

事物之聲

在堂區舉行彌撒聖祭(感恩聖祭)的意義

近日,教廷禮儀及聖 事部部長薩拉樞機(Robert Sarah)致函各地主教團主 席,論及有關「新冠肺炎」疫 情期間及往後舉行禮儀慶典 事宜。薩拉樞機的書函主題為 「讓我們滿懷喜樂重返感恩 聖祭」,該書函於9月3日由 教宗方濟各批准。書函中, 對感恩聖祭有頗多精警的講

述,我們特別留意書函中對在堂區舉行感恩聖祭有關的講 沭。

公開的團體崇拜在教會的生活以及每個教友的生活 都是極其需要的。「外教人建造神廟,只為神明…而基督 徒…建造房舍,作為『天主的家』和『教會的家』;在那 裡,信友可以承認自己是上主的團體,一個被召來敬拜、 並組成神聖聚會的人民。」

在疫症流行期間,由於政府施行的防疫措施,及教 區出於謹慎和政府合作,我們長期地不可以舉行公開彌 撒,這使到很多教友和神父感到痛苦。但薩拉樞機明言, 「一旦情況許可,就必須、而且是迫切地恢復正常的基督 徒生活。即以『聖堂』為家,並以舉行禮儀,特別是感恩 聖祭,作為教會行動的高峰,同時也是教會一切力量的泉 源。(《禮儀憲章》10)」

網上直播或連續播放彌撒,在不能公開舉行彌撒的日 子,作出了很大的服務,但總不能取代團體的公開崇拜。 「如果信友僅以虛擬的方式參與禮儀,就會有與降生成人 的天主遠離的危險,天主不是以虛擬的方式賜給我們,而 是以真實的方式,主説:『誰吃我的肉,並喝我的血,便 住在我內,我也住在他內。』(若6:56)與主的身體的接觸 是至關重要、必不可少和不可替代的。」

主日是主的日子,特別紀念和慶祝主復活的日子,

也是對我們所獲得的非常寶 貴的新生命感恩的日子。樞 機說,「主日光照、並賦予 我們豐實的意義,去延續 每天的工作,並實踐家庭和 社會任務。」「在堂區參與 主日共同舉行的感恩祭, 是歸屬和忠於基督與祂的教 會的明證。」(《天主教教 理》2182)教友家庭如忽略在

主日感恩祭中給與天主時間,會帶來對他們的宗教生活和 家庭生活莫大的損失。

在感恩聖祭中,我們聆聽上主的話(聖言)。「上主的 話在禮儀慶典中體現出來,並成為活生生的話語;是上主 今天對那些敞開心扉傾聽的人發言。」基督的話極其寶 貴:「使生活的是神…我給你們所講論的話,就是神,就 是生命。」(若6:63)

作為基督徒,我們的生活不可能沒有感恩聖祭。「在 這祭獻中,主耶穌毫無保留地交付自己,以自己的死亡拯 救人類…受苦的眾人,在被釘十字架的主的懷抱中,找到 了光明和安慰。 | 藉著主動地參與感恩聖祭,我們獲得了 基督救贖人類的功效。

沒有感恩聖祭,我們便沒有基督徒團體。「我們需要 與同為天主兒女的弟兄姊妹相聚丨,我們是在堂區——天 主的家、我們的家舉行各種不同的聚會。堂區「是我們信 仰萌生的神聖之地,是我們體驗上主親臨照顧、扶助失落 者的處所。在這裡,我們奉獻自己於婚姻或修道聖召;我 們祈禱、感恩、歡笑和哭泣。我們也在這裡,把已走完了 塵世旅程的摯愛交託於天父。」

讓我們藉著參與在堂區舉行的感恩聖祭,特別是主日 感恩聖祭,加強我們對堂區聖堂的看重,並使我們的堂區 和我們的家庭成為信德、望德和愛德的團體。



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二零二零年九月份牧民議會 議決事項

- 十月玫瑰月,堂區推行「串連玫瑰經」,大家熱心為不同意向祈禱,敬禮 聖母。資訊刊於第4頁。
- 配合學校復課,安排送贈「尋羊運動」口罩套給與堂區有連繫的鄰近小學,以示關懷和祝福。
- 3. 傳信、禮儀、互愛委員會、培育組和愛心服務組,繼續計劃不同的帶動性活動,讓教友在彌撒恢復後重新投入堂區生活。
- 4. 跟進牧民關顧:利用網上教學,籌劃開展主日學新學年,準備聖事班學生,聯繫新教友,彌 撒恢復後安排嬰兒領洗和新一屆慕道者收錄禮。
- 5. 繼續留意疫情和政府限聚規定,以籌備11月22日(基督普世君王節)舉行的「耶穌出巡愛西環」。簡報刊於第4頁。

二零二零年十月份動態 堂區禮儀活動

1st (周四)	聖母玫瑰月展開 「串連玫瑰經」祈禱開始	4th (周日)	常年期第廿七主日	21st (周三)	三三追思亡者 下午六時
2nd	恢復公開彌撒 首瞻禮六	11th (周日)	常年期第廿八主日		1 7 \ny
(周五)	恭敬耶穌聖心 晚上八時 (下午六時彌撒取消)	18th (周日)	常年期第廿九主日 (傳教節)	25th (周日)	常年期第三十主日

敬禮聖安多尼 逢周二 晚上六時彌撒

明供聖體 逢周四 晚上七時

誦唸「向聖若望鮑思高禱文」 每月最後一天的各台彌撒後

「習練善終」祈禱 每月逢首周一的各台彌撒後 「進教之佑聖母降福」經文 每月廿四日的各台彌撒結束前



鳴謝捐贈《羊牧之聲》

願聖母進教之佑及聖安多尼酬謝你們, 賜你們身心健康,家庭和睦,主寵日隆。

葉衛熾瑞	\$1000	精叻馬	\$200
潘宅	\$200	曾潔玲	\$100
聖安多尼之友會	\$300	鄭雅蓮	\$100
雷忠盛	\$100	太極福傳會	\$500
靡蔣靜儀	\$125	男聖體會	\$500



墓地追思彌撒



日期: 11月14日(星期六)

下午12:50集合,1:00開車

下午1:30舉行彌撒 下午4:00開車回程

地點:柴灣歌連臣角天主教墳場

主禮:梁熾才神父 主理:聖體會

車票:每位HK\$20 (堂區辦事處購票)



2020香港明愛慈善抽獎券

2020 Caritas - Hong Kong Charity Raffle Ticket



善長送出黃金12兩 (約值200,000港元) 12 Taels 999.9 Gold donated by anonymous (About HK\$200,000)

工銀亞洲送出信用卡免找數簽賬額* (80,000港元) ICBC 📵 工銀亚洲 ศระส ธุรตร Free Credit Card Spending Limit donated by ICBC (Asia)* (HK\$80,000)

*或莫之苗服原只可作腐物消費之用;不可折換现金;不可用作腐值任何痕器或假鑑於得更前之信用卡欠款。The awarded credit card spending limit can only be used for purchase of goods and services and cannot be redeemed as cash. The spending limit can reither be used to settle any monetary obligation nor to settle any outstanding liability in credit card accounts accured prior to the winning of the prize.

駿昇飲食集團送出飲食餐券(25,000港元) G advance Food & Beverage Coupons donated by Advance Caterers Group (HK\$25,000) 此獎券為香港明愛各項服務(包括教育、醫療及社會工作) 籌募經費



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- ★一起行善締造希望★
 - ★關顧弱勢社群★
 - ★發揮愛的感染力★

1月27日舉行抽獎

為香港社會及教會禱文 Prayer for Hong Kong Society and the Church

天父,祢是萬有之源,人類的大父。求祢福佑香港,使市民大眾猶如四 海一家,彼此包容,守望相助,推廣公益。

主耶穌基督,祢是降生成人的天主聖言、慈悲天父的肖像。祢也是人類 歷史的主宰,世人不論環境順逆,常常蒙祢眷顧。求祢助祐香港天主子民, 愛主愛人,宏揚福音。求祢使信眾都以祢在十字架上為人捨生、愛仇寬恕的 精神,作為最崇高的典範。願信眾各展所長,善用神恩,建樹一個多元化而 共融的教會,並願他們成為地鹽世光,與貧窮弱小者為伍。求祢使信眾既關 心現世社會,亦不忘注目天國永生,作為人生最終目標。

天主聖神, 祢是真理、生命、仁愛與恩寵的泉源。求祢光照教會領導 者,俾能以善牧心懷,牧養天主子民。求祢也啟發執政者,俾能推行仁政、 彰顯公義、維護人性尊嚴。

至聖的天主聖三,我們摯愛的家園 —— 香港-目前正處於疫情持續 經濟極度衰退及社會動盪不安的境況。求祢助祐信眾團結共融,並與市民大 眾,同心同德,懷着信心和希望,共渡時艱。亞孟。(可加念天主經及聖母經 各一遍)

Heavenly Father, you are the Creator of everything that exists and Father of the human family. We implore you to bless the people of Hong Kong, that they may treat one another as brothers and sisters, with open-mindedness, forbearance and a sense of solidarity. May they work together to promote the common good.

Lord Jesus Christ, you are the Incarnate Word of God and Image of the Father as the God of Mercy. You are also the Lord of human history who unfailingly care for mankind under all circumstances. We implore you to bless the People of God in Hong Kong, so that, through love of God and neighbours, they may bear witness to the Gospel. Help them to see your





self-sacrifice on the Cross and your love and forgiveness of enemies as their supreme model. May they contribute their talents and charisms to building up a Church that is united and yet allows for diversity. May our faithful become the salt of the earth and the light of the world, with a preferential option for the poor and the needy. While striving for the well-being of our earthly society, may they not lose sight of the Kingdom of Heaven as their ultimate goal.

Holy Spirit, you are the source of truth, life, charity and grace. We implore you to enlighten Church leaders, that they may attend to the People of God like the Good Shepherd. Inspire and guide those who hold public offices, so that, in implementing sound policies, they may promote justice and uphold human dignity.

O Most Holy Trinity, our beloved city, Hong Kong, is in the midst of a global viral pandemic, a severe economic recession and social instability. May the faithful, in communion with one another and in solidarity with the people of Hong Kong, be sustained by your grace and face the current challenge with faith and hope. Amen. (The Our Father and Hail Mary may be said.)

> 天主教香港教區 Catholic Diocese of Hong Kong

連玫瑰經」「串連玫瑰經」「串





聖安多尼堂每年10月份舉行「串連玫瑰經」 祈禱,作有意義的「聖母玫瑰月」敬禮。傳信委員 會專責小組作統籌,鼓勵教友積極成立眾多個5人 「串連玫瑰經」小組,各人每天分唸一端經文,共 同在「玫瑰月」奉獻串串玫瑰經給聖母。敬禮主

題:「偕同慈母~互連祈禱~信靠主恩 | 。

▍祈 禱 意 向 ▮

第一周:10月1-9日 為普世教會及聖召祈禱 第二周:10月10-16日 為香港社會及家庭祈禱 第三周:10月17-23日 為疫症早日消退祈禱

第四周:10月24-31日 為福傳及「耶穌出巡愛西環」活動祈禱

灣耶穌出巡愛西環2U2



第17屆「耶穌出巡愛西環」活動籌備小組,第一次工 作會議於7月5日上午在傳信室舉行,為今年11月22日的耶 穌出巡福傳活動展開工作。在今年的疫情下,大家都感到不 太樂觀。經過去年六個月的社會事件及接着的「新冠狀病 毒Covid-19 / ,令整個香港進入了非常困難的處境。因限聚 令,市民交往減少,經濟嚴重下滑,不少人失去工作,連教 會的聚會也無法舉行;但如果有機會舉辦一些有意義的活 動,一定會吸引西環的街坊參與。



為探討政府的立場,9月9日下午和政府跨部門開會, 會見了消防局、地政處、運輸署、警務處,及中西區民政事 務處人員。我們堂區兩位神父,議長、兩位副議長及數位籌 備委員會成員也一起參加了會議。雖然疫情仍嚴重,但大家

都很認真討論整個活動的事項。各政府部門因疫情而陳述要 求也比較嚴謹,如封路圖要詳細列出帳篷擺設位置、泊車的 地點等。由於限聚令仍然生效,以「同一目的」之共聚人數 不能超出當時政府的規定,可預見對大型活動的批准方面會 有一定的影響。

全體籌委會成員在9月20日早上開會,認真討論今次的 福傳活動。整個會議討論非常熱烈,大家知道在目前疫症及 限聚令的情況下,舉辦大型活動獲批准有一定的困難,但籌 委一致同意,這個已經舉辦了16年的福傳活動,不論困難多 大,也要繼續下去。堂區已向西區警署遞交耶穌出巡活動遊 行申請通知書,及向食環署申請臨時娛樂牌照。

會議中也討論後備方案,如果政府在疫情下否決封路的 申請,「耶穌出巡愛西環」也會用其他的形式舉行。暫定租 用流動舞台車,備有活動宣傳設計及專業音響,帶同耶穌聖 體,到西區不同地點,降福街坊,作另類的「福傳」活動, 包括提供放置堂區口罩套連彩色單張的座架給鄰近店舖,方 便西環街坊自由取用。

若政府批准今次活動,一如過往,我們個會安排一個 莊嚴而隆重的聖體出遊。如公開彌撒屆時已恢復,為方便教 友, 出游前會舉行一台主日感恩祭。為吸引街坊家庭參加, 籌委會成員一致認為是屆「耶穌出巡愛西環」活動將以家庭 為中心,而表演及遊戲也多加一些親子元素。今年福傳金句 為:「讓小孩子到我跟前來!」(瑪竇福音19:14)

請大家繼續為堂區順利籌辦第17屆「耶穌出巡愛西 環 | 活動祈禱!

「症境」下同樂: 主日親子遊戲

高朗晴和高朗悦 (主日學學生) Lawrence Ko及太太Agnes (家長)

我們一家人在9月6日(主日)來到堂區,參與由黃家輝神父帶領及安排的親子桌上遊戲活動,當中包括我們的兩名囡囡朗晴及朗悦,分別只有六歲和四歲。當日黃神父帶領祈禱,然後開始進行三個遊戲活動。由於朗晴和朗悦都是第一次接觸相關遊戲,她們玩得非常投入,樂在其中。

由於疫情關係,我們一家以及小朋友甚少外出。我們很感謝堂區 安排今次的親子活動,令我們的小朋友可以藉著這次活動,讓她們重

返堂區與主日學老師及教友們相見,亦藉此機會提醒小朋友,無論環境順逆,主也與我們同在。感恩!





吳依霖、吳沛霖家長 (主日學)

在黃神父及主日學的導師安排下,能夠與其他家庭的孩子們下棋共樂,過了愉快的一個下午是無限的感恩。讓孩子們在趣味中,不僅學習智慧,仍學習了如何優雅地面對勝利和失敗。在沒有疫情的時候,孩子們每天都會遇到新事物,天天成長。在過去的八個月雖然錯過了不少人際間的學習,但家庭樂的歡欣笑聲確實多了!而作為父母,更加體會到珍世當下這一切的重要性。

沈熹沛母親 (主日學)

「這是我的命令:你們該彼此相愛,如同我愛了你們一樣。」 (若望福音15:12)

暑假完了,小朋友陸續開學了,疫情關係,大家也是在家以網上形式上課。

感謝慈愛天父和聖母瑪利亞,讓我們9月6日下午參加了黃神父和兒童慕道班及主日學導師安排的block games活動。在這個苦悶的日子,感謝他們安排大家凝聚一起,親子玩樂,輕鬆快樂無比。熹沛很是興奮,最喜歡那款「步步為營」和 "Keep It Steady" 遊戲,





鄭樂銘、鄭樂熙 (主日學學生)

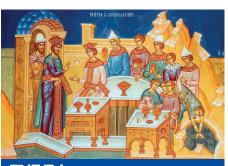
由於疫情嚴峻關係,這段時間一直留在家中, 已經多個月沒有回聖堂了。9月6日非常特別,終於 有機會回來參與活動。

我們回到聖堂後,便看到黃神父和導師們一張 張熟悉的臉孔和親切的笑容,感覺就像回家一樣。 我和弟弟在母佑堂玩了一些棋類遊戲,而我最喜歡 的遊戲是埃及王,因為這個遊戲非常益智。我們都 玩得十分愉快。最後黃神父帶領我們祈禱,完結了 這次的活動。我希望疫情可以快點過去,也希望大 家身體健康,好讓我們可以盡快回復正常的生活。 主佑大家!

了 十 月 生活

生活反省

天主願意「所有的人都得救,並得以認識真理」(弟前2:4),耶穌親自教導我們,天國好比國王設宴,來説明天主賜予全人類救恩的事實。我們的得救,是依賴天主的恩寵及天主的呼召,只憑自己力量,什麼也做不來。因此我們應以積極和尊敬的態度,回應天主的邀請,穿上禮服(基督),認同赴宴的身份,才可進入永生的道路。



聖經金句

「朋友,你到這裡來,怎麽不穿婚宴 禮服?」(瑪22:12)

回應天主的邀請,是要看每個人的反應及行動。在現今生活中,有些人 對「天主白白給予的恩寵」,因為無知而拒絕;有些人把世俗的事務、短暫的享樂、或權力慾望等,看得比天主的救 恩更為重要,他們拒絕了邀請;更甚的是有人竟然「捉住僕人,凌辱後殺死了」(瑪22:6),用暴力對待基督徒。

現在作為第二批被邀請的人,我們是多麼大的福氣啊!但有些人雖然表面赴宴,仍拒絕穿上禮服,不以真誠恭敬的態度接受天主的救恩,他們將不屬於這個婚宴的;因此我們應以恭敬感恩的態度回應,像穿禮服去赴宴一樣。



在生活見證中,被選為天主的子女是何等的光榮,我們可有藉著上主的恩 寵跟隨祂?我們有真正渴求天主,以耶穌的教導付諸實行嗎?我們可以拿什麼 作為禮服,出席天國的盛宴呢?

祈禱

仁慈的天父,我們原是不配赴宴,感謝祢的邀請和垂顧,求祢賜我們一顆 灼熱的心,時常渴慕真理。求祢改變我們的思想行為模式,好能更堪當地領受 祢的恩寵,回報祢的無償之愛,亞孟。

(資料:堂區培育組)

(continued from P.8)

Healing the World Together

Principle of subsidiarity gives hope for healthier post-pandemic future

Everyone needs to contribute, everyone. This type of participation helps to prevent and to correct certain negative aspects of globalization and government action, as also occurs in caring for the people affected by the pandemic. These contributions "from the bottom" should be encouraged.

During the lockdown, the gesture of applauding doctors and nurses as a sign of encouragement and hope arose spontaneously. Many risked their lives and many gave their lives. Let us applaud all those who dedicate themselves to service; everyone collaborating to emerge from the crisis. But let us not stop only at applause. Hope is audacious, and so, let us encourage one another to dream big!

The Lord promised: "I will make all things new". Let us encourage ourselves to dream big.... Let us build a future where the local and global dimensions mutually enrich each other — everyone

Behold, I make all things New -Godcan contribute, everyone has to contribute their share, their culture, their philosophy, their way of thinking — where beauty and the wealth of smaller groups, even those that are discarded, might flourish — because beauty is there too — and where those who have more dedicate themselves to service and give more to those who have less.

(Pope Francis General Audience, 23 September 2020)



Holy Father's Prayer Intention for October 十月份教宗祈禱意向

The Laity's Mission in the Church

We pray that by the virtue of baptism, the laity, especially women, may participate more in areas of responsibility in the Church.

為教會內平信徒的使命

願平信徒,尤其是女性平信徒,因著洗禮,能在教 會內分擔更多的責任。



Living Word of God - October 2020



He [the King] said to him, "My friend how is it that you came in here without a wedding garment? But he reduced to silence." ... Many are invited, but a few are chosen. (Matthew 22:12, 14)

Reflection

The images of the banquet in the kingdom of God permeate Chapter 22 of the gospel of Matthew. Unfortunately having meals together has become very perfunctory nowadays. The scriptures place an important emphasis on our spiritual meals. The Eucharist is founded from the setting of a paschal meal wherein all the apostles were gathered together around Jesus in the "upper room" to foreshadow the enactment of the sacrament of the Holy Communion. This represents our nourishment.

The parable of Jesus finds the King's invited guests rejecting a dinner invitation on the occasion of the wedding of his son. The allegorical feature is that the king is God, the son as Christ, and the banquet is the realization of reward in the Kingdom of God in heaven.

Since the intended guests rejected God's calling, the invitations were then extended to the Gentiles. However, the parable does not conclude with a happy ending, rather it put forward a very important caveat: "When one goes to a formal function one should properly attired and sloppy attire is definitely unacceptable." This important message is not about what we dress, but how we act in our daily life to dress our internal being to sustain our charity image of God. Gaining our invitation to the banquet is not a free pass to heaven. Our dignity as baptized children of God is rooted in our clothing of Christ. "For all of you were baptized into Christ have clothed yourself with Christ." (Galatians 3:27). Being a member of the church, there are certain basic requirements that demand us to live up to our new self and put away sloppy attire.

It is not enough to "merely belong" to the church and not integrate with the teachings of the church. One must live out the true quality of a member as described in Paul's Letter to the Colossians:

"But now you must put them all away, anger, fury, malice, slander, and obscene language out of your mouth. Stop lying to one another since you have taken off the old self with practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed for knowledge, in the image of its creator. Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, the heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another, if one has a grievance against another, as the Lord has forgiven you, so must you also do? And over all these put on love, that is the bond of perfection" (Colossians 3:10, 12-14).

This also requires us to be well prepared with full consciousness and active participation in attending the banquet of the kingdom of God here on earth. "Taking part in the Eucharist sacrifice is the fount and apex of the whole Christian life; they offer the Divine Victim to God and offer themselves along with it". (LG11)⁽¹⁾ We

must take this seriously and attend with proper attire to solemnly respect the celebration.

Fortified by such powerful means of salvation, all the faithful whatever their condition or state are called by the Lord each in his/her own way, to that perfect holiness whereby the Father Himself is perfect. (LG11)⁽²⁾ ibid

St. Pope John Paul II in the exhaustion in his encyclical Ecclesia de Eucharistia Chapter 5 on "The Dignity of the Eucharistic Celebration" reminds Christians to put on proper attire when attending the Eucharistic Celebration. The sacredness of the Eucharistic celebration urges all participants to dress and manifest the importance of what they are doing.

"The mystery of the Eucharist has found historical expression not only in the demand for the interior disposition of devotion, but also in the outward forms meant to evoke and emphasize the grandeur of the event being celebrated."(3)

The image of God in our behaviour must move beyond the Eucharistic Celebration to the community. We, too, must continue to proclaim the word of God, singing God's praise, ministering the body and blood of the Lord, to model our worthiness in our outward attire at the liturgy of the Eucharistic Celebration. The outward attire transcends to our inner attire of loving concern for the poor, seeking justice, integrity, honesty, bearing mercy and forgiveness as urged by Paul:



"And be thankful! Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, as in all wisdom you teach and admonish one another, singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." (Colossians 3:15c-17).

Pravers

O Lord Jesus, you brought us up from the gutters of our worldliness and invited us to the banquet of the kingdom of God. We are unworthy to attend your banquet with our improper attire. Please transform us by your spirit and grant us the courage to put away our anger, fury, malice, slender and obscene behavior. Help us put on our new selves in the image of our creator with holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. Grant us the grace we need to become your chosen people to be well prepared and properly dressed both internally and externally to receive you and welcome you into our new "upper room" of our hearts. Amen.

Reference:

- (1) Documents of Vatican Council II Lumen Gentium Chapter II on the People of God: #11, pg. 36.
- (2) Ibid, pg. 38.
- (3) Pope John Paul II, Ecclesia de Eucharistia, no. 49, 17 April 2003.

(Source: Parish Formation Group)



Saint Anthony's Church Parish Newsletter No. 602

Shepherd Flock's Dialogue October 2020



1st October

18th October

(Mission Sunday)

29th Sunday

of the Year

Celebration of Holy Rosary Month begins Commencement of Rosary Marathon

21st October

Departed Mass

6:00pm (Chinese)

Commemoration of All Faithful

2nd October

Public Masses resume

First Friday of the month Feast of Sacred Heart of Jesus Mass

8:00pm (Chinese)

25th October

30th Sunday of the Year

4th October 27th Sunday of the Year

11th October

28th Sunday of the Year

Events for St. Anthony's Church

*Holy Hour of Eucharistic Adoration (every Thursday evening 7:00pm) *St. Anthony's Day (every Tuesday)

Welcome to 11:30am English Mass

Reflection with Pope Francis

Healing the World Together

Principle of subsidiarity gives hope for healthier post-pandemic future



To emerge better from a crisis like the current one, which is a health crisis, and at the same time, a social, political and economic crisis, each one of us is called to assume responsibility for our own part, that is, to share the responsibility. We must respond not only as individual people, but also beginning from the group to which we belong, from the role we have in society, from our principles and, if we are believers, from our faith in God.

So that we might be able to participate in the healing and regeneration of our peoples, it is only right that everyone should have the adequate resources to do so (cf. Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church [CSDC], 186). After the great

economic depression of 1929, Pope Pius XI explained how important the principle of subsidiarity was (cf. Encyclical Quadragesimo anno, 79-80). This principle has a double movement: from top to bottom and from bottom to top.

On the one hand, and above all in moments of change, when single individuals, families, small associations and local communities are not capable of achieving primary objectives, it is right that the highest levels of society, such as the State, should intervene to provide the resources necessary to progress. For example, because of the coronavirus lockdown, many people, families and economic entities found themselves and still find themselves in serious difficulty. Thus, public institutions are trying to help through appropriate social, economic, health interventions: this is their function, what they need to do.

On the other hand, however, society's leaders must respect and promote the intermediate or lower levels. In fact, the contribution of individuals, of families, of associations, of businesses, of every intermediary body, and even of the Church, is decisive. With their own cultural, religious, economic resources, or civil participation, they revitalize and reinforce society (cf. CSCD, 185). That is, there is a collaboration from the top to the bottom, from the central State to

the people, and from the bottom to the top: from the institutions of people to the top. And this is precisely how the principle of subsidiarity is exercised.

Implementing the principle of subsidiarity gives hope, it gives hope in a healthier and more just future; and we build this future together, aspiring to greater things, broadening our horizons (cf. Discourse to Students at the Fr. Félix Varela Cultural Center, Havana - Cuba, 20 September 2015). To emerge from the crisis means to change, and true change is done by everyone, all the persons that form a people. All the professions, all of them. And everything together, everyone in the community.

