

Dear parishioners,

“No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends” (John 15:13).

You will notice that I always begin my reflection with the words “dear parishioners.” It is now time to explain my faithfulness to that expression. The English word “parish,” comes from the Greek and Latin words for a “fence.” That is, a “parish” is a “fence” that shows a boundary, just as each one of you has got a fence to mark the boundary on your property; even if you live in an apartment, it marks out yours from your neighbor's.

A fence does at least two things, protect those or property within the fence and keep off those outside the fence. A fence can be made of wires, bricks, wood, iron et cetera. This is our usual understanding of a fence; the understanding of a fence is different for a Christian. The fence called “parish” is synonymous with “love.”

“No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends” tells us something about the Christian fence or boundary or parish. A Christian parish or fence is not made of wood, irons or bricks; it is made of sacrificial love! “Love” shown by the death of Christ binds all human beings together – it creates a fence, a parish! Love or parish is what binds us together and shows the boundary of Christianity. Everyone who loves is a parishioner because he or she lives within and is protected by the boundary or parish called love. This is a parishioner, from our second reading today: “everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love” (John 4:7-8). A parish is a community of love and a unit of love. To love is to be a parishioner; to hate is to be a non-parishioner! Now, are you we parishioners of Mary Help of Christians’?

To say “parishioners” is to recognize the love that binds and animates us! To say “dear parishioners” is to admit that we all practice love. May our love lead us “to lay down” our lives in order to bring our lapsed brothers and sisters back to the parish for jubilee!

Ayodele Ayeni, C.S.Sp.



愛民頓瑪利亞進教之佑華人天主堂

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堂區通訊 Parish Newsletter

二零一二年五月十三日 May 13, 2012

復活期

親愛的教友：

「人若為朋友付出生命，就再沒有比這更偉大的愛了。」（若15：13）

你們會留意到，我的經文反思總是以「親愛的教友」作為開始，我一直採用這稱謂的緣由，此刻正好解釋一下。英文「堂區」（parish）源自拉丁和希臘文，原來有「圍欄」的意思，有如你們每個人都以圍欄標識房地產的界線，堂區是一道能顯示界別的圍欄，就算是柵文，你與鄰居的單位之間亦會有所分隔。

一道圍欄最少有著兩個用處：屏蔽內裏的人和物，擋隔開外面的事物。圍欄可以用金屬絲、磚、木、鐵等做成，這是我們對圍欄的一般理解，基督徒對圍欄的理解卻有所不同，能解作「堂區」的「圍欄」，跟「愛」是同義的。

為基督徒的圍欄、疆界、堂區，「人若為朋友付出生命，就再沒有比這更偉大的愛了」向我們提供了一些指示，一個基督徒的圍欄並不由木、金屬、磚做成，而是由捨己為人的大愛做成的。基督的聖死展示了祂的「大愛」，將全人類連結起來 - 也泅生出一個疆界，一個堂區。愛（堂區）將我們連結起，亦展現了基督信仰的疆界。每一位行愛德的都是一位教友，因為他或她居住在代表愛的堂區（疆界）內，受到愛護。今日的讀經二指出，「凡是愛他人的，都是天主所生，也認識天主。那不愛他人的，就不認識天主，因為天主是愛」（若4：7-8），由此可見，這就是教友的界定了。堂區是一個愛的團體，一個愛的個體。選擇去愛的便是一位教友，選擇惱恨便是非教友。這當下，你我果真是瑪利亞進教之佑的堂區教友嗎？

要稱為「教友」，就要明認這連繫、推動我們的愛，要稱為「親愛的教友」，就要承認我們都奉行愛德。願我們的愛導引我們，敢於「付出生命」，因而在這銀禧堂慶，帶回那些離開了的兄弟姐妹。

Ayodele Ayeni, C.S.Sp.

### Beauty of Stewardship

May 13 – 6th Sunday of Easter

Christ calls us to love one another as he loves us. Being a good steward is a part of loving one another. Christ loved us so much that he sacrificed everything for us. Likewise, stewardship involves some form of sacrifice on our part. Authentic generosity has two prerequisites: first, the gift must be given joyfully out of love; second, there must be some sacrifice involved. A gift is a sacrifice when it is freely given and not just something that we have 'leftover'. Stewardship means giving what is 'right', not what is 'left'.

Courtesy Stewardship Office, The Archdiocese of Winnipeg

### Nothing More Beautiful Reflections

Come and Share your reflections on "Our Eternal Destiny" Nothing More Beautiful", to be held Wed. May 23 at 7:00 p.m. at St. Joseph's Basilica - Archbishop MacDonald Room. For information, you may call Margot at 780 - 488-4704.

May this reflection bring new insights and more hope!

## 聖母月敬禮聖母

五月是聖母月，堂區為敬禮聖母瑪利亞及妥善地準備慶祝主保慶日，在五月份每台主日彌撒前二十分鐘，誦念玫瑰經，請各位教友準時出席，表示對天上慈母的孝愛和感謝她這些年來對我們堂區的保護和助佑。

此外，更邀請各位教友，在整個五月份，每日均以「活玫瑰經」的誦念方式，偕同聖母，以祈禱來默想耶穌的事跡；同時，亦向天上慈母獻上分工合作編織成一頂神聖花冠。

參加誦念「活玫瑰經」的教友，每日只需負責誦念一端自己所選的玫瑰經，即一遍天主經、十遍聖母經和一遍光榮經。在何時、何地誦念亦可自己決定，但必需每日持之以恆，不可間斷，否則該串玫瑰經，那頂獻給天上慈母的花冠，便會因此而不能完成。

五月既是聖母月，堂區主保瑪利亞進教之佑的慶日亦是在五月，堂區籲請各位教友，每日抽少許時間參加誦念「活玫瑰經」，一起敬禮聖母。有意者請於本主日，到詢問處選擇自己誦念的一端玫瑰經，並在表格上填寫姓名，多謝各位！

### Line Dance

健康舞班將於六月二日開 Line Dance 新班，歡迎各位教友及非教友參加。

上課時間：逢星期六

下午一時卅分至三時卅分

上課地點：大禮堂

費用：教友每人每月二十元，

非教友每人每月二十五元

查詢及報名請致電 780-487-0484 與 Amy Li 或 Ken Li 聯絡。

## 「堂區成立廿五周年慶典」

### 最新消息

踏入五月份！「堂區成立廿五週年」的一連串慶祝活動即將展開。

首先要多謝已經訂購了廿五週年紀念品的教友。相信堂慶之前大家應該可以收到。

「廿五週年照片及幻燈片展覽會」已經於本星期日（五月十三日）展開，歡迎教友參觀，一起重溫廿五年來堂區的生活片段，並感謝上主的保守和恩典。展覽會會場是堂區大會議室，敬請留意張貼的開放時間。

五月二十日堂慶十一點彌撒後有午餐款待；晚上喜萬年酒家聚餐餐券已經售罄，多謝大家支持！

### 廿五週年特刊

堂區成立廿五週年紀念特刊現正進入印刷階段，有賴特刊小組成員在過去兩個月以來日以繼夜加班，特刊將會如期於堂慶日跟大家見面。這特刊篇幅合共九十頁，印刷精美，具有紀念價值，屆時將會在彌撒後以及晚宴中免費派發，每戶一份，萬勿錯過。

## Parish Silver Jubilee Latest News

### Silver Jubilee Celebration Update

May is upon us and celebration activities for our Parish Silver Jubilee will soon begin.

Silver Jubilee Memory Lane will be open to the public this Sunday, May 13, at 9 a.m. There will be exhibition of valuable photographs and a video show in the conference room. You will see the progression of our parish from being part time at the St. Patrick's Parish, then in our own small parish in Chinatown, and now at this comfortable location. We should really be "Counting our Blessings", and thanking God. The Memory Lane is rated "Must See".

Thank you to those who have pre-ordered 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary souvenirs. All souvenirs should be ready in time for May 20, our Feast Day. Speaking of the Feast Day, all parishioners are urged to attend the 11:00 am thanksgiving Mass which will be presided over by Archbishop Richard Smith, and celebrated by all priests present. Lunch will be served for all after Mass. Tickets for the evening celebration dinner and performance at "Cha for Tea" are sold out.

### Silver Jubilee Special Publication

The Parish Silver Jubilee Special Publication is now being printed in the shop. Thanks to the hard work of the Publication Group, this special copy will be here on time to meet you on the Parish Anniversary day. The 90-page copy is printed nicely, and certainly is a keepsake for every parishioner. The publication will be handed out free next Sunday, one per family, after mass and during the banquet. Please don't miss it.

## Devotion to Mary in May

May is the Month of our Blessed Mother Mary. In order to demonstrate our devotion to Mary and prepare ourselves for the Parish Patroness Feast Day, the Rosary will be recited 20 minutes before all three Sunday Masses every weekend in May. Please arrive on time so that together we can give thanks to Mary for all the blessings and help she has given our Parish over the past years.

Also, the Parish earnestly invites everyone to take a little time to participate in the "Living Rosary" daily in May. Together with Mary, we meditate on the life of Jesus by praying, and at the same time, offering our Blessed Mother floral crowns that have been made by us.

Parishioners who take part in the "Living Rosary" choose to recite only one decade of the Rosary, that is: the 'Lord's Prayer' once, the 'Hail Mary' ten times and 'Glory Be' once. The Rosary may be recited anywhere and any time during the day but must not be interrupted. Otherwise the floral crown to be offered to Mary will not be complete.

Parishioners who would like to join in please sign in at the Information Desk, choose the specific Mystery dearest to you and enter your name in the appropriate box on the form as soon as possible. Thank you for your cooperation and participation.

### 主日彌撒捐獻 Sunday Collection

二零一二年五月五日、六日 May 5 & 6, 2012

主日捐獻 Sunday Collection	\$ 2,784.30
還款基金 Building Fund	\$ 2,262.00
彩色玻璃 Stained Glass	\$ 25.00
特別捐獻 Special Offering	\$ 125.00
其他捐獻 Other Offering	\$10,118.64