

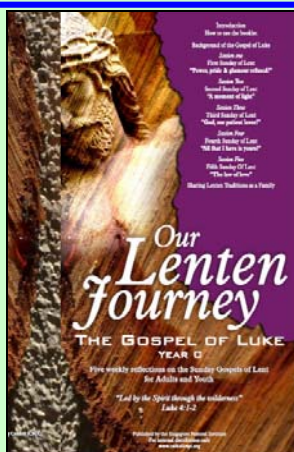


1 February 2006

Dear friends,  
 2007 is marching on and we are looking ahead at Easter. We want to prepare ourselves well and the SPI has published its usual Lenten booklet together with the Catholic Social and Community Council. The Lunar New Year celebrations coincide once again with our Lenten Season. What kind of fasting can we do with so many people to visit and such lovely food all around us? No need to eat the food with guilt feelings or anxiety. Enjoy it. However, fast rigorously from all destructive behaviour; take up a good book or videos that help in your spiritual growth; spend time talking together as a family; Reconcile with family or friends. This is real fasting!

Good news! We have revamped our website and are still working on the content. We have migrated to a new website. Check us out at [www.catholicspi.org](http://www.catholicspi.org)  
 Have patience while we upload more information and give us your feedback.

Wendy Louis



**LENTEN BOOKLET 2007**

Be sure to pick up your copy from the parish before the weekend of Feb 17-18. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday Feb 21.

**Small Christian Communities & Ministry groups:**

You should try to have your first meeting either immediately before or after the first Sunday of Lent Feb 25. The sessions are reflections on the Gospels of the Sundays of Lent.

**FAMILIES:** Take a look at the Lenten activities suggested at the back of the booklet and make your Lenten cross early. Make a regular date for the family gathering around the cross.

**REFLECTIONS ON SMALL CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES**

February always brings with it **The World Day of the Sick which falls on Feb 11**. It is also the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes. In 1992 Pope John Paul II designated today as World Day of the Sick. For those who are sick this provides a special occasion to recall God's tender presence in the midst of suffering. For healthcare workers this is a time to reflect on the deep significance of their work.

Perhaps this is a good time to look around and see who in our neighbourhoods and families are sick, terminally ill, elderly and housebound, depressed or mentally disturbed. We could try to make a list of these people and check if they would like to be visited or if they need anything. This would be a good way to begin a ministry to the sick from your Small Christian Community or Neighbourhood group. Through us, the sick can experience the tender love of God.

**The message for this World Day of the sick can be found at:**

[http://www.vatican.va/holy\\_father/benedict\\_xvi/messages/sick/documents/hf\\_ben-xvi\\_mes\\_20061208\\_world-day-of-the-sick-2007\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/benedict_xvi/messages/sick/documents/hf_ben-xvi_mes_20061208_world-day-of-the-sick-2007_en.html)

**Foundations in Ministry Certificate Programme (FMCP)** Starts today (Feb 1<sup>st</sup>) with 90 + participants at 55 Waterloo Street, level 8. 42 Catechists, 4 Catechist coordinators, 18 from the RCIA ministry and 4 from youth ministry are among the participants.

**Feb 2<sup>nd</sup> is World Day for Consecrated Life.**

All of us are consecrated by our baptism in the sense that we are all specially commissioned to live as children and disciples of God the Father in Jesus Christ. However, within this consecration is another calling to be witnesses to the brotherhood and sisterhood of all peoples regardless of colour, race or gender and witnesses to the mercy and love of God. The excerpt below is taken from Pope John Paul II's message of 2005. The latest message could not be located on the web.

"Today, we are celebrating the *Day of Consecrated Life*, a favourable occasion for thanking the Lord together with all who are called by him "to the practise of the evangelical counsels, and who make faithful profession of them, bind[ing] themselves to the Lord in a special way. They follow Christ who, virginal and poor (cf. Mt 8: 20; Lk 9: 58), redeemed and sanctified men by obedience unto death on the cross (cf. Phil 2: 8)" (*Perfectae Caritatis*,

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### JOURNALS & PERIODICALS

Theological / Pastoral reflections from:

**CHICAGO STUDIES Fall/Winter 2006 Vol 45:3:** This latest issue is commemorating a truly great Church Man – Joseph Cardinal Bernardin who was Cardinal of Chicago and died of cancer in 1996. He was a priest who brought people together, a bridge-builder and a man of prayer. The articles in this issue reflect on the work of Cardinal Bernardin and some of his efforts to reach out to all peoples and especially the poor.

#### THE PASTORAL REVIEW VOL 3, ISSUE 1

Fr Roderick Strange in an article entitled ‘Embracing Change: From talk to action’ writes about the difficulty of moving from talk to action. He says that sometimes ‘talk can be a substitute for action’. Changing takes loyalty, courage, and prudence exercised with love. This article is addressed to diocesan priests and the vocation of priesthood as gift. He looks at the heart of the call to change and allow God to use our weakness rather than our strength...

#### SPIRITUALITY Vol 13 Jan/Feb 2007

Bairbre Cahill in the article “That you act justly” helps us reflect on the prayer of St Teresa of Lisieux which John Michael Talbot has put to music: ‘Christ has no body now but yours, no hand, no feel on earth but yours...’ The implications of these words for our lives and our call to build up the Kingdom of God is the subject of this article. ‘Justice needs to be aliving reality in personal, family and community life. But it goes further... Its well worth a read.

#### CHURCH & SOCIETY in Asia Today Vol 9, No 3 Dec 2006

There are number of articles that pertain to MISSION in this issue. Dr J Andrew Kirk writes about “Trends in Mission Practice in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century” which helps us to see the need to work together with all Christian churches and not in competition with them.

**COME VISIT THE LIBRARY. It’s a very peaceful place to spend a few hours. Opening times are from: Mon – Fri: 11am to 7pm, Sat: 10am – 2pm**

**New arrivals are always announced on our website.**