

Parish Feast of St Ignatius Celebrations:

This year's celebrations focused on two main dimensions of our *Parish Goal*, the Spiritual and the Social. The *Spiritual dimension* was celebrated with a Triduum, beginning with Penitential Service to renew our union with the Lord through the Sacrament of Reconciliation on the first Day. This was followed by a reflection on the life of St Ignatius of Loyola, our Parish Patron Saint, and a Guided contemplation on the Gospel of Christ, over the next two days respectively. Hopefully, we will be able to offer, in view of our limited parish Jesuit team resources, a series of more parish-wide spiritual formation sessions on Ignatian Spirituality, which began earlier during Holy Week Gospel Contemplation this year.

The Social dimension of our Parish celebration was experienced through our Parish Bazaar project to raise funds for the poor and needy. Many parishioners participated in different ways: through selling coupons, their generous donations of sale items and cash, buying coupons, cooking/donating food for sale, selling potted plants, minding of stalls and counters, providing many varied services, too many to name, including health-therapy, painting and magnetic buttons, traffic control and clearing of the balance of bazaar items from St Ignatius hall etc. Many who volunteered their services are parishioners who are not in ministries and I am sure they were enriched by their contribution to our parish's on-going Social Mission Goal.

It is impossible to mention and thank every group and person who contributed to the Bazaar project, but special thanks must be accorded to the main committee members viz. the Bazaar Planning/Task Force Team and the Bazaar Finance Committee. They laboured selflessly (often behind the scenes), for 6-7 weeks . . . some of them with very little sleep during the last days before the Bazaar, thereby ensuring that all logistical needs were attended to. My deep gratitude to them.

While we congratulate everyone who contributed towards a very successful Bazaar . . . we have to keep in mind that the Bazaar firstly fostered a better community spirit in our Parish; secondly, all our labour is truly worthwhile because the money raised will make so much difference to the poor and needy . . . many of them would benefit in terms of basic needs, of food, shelter, water, education, medical treatment, and the like. *A Parish Social Committee* will be set up to manage all the funds raised and you will be informed of the amount. In addition, full documentation will be kept of all projects supported by our Social Mission funds.