to take the bait. The choice lies with us.

"When we say 'lead us not into temptation' we are asking God not to allow us to take the path that leads to sin. This petition implores the Spirit of discernment and strength; it requests the grace of vigilance and final perseverance." (Catechism of the Catholic Church 2863)

Without any moralizing, we are asked: to avoid all occasions of sin; to steer clear of any person who tempt us into sin; to stay away from places that hijack us to hell.

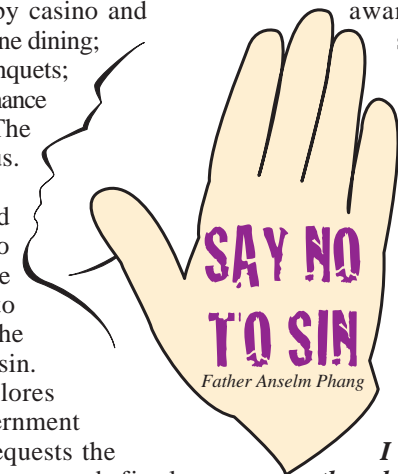
"But I am only going for the fun and rides at the amusement park." "Don't you think it is a very good deal?" "Come on, only one coin into the jackpot and I am out of there." "Oh, I am going to catch my Mediacorp artiste there."

And that is how it all started. Hook, line and sinker. These people took the bait

and their lives spiraled down.

Mathematically, the probability of winning at the casino is super low. So if people are thinking of throwing away their money, they should do better by considering the spiritual discipline of almsgiving.

On this First Sunday of Lent (and all the days of Lent), giving away money - something which is considered so necessary to life - will strip us of our inordinate attachment to it. By denuding ourselves of obscene habits, we will be aware of any temptation that subtly slides into our lives. Being aware of temptation is an art and like any art, it can be honed. The Lord reminds us,



"Whoever clings to me I will deliver; whoever knows my name I will set on high.

All who call upon me I will answer; I will be with them in distress; I will deliver them and give them honour.

With length of days I will satisfy them and show them my saving power." (Psalms 91:14-16)

This is the fundamental aptitude needed to hone that art of staying on the Lord. Then when temptations come, we can choose God over any other thing. Say no to sin.

If a person keeps saying, "I forget to say yes to God. I forget to say no to sin. I forget, I forget, I forget." That is so irresponsible. We just have to insert it into our system. Say no to casino.

Stay close to the Lord always. It is going to be a joyful Lenten journey when we have the Lord always in fine focus. ■

YEAR FOR PRIESTS: 2009-2010 Let us remember and pray for all our priests during this holy year. **SPP Divine Mercy Prayer Group** will be offering prayers for priests every 1st Friday at 3 pm in the Adoration Room. **SPP Prayer Group** is also conducting a prayer session for priests & religious and for more priestly and religious vocations on the last Thursday of each month from 7.15 pm to 9.00 pm with half hour of Praise and Adoration and Repentance in the Adoration Room.

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT TIME (21 FEBRUARY 2010)

READINGS: Sunday Missal (Year C):
Page 87

Responsorial Psalm: "Be with me O
Lord, in my distress."

Prayers of the Faithful: Page 89

St Peter - The Great Apostle *- written by Thomas Ng*



St Peter's original name was Simon. Born in Bethsaida, he was the son of Jona (Johannes), and his elder brother was Andrew.

Probably as a widower, Simon settled in Capharnaum as a fisherman living with his mother-in-law (Mt. 8:14; Lk4:38). Like many others, Simon and his brother Andrew were attracted by John the Baptist until they both were called by Jesus. The Lord looked upon Simon and said: "You are Simon, the son of Jona. You are to be called Cephas, which is translated Peter" (John 1:42). The change of Simon's name to Cephas meaning "rock" is a proof that Jesus had special views with regard to Simon, his first appointed Apostle.

Among the twelve, Peter had the greatest fidelity, firmness of faith, and inward love to Jesus. Though rash in words and act, this fisherman was full of zeal for the Lord. He was always the one who declared on Jesus: "You are the Christ, the Son of God." He was one of the three Apostles (with James and John) who witnessed Jesus raise the daughter of Jairus from dead (Mk 5:37; Lk 8:51). The three also encountered the Lord during the Transfiguration (Mt 17:1; Mk 9:1; Lk 9:28), besides other occasions.

In a solemn conversation with Peter, Jesus appointed him as head of the twelve

church of saints peter & paul

Readings for the Week: Mon 22 Feb – Sat 27 Feb '10

Mon : 1 Pt 5 : 1-4/Mt 16 : 13-19 -
Chair of St Peter the Apostle Feast
Tue : Is 55 : 10-11/Mt 6 : 7-15
Wed : 1 Jona 3: 1-10/Lk 11: 29-32
Thu : Est 4: 17/Mt 7: 7-12
Fri : Ez 18: 21-28/Mt 5: 20-26
Sat : Deut 26: 16-19/Mt 5: 43-48

Apostles (Mt 16:13-20). Catholic Scholars comment: By using the word "rock", Jesus does not mean Himself but Peter. He actually wishes him to be the head of the whole community of all who believe Him as Christ. This meaning has become clear that the words "bind" and "loose" are not metaphorical but Jewish juridical terms. In John's Gospel, at the lake of Genesareth, Jesus thrice renews to Peter of his commission to feed His flock (John 21:15-17). This foundation is affirmed by the Founder (Christ) with Peter as the primacy of His Church.

In the Acts, we can see how Peter as head of the whole community, appointed the replacement of Judas Iscariot. After the descent of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost, it was Peter who first courageously spoke to the crowds. He was also the first Apostle to perform miracles in Jesus' name. At the Council of Jerusalem, it was Peter who gave his support to preaching to the Gentiles, thereby making the Church to become universal.

In spreading the Good News, Peter suffered a lot. It is believed that in AD64, Peter was martyred under the mad emperor Nero. He was crucified on the Vatican Hill upside down, because he stipulated himself unworthy to die in similarity as the Lord.

A simple, lowly educated fisherman with a great heart for the Messiah, having denied the Master thrice, was the first bishop of Rome (the Pope). Let us remember St Peter and honour him on 22 February – feast day of Chair of Saint Peter, The Apostle. ■

continued from page 1 - Anointing of the sick

worked healing miracles (e.g. healing the blind man). And as we spent time worshipping the Lord and his wondrous healing ways, we also took time to give thanks to Him for the times where He offered us healing.

The Sacraments are truly awesome gifts from God! Us at the Arise cell group are so thankful that we were able to reflect and appreciate on all 7 Sacraments. We are also so thankful that as Catholics, we are able to celebrate these sacraments; these "outward signs of inward graces". ■



Msg 4 U

- Written Y.C. Tan

Mobile phones are everywhere and you cannot avoid them. You can hear all sorts of ring-tones in shopping malls, cinemas, eateries, office, schools, church, public transport, toilets and everywhere. Subsequently, we've also acquired extraordinary 'skills' such as typing an SMS while we're walking, driving, eating, etc. On top of that, we've learnt (or still learning) the new SMS lingo, such as 'BTW', 'LOL', 'BRB', 'B4', etc. that looks like a string of nerve-racking encrypted codes that the receivers have to decipher. As a result, I sometimes misinterpret some of them that would lead me to some sort of embarrassment. LOL!

Like the SMS lingo, we sometimes don't understand the lingo of love. Do we know how to speak the lingo of love? Do we know how to give or decipher a love message? Love can be misunderstood and misinterpreted.

On the 4th Sunday Mass in Year C, we've learnt that St Paul wrote a letter to the Corinthians that highlights three things that will last: "faith, hope and love; and the greatest of these is love". It's not just merely romantic love adorned with beautiful flowers but agape (a Greek word for selfless, spiritual love for humanity) that is humble, everlasting and never fails. For Christ, it was adorned with thorns, nails and blood.

Love is like a beautiful SMS because it comes, brightens your day and stays inside the 'Inbox' of your mobile phone unless you choose to delete it. How can I pass this beautiful message to those whom I know and even strangers? How can I pass it to those whom I like and dislike? How can I pass it to the person next to me or even to those far away from me who are less fortunate? How can I pass it to those who are lonely and suffering quietly?

While I'm staring at the mobile phone I'm holding in my hand, I figured out that we're holding in our hands not only the consequences of our own decision, but also the effect we can have on the actions of others and the state of the world. We're the ones who decide whether we're going to pass the beautiful message of love on to others generously or to keep it in our 'Inbox' selfishly.

Msg 4 U - Pass it on pls. :-)

church of saints peter & paul

Events in our Parish

CARMELITE LENTEN RETREAT 2010 - We invite you to "ENTER THE CLOISTER" in this year's retreat, 26 - 28 Feb. The cost is **S\$150/** pax, twin sharing at Montfort Centre. Please register early with the SPP Secretariat.

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.

15D/13N Italy Pilgrimage Tour - 14 to 28 May '10. The itinerary includes Milan, Turin, Venice, Assisi, Lancia, San Giovanni Rotondo, Rome, etc. For more information and reservation, contact Lawrence Seet at 9799 2488.

ASH WEDNESDAY - The Blessing and Imposition of Ashes will be held on 17 Feb '10 at 7.20 am (Eng), 6.00 pm (Mandarin) and 8.00 pm (Eng). The faithful is reminded to note that Ash Wednesday is a day of penance to be marked by fasting and abstinence.

WAY OF THE CROSS - held every Friday during Lent at 5.30 pm commencing 19 Feb 10. Evening Mass will follow after prayers.

LENTEN TRIDUUM 2010 - Hear Fr Gino Henriques CSsR on the "Ministry of the Cross" at our SPP Annual Lenten Triduum 2010. The 3-day programme is as follows:

Day 1: Thu 18 Feb
- **Jesus, the Perfect High Priest**
Infant Jesus Novena - 5.30 pm
Eucharistic Celebration - 6.00 pm
Day 2: Fri 19 Feb
- **Jesus, the Priest & Victim**
Stations of the Cross - 5.30 pm
Eucharistic Celebration - 6.00 pm
Day 3: Sat 20 Feb
- **Jesus, the Priest & Redeemer**
Eucharistic Celebration 5.30 pm
Healing Service - Following Mass. All are welcome

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.

DIACONATE ORDINATION - We warmly welcome His Grace, Archbishop Nicholas Chia, DD. Archbishop of

church of saints peter & paul

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 6.30pm to preside in the Diaconate Ordination of Friar Paul Anuphong Srisuk, OCD.

NEW RCIA Process Commencement - English - 1 Jun 10 7.30pm
Mandarin - 4 Jun 10 7.30pm
Cantonese - 4 Jun 10 8.00pm

CCD - No CCD classes on 14 & 21 Feb '10 due to Chinese New Year celebration.

THE GREAT ST JOSEPH FOOD & FUNFAIR - Volunteers from St Joseph's Church (Upper Bukit Timah) will be visiting our SPP Church at our weekend masses on 27 & 28 Feb 10 to sell tickets for their Food & Fun Fair.

BAPTISM - Kenneth Mathias Khoo Hong Xuan & Timothy Ryan Khoo Yi Xuan, twins of Mark and Rachel Khoo were baptized on Sun 7 Feb 10. We warmly welcome them to our parish community.

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/>

Closing hours for Adoration Room on Sat, 13 Feb '10 is 7.00 pm and on Sun, 14 Feb '10 is 6.00 pm. **Columbarium will be opened** from 7.00 am to 7.00 pm on Sat, 13 Feb '10 and Sun, 14 Feb '10. **Adoration Room and Columbarium will be closed** on Mon, 15 Feb '10 and Tue, 16 Feb '10.

Please give money after proper discernment. Refrain from giving money to anybody. You may wish to give the money to the causes as singled out in the Apostles. Thank you.

Events around our Parish

VOICES FOR PEACE - We cordially invite you to a special interfaith concert by Fr Cyprian and Friends on Fri 19 Feb '10 from 7.30 pm - 9.30 pm at the Church of St Mary of the Angels. Seating: first-come-first-served basis. Fr Cyprian Consiglio OSB Cam is a Catholic monk of the Camaldolese Congregation, musician, composer, author and teacher. He currently lives in Santa Cruz, California. For more information, visit his website. www.cyprian.consiglio.com

DIOCESAN VOCATION DISCERNMENT - Calling young boys and men 18-40 years (single, Catholic with

"A" level qualifications). Come and find your answers to the vocation discernment recollection scheduled on 26 & 27 Feb '10 at the SFX Major Seminary. Registration: seminariansonline@gmail.com

MARRIAGE PREPARATION COURSE (MPC) - For couples intending to get married - 1st Quarter Course starts 28 Feb 2010. First-come-first-served basis. Application forms obtainable in church office or at www.catholic.org.sg/mpc Enquiries: John & Joan @ 9848 2864 or email: marthasohsk@yahoo.com

DIGNITY OF THE ELDERLY PROJECT - SPI In conjunction with Caritas Singapore and Family Life Society is launching a series of workshops and seminars to bring about greater awareness of the needs of the elderly and how to help them spiritually and physically. First In the series are talks by Professor Elizabeth MacKinlay from Canberra, Australia:

- **The Spirituality of Ageing**
Sun 28 Feb : 9 am - 4 pm
CWS Auditorium, 55 Waterloo Street
- **Understanding the Ageing Process**
Mon 1 Mar : 10 am - 12.30 pm
Church of Christ the King
- **Meaning of Life in the Fourth Age**
Tue 2 Mar : 9 am - 1 pm
CWS Auditorium, 55 Waterloo Street
To register call Maria @ 6488-0278 or email: maria@familylife.sg



383 I will be your God

It has a slow tune, yet it is sung with such majesty, that the meaningful lyrics have etched onto my memory from the moment I heard it. "I will be your God, you will be my people" - this was, is and will always be God's promise to us. And it is in such simple words in this song that I seek refuge in, especially in times of difficulty. Reading the lyrics for the first time preparing for Lent some years back made me realize how apt this song really is. Lent is a season of preparation for the Holy Week when we commemorate Jesus' great love for us through his death on the cross. It is also a time when we make sacrifices, such as fasting in penance for our sins. This song reminds us that through Jesus never hesitate in saying, "I will be your God, you will be my people. I will give you a new heart, my spirit within you." When Jesus died, he did it all for us. So as we go about the sacrifices that we make this Lent, let us remember with a thankful heart what the Lord has done for us. - SCC

page 3