



The Echo 迴聲

卡城永援聖母堂 | olph@telus.net
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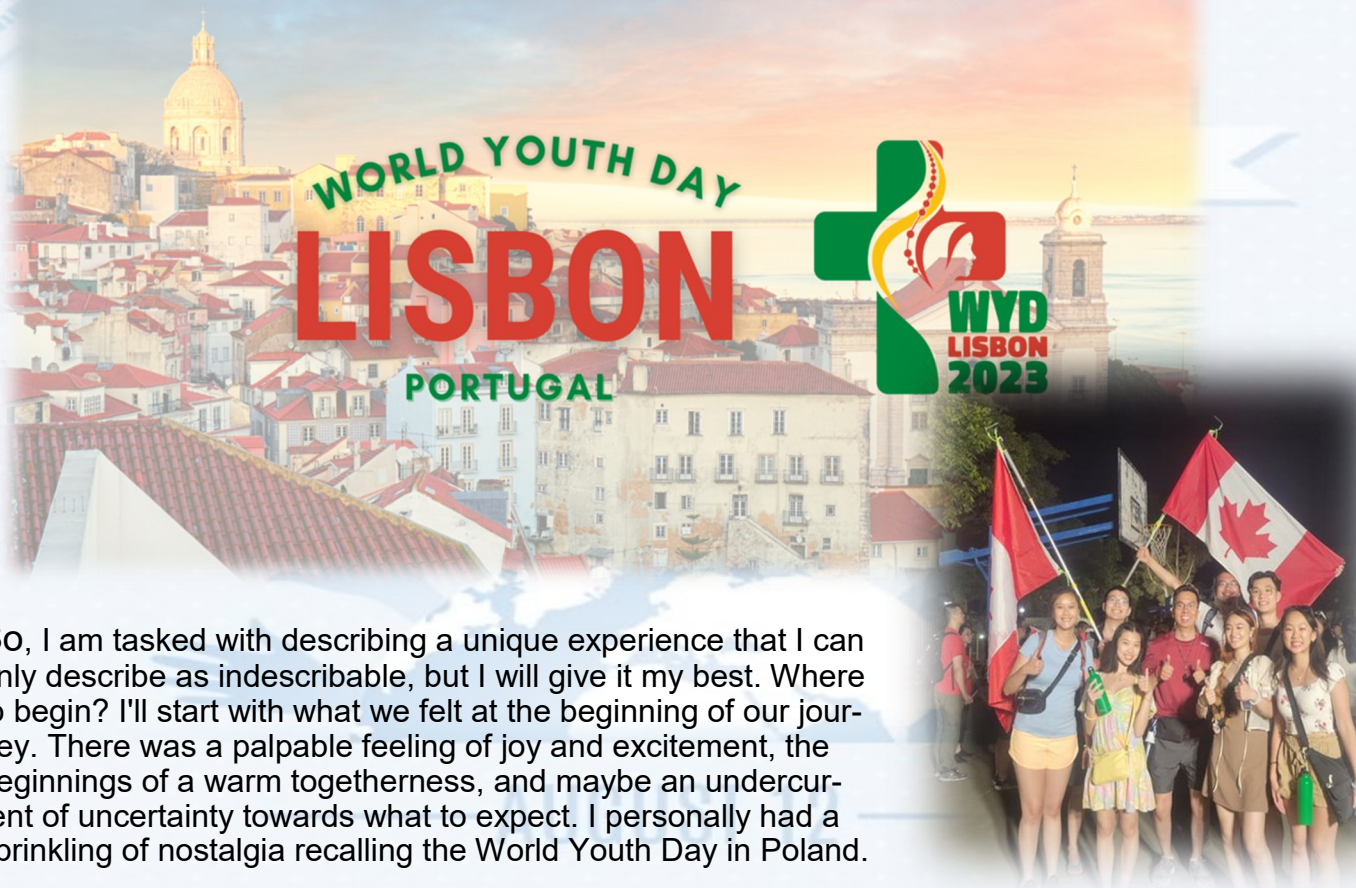
編者的話

秋色如畫，實在美麗，也讚歎造物主偉大和奇妙的創造！
十月的「迴聲」又出版了！
歡迎教友踴躍投稿，文章可反映堂區活動訊息、靈修心得及信仰見證，讓我們同心合力，使「迴聲」不斷進步，內容更精彩！

Editor's Note

The autumn colors are picturesque and beautiful, admiring the great and wonderful creation of God our Creator!
We would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude for your continuous support and contribution for Echo!
We encourage you to continue to submit articles reflecting parish activities, your spiritual journey or witness of faith. Let's grow together in the love of God!

World Youth Day 2023 Portugal



So, I am tasked with describing a unique experience that I can only describe as indescribable, but I will give it my best. Where to begin? I'll start with what we felt at the beginning of our journey. There was a palpable feeling of joy and excitement, the beginnings of a warm togetherness, and maybe an undercurrent of uncertainty towards what to expect. I personally had a sprinkling of nostalgia recalling the World Youth Day in Poland.

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Our first taste of Portuguese cuisine after landing was at a truck stop where our bus driver stopped for a break. There we had, among other foods, our first of many tasty Pastel de nata (Portuguese tarts). I would recommend the Portuguese squid because it is very delicious and ridiculously tender. The soups in my opinion could have used a bit more salt though.

I was not sure what to expect going into the Days in the Diocese in Tavira, since we would be staying in a gym as opposed to staying with host families like in Poland. It turned out better than I expected. What we

lost in creature comforts we gained in being a part of a community that we were able to grow and bond with together. It was an awesome community, with such a positive attitude about God that one could not help but feel closer to God just being around them. The days were fulfilling, each day felt like almost two days.

Our time in Tavira was amazing, and there were a few special moments that stood out. On Heritage Day, we represented Canada by doing the Cadillac Ranch and not to understate it, but I think we did good. The crowd joined in and really seemed to enjoy it. There was so much energy that night. For one of the daily masses, we were asked to join another group and sing with them. I felt it was a very spiritual moment and we sounded decent. We have some recordings if you're interested in hearing some.

While the community during the Days in the Diocese felt a bit like going back to high school, the World Youth Days in Lisbon felt like stepping into adulthood anew. Here we got to experience the pilgrimage in all senses of the word. There were many challenges, frustrations, plans going awry, feelings of caution in the big city, massive crushes by seas of people, tests of endurance, sore feet, but ultimately a feeling for the ability to overcome, and a sense of a guiding hand.

The most pilgrimage moment that will probably be a core memory for me occurred during the first couple of days. We had planned on going to confession at the area of Belem before going to the opening ceremony, but when we got there, we were too late for confession. As it turned out, Belem was where a great many of the pilgrims had been gathering that day. Since everyone there was planning to go to the opening ceremony, which happened to be almost 10 km away, finding transit was near impossible. We had made plans for the time between confession and the opening ceremony, but we soon realized we would need to walk the whole way and had to go straight there. It was a long, hot walk on busy sidewalks surrounded by thousands of other pilgrims spilling onto the roads. We walked for nearly 2 hours. Near the end of the journey there was a beautiful park where I felt a sense of peace. We were arriving just as the opening ceremony was starting, and the loudspeakers started playing the opening hymns, which felt like a heavenly soundtrack was accompanying us those last 200 meters to the finish.

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Since we had missed confession, we decided to go back to Belem the next day. As we got closer, we noticed it seemed a little too crowded and some of the roads were closed off. It turned out the Pope was visiting Belem that day as a first stop, so that wound up being the first day we got to see the Pope. We got to see him up close as he blessed a baby drive-by style. I think that was the closest we got to the Pope the whole trip. We managed to get to confession afterwards, and it is neat to think about how it just worked out.

There were so many amazing and somewhat surprising moments. I enjoyed waking up from the outdoor night vigil in time to see the sun rise over the ocean. It's not very often that you get to wake up outside at 7 am and listen to EDM being played by a priest DJ (Padre Guilherme). On one of our last days, we went to Fatima to visit the Basilica of the Rosary, but we ended up skipping the international mass. After Fatima, we went to Santarem to visit a church, home to a eucharistic miracle, but as we got there it happened that an English mass held by a Chilean priest just began, and so we took the opportunity to attend.

In all, Portugal is a beautiful country with good food and lovely beaches. The World Youth Day pilgrimage has left a lasting memory, and I will look fondly back on it for many years to come. It is bittersweet to think this was likely my last World Youth Day, as even on this trip I could feel the energy belonged more so to the younger crowd. I would absolutely recommend any youth wanting to grow in faith to consider going to the next World Youth Day in South Korea.

Aaron Tsang, YAG



— AUGUST 12 —

World Youth Day 2023 reflection



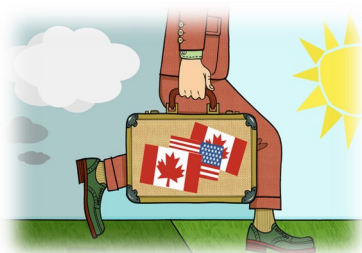
World Youth Day 2023 was not just an event, but a transformative journey that left an impact on my soul. As I reflect on the trip, I am overwhelmed by feelings of gratitude for the opportunity to grow both individually and spiritually.

One of my favourite experiences was connecting with the thousands of youths I met from all over the world. It boggles my mind to think we all have different lives in different cities, yet we were brought together through the guidance of God. It's important to note, that it is because of our faith that led us to meet. Being able to relate with my fellow pilgrims and many other youths made me feel secure in my faith. It encouraged me to explore my spirituality.

That led me to go on a deep dive of self-reflection, and while it wasn't always easy, I felt God's presence with me the whole time. An important takeaway I learned was that God truly is unconditionally loving and forgiving. He does not keep count of your mistakes, nor does he ever turn his back on you, he's always watching and protecting. It is okay to feel sorrow or guilt for neglecting God or other aspects of your life, but you must keep trying. God inspires us to reflect that love in our own lives, to spend time with the ones important to us, and to love unconditionally.



Wesley Lui, 300 OLPH Scouter



Our story in Canada

Our story in Canada started when my mom decided to invest in a real estate program, which led to her immigration application being accepted by Canada. All my siblings and I came along with her, and moved to Calgary in 1994.

Back then, Calgary was a sparsely populated (800k vs 1.6 mil now), vast and cold place. It was coming out of a long recession which started in 1982. To me, the winter of 1994 was extra long & cold, it's because here in Canada, day light disappears early in the day, and at that time, many shops would close on Sundays!

Luckily for us, the boredom and loneliness didn't last long, we had our uncles who showed us the way of life here, then Rachel's birth, and the friends we got to know to chat, golf, hike, ride, worship, laugh, grieve and celebrate with along the way. Just like that, 29 years zipped by. This year, we sold our home in Calgary and will, in the near future, move to Asia to begin a new chapter of life.



Thank you for the precious moment you shared with us.

Alford Lau

一切從聖召開始



我是一個移民加拿大多年的香港人，大約在三年前，因疫情關係，不可以出外參加彌撒和其他活動，所以只好留在家中，參加網上彌撒和勤念玫瑰經，希望疫情可以改善，並開始計劃退休。在祈禱中，時常向聖母轉求耶穌，怎樣在退休後可以在信仰和生命上，都可以得到些許改變及如何為教會服務。因為自覺五十多年的人生和教友生涯，對教會和聖經其實認識不深，只是一個非常普通的教友，更談不上走成聖之路。

就在 2020 年 8 月的一個晚上，我還在工作，忽然腦海中聽到一把聲音對我說：「你退休後去讀神學吧！」當時聽到這把聲音，我沒有考慮太多，就說：「好啊！」接下來不夠一分鐘，聲音再說：「去台灣。」當時覺得這個提議非常之好，便開始計劃和行動。可能因疫情關係，過程非常之不順利，困難重重，可以用「痛苦」兩個字來形容，但我從一開始便沒有放棄過，只是不斷祈禱，將一切交託給主耶穌，相信若沒有祂的幫助，個人實在無法面對那麼多挑戰。例如家庭、年紀、語言、氣候等等，都需要面對和解決，但我一直相信，這個是基督的召喚，所有困難都是基督對我的考驗。

當然最後非常感恩，我還是來到台灣，開始我三年的神學生涯。在我來到台灣之後，我開始默想，為什麼主耶穌會叫我來台灣讀神學呢？因為以前完全沒有想過。啊！後來我相信，這是主耶穌聆聽我的祈禱，這是祂的回答，祂安排我來修讀神學，就是對我改變生命和信仰的最佳途徑。感謝聖母為我轉禱，我會繼續透過玫瑰經，將我未來這三年交託給聖母和主基督。

二年級神學生 Paul Mok

一封問候信

卡加里華人天主教會：

你們好，我名叫冠珠 (June)。我在 2019 年三月份去卡加里，探望我的妹妹冠寶 (Grace)，因她當時病重。但我很開心，認識到愛心組的朋友，她們不辭勞苦的探訪、煮食物，為我妹妹祈禱及安慰她。

我從妹妹的眼中，看到她感到平安及喜悅！同年五月我和香港的大家姐為送別 Grace 來到卡加里，這次是我們傷心難過的旅程。

同年十二月開始，新冠病毒漫延至全世界，嚴重疫情持續了三年多，感受到生離死別。

今年 2023 年九月份，我重來卡加里探望我的妹夫 Harry 及姨生仔浩然，感謝 Anna Tam 介紹我去參加聖經分享會，重遇愛心組的教友，這次的重聚，大家都非常喜悅。並謝謝 Anne 和 Edward，帶我到阮神父的渡假屋遊玩及與教友們飯敘。很開心看見他們揆孫仔的喜樂和教友們的平安健康。

在此，感謝大家對我的關懷，感謝天主保守。祈望天主保佑各人平安，主佑大家。

冠珠 2023 年 9 月



Our 7 days volunteering in Lourdes



After 2 plane rides and 5 hours journey by train, we finally arrived at our destination—Lourdes, the Sanctuary. The first impression was, “Wow! It is huge and magnificently beautiful”. I definitely fell in love with it at first sight.

The highlight of this journey— participating in our first Mass in Basilica of Notre Dame du Rosaire, visiting the birthplace of St. Bernadette, visiting the Chapelle of St. John Paul II, and we visited the Grotto and the Bath 3 times.

We had to attend a few sessions of mandatory orientation, such as hearing the life history of St. Bernadette, where she lived and how she became one of the most famous saints, the organization of Hospitalite Notre Dame De Lourdes which offered six different programmes to serve in the Sanctuary. We also had a chance to visit multiple important places such as the adoration chapel where Bryan and I liked to visit whenever we had time, and the hospice where the physical challenge Pilgrims come to stay from all over Europe. The main Sanctuary had so many different chapels which I don't think I can remember all.

We served approximately 5-6 hours daily; we were part of Group 64 which made up of about 25 teenage girl guides and boy scouts from a town called Trento in Italy. They were our interpreters as we were the 2 odd balls speaking English. The rest of the group were speaking French, Italian and Spanish. We always worked together with Group 65, with a total of about 100 volunteers.

During those 7 days, our main duties were serving in the Chapel of St. Pius X during International Mass and Eucharistic Processions by helping to park the rickshaw-like wheelchairs neatly (there were lots of them), participating at the candlelight processions by holding the rope to the path open for the Processions to walk through safely, going to the train station by helping to transfer the physically challenge pilgrims from the coaches via wheelchair to the waiting trains at the platform after their visits and ready to return home. Lastly, we had to serve at the Grotto, gently marshalling the pilgrims to move along and maintaining a playful atmosphere. Luckily, Bryan was asked to work as a group of 6 to stand guard at the Grotto for ½ hour. This certainly made him very happy that day. We also had a chance to learn the duty of serving at the Bath.

On the whole, the 7 days were filled with peace and positive feelings and it passed by quickly. Despite the extreme heat and humidity, Bryan and I enjoyed our time thoroughly. We especially miss listening to the chanting of hymn songs, reciting the rosary and singing Ava Maria every night before we went to sleep.

Bryan and Alicia C.F.F. members

The Echo

默主哥耶朝聖之旅

「用心祈禱，在祈禱中把自己完全交托給耶穌。」
-1984年8月11日默主哥耶聖母的訊息



在偶然之下，從兩位教友口中，得知此朝聖之旅。因報名人數太多，要在指定時段登入報名，以示公正。幸運地，我們的名字在限額之內。神師是程明聰神父，還有楊葆怡修女，團員有來自美國亞利桑那州及三藩市，亦有加拿大多倫多、卡加里、溫哥華及香港，一共 56 人。

團長在未出行時，寄上 33 日祈禱奉獻經文，為瑪利亞無玷聖心凱旋的勝利作奉獻準備。但是十分慚愧，因出發前外遊，我只能用兩天的時間，匆匆閱讀 33 天的奉獻禱文，祇像是浮光掠影，並沒有詳細琢磨及反省當中的含意。由於出了埠，也沒有參與出行前的網上資訊，直至到達多倫多，踏上旅程時，才在機場內收到朝聖的小冊子。但是，天主是仁慈的，祂總會有所安排。在我們登機飛往默主哥耶前，在機場內的小聖堂獻上一台彌撒，程明聰神父並降福大家有一個美好之旅。

整個行程，每天都是充實的，我們每天都參與兩台彌撒，一台是早上吃完早餐後；另一台是晚間吃完晚飯後。在空當的時段，我們探望修院，聽修院神父分享他的心路歷程。攀登聖母顯現山，探訪 **Mother Krispina Community** 婦女及小孩收容所，探訪 **Cenacolo Community**，兩位吸毒及犯法者分享他們怎樣走出黑暗到接納上主，邁向光明的見證。在 **Tihaljina** 參與奉獻默主哥耶聖母彌撒，參觀 **Patrick** 與 **Nancy** 的堡壘及分享他們的見證。在 **Devin Mary Church** 接觸到聖保祿二世及聖女傅天娜的聖髑。攀登聖十字架山，並一路誦讀瑪利亞的苦路，參與朝拜聖體及聖體遊行。在 “**Via Domini**” 與團友們一起誦念光明五端，並為需要的人獻上信友禱文。不想攀登聖十字架山的團友，可以選擇在復活基督銅像下禱告及在山下的苦路誦念玫瑰經文。最後參觀 **Marian Community - Oasis of Peace**，一個為有特別創傷治癒的避靜所。

聖母給我們五粒石仔對抗撒旦：

祈禱、
領聖體、
閱讀聖經、
守齋及辦告解。





在這朝聖之旅，我體驗到主與我們同在。視覺欠佳的程明聰神父，穿着普通的鞋，手持盲人助行的杖，配合六位男士在旁協助，在大小碎石、凹凸不平的山徑上，程神父安然地攀上聖母顯現山。我們在聖母像前禱告，再行到遠離聖母像背後十米；耶穌被釘十字架的苦像前禱告。聖母常囑咐我們要紀念她的愛子—耶穌基督的救贖工程。這是我第一次心靈的觸動，見證上主的大能，保守信靠祂的人。



當默主哥耶本地朝聖團的接洽人，介紹我們認識聖地的地圖時，一位團友隨意拍照，其後她分享其中一張告解庭方向指標的照片，她拍照的原意是讓自己知道如何去告解庭，她問我看到什麼？我說我見到聖神臨在指標上，指示我們應當悔改(告解聖事)。也有多個團友覺得是聖母站在告解指示牌上，指示我們應當悔改。這是我第二次心靈的觸動。

6月10日，當神視者 Marija 在 The Castle，聖母顯現時刻一下午 6:40，信友們一早齊集，用不同的語言誦念玫瑰經文及聖詠。我坐在草地上，遠遠的看見聖母抱著小耶穌在懷中，誦念著玫瑰經文，淚水不停的流下，這是喜悅的眼淚，我感受到聖母接納了我為她的女兒。在基督教學校熏陶的我，一向是直接向基督禱告。但常常聽到身邊的好友，說特別敬重聖母，每每在祈禱中求聖母轉禱。我對老伴說，為什麼我得不到聖母的信息？老伴提點我，在祈禱時，祈求聖母接納我為她的女兒，我並懇請聖母給我實體指示她的臨在。這是我第三次心靈的觸動。

6月11日 基督聖體聖血節 (Feast of Corpus Christi)，我們在聖母顯現時的刻，奉獻了一佰朵玫瑰花，團友們可以取兩朵玫瑰花作為紀念，我取了兩朵，放在房中潔淨的膠袋上，準備完成當晚的彌撒後，便把它分開，夾入書中帶回家。當完成晚上活動，包括誦念玫瑰經、黃昏彌撒、誦念和平玫瑰經及治癒心身靈祈禱，返回房間時，我聞到整個房間都充滿着玫瑰花的花香。我問老伴，你可聞到？他說「不」。在第二天的分享時段，我分享我的心聲與見證，團友告訴我，這是聖母給我的祝福及恩典，我應多誦念玫瑰經文，這是我第四次心靈的觸動。

6月13日 我們結束朝聖之旅的前一晚，當晚我們參與明恭聖體彌撒，整個旅程我感到聖神的臨在，與天主聖母的相遇。一日兩餐，早上 7:30 早餐及下午 4:30 晚餐，但並不感到飢餓。除了購買聖物外，並無購物意欲。

當與團員們分享他們朝聖的心路歷程，如何明辨天主的話語及指示，讓我得益良多，心靈、身心，均受到洗滌，讓整個旅程畫上完美句號。

The Echo

聖母軍團員的感想

聖母軍



我雖是多年的教友，但卻是個甚麼都不懂的人，對聖經及耶穌，更是一知半解。

自從加入聖母軍後，得到神師深入淺出的教導，加上各團員們的諄諄善誘，現在才略知一、二。

在聖母軍內，部份工作由團員們策劃及推動，各團員都是自發性的參與及工作，並依照手冊的綱領去做，大家都希望把工作做好，使義務的工作得以完成，也全賴聖母的護佑。所以，當我們服務他人時，是要和聖母一起的，要以聖母的心去接觸人，對人要尊重，要有真誠的心，盡力去做，並要堅持到底，願我們大家勉力再勉力，把主派下來的工作順利完成。



聖母軍團員鄧筱瓊

貝琦和狼

作者：
蓓妮·波特
(節錄自心靈雞
湯-親親寵物)



三歲的貝琦衝進廚房：「媽媽！快來看我的新狗，牠很口渴，一直在哭！而且沒法走路啊！」說完即從農場跑進灌木叢去。我總算找到了她，她抱著一隻動物的頭放在自己的大腿上，牠的眼睛漸漸眯了起來，黑色的嘴巴也逐漸合起，兩對尖牙從嘴裏露了出來，突然間，牠的身體抖了一下，發出很可憐的呻吟聲。「沒關係，沒關係！別怕。她是我媽媽，她也很愛你喔！」我必須快點把貝琦帶走：「親愛的！來媽媽這裏。我們去找人幫忙。」貝琦慢慢走過來之前，她竟然還親了那隻動物的鼻子一下。我總算安全的帶貝琦回家，給她玩具熊，讓她午睡。

我和看牛的布萊恩帶著槍到橡樹邊：「牠是一隻很大的墨西哥狼，傷得不輕，讓我來幫牠脫離苦海吧，這是對牠最好的。」當我想說「好」這個字時，沒想到貝琦突然從樹叢中冒出來問：「布萊恩叔叔是不是要幫牠治療？」她又把牠的頭放到自己大腿上，把臉埋進牠粗黑的毛頭裏，我還聽見那條尾巴拍打的聲音。

那天下午，我先生比爾和獸醫去看看，醫生打的皮下注射開始生效，大野狼的黃色眼睛也跟著合起來，牠的屁股和腿都被子彈打得殘廢了。醫生替牠做了一些必要的醫療措施，隔天再用一根金屬棒幫牠換骨。醫生：「牠應該有三歲大，要把牠馴服並不易，但看見牠對待你小女兒的方式，我很驚訝，亦聽說小孩和動物之間有某種微妙的關係，大人們很難能理解。」

貝琦叫牠做「來福」，每天都拿食物及水給牠。當我們幫牠按摩萎縮的肢體時，從牠閉著眼的樣子，牠正忍受著刺骨的疼痛。但牠從未咬過照顧牠的人。

四個月後，來福試著用顫抖的身體站起來，我和比爾拍拍牠，給牠讚美。但是如果牠想聽溫柔的話、一個吻、一個笑容，都會向貝琦要。

來福變成了貝琦的跟班，金髮的貝琦蹲得低低的，對著溫馴而膽小的大野狼訴說大自然奇蹟的奧妙。傍晚時，大野狼靜靜地回到牠的空樹幹去睡覺，那兒已成為牠自己特別的窩了。

貝琦上學的第一天，校車走了，來福很難過，躺在路邊，等貝琦回來。貝琦好不容易回來了，來福一跛一跛地，又跑又跳地繞著她轉圈。這個熱烈的歡迎儀式，一直到她畢業為止。

有一次，來福消失了幾個星期，大家都好擔心牠的安全。因為那時是生小牛的季節，農場主人特別注意一些野生動物的動向。但原來當時也是春天求偶的季節，牠跑到週圍的沙漠和山頭裏去。

有一年春天，鄰居告訴我們，他們追殺了兩匹狼，母狼死了，公狼跑了。我們一聽，便知道是來福，牠果然受傷回家。貝琦這時十五歲了，雖然來福傷口不嚴重，但已十五歲而白髮蒼蒼的來福並沒有康復，牠不再去院子找貝琦玩，整天祇躺著休息。

有一天，貝琦發現牠死在空橡樹幹前，撫摸著牠毛髮蓬鬆的脖子，貝琦哭了，她難過地說：「我會很想念牠。」我用一條毛毯把牠蓋起來，突然空樹幹裏傳來奇怪的聲音，我們都嚇了一跳，貝琦往內一看，兩顆黃色的小眼珠瞪回來，兩隻小虎牙閃閃發亮。是來福死前，本能告訴自己的孩子躲在這裏比較安全，也希望自己的孩子和愛牠的人在一起嗎？貝琦用雙手抱起那隻全身顫抖不已的小狼，淚水滴濕了牠的身體，輕聲說：「沒關係，沒關係，小…來福，她是我媽媽，她也很愛你的。」

孟買作家吉卜齡：「牠的名字不再是野狼，而是最要好的朋友。牠會永遠是我們的好朋友。」每年的十月四日是「動物主保」聖方濟各的主保瞻禮日，亦是世界動物日，讓我們也來親親小動物，享受造物主給我們共享的天地。



迴聲編輯 Emily Chan

The Echo

my
memories

I keep my
beautiful
memories

回鄉之旅

七月我回到了卡城 — 我的「加」鄉。此行主要目的是將父親的骨灰由皇后墓園帶到素里天主教墓園，與母親合葬。申請挖掘墳墓的手續非常繁複，且皇后墓園規定掘墳只可在夏季星期三早上進行，若遇上大雨天，或泥土濕滑，工程會被取消。我於去年已開始申請，經過多月來的碰釘子及阻滯，終於在六月獲得批准，定下掘墳日期。日子臨近之際，我每天查看天氣預報，希望天公做美。踏入星期二，天開始下雨，原定計劃告吹，要延至下一個星期三。雖然有些失望，但也是意料中事。主日向阮神父問好，並且請求為父親奉獻彌撒，阮神父安排了星期三的彌撒。星期二又來臨，經過了一星期陽光的擁抱，地面乾硬，心想應該適合挖掘，但晚上又開始下微雨，心內不禁忐忑。星期三上午九時，當我參與彌撒的同時，挖掘的工程亦順利進行。感謝天父的眷顧，感謝神父的安排。

滿以為所有程序已安排妥當，一星期後便可回家。誰知道兩天後發現墓碑並未被移走，須要另外尋找公司處理，當時正值長週末，唯有多留一天徹底解決問題。在原定離開卡城那天的早上，外子與我到快餐店用餐，我正在無聊地瀏覽街道時，發現兩位流浪漢打扮的人，一位卧在草地上，而另一位正施行心肺復甦。初時我以為他們在嬉戲，但當此場面持續五分鐘後，我開始覺得事態嚴重，便告知外子所見情況。他二話不說，步出快餐店，向那兩人問安，然後撥打 911。消防隊及醫護人員先後抵達，經過急救，臥地的被扶上救護車。看到他能站起來，我也稍覺安心。我想，天父要我們多留一天，自有祂的原因。

夏去秋來，暑假後第一期的堂區通訊準時在我的電子郵箱出現。我帶著希冀的心閱讀，在看到堂區各項活動時，感覺猶其親切。原來堂區通訊對我來說，不只是一份期刊，它也是一封家書。確實，卡城這個我度過了三十二年生命的城市，有我思念的人和事。

迴聲編輯 Teresa Tsui

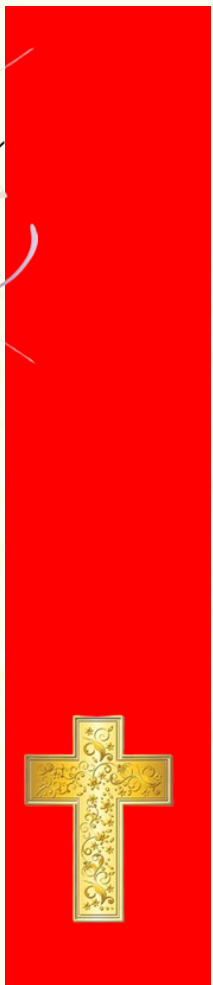
My calling and my journey

Ordination

I received my first calling in 1967, when I joined my school's RCIA program. The following year I was baptised and confirmed. In Baptism, we are all called to enter a common priesthood with the Lord, to love God and our neighbors, to follow Him, and carry out His mission. Soon I was sharing this love in different ministries, in the Legion of Mary, leading Rosary in school, helping in retreats, visiting seniors, and serving at a Catholic hospital.

However, I too fell into the trap of focusing on my career supporting a young family after graduation. For many years I was living in a merit driven world far away from the Sabbath. Being far away from God, creates vulnerability in us. Even though God is always calling, we often cannot hear because of the noise around us. Yet the Holy Spirit continued to take care of us and

calling me back from the wilderness 28 years ago. This second calling was much like God telling His children to repent in the scripture, suppliant before Him, turn back to His compassion and yearn for the Kingdom of God.



Called to Serve

Ordination

We joined OLPH parish, rediscovered The Way and resumed our faiths striving for holiness. I resumed my Christian fellowship with the help of the Holy Spirit, through serving in Christian Family Fellowship, Youth Group, Parish Council, Financial Council, and liturgically, in parallel, also served as an extraordinary eucharistic minister, a weekday sacristan, and an altar server at another parish, and in Diocesan outreach ministry serving at the Feed the Hungry program, and the prison ministry. It is God's way to put us into areas we didn't expect in our journeys, to continue His mission, to be with Him, to experience God's love, in our white garment as "holy" and "unblemished" beings, like our Saints, to fend off the devil.

Five years ago, while Bishop Henry was attending OLPH Chinese New Year banquet, he expressed how I would be a suitable candidate for the diaconate formation program. It was like Jesus passing through the Lakeshore of Galilee inviting his apostles to follow Him. I must thank Bishop Henry for this third calling, my beloved wife, and my family for their supports, all the prayers from our beloved brothers and sisters in Christ, our most Reverend Bishop McGrattan and the Diaconate Committee for accepting me into this formation program. The four years diaconate formation in the four pillars of humanity, pastoral, theology, and spirituality appeared undaunting at the beginning but it turned out to be the best gift I have ever received.

Together with eleven candidates, we accompanied each other to learn about God's covenant, to follow His law, to be a better shepherd, to learn how to declare the whole truths and what is due to His people and bless them. The program enriched our understanding of the Church's mission, and what ministerial priesthood is all about, how we should minister in the truths of love, charity, and the sacraments, which are God's gifts for our salvation. As part of the required journeys, Bishop McGrattan conferred us as lectors and acolytes of the Church on the third year. We engrained ourselves in scripture, daily prayers, Sabbath, supporting each other and spending time in silent retreats with God.

In ordination, we will receive our gift to be in communion with Christ, to be in transcendental dialog with God, to seek out His goodness, the Truth, and His beauty, under the direction of the Bishop, our Shepherd, and to look after the flock in his domicile region. By our obedience to the Bishop, we also agree to follow His excellency's evangelization plan, with a focus to reach out to the other 80% of His flock outside the parishes, in collaboration with other clergy and the laity. There will be a fifth year of post-ordination program to complete our diaconate journey which we all look forward to completing, with your prayers.



I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me". (Matt.

Ordination

Thomas Ha
the diaconal candidates



念親恩

我親愛的母親，安息主懷。我帶著懷念及感恩的心，分享我母親一生的犧牲，為了養育我們四兄弟妹，帶給我們的生命及信仰。



在若望福音第 12 章中耶穌說：「一粒麥子，如果不落在地裡死了，仍只是一粒；如果死了，才結出許多子粒來」。「麥子不死空自留，麥子死了百倍收」。我們親愛的母親，有如這一粒麥子「百倍收」。她的一生，好像一支燃燒的蠟燭，她不斷燃點著她的生命，為我們犧牲，她的光照亮我們四兄弟妹每個人的生命。

我很感謝母親，她年輕時候，已很獨立，單身從大陸到香港工作，結婚生兒育女，建立家庭。她更為我們帶來信仰，我五歲時與母一同領洗，之後我們四兄弟妹及所有她的子孫都受母親的感染下，全都相信天主。當我九歲時，父親在一次電單車意外中去世，在這悲慘的時刻，母親也不會忘記在父親去世前讓他領洗。

那以後母親守寡，一力承擔供養家庭重擔。雖然整日為口奔馳，但她總要我們接受好的教育，還四處奔波，為我們四兄弟妹能進入天主教學校的教育而周章。母親常常教導我們，做人一定不要怕吃虧，要盡力做好自己的本份。雖然我們童年生活過得很苦，經過很多困難，但母親都一直信靠天主，不離不棄。教會亦給我們家庭很大的幫助，在天主的愛和母親的關懷愛護下，我們都長大成人。

我母親晚年，雖然是單獨居住，但多謝聖堂神父、修女及主內各兄弟姊妹的關懷，像天使般在她身邊，邀請她參加聖堂活動及恆常祈禱。母親習慣每天清晨起床，第一件事便是祈禱，她的祈禱冊子因時常使用也變得很陳舊，可以想像她與天主的關係是那麼親密呢！

七月初，母親因為胸口及肚部疼痛進入急症室，很感恩在母親進入病房後便聯絡了神父為她施行傅油聖事，替母親帶上聖母聖衣。其後不到 24 小時，母親情況突然轉變得嚴重，大約一小時後便返回天家。

我們家人都感到突然及十分難過，但那實在是天主的恩賜，讓母親得到善終。她每天恆常祈禱，勤念玫瑰經，得到聖母媽媽俯允，在臨終一刻帶領她，沒有痛苦，平安祥和地回歸父家。感恩，亦感謝大家的祈禱。祈禱的力量，天主一定垂顧。

現今母親回歸天父懷中，得到平安喜樂的永恆生命。雖然家人非常不捨，但我們都知道這道別，只是短暫的，將來也在永恆的天鄉重逢。



林偉良執事