

**CHURCH OF ST IGNATIUS
PARISH ASSEMBLY
SUNDAY 10 OCTOBER 2010**

Attendance: 84

I. OPENING

The meeting began at 2.00 pm with a reflection on Matthew 25:14-30, the parable of the talents, led by Bro Gregory Tan, SJ.

II. PARISH PRIEST'S OPENING REMARKS

Fr Heng began by reminding the assembly that we are accountable to God for how we have used the gifts given to us, and also the gift of our Parish.

III. PARISH PRIEST'S REPORT

Father presented an overview of the activities since he took over as Parish Priest in April 2009. He remarked that there have been physical additions to the Parish, e.g. more signage around the Parish, renovations to the Sacred Heart and St Ignatius Halls. There has also been a greater participation from parishioners during the Fund Raising Bazaar and the Soup Kitchen (Mondays to Fridays) and Parish Canteen (Sundays).

1. The Parish Goal

Father explained how the parish has been living out the 4 dimensions of the Parish Goal "Finding God in Myself, Others and All Situations for God's Greater Glory".

a. Parish-wide Personal Spiritual Formation and Growth Initiatives

Activities included talks, reflections and contemplation, the Week of Guided Prayer organized by the Sojourners' Companions and parish-wide Bible programmes to provide more occasions for parishioners to pray and deepen their faith.

b. A Vocation – God's call to Holiness

There were various parish-wide vocation related activities. One of them was our parish hosting the visit of St John Mary Vianney's statue from Friday 25th September to Thursday 1st October 2009 as part of the Archdiocesan celebration of the Year of Priests, with nightly prayer and reflections organised by different groups/ministries.

c. Communitarian

There were various activities aimed at improving the facilities in the parish to provide more space for ministry, faith formation and social activities as well as fostering closer community bonds. Our parish also participated in the Inter-Racial and Religious Confidence Circle (IRCC) activities in the neighbourhood to reach out to representatives of the various faiths in our community.

d. Social Mission

A number of parish-wide events and initiatives to raise awareness to the justice and care of the poor and needy were started and both members of ministries and non-ministry members participated in these. Individual ministries had also included social mission projects in their activities.

The Social Mission Core Team (SMCT) of the parish was set up in June 2009 to help

drive the social mission ministry of the parish. Funds raised were used for projects to help the poor and needy locally and elsewhere.

(Please refer to the Parish Priest's Report for the Parish Assembly 10th October 2010 for the full report on the Parish Goal).

2. **Summary of individual ministries' activities**

Father briefed the assembly on the various individual ministries' activities. These included:

- a. The youth and young adult ministries, i.e. various catechism programmes for students attending both local and international schools, De Vita Christi Youth Community, post-Confirmation programme and Rite of Christian Initiation for Youth (RCIY), Young Adults.
- b. Family - Infant Baptism Ministry.
- c. Pastoral - Pastoral Care for Elderly and Sick Ministry (PaCES) and Welcoming Ministry of St Ignatius.
- d. Prayer – Charismatic Renewal Prayer Group, Christian Meditation, morning and evening prayer groups, Gentle Light and Legion of Mary.
- e. Liturgical – Altar Servers, Lectors, Liturgy of the Word for children, Extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion, hospitality ministry (greeters and collectors), flower ministry, Traffic Assistants and the music ministry.
- f. Faith Formation - Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA), Alpha, Biblical Apostolate Team @ St Ignatius.
- g. Service – Inigo Bookcentre, Society of St Vincent de Paul, Homemakers and Willing Hands.

(Please refer to the Parish Priest's Report for the Parish Assembly 10th October 2010 for the full report on each ministry).

3. **Appreciations**

Father said that it was not possible to thank everyone, but he expressed appreciations to:

- a. The Parish Finance Committee headed by our accountant Andrew Koh, assists him in financial matters.
- b. The Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) Executive Committee (Ex-co) which looks into matters of Pastoral concerns, comprising Chairman Terence Teo; Vice Chairman Antony Lee and the other elected members Charlotte Yung, Andrew Tan and Julian Loh. He added that he had appointed 3 PPC Ex-co members: Angeline Tok, Matthew Raj and William Chee.
- c. The Social Mission Core Team (SMCT) comprising Philip Tong, Grace Tong, Raymond Thng and Eugene Tan for the initiatives to raise funds for the poor and needy both locally and internationally.
- d. Dorothy Kay for her tremendous help seeing to computer needs and the website e.g. CCD on-line registration.
- e. The staff who have monthly recollections with Mass and staff meetings to better serve the parish and the community.

IV. **CONSTITUTION OF ST IGNATIUS - 26 AUGUST 2010**

Antony explained to the assembly that the constitution of St Ignatius prior to the changes in August 2010 was dated August 2006 and there are some differences from the Archdiocesan Constitution which is dated March 2007.

1. **Changes in the New Constitution**
 - a. Minimum of 5 elected and 3 appointed members (previously 3 elected and no more than 2 appointed members). The greater number of elected members allows for corporate governance in decision making.
 - b. 2 years per term of service with a possibility of a second term (previously one 3 year term maximum with no possibility of re-election for a consecutive term).
 - c. Possibility of appointing a retiring elected member but subject to constraints of headcount.
 - d. No possibility of re-appointing a retiring appointed member.
2. Antony said that he, Terence and Fr Heng met the Archbishop for his approval to this constitution. The Archbishop has no issue with the new Constitution, however he stressed that it was important for the Parish Priest to understand the new constitution and for him to be able to work with the new Ex-co.

V. **INTRODUCTION TO NEW PPC EX-CO MEMBERS**

Father mentioned he had extended the deadline and there were exactly 5 candidates willing to stand for election. After interviewing them, they agreed to be nominated, and as there were exactly 5 candidates, there was no need for an election.

Father introduced the new PPC Ex-co members:

1. **Patrick Tan**
Patrick has been in the parish for the last 20 years. Together with his wife, Carolina, they have been serving in various ministries in the parish. This is his second time in the PPC and he hopes to make the parish a more vibrant one.
2. **Joseph Raj**
Joseph, his wife Ingrid and their 2 children are parishioners of St Ignatius. He serves as a Traffic Assistant. Initially he thought that with the possibility of an election, he may not be elected, but since there isn't one, he will try his best to serve in the Ex-co.
3. **Bernard Goh**
Bernard and his wife have 3 children and they are long-time parishioners. Initially he didn't know what the expectations of serving in the Ex-co were, but he responded after Fr Heng persuaded him.
4. **Malcolm Murfett**
Malcolm and his wife and 4 children are parishioners. He has been living in Singapore and a parishioner of St Ignatius for the last 30 years since he came to lecture at the National University of Singapore in Bukit Timah. This is his second time in the PPC and he is active in parish activities and hopes to see more expatriate involvement.
5. **Aloysius Soh**
Aloysius is a widower with 2 children and 2 grandchildren. He has been a convert for the last 35 years and a parishioner for the last 20. For the last 4½ years, he has served in the Charismatic Renewal and Prayer group, which he finds fruitful. He is also a volunteer doctor at the St Joseph's Home.

VI. **FEEDBACK**

1. **Dennis Tang**

- a. Dennis commented that it was good to encourage the youth to be involved in the parish activities.
 - Father replied that the De Vita Christi will consist of about 90 members from the 5 ministries. They will be having a ministry awareness exhibition in 2 weeks' time.
- b. He asked Father if the parish could consider having a funeral parlour for wakes.
 - Father said that the columbarium is under-used. Only 6% of niches have been taken up. He is considering refurbishing it but has to get the consent of the next of kin of those already interred there, as this will involve relocations and major structural changes. We will also need to apply to URA for approval.

2. **Simon Chia**

Simon is from one of the 5 Praesidia of the Legion of Mary. He asked if the parish could look into the possibility of a Parish Renewal Experience (PRE). He recalled that he had attended one about 20 years ago conducted by Fr Wood. He felt inspired and spirit-filled by the experience and volunteered his help should the parish decide to have the PRE.

3. **Kenneth Goh**

Kenneth commented that in the past, there was also the Parish Mission, besides the PRE. He asked if either programme be used to get the Small Christian Communities (SCC) or Neighbourhood Groups (NG) revived as there are only 3 remaining active ones.

4. **Agnes Foo**

Agnes asked if there could be a wheelchair service for the aging parishioners who attend Mass on Sundays and also an umbrella service on rainy days. The wheelchair could be kept around the lift area for parishioners who need to use them from the time they exit their car till they reach the church.

- Albert Shurgalla suggested that the wheelchair could be kept at Inigo Bookcentre for those dropping off elderly passengers at the King's Road entrance.
- Father said that he had looked into the feasibility of building a walkway from the Attic level of the church to the St Ignatius Hall, but this will cost \$130,000. The walkway is not a priority at the moment, and it will also make the area look like the Housing Board vicinities. He said that a better solution would be to provide umbrellas and advise parishioners to return them the following week.

5. **Philip Tong**

Philip urged the Ex-co to brainstorm and look into solutions to get more people involved in the SCC. He cited that the SMCT has got non-ministry members involved in their various projects as mentioned in Fr Heng's report.

- Father said that SCCs are a witness for our faith and provide support to the community. These generally work better in third-world countries where social issues take priority. He said that the Archdiocese has been pushing for this and he will look into how we can encourage more people to join an SCC.

6. **James Kasiraja**

James shared that when he lived at Eng Neo, the NG coordinator was the late Angela Wee. Now he lives in the Thomson area (parish of the Church of the Holy Spirit) and is

the leader of his SCC. He shared how his SCC meets regularly, and in this month of October, the SCC meets daily at various members' homes to pray the rosary.

7. **Stephen Chua**

Stephen commented that the Archdiocese must define what SCC means and which model Singapore, and more specifically, the parish should adopt. He cited the example of his own SCC (King's/Queen's/Tan Kim Cheng Road), which is one of the 3 still active, where leadership is on rotation and activities involve both the young and old. He said that SCCs must have a mission e.g. a social mission project to stay active. He volunteered to help other SCCs that need help to be revived.

- Father said that the Archdiocesan priests are meeting up to discuss how the SCCs in each parish can play a more vibrant role in the community.

8. **Terese Huang**

Terese said that with the revival of the Lilies of the Valley (Wake ministry under the Pastoral Care ministry), she asked if this could be a project of the SCC.

- Father added that there are 53 members and he challenged them to recruit one other member. This doubles their membership. He also said that this is one area of witness to lapsed Catholics and even non-Catholics and non-Christian, where they see the love and concern shown to the bereaved members. Father said that parishioners who are active or well-known usually elicit a greater number at wakes, but he said that this should not be the case as the presence of church members is a witness to the faith.

9. **Malinda**

Malinda expressed thanks on behalf of the Filipino Praesidia of the Legion of Mary to the parishioners for their continual support.

VII. **CLOSING**

Before ending, Father informed the assembly that he would present a summarised Parish Priest report to the Parish in a few weeks' time and the booklet distributed today, done with the help of Br Gregory, will be fine-tuned and will be distributed to the parish together.

The meeting ended with the Closing Prayer by Fr Heng, at 5.00 pm.