



MCI (P): 034/06/2016



21st Edition, April 2017

Foreword by:

Fr Edmund Chong, Parish Priest.

When a Diocese has grown both in size and age, one can expect a National Shrine status or a mini-Basilica coming our way. It is expected and it is a given from the One who watches over our faith into becoming faithful disciple.

In four years time, we will be celebrating two Centennial celebrations of Christianity in our small island state, a far cry from many other older Dioceses.

In 2010, I led a group on a pilgrimage to Vietnam and Taiwan. In the region of Taiwan, there are two mini-Basilicas named after Our Lady: Wan Xin Basilica and the Basilica of Our Lady of the Rosary. Its status came about after the faithful wrote to the Holy See through their Bishop and Pope John Paul II granted the two churches which were then about 150 years in existence.

St. Joseph's Church has the land capacity for something of a National Shrine for holy pilgrimage. It has a rich history of faith, of mystery and of martyrdom contributing a heritage that belongs to the faithful here and to the whole people of God.

Our Bishop at the official opening of the

Rosary Garden said of SJC being 'complete' with an outdoor Stations of the Cross and now a Rosary Garden. How did the Rosary Garden come about?

The inspiration came about end of 2007. Then, the idea floated around but was given conception in December of 2009 when a parishioner who had visited Florida came back with a brochure of the Rosary Garden. A committee was formed and it was rejected at the first sitting. It was originally planned to be at the site where the new Seminary and CTIS are being built currently.

When changes were made and the committee decided the present site could be ideal, it was taken up again after our present Bishop approved of it.

Provident on our side, a mysterious white dove entered the garden and became a symbol of grace sent by God to finish the project on time. When it was found, it simply could not fly. It was caged as to nurse it back to health and every other day, our care-taker, Anthony released the bird to make it fly. It just would not.

During the official opening and blessing of the Rosary Garden 20 days on, it was intended to be symbolically set free. The white dove could fly and it caught all those who knew the 'injured' bird's plight off-guard. When it flew away high



and majestic, our spirit too, was lifted up with it.



(The mystery of the white dove, read about it on page 5.)



The Rosary Garden Opens

A panoramic view of the Rosary Garden set amidst lush landscaping for an ideal moment of prayer and devotion (pictured on left).

- The SJC Art Ministry: Meet the people behind the production of the works of art on the mural.....Page 3.
- The Official Opening and Blessing of the Rosary Garden by Archbishop William Goh.....Pages 4 to 6.

**Reflection Article: By Fr Edmund Chong.**

A mistake is a mistaken opinion.

Why the disciples of today are found always not as joyful most of the time? Was it a mistake on their part or on God's Word?

I shall base my reflection article on JOY which was the theme given to me to write. On coming into the Church, you would've been greeted by the word in bold red, JOY as per our Christmas décor. Unfortunately, it lasted till Christmas Day when the alphabet 'J' & 'O' dropped off with 'Y' standing due to strong wind and stormy rain.

The year 2016 had come and gone. 2017 greets us with a certain anticipation of the things to come, both of certainty and uncertainty. More changes are in the pipeline that may surprise us. In any case, are we able to see the Hand of God at work in them all? Amidst these changes intended to serve our good through the eyes of faith (Romans



8:28) and those that can upset us, the Christmas message of joy can never be far away from the truth that God knows best what is for our temporal and eternal good.

In the context of temporal good, joy was given to the simple shepherds in the field of Bethlehem to experience that Christmas night. When an unexpected change of event that surprised them and filled their lives with joy. Suddenly, the joyful message of the angels flooded the whole night of their encounters with a light stronger than the stars of night and stronger yet, upon their wishing star they had been hoping against all hopes.

From the perspective of eternal good, joy and greater rejoicing will be our reward. Perhaps, at this point - many have yet to fathom it. We are constantly surrounded by bad news and how can we ever be joyful, let alone hope in joy?

We know from Biblical certitude that joy is every business of God to elucidate. Our Lord once described Heaven in this manner, "Enter into the Joy of Your Master!" (Matthew 25:34) in one of the more beautiful translations.

Joy as to enjoy life to the fullness is what God is offering us, not in this life but in the next that follows. For in this natural life of ours beset with selfishness and tainted by sin, we are asked to die to sin in order to rise from it. To put it in a nutshell, we can never be happy in this passing life. That said, the sorrowful part of this life can help us prepare for the eternal joy to come.

JOY is the total outcome of Jesus, Others and You. Joy comes from the Lord and its given realization resulted through our love and service of our fellowmen. The least important is You, the most important is Jesus and our fellow brethren must come in between the two to expedite joy in its beauty and purity.

The disciples of Jesus who are to come are few in number. These are the ones who understand the price to pay to live up to the demands of discipleship and to experience joy even in

suffering as consequence of it. Very few can accept such trials that must come to them, suffering inconveniences for righteousness sake. Still, joy can be achieved and experienced. The saints called it 'unspeakable joy' as the strength given by God to survive all storms, tribulations and persecutions in the test of faith.

To this end, joy is the fruit of love. A mistake no more surely. When the only alphabet 'Y' remained standing, it seemed to beg the question why? Then it was not anymore as it was taken down hurriedly, perhaps, to conceal our embarrassment.

Coming Your Way **The SJC Gardening Ministry**

The fledgling Ministry will embark on a project that will add a new dimension to the overall landscape of the church by planting suitable fruit trees and selected garden vegetables on an empty plot between Boys' Town and the Chapel of the Resurrection and other available plots within the vicinity of the church.



Join ranks with the gentleman pictured above to sow the seeds which will eventually reap the fruits of our labour in future.

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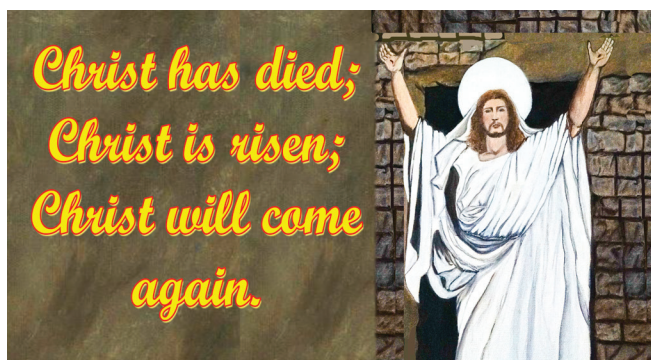
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The SJC Art Ministry: Glorifying and Giving Thanks to God through Art

Article written by: Anna Lam.

The Art Ministry helps to foster and create a physical environment of beauty and reverence in the worship space that is suited to the sacred action of the assembly throughout the liturgical year.



Above: The Art Ministry's outdoor banner with its Easter message.

Apart from the church being a place for gathering

and worship, the ministry's role is to conceptualize means to encounter God via engaging the visual senses through the use of art, symbols and depictions.

The ministry began with lots of encouragement. A parishioner from the Church of the Holy Spirit and a parishioner from the Church of St Francis Xavier helped to kickstart the minstry here with their experience serving in the Art Ministry of their respective parishes.

Along with a handful of our parishioners, each member blessed with their own set of gifts and talents, came together to create works of art to effectively communicate the message, signs and symbols of the liturgical calendar to the audience.

With God's grace, the ministry is continuously working to produce decoratives and other forms of art for the church to create the ambience

suited for the Liturgical calendar like Christmas, Lent, Easter and our parish's feast day, "The Great St Joseph Celebration."

We give thanks and glory to God for the gifts that He has bestowed upon each of us, for sending willing hands to help in times of need, and for keeping us safe. We ask for His continued guidance, inspiration and blessings for our ministry and its members.



Above: Lenten project by the Art Ministry.



Top: Upon finalization of sketches, each art piece is painstakingly done via a tedious process of pressing, shaping and detailing portions of a composite mixture of putty and cement that are placed onto a terracotta tile. Pieces of polyfoam are used for weight reduction and for better bonding.

The SJC Art Ministry
(Inaugurated June 2016)

Artisans at Work
Crafting Creative Creations for the Mural at
The Rosary Garden



Top, top right and right: The detailing and painting of each art piece.



Application of epoxy to each art piece at the pre mounting stage (photo on left) and a series of photos below showing the actual mounting stage.





The Rosary Garden: A Truly Unique Space Set on Tranquil Surroundings for Prayer and Devotion

The new outdoor Rosary Garden was officially opened and blessed by His Grace Archbishop William Goh on the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord, Saturday 25 March.

A mass at 9am preceded the blessing that was concelebrated by the priests from the parish, invited priests and the Archbishop as main celebrant. During his homily, the Archbishop complimented that with the addition of the Rosary Garden, this church hosts a “complete” place for devotion along with the existing outdoor Stations of the Cross complementing one’s spiritual experience.



Top: The Archbishop and co-celebrants at the mass.

Occupying an area of 775 square metres amidst wish landscaping, the Rosary Garden boasts of a tall statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary measuring 2.4 metres in height which depicts the miraculous medal; 59 fibreglass beads (six larger than the rest) complete with a 3.5 by 1.8 metres reclining stainless steel cross that represents the actual form of the Holy Rosary.



Wide angle frontal view of the Rosary Garden (pictured above) and a closeup shot of the crucifix and the statue of the Virgin Mary (pictured on right).



In addition, a 5 by 2.6 metres mural is erected by the side with works of art depicting the Four Mysteries of the rosary on the front and other symbolic icons on the reverse side. These works of art are produced by our parish’s newly formed Art Ministry.



Top: Front of the mural depicting the four mysteries of the Holy Rosary.



Top: Works of art depicting various icons are mounted on the reverse side of the mural. These pieces are also produced by the members from the parish’s Art Ministry.

At the Blessing, the Archbishop released a white dove (see story on “The Dove, In God we Trust, on page 5) and planted the “Happy Tree” (*Garcinia subelliptica*).



Top: After blessing the statue of the Virgin Mary, the Archbishop proceeded to bless all the artifacts in the Rosary Garden.



Top: The Archbishop gazing tenderly at the white dove prior to its release.



Top: The Archbishop releases the white dove.



Top & below: The planting of the “Happy Tree” (*Garcinia subelliptica*).





Continued from page 4.

Final layout of the Rosary Garden is based upon the blending of ideas attained from various entries to a design contest for the project that was opened to parishioners.

The Archbishop mingled with parishioners at the reception that was held at the cafeteria.



Top: Parishioners having their picture taken with the Archbishop at the reception.

Left: Memorable Moment: Selfie with the Archbishop at the reception.

Recitation of the Rosary at the Rosary Garden was led by members from the Legion of Mary.



Top: Rosary being prayed.



Top: Altar Servers pictured with the Archbishop and celebrants.



Top: Members from the Art Ministry pictured with the Archbishop and priests of this parish.

This story was written by a member of the Art Ministry who wishes to remain anonymous. Contents are left unedited to preserve its essence.

The Rosary Garden, Community Wall Project. **The Dove, In God we Trust.**

The few of us working in the weekdays couldn't meet the end February installation deadline, official opening is on the 25th March. The last 2 weeks of February were wet days with thunderstorms. We always just managed to mount one or two pieces of artwork before it started to pour. We waited sometimes for more than an hour and a half before the rain stopped, mounted another one or two before it started to pour again. This went on every day. Two weeks passed, not many pieces were mounted. We had more than a hundred pieces of dough art, 20 rosary icons, 24 pieces of wordings for the icons and almost 160 roses to mount! Our morale was really low. Weather forecast for Bt Timah was bad, rain with thunderstorms every day in the first week of March too. We were desperate, we asked for prayers. It was a Monday morning in early March, I was the first one to arrive in

Bukit Timah Mostly Cloudy					
10AM	11AM	12PM	1PM	2PM	3PM
27°	28°	29°	29°	29°	29°
Friday				29	24
Saturday				29	24
Sunday				30	24
Monday				32	24
Tuesday				33	23
Wednesday				33	23
Thursday				33	23
Friday				33	23
Saturday				33	24

Today: Mostly cloudy currently. The high will be 31°. Mostly cloudy tonight with a low of 24°.

Top: Unfavourable weather forecast.

church, sitting on the table outside the art room was this beautiful white dove in a cage. The caretaker of the church found the dove in the compound the day before and I have no idea why the dove was left outside the art room. I felt the warmth, the peace, the reassurance that everything will be fine, just 'TRUST in GOD'. Those who were present that day all had the same feeling, the presence of the Holy Spirit! Against the weather forecast predictions, that very day was a fine day and we were able to carry on with the mounting. We had a good fine week despite thunderstorms warning! We finally managed to mount everything within that week. All touch up work, epoxy, final repairs went on well. I read about miracles but to witness one is truly uplifting! The few of us were so uplifted by the presence of the dove, we truly believe we were led by the Holy Spirit!



Top: Fittingly, the dove was released by the Archbishop during the Official Opening and Blessing of the Rosary Garden.

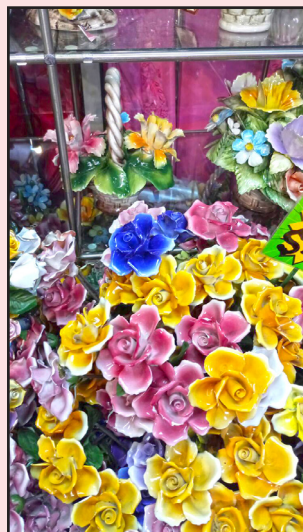


Continued from page 5.

Another article written by a member of the Art Ministry who also wishes to remain anonymous. Contents are unedited to preserve its essence.

Mother Mary's halo of roses

Our original plan was to hand-make outdoor roses made of cement for the Mother Mary centre piece but couldn't do it in time, we were already behind schedule due to the Christmas and Chinese New Year holidays. The Mother Mary centre piece was not even completed. I googled online but nobody was selling any clay outdoor roses. I chanced upon a website which was selling porcelain roses 'Made in Italy' for US\$28 a stalk! So beautiful but whoa, we needed at least more than a 100 of those roses. No way! I was out shopping for roses, bought a few kinds hoping to harden them and weatherproof them with epoxy. I was at Bugis Street. The 'nudging' to go to Joo Chiat Complex was so strong. My sister who was with me asked why I needed to go when I have already bought the roses I wanted to



experiment on. It was just 'go to Joo Chiat Complex'. Unbelievable, the first bus that came along actually did go to Joo Chiat Complex. All the shops there were selling Malay clothes and curtains, it was like a wasted trip. It was already evening time, we needed to get to a bus stop to find our way home. We asked for direction and a helpful lady told us to head to the overhead bridge on the 2nd floor and we would be able to see the bus stop. We found the overhead bridge and just next to the bridge was this back glass panel of this shop...I spotted those porcelain roses! The shop front was just rows and rows of Malay clothes, nobody would be able to see any porcelain roses! The Malay lady told me her brother who was the owner just left those porcelain wares in the shop. It is truly a miracle- the colours that I wanted was all there and the price? Three stalks of roses for S\$10 and with the tag 'Made in Italy' on every stalk! When I brought the roses back to St Joe the next day, I was again able to witness another unbelievable sight. My teammates told me to go look at the gigantic statue of Mother Mary to be put in the centre of the rosary garden. It has just arrived from Indonesia and was stored in the canteen. I couldn't believe my eyes when I set eyes on the statue, there were roses on Mother Mary's feet, all of them the same shades of colour as those porcelain roses I bought the day before! Those roses now are the halos of Baby Jesus and Mother Mary. It was truly an uplifting experience and I am humbled by the Holy Spirit's guiding hands!



The parish 170th Anniversary Dinner was held at Ban Heng Restaurant, Harbourfront on 7 May.



Children from the primary catechism classes accompanied by parents and catechists went on a "pilgrimage" to the Sacred Heart Church on 30 May.

Memorable Moments

A photo montage showing the key events in 2016, the 170th Anniversary of our parish to present.



Mission on a Hill Far, Far Away. Church, Community, Society. A book written by church historian Dr Clement Liew was launched in June last year to commemorate the 170th Anniversary of our parish. It details the history of our parish from 1846 to 2016. Copies of the book will be on sale during the upcoming feast day celebration on 7 May.



Top: Recognition for the members from the Catholic Women's League (CWL) at the Annual Appreciation Dinner on 16 July at the Ban Heng Restaurant, Harbourfront. The ministry had assisted in the running of the canteen on first Sundays of the month and the running of a food stall each year during the parish feast day food and funfair over the years. The CWL ceased as a ministry due to inadequate membership renewal.



Top: Catechists in the Catechist Room at the Parish Community Hall prior to its closure to facilitate renovation works.



Twenty-Seven homebound parishioners attended the 5.30pm Mass for the Sick on Sunday 12 February.





圣玛格烈读经小组40周年志庆

12月18日（主日）本堂庆祝“圣玛格烈读经小组”40周年庆典。本小组除了奉献一台感恩弥撒之外，于下午12点正，设自由餐兼庆祝圣诞节。当天出席参与盛典的有钟神父、李神父及贾神父、堂区主席、副主席Dominic、Thomas兄弟联同主内兄弟姐妹共104人。以下是当天成立小组的辅导员郑权辉兄弟的致辞：



神父、各位主内兄弟姐妹及堂区主席Dominic Soh、副主席Thomas Teo兄弟：

今天，我们除了庆祝本堂“圣玛格烈读经小组”成立40周年庆典之外兼庆祝圣诞节联欢。



“圣玛格烈读经小组”以当年年纪最大组员陈爱玉姐妹圣名玛格烈命名。成立于1976年，适逢教宗保禄六世呼吁全球教友，必须研读圣经，于是各地为了响应教宗的呼吁，发起了读经运动。于是当年的本堂神父郑明诚便委任我成立了这个小组，核心组员有我、廖克和兄弟、艳宜姐妹、吉丝姐妹。眨眼之间不觉已过了40年，40年说长不长，说短不短。其间，年纪大了，行动不便或他迁退出或另有发展而退出的也有，已逝世的团员也有6位兄弟姐妹以及4位神师。我们的小组能维持至今，我们也不可忘了这些前辈们，这一天我们也为他们献了一台弥撒，藉以追思他们当年为本团的付出。



今天，原本最老的团员已接近90岁的廖克和兄弟，我们有邀请他出席，但他不方便出门，他的太太今天代表他出席，廖太太也是我们的团员，有请廖太太，请大家给予她一个热烈的掌声。而最久的团员，除了我太太之外，还有高题兄弟及仙云姐妹，请大家给予他们一个热烈的掌声。我们的读经小组除了研读圣言之外，也有负责餐厅工作、炼灵祈祷、分送圣体、探访病人等。为了联络感情，每月庆祝组员生日及户外游、朝圣游等。更值得一提的是，负责本堂的慕道班，招募教外朋友、主持讲座等工作。屈指一算，慕道班举办至今已24届，也就是24年。今天，有许多慕道者已领洗加入了我们教会的大家庭。我很高兴，今天他们也来参与其盛，给他们一个热烈的掌声，由于时间仓促，无法通知所有的人，感到很抱歉。

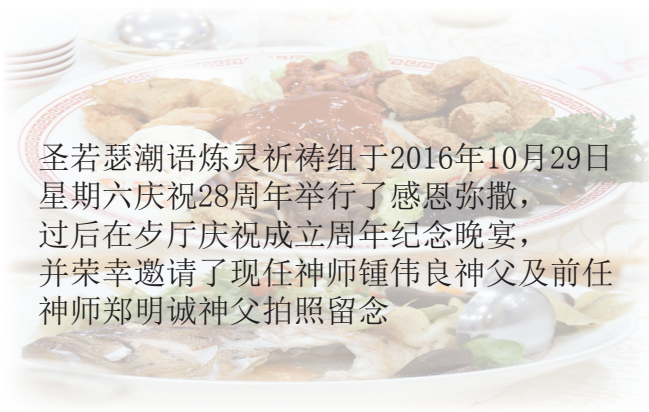
如今，我们的读经小组成员，几乎清一色由后进团员负责，继续推动，长江后浪推前浪，这是很正常的事，这也是好事。我们目前的核心团队由纪华兄弟、玉莲姐妹、雅翠姐妹、耀花姐妹、进珠姐妹、合海兄弟带领，并负责推动小组的任务。期望在他们的带领下，我们“圣玛格烈小组”更能茁壮成长。天主真好，最近还派来了一位贾神父成为我们的神师，有请神父及各位核心组员站起来，大家给予热烈的掌声。但我们不能忘记，这一切的成就全归功于天主，不是单靠我们自己的力量，人不能成事，天主能。正如圣保禄所说的，一切荣耀永归天主。我们也感恩圣神的指引、光照、圣母以及圣若瑟的代祷，才能有今日。在此，我也呼吁在座的兄弟姐妹，有兴趣的话，欢迎前来加入我们的团队。圣经大师圣若尼莫说：

“不认识圣经，不认识基督”。圣保禄宗徒也说：“我若不传福音，我就有祸了”。所以，读经不但造福自己，也造福他人，并加强我们的信德及圣经知识。



最后，谢谢大家的参与，谢谢主内兄弟姐妹今日的全心全力策划和筹备，使得我们今日的庆典，满堂生辉！主祝福大家！





圣若瑟潮语炼灵祈祷组于2016年10月29日星期六庆祝28周年举行了感恩弥撒，过后在岁厅庆祝成立周年纪念晚宴，并荣幸邀请了现任神师锺伟良神父及前任神师郑明诚神父拍照留念



圣若瑟堂 24届华文成人慕道班之声....
候洗者及候选者经过近一年的慕道信仰旅程.....
参与了收录礼、避静、遣使礼、甄选礼、
恩祷礼....
即将在复活庆节领受圣洗，成为天主的子女。

听听候洗者/候选者的感言：

吴欣婷：

上了慕道班后，我学习了很多，使我更进步认识耶稣，更了解祂。

让我明白在这世上有位看不见。但却住在我心内的耶稣，默默地保护着我，爱我。

唯有相信祂，我的人生才有了改变，变得更有意义，使我的信仰生活，更有归属感。

郑俊林：

自从参加了慕道班，我学会了很多有关信仰的知识。尤其是全体负责慕道班的弟兄姐妹们的友善待人，令我感动。

陳丽玲：

让我对天主教有更深入的了解，基督的伟大和圣母在教会里扮演的角色。

李志展&伍秀美夫妇：

慕道班，除了有一群热心陪同员相伴之外，还有由神父，组长和资深郑老师夫妇生动有趣的主讲之余，并放映基督苦难、圣体奇迹的影片，让我们夫妇更进一步认识基督。

尤其在甄选礼时，在名册上很肯定地签上自己名字的那一刻，感恩之心油然而生，主啊！我终于把自己完完全全地献上，求祢悦纳。

林孜璇：

自从上了慕道班之后，才知道耶稣如何为了我们而牺牲又如何被折磨。让我感触良多。他那屹立不倒的精神和对天主的信念，真的值得我们学习。想想我们那容易动摇的心，真是很惭愧

杨凤明：

当郑老师夫妇与耀花姐来访，正是我痛失夫婿之时。主真的很好，认识了他们，填补了我内心的空虚，更重要的是让我认识了主。不久，我就要领洗加入天主的大家庭，感恩于主。阿肋路亚！

郑开明：

亲切友善，温馨快乐。不是理所当然，而是工作人员的爱心付出和细心照料。感恩！

