

ST. IGNATIUS CATHOLIC CHURCH

MONTHLY ENGLISH BULLETIN

September 2020

MISSION 2030: [2020 THEME]

A NEW “COLLABORATIVE COMMUNITY”

COLLABORATION AS REALITY

In the July English Bulletin, our Pastor Fr. Hanafusa wrote on “Grappling with a New Collaborative Effort.” It was deemed timely, as it happens to be at the core of the Mission 2030 Theme for 2020, A New Collaborative Community. He said, “There are large hurdles, but our present difficult situation challenges us all to work harder to figure things out.” He said that he too will continue to seek answers, but he wants to gather wisdom from all parishioners as well. “I am welcoming interesting ideas or practices,” he said. Fr. Hanafusa’s article prompted the Coordinators of the John de Britto English Center to look back at the past two years of their “Collaborative Effort.” Here we share with you some reflections and insights culled from our experience.

New Collaborative Effort

The new St. John de Britto Center Team, consisting of three Coordinators and a Director, came into being two years ago—a change from the one Coordinator structure. Zeal to concretize its mission of attending to the spiritual needs of the English-speaking community, other ministries and groups were added, reaching a total of fourteen, not to mention the catechetical classes on the sacraments and the most recent one, the Livestreaming Technical Group. Each actively serves the community in its own unique way.



The John de Britto Team

“The whole parish seemed to have been overwhelmed by a lot of activities,” wrote Fr Hanafusa. The pandemic proved as an opportunity to pause and reflect on this, during our “Stay Home.” Is it not a wake-up call to put God back into the center of our lives? The helplessness that initially gripped many hearts turned out to be a healthy helplessness because it opened our hearts to trust more in the Lord!

For us at the English Center, the pandemic became a crucial time for planning ways to reach out to the ministries and groups and, through them, to the larger community. Praying the “Six o’clock Holy Rosary” and the “Oratio Imperata” helped unite the community members, who in the beginning were at a loss for what to do. Thankfully, all have responded with enthusiasm and collaboration.

The Mass Media Group published important directives from the Archbishop and Fr Hanafusa on the website, English Bulletin, and FB. The same group felt an urgent need for a translation team to help disseminate information quickly to many who are not fluent in Japanese. It also gave information for online Masses, spiritual talks, retreats, videos, movies, conferences, and online courses. For those with ample time, there is no shortage of ways to grow in faith and prayer life.

With free online classes and events, we have resumed activities we were unable to do at church. Virtual meetings were organized—catechism classes preparing children for First Communion and Confirmation, classes preparing adults for the Sacrament of Initiation.

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Regarding Mass Registration at St. Ignatius Church



Due to the continuous increase in the number of coronavirus infections in Tokyo, Archbishop Kikuchi sent new directives early in August. He is greatly concerned that no positive cases should arise in parish communities. As he said, **“Mass will be cancelled in all parishes in Tokyo when it is confirmed that an infected person has been identified within the church activities.”** Thus, we have to exercise utmost care by avoiding the 3 C’s: crowded places, close contacts, and closed spaces. We have to follow the protocols of wearing masks, sanitizing our hands, and social distancing. Mass participants have to follow strict registration rules.



The following directives are to be followed with regard to **Mass Registration**:

1. Only those who have registered **online** will be admitted. From now on “walk-ins” **will not be admitted**.
2. Procedure for **Online Registration** for the Sunday 12:00 p.m. English Mass.
 - Access: www.stignatius.jp/en/ . In the upper right side of the Homepage, marked John de Britto Center, open the link for online registration:
 - <https://forms.gle/SXgcRJopFZX6RYKb7>
 - Registration **starts at 9 a.m. Monday and ends at 7 p.m. Saturday**. You will receive a **confirmation email** with your **seat number** on Friday or Saturday.
 - Note that one single registration does not mean you are already registered for all Sundays. **You have to register every time and only once a month** to give others a chance as well.
3. Registration requires your Personal Data: Name, e-mail address, postal address and contact telephone number so that, in case infection occurs, you can be contacted by the church at the soonest possible time.
4. Please come early so as to avoid crowding and observe social distancing at the church entrance. The door to the main church **opens at 11:30 a.m.** and will be closed once the Mass starts. Even if you have registered, you will not be admitted if you are late.
5. For those who cannot be accommodated for the 12:00 p.m. Mass and would like to attend a live Mass every Sunday, please consider the following Masses where “Walk-ins” are allowed.
 - a. Japanese Masses at 7 a.m. and 6 p.m.
 - b. Spanish Mass at 1:30 p.m.
 Registration is likewise required so please come early.
6. After Mass, please do not congregate in front of the church or around the premises nor eat with your friends in Teresia Hall. According to a government survey, people unknowingly spread the virus by eating and drinking together.

Let us, therefore, protect one another by making the above sacrifice of observing protocols given by the government and medical experts. Let us pray that God will protect the church from COVID infections through our collaborative efforts. As Fr. Hanafusa, our Pastor, has said, “All these directives are meant to protect life and the well-being of our parish community.”

Thanks for your understanding,

St. John de Britto Center

The Catholic Faith

HOMILY ON THE SOLEMNITY OF ASSUMPTION

To celebrate the feast of the Assumption is to celebrate the fulfillment of our destiny as Christians. Seeing what the Lord did for the mother of his Son, this young virgin who said "yes" to him, we have the confirmation that one day we too will participate in the glory of God our Father. We Catholics believe that the mother of Jesus was bodily taken up into heaven at the end of her earthly life.

The Second Vatican Council described the Church as it exists and as it longs to be. So, by including Mary in its document on the Church (*Lumen Gentium*), the Council underlined the fact that Mary is totally integrated into the mystery of Christ and the mystery of the Church. As Mary existed for Christ from his incarnation, throughout his life, at his death, and for eternity, so Mary is the model of the Church as it hopes to be. Mary continues to assist the Church to fulfill its destiny. Honor is due her because she "received the Word of God in her heart and in her body and gave Life (Christ) to the world" (LG 52). She is honored in today's liturgy as the "pre-eminent and wholly unique" member of the Church. She is a sign of comfort and of hope (LG 68).

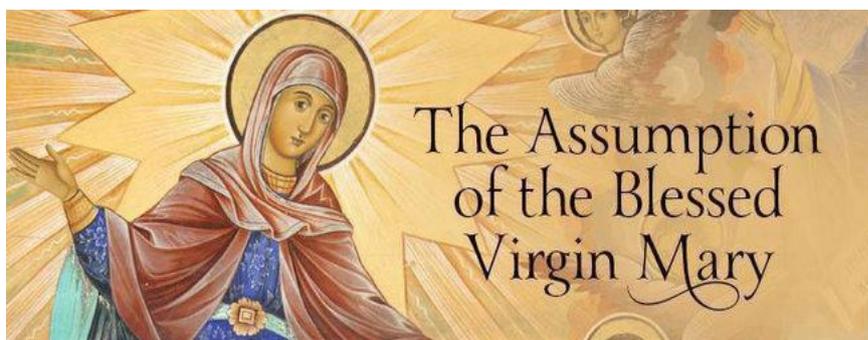
Today's readings trace the apostolic mission of the Blessed Virgin Mary. She is the apostle of good news. "Mary set out quickly to a town in the hill country of

Judah." What happened? What is burning in her heart? We all know that Mary is the one who had said Yes to God, agreeing to collaborate in the redemptive mission of humanity. Saying yes to God had the immediate consequence of being "sent off" (the basic meaning of "apostle").

Pope Francis has deeply portrayed Mary's apostolic mission in The Joy of the Gospel (*Evangelii Gaudium*): The joy of the gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus. "I wish to encourage the Christian faithful to embark upon a new chapter of evangelization marked by this joy, while pointing out new paths for the Church's journey in years to come" (EG 1). With the Holy Spirit, Mary is always present in the midst of the people. She joined the disciples in praying for the coming of the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:14) and thus

of Mercy in 2016, Pope Francis said, "We are given a model to whom we can look. After hearing the welcoming praise of Elizabeth, she lifted up her heart in a song of praise and thanksgiving to God: 'My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord.' Let us ask our Lady to help us recognize that everything is God's gift, and to be able to say 'Thank you.' Then our joy will be complete."

Being Christian is not easy. Being Christian is automatically being an enemy of the devil. One cannot be a true Christian without continually fighting against the forces of evil. This struggle is not ours. It is God who fights for us. As with the Blessed Virgin Mary in Revelation 12, it is God who takes up our defense against the dragon. And St Paul in Ephesians 6, 10-20, says, "Put on the whole armor of God, that you may



made possible the missionary outburst which took place at Pentecost. She is the Mother of the Church which evangelizes, and without her we could never truly understand the spirit of the new evangelization" (EG 284).

Through Mary, God remembers his people. Mary's presence in Zachariah's house is the confirmation that God has heard the prayer of Elizabeth and her husband. "They were both righteous before God ... but they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were advanced in years" (Luke 1:6-7).

God remembers those who trust in Him. God turns his face towards us and listens to our prayers. God agrees to walk with us. Today's Gospel tells us to continue to pray fervently every day like Zachariah and Elizabeth because we know that our God does not forget us.

Mary is the one who knows how to thank God. Addressing clergy and faithful in St. Peter's Square in the Year

be able to stand against the schemes of the devil and that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. It is important to recognize what marvelous things God is doing in our lives every day. Sometimes we are ungrateful. We do not know how to say thank you to Jesus when He comes to visit us. We do not know how to say thank you when God answers our prayers. Sometimes, we forget how to pray when everything is going well in our lives. Let us learn from the Blessed Virgin Mary how to put God at the center of our life and thank God for the gift of life.

Mary believed in the Word of God in all her life. We all know that God raised Jesus from death and gave him his place of glory as the first-fruits, which will eventually be given to us as well after the coming of Christ, as St Paul says to the Corinthians (ch.15). Mary belongs totally to Jesus.

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DID YOU KNOW?

Our Lady's Feast day also marks:

- The anniversary of Japan's surrender in World War II.
- The arrival of St. Francis of Xavier to Japan in 1549.

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FEAST OF ST.IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA



St Ignatius of Loyola - Do you know where his statue is located?

EUCCHARISTIC CELEBRATION

The St. Ignatius Youth Group Choir, comprised of the Japanese, Vietnamese, Indonesian, and International groups, performed the "Prayer of St Ignatius" composed by parish organist Ms. Hiroko Asai, at the July 26 English Mass. Originally in Japanese, it was specifically translated and sung in four languages.

Interestingly, despite our very limited preparation time, we first had to overcome



With Hiroko Asai-san, the organist and composer

the struggle of communication in different languages. Through this experience, we realized again that music has great power to unite us beyond differences of language and culture. At the same time, we thanked God for bestowing on us this special opportunity

to work together as one youth community. We have uploaded the performance video.

Link: <https://youtu.be/NfDeDpcOVp4>

Seika Masugi
SIIYM Leader

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Contemplative adoration is very much a part of Ignatian spirituality. While Mass is the supreme commemoration of the Holy Sacrifice of Jesus, Benediction is a meditative method to cultivate a very intimate relationship with God. As



Holy God, We Praise Thy Name

young couples sometimes express their love for each other by simply looking at each other for a long time, Benediction is an occasion to look reverently and meditate silently on Jesus' real presence with us in the Blessed Sacrament.

just be with Jesus who is present here and now.

Fr. Bony James, SJ



2019 Celebration

MAGIS

Time flies. It has been a year since we last gathered as one youth community of St. Ignatius parish. Those who attended the event might still remember how significant it was. The entire hall was filled with the vivid colors and uniquely stunning designs of Japanese *yukata* and *jinbei*.

Thanks to St. Ignatius, the event was indeed meaningful because it was the first time that the Japanese and International youth gathered in one place to celebrate the gift of culture, friendship, and brotherhood.

The threat of COVID-19 forced us to adapt to the "new normal." Instead of gathering in St. Joseph Hall, we gathered individually in the comfort of our homes. This gave us a different yet unique experience of celebrating our feast day. God has opened an opportunity for us to be more creative and sincere in connecting not only with the youth present in Japan, but also with our brothers and sisters all over the world via the Zoom platform. The entire event was streamed online.



MAGIS Participants

The gathering this year was composed of not only of the SIIYM and Japanese groups but also included the Vietnamese and Indonesian youth groups. It started in a warm atmosphere as our MCs, Ikumi Chiara

St. Ignatius Church News and Events

(Japanese) and Christian (Nigerian), welcomed everyone with great joy. Everyone was also in the mood to greet each other eagerly after being separated for so many months. Some even showed up wearing their cultural attire, which gave the event an international vibe. Sisters and priests also attended the event, making us all feel blessed.



Vietnamese Liturgical Dance

One of the interesting events was the entertaining and informative Quiz Bee Match, testing our knowledge of our beloved Patron Saint. Who would have thought that a soldier would write 6,800 letters throughout his life? This only goes to show that, like St. Ignatius, it is never too late to make a difference.



Video on Life of a Servant by SIIYM

Youth are known for being exceedingly creative in many ways. The youth leaders of each community showed how they work as a ministry and community to implement the goal of inspiring our fellow youth to grow in faith and to be of service to God and the church. They also showed their talents and skills expressing their faith in music, dance, and film.

Eunice Pili
SIIYM

INTERNATIONALLY AND ACTIVELY INSPIRING

This year I started attending online events of St. Ignatius International Youth Ministry. As a person residing outside Japan, it amazed me how these people give themselves humbly and fully for others, despite the complications of this pandemic, they continue to work on God's behalf. The "Magis" theme is indeed very striking. It makes us look at "to be and to do" in a deeper way. As we heard from the Fathers, Frs. Lee, Nhã, Firmansyah and Bony, "Magis"



Indonesian Choir

is a word that constantly reminds and inspires us to do the more, the better, the greater, for God. It enables us to believe that we were created with unique talents and abilities to extend God's love and mercy in our own way. No matter how large or small, known or unknown, doing God's will and offering what we do to the Lord characterizes the "Magis." This leads to communion with our brothers and sisters as we experience and share the love of God in various ways.

As a newcomer, I find this collaboration internationally and actively inspiring. The participants showed that the Catholic faith is very alive in their respective communities. Their passion for service filled me with joy and inspired me to do the same. It was amazing to see how different they are in many ways yet are united in one faith. These shared experiences invite the whole world to take part and enjoy the same life-changing journey as we deepen our relationship with God.

John Mark Galang

Participant from the Philippines

OTHER PARISH NEWS

CENTRO CLAVER

I look back at the 20 years of "Centro Claver." In March of this year, the signboard "Centro Claver" changed to "Fr. Nhã." The room in which many people, especially from Latin America, spent good times is gone. But its mission continues and so I would like to introduce the work.

One day, in 1990, Frs Cangas and Mendizabal received an SOS letter. It said that 38 Peruvians needed help at Narita Airport. They had come to Japan as workers, but they had no place to go. Br Hernández and Sr Consuelo received and took care of them, with the help of other brothers and sisters, for around one month. After that, numerous

Latin Americans came to Japan. There was need for an organization to help them. Thus, in 1993, "Centro Claver" was born. The name was given by Father Mendizabal. It is the name of a Spanish Jesuit, Pedro Claver, who went to Colombia in South America to save African slaves.

And so the mission began. We helped them get medical support, correspond with intermediary agents (brokers), and solve labor problems. Sometimes, we helped women who engaged in night work and were attacked by the *yakuza*. We helped solve problems of couples, helped take care of children. Once we assisted a youth with leg problems and his family. We helped with suicide cases. We accompanied people detained and arrested because of murder, drugs, and prostitution. For those arrested and detained, we became a bridge between the family and the lawyer, heard their court trial, and cheered them up spiritually through letters and phone calls. We even sent the ashes of those who died without kith or kin back to their country.



The Original Centro Claver Team

From Latin American prisoners, Japanese prisoners also wanted to learn about Christianity. They wanted to correspond with our Centro to know God's Word and so we sent them Mass pamphlets, Bibles, and spiritual readings. Jesus said, "Find the smallest ones, as I did."

We have learned many things from those who come to visit us. We are supported by persons inside and outside the church. We have been encouraged by God and want to continue this work in a spirit of love and dedication. Yes, even if we do not have "a room".

Keiko Fuji

*Note: Fuji-san can usually be found in Teresa Hall on Sundays continuing her silent service for the Lord.

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OTHER JOHN DE BRITTO MINISTRIES AND GROUPS

PRAISE AND WORSHIP GROUP

Our last session was the first Sunday of March. We sang in the church yard with the intention of encouraging others to join us. We did not know that all church activities would soon be suspended. We were shocked and saddened, but not crushed! Now, after a long interval, we will resume our sessions on the first Sunday of September!



The Petitions lifted to God

Every Sunday these past months, we have placed our "SOS Prayer Box" at the entrance for anyone to drop their prayer intentions there. Our members, including some religious sisters and their community, pray for those intentions. Many of the intentions are for family or friends, for their healing from severe illness, for their well-being, for being able to find a job, for the eternal repose of loved ones, etc. Recently, there have been more prayers for peace and for the pandemic to end. Reading the prayers is like treading "sacred ground," a deeply touching experience, for you can truly feel the concerns, cries, and needs in the hearts of our brothers and sisters.

We as Church have a mission of interceding for one another, for each one's salvation, as Mary did with Jesus her Son, our true Mediator. We look forward to our gathering in September, so we can again sing praise to God with one heart! In between songs of worship and praise, we lift to God your SOS prayers! See you then!

Izumi Sakura
Leader

ENGLISH CHOIR

With no public Masses and no singing, the English Choir could not serve at Mass. For some, this meant being bereft of their weekly singing. For some, repercussions of the state of emergency withered the will to sing. For some, the monthly hymn lists and weekly links to the online Masses were tethers to normalcy. Stripped of the distractions of social activities, some strengthened their relationship with the Lord. Individual circumstances differ, but the yearning to sing together again as the English Choir is the thread that binds everyone together.

Arlyne Santos
Leader



The English Choir now sing by pairs during mass

PRE-CANA SEMINAR

Pre-Caná is a course for couples preparing for marriage in a Catholic church. The name refers to the wedding feast at Caná in Galilee, where Jesus performed the miracle of turning water into wine. At St. Ignatius, courses are in three languages: Japanese, English and Vietnamese.



Many intercultural couples enroll in the English course with personalized accompaniment. The course consists of around 8 meetings of two and a half hours per meeting, usually held on a Saturday. Last year, couples from England, the Philippines, the United States, South Korea, Japan, Malaysia, France, Brazil, and Vietnam enrolled, with plans to get married in 2020. Unfortunately, the pandemic came and so the marriage ceremonies, mostly planned to be held in their respective countries, have been postponed indefinitely. However, there are some who are taking advantage precisely of the pandemic times to take the course because they are not as busy.

Sr. Flor Florece
In-Charge

CARE FOR THE ELDERLY

There are not so many "elderly people" in the English community as in the Japanese. Nevertheless, there is concern for how volunteers in the Center could help. They are encouraged to join the Faith Sharing Group or the Faith Formation Class for Adults. Some members are in fact thinking of visiting and bringing Holy Communion to a few. Others have already been talking to them by phone, giving time to listen and support them in low moments. On August 22, Saturday, there was a separate Mass for the elderly at 12:00 p.m. From now on, it will be held every Saturday and will be considered as Sunday Mass. It is in Japanese and no registration is needed.


DID YOU KNOW?



Parish Volunteers prepare Japanese curry every Monday and Onigiri, every Saturday for the homeless.

BLESSINGS OVER TRIALS

“When life gets rough, always strive to be grateful. There are always blessings in our lives that we miss seeing when our vision is clouded by challenges and discouragement.”

On August 2, in Facebook, the Creative Team of the SIIYM organized a two-hour live streaming activity to praise and worship God and to be inspired as they found that there are still a lot to be thankful for despite what is happening in these pandemic time. We share with you here the abridged real-life testimonies of some of its members.

Bjger from Vietnam

“I am grateful to be alive, healthy and peaceful. Right now, there are thousands of people who are in hospitals struggling to retain life. There are many people who are unable to walk, or hear, or see or have partial disability. I am grateful for having a healthy body. I am grateful of having a happy, complete family – parents, sister and brothers. I am grateful for having friends. They keep me from feeling lonely in this busy society. I am grateful for my partner. He is always at my side, loves me and cares for me. He helps me in all things in life and helps me keep my faith in God. I am grateful to be a Catholic and be free to express my beliefs, free to go to church without being stopped by any organization. I am grateful to still have work and can get salary in these hard times. Many people are now losing their jobs and many companies have gone

Seika from Japan

“I am very grateful for having this Ministry. Even though I live by myself and stay alone for a long time I never get bored because there are a lot of on-line activities such as Fellowship, on-line Mass, Adoration and the “Hangout.” Thanks to these I can always feel a strong connection with my brothers and sisters and also with God. When we were planning this activity I thought it was a very difficult thing to do. However, God sent the support we needed and made everything possible. All collaborated with joy and gave the best of themselves.”

Ram from Philippines

“I have to survive, do things that were unimaginable. Again, I have no work. When I lose someone, something, I look at it as an opportunity. I am grateful because I have two hands, mouth, body, I am healthy and God is always there with me, beside me in my ups and downs.”

grateful
Online Praise & Worship
賛美と祈り(オンライン)

2 AUGUST 2020 | 2020年8月2日
SUNDAY 4~6PM | (日)16:00~18:00

via **facebook LIVE**
facebook.com/siiym

   #BlessingsOverTrials

siiymunity.org
@siiymunity

Grateful Online Event

Chris from Nigeria

“We have a roof over our head. We have food and comforts. One out of seven people in the world live below poverty line. My parents celebrated 25 years of their married life this year. My sister got married successfully. My friend has a new job. We should cherish the little things and appreciate friendship.”

Germain from Singapore

“The decision to go to a retreat. I needed more discipline in my spiritual life, having to go to Mass daily, pray more than I am used to doing, do different things that are not part of my routine. I am very grateful because it was an opportunity to know God and Mother Mary more and grow in faith.”



Testimonies around the globe

Qinying from China

“The most challenging thing was that work was unstable. But there is something that remains constant. I can feel clearly that God is looking at me, protecting me, leading me. He never left me. He gives me my needs. I can still attend mass in the internet and pray together with the international community.”

Amantha from Sri Lanka

“I am grateful for living and working in Japan. It’s been six years since I left my comfort zone to create a better and global career/future. There are a lot of things to learn, obstacles to face. But during my journey, I believe God is in the front seat, steering the wheel towards the future that He has planned. So do not worry, have faith.”

Royston from India

“I have learned to be more independent whereas before I used to ask people’s help even in small things. I am grateful to have lots of personal time and can help others. I am grateful for an amazing job. My work is related to computers and I can do everything from home. It is safe and saves travelling.”

Feature Article

Corona Warriors

Socio-Pastoral Initiatives of the Karnataka Jesuits and the Archdiocese of Bengaluru

What do archdioceses and parishes in other parts of the world do to accompany their faithful in these pandemic times? In this edition, we focus on India, in particular the initiatives being undertaken by the Jesuits there. It is notable that in St. Ignatius, we have some Indian Jesuit priests and parishioners from this area.

The COVID-19 outbreak came to light on 31 December, 2019 when China decided to inform the WHO about a cluster of cases of

have resulted in a novel venture: COVID, combating the virus with dedication. Several Jesuit institutions networking with other people of goodwill have reached out to daily wage laborers, slum dwellers, widows, migrants, commercial sex workers, and other needy groups. The HIV infected, the Devadasies, the differently-abled, the destitute, lepers, domestic workers, and even the LGBTQ+ communities. They have provided dry ration kits – dal, rice, wheat, oil, spices and condiments, milk, distributed food packets, fruits and vegetables, started soup kitchens and shelter homes especially for the migrants who have been hit hard by this

boredom” creatively and spiritually through liturgical programs for adults and children, through all possible social-media platforms and other electronic media avenues. Among novel initiatives, the archdiocese conducted an online Family Easter Choir Competition. The archdiocesan Priests Choir on the Feast of Pentecost sang glorious songs to the Risen Lord. These musical programs were the beginning of a series to follow. The Archbishop from time to time addresses the faithful through various online platforms in order to nurture the faith and engage in catechesis. Caring for our common home, time and again he has invited each individual to “Be Human.” In its own way the archdiocese celebrated the *Laudato Si’* week through various online initiatives inviting everyone to pray, preserve, protect, and promote God’s creation. The archdiocese has launched several online and phone-in counseling services for those in distress. Many initiatives and programs have been conducted and are being planned for children and youth, including online catechism classes and faith formation. The archdiocese has also pledged their support to the “poor” in many and varied ways.



pneumonia of an unknown cause in Wuhan city. This raised alarm bells all over the world and the WHO eventually declared it a pandemic! Ever since, over half a million people have died and millions globally are still battling the outbreak of this virus. This has resulted in a panorama of fear. But not everything has fallen to pieces. The pandemic has taught us many lessons of what we have come to define as the new normal today. More than ever it has taught us not to take for granted those who work behind the scenes. These include doctors, nurses, health care workers, NGOs, and police personnel. These are who we call the Corona Warriors today. The pandemic has also invited humankind to be sensitive to the cries of the poor and the marginalized, the *anawim* of God, the last the least and the lost, the have-nots of society. This write-up takes a look at two important initiatives that the Church in Karnataka has taken in these troubled times.

The social initiatives undertaken by Karnataka Jesuits, led by Fr Provincial Jerome Stanislaus D’Souza SJ and his team,

ordeal. The distribution of face masks and hand-sanitizers alongside conducting several awareness programs through their relief work all over Karnataka is indeed commendable. They have also reached out to help those who help us – the Corona Warriors today.

We must also note the pastoral initiatives undertaken by the Archdiocese of Bengaluru. In March 2020, India came to terms with the COVID-19 virus and imposed nationwide lockdowns, which continue in some parts of the country even today. This meant online celebrations of the Paschal Triduum by over 5 million people. The archdiocese, guided by Archbishop Peter Machado and his team, left no stone unturned to reach out to the faithful. Masses were live-streamed in various languages. They released a mobile app in order to bring Church life closer to the people of God.

The archdiocese conceptualized a series of programs designed to “beat

The pandemic is far from over and the WHO says we still have a long way to go. With most of our time being spent indoors, we are trying to come to terms with the #new-normal. More than ever, we find ourselves in the hands of God. Let’s practice the “Golden Rule” and try our best to make the world a better place.



Fr Ryan Savio Rodrigues, SJ belongs to the Karnataka Jesuit Province in India. He is the elder brother of Royston Rodrigues, one of the lay-out artists of the English Bulletin.

Continue Reading

COLLABORATION AS REALITY

Faith formation and faith sharing groups have been meeting virtually. The St. Ignatius International Youth Ministry has been offering online prayer time, adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, holy rosaries, Bible classes, hangouts and other fun activities for the young. The technology has enabled them to reach out to their peers who had already gone home to their countries and to welcome new ones from various parts of the world. When Sunday Mass resumed, all took responsibility for ensuring that protocols were followed to prevent the spread of Covid-19 within the church's premises. A Roaming Team was formed. The live-streamed Masses were fervent and beautiful. None of these could have happened without the generous collaboration of all!

The transition, however, from one coordinator to a team of three coordinators and a Director was not at all a smooth-sailing experience for all, especially among the members of the international community, as well as that of the Japanese. Why? People were initially disoriented. There were tensions and struggles. We grappled with how to make our communication smoother and more efficient. As Coordinators, the call for us was to listen, establish new relationships, and "connect" with older members. We had to respect each one's views, understand where they are coming from, PRAY and patiently wait for hearts and minds to be opened.

Our experience working as a Team has been formative. We have learned from one another's witnessing, as for instance how to be more patient with oneself and how to deal with others. As the workload is shared, the work becomes lighter, less stressful. For example, when one could not make it due to other commitments, it was easy for some other to pitch in to do the other's task.

"Collaboration" comes from the Latin word **collaborare**, "to work jointly on an activity or project." In reality, it is easier defined than done. We always have to remind ourselves: for whom? "All this is for the greater glory of God!"

At the end of his article, Fr Hanafusa adds some encouraging words: "With faith as our foundation, we can look at the present situation positively and new roads may be found." And so, we continue the journey-

the Team (Adelfa Armentia, TA, Sr. Flor Florece, F.I., Sr. Leny Fery, FdCC) , Fr Bony James, our Director, and the many volunteers we are blessed with. Together, may we be docile to the Holy Spirit who freely weaves his way, breaks structures and mentalities and creates new life beyond what we can ever imagine! The pandemic has highlighted our "grappling" with new collaborative efforts. In this sense it has shown us a new way of how to be "Church." May the Holy Spirit continue to make our parish a vibrant collaborative community according to his plan!

HOMILY ON THE SOLEMNITY OF ASSUMPTION

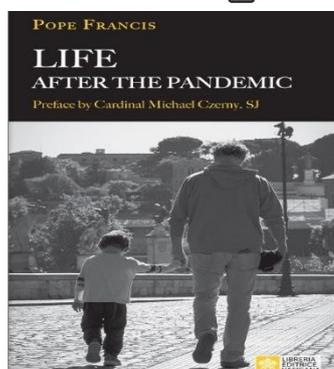
Thus, God could not, in his righteousness, allow her to see the corruption of the tomb since from her own body she had marvelously brought forth Jesus, God's only begotten Son, the Author of all life. To celebrate the Assumption is to celebrate the finality of Christian life, to be close to God, to contemplate God face to face. Today the Mother of God is assumed into heaven as the beginning and image of God's church coming to perfection.



Fr Pierre Luhata, SJ is a Jesuit Priest from the Democratic Republic of Congo. Since March 2020, he has been studying for a PhD in Chemistry at Sophia University and he resides at SJ House

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Baptism of infants and adults, Sunday, September 20, 2020, at 10 a.m. St. Xavier's chapel.
- First Holy Communion, Sunday, October 4, 2020, during the 12: 00 p.m. English Mass at the main church.
- Sacrament of Confirmation, October 18, 12.00 pm Sunday Mass.



A companion book for responding to the Covid-19 pandemic through the vision and words of Pope Francis. Available both in English and Japanese.



Find out Jesus' message for you



Get them from the Welcome table team on Sundays

Important Notices for September and Onwards

MASS SCHEDULE:

Weekdays: 7:00*/12:00/18:00 (Japanese) Main Church

Saturday 12:00 p.m. **Mass for the Elderly (NEW!)**

*Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament if no Group Registered for Mass

Sundays: 7:00/8:30/10:00/18:00 (Japanese) Main Church

12:00 (English) Main Church

12:30 (Portuguese, 1st Sundays) Our Lady's Chapel

1:30 (Spanish) Main Church

3:00 (Vietnamese) Main Church

4:30 (English) **Main Church (New!)**

Confession:

Weekdays, 5:30-6:30 inside the vestibule of the Main Church near Our Lady's statue in the garden. Sunday confession in English starts at 11:30 am

NOTE:

- All masses need Pre-Registration. For English Masses, access www.stignatius.jp/en/ for instructions on how to apply.
- There will be two English Masses on Sundays from September 13 onwards, which will continue until the Corona situation improves. Special Prayer Intentions are accepted.
- Sunday Masses are livestreamed. Please visit the the Parish Website, <http://www.ignatius.gr.jp> to access Masses in different languages. For English, you can directly visit www.stignatius.jp/en/
- For other Sacraments, please inquire at the Parish Office or English Center.
- The monthly English Bulletin can now be accessed on-line in the English website, under the Publication section.

Mass celebrants for the month:

Fr. Veliath (Sept. 6), Fr. Chiesa (Sept. 13), Fr. Doyle (Sept. 20), Fr. Wessels (Sept. 27)

Pope's Prayer Intentions for September 2020

Respect for the Planet's Resources

We pray that the planet's resources will not be plundered but shared in a just and respectful manner.

Mission 2030 Prayer Intention: September 2020

With us are many persons who had to leave their country in search of a better future. We are called to receive them with maternal love, as brothers and sisters. Grant us Lord the courage, generosity, wisdom and insight necessary to help them.

Staff of St. Ignatius Church

Pastor: Fr. Ryuichiro Hanafusa, S.J.

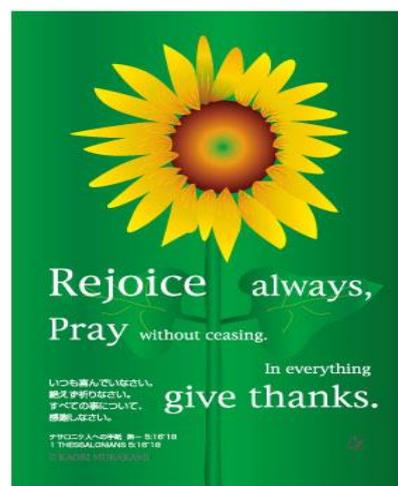
Associate and Support Priests:

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Fr. Sang-won Lee S.J. | Fr. Bony James S.J. |
| Fr. Javier Garralda S.J. | Fr. Generoso Florez S.J. |
| | Fr. Manuel Silgo S.J. |
| | Fr. Daniel Collins S.J. |

- Brother:** Bro. Hiroaki Yoshiba S.J.
Sister: Sr. Ivette Sanchez, M.C.

John de Britto English Center:

- Fr. Bony James, S.J. Director**
 Adelfa Armentia Sr. Flor Florece FI
 Sr. Leny Fery FDCC



<https://www.facebook.com/stignatius.jp/>

For all those who made this monthly **BULLETIN** possible, we extend our deepest gratitude. Thank you very much!



<http://www.stignatius.jp/>