

CROSSINGS

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Assumption Language Center

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Feature

Roles of a Catholic Parishioner

By Brother Dominic Pham Hien, Vietnam

A Catholic parishioner is anyone who has received the Sacrament of Baptism, has become a prophet of God, and is called the child of God because his flesh is the Temple of the Holy Spirit.

The Lord created this earth and He has given it to man but man is not a proprietor only a manager who administers every resource of this earth. We know this because it was revealed by God through the Scripture, so our first responsibility is sharing this truth to everyone.

The Church knows that if the world becomes more and

more perfect than the heaven is not so far. Whereby the Lord has revealed His plan and has granted the spiritual vocation to us through ordinary life of His followers. With the grace of Our Father we always pray like this: "Our Father in heaven holy be

your name your kingdom come your will be done on earth as it is in heaven..." It means we have committed to perform His plans.

The parishioners, who are the builders of heaven, are contributing to the Lord's will through their daily works, in their holy family, or common office even in their other activities. All of them is the mission of the Catholic Church because they are members of the Church and they belong to the Church. Heaven must be built with those strong rocks

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Slaughter as Therapy

By Brother Alphonso Phu, Vietnam

Laughing is the true way to heal. Laugh therapy helps people keep their health better. It is easy to find cure for our sickness. We can do this through laughing, laugh-

ing, and laughing. It is a small thing but it will help us, and we will receive benefits from it. Sometimes, we think that it is not real. However, we can practice it everywhere and every time to help keep us

from being sick. It is a choice.

There is truth to the idea of mind and body interaction. An optimist always helps the sick to overcome his

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MY SUMMER VACATION

Enjoying the Sunrise

By Father Martin Li, China

I went to enjoy sunrise with my students on the beach last year.

First, we got up at 3:00am. I gathered my students and looked over their things if they are ready or not. Then, we drove cars to the beach.

When we reached the beach, it was already 5:00am. It was still dark. I said to my students that it is the darkest hour before the sunrise.

At 5:50am, we saw the sun rose up from the sea slowly. It was very beautiful. When the sun appeared in a small part from the horizon, we all shouted loudly. Everyone was very excited.

After looking at the sunrise, we had a nice breakfast on the beach. The sun shone on us. Everyone enjoyed the experience. Some of us ran and flirted with each other. Finally, we went home in our cars.

It was a great sunrise!



By Brother Paul, Vietnam

In the summer of 2010, I went for a vacation with my friends. It was early morning when we left for Nha Trang city. When we arrived in the city, we rented a hotel.

Then next day, we went around the city, ate many kinds of food, and bought some souvenirs. During the next two days of our stay in Nha Trang City we enjoyed a few fun outdoor activities such as fishing, swimming, and

playing volleyball.

Then we went to an island. The island was a small beautiful place, and we played many games there. Another fun thing on the island was meeting local people and eating fresh seafood.

On the last day, we had a plan to go to another place and enjoy the whole day there but unfortunately it rained so we could not go there. So instead, we spent our time drinking coffee and shar-

ing stories.

Finally, we flew back home. It was a great vacation. I will never forget it.



From page 1 The Role ...

and the promises of the Bible have to be fulfilled.

Every Catholic parishioner sanctifies this world through his prayers and his responsibilities. Sanctification means becoming like God, belonging to God, and becoming holy. Each of us also has responsibilities to do every day so that we should do them better.

Although, there are many changes things, some parishioners do not have awareness of their active roles in the Church. Perhaps they lack guidance, studies, confidence,

and real experiences in the Church. These difficult problems are not easy to remedy with weak personnel. Those parishioners expect to be trained about ordinary life and religion by professional personnel.

Comparing with others countries like the Philippines, Japan, Thailand, Korea, and China, Vietnam is a developing country, even poor and backward, because it still receives foreign aid from others states.

We have to affirm our religion in these restricting and difficult conditions and hardships because this age is standing

in front of an irreligious period and an illusory life. Man's value has been forsaken as Pope John Paul II said, "today's man already lost his ego that we cannot ignore this situation." Because we are living in a chaotic society, a competitive world, and an extremely difficult market economy, we cannot evade everyday conflicts and issues.

In short, when man becomes more and more alone, then he desires more and more to find the happiness and peace in his life.

From page 1 Laughter...

negative condition. If the sick takes only medicine and lives in sadness, I think he can't be healed. He should laugh, enjoy, and relax in life. Many sick people, although they always take medicine, do not get well. They do not know the best way to get healed and where to find cheap medicines.

Laugh therapy also makes us happy and enjoy the sweetness of life. I love laughing and smiling. This

makes my face look fresher, younger, and healthier. For example, there is a Japanese woman who is 46 years old and she has an 18-year old daughter. Her face looks so young that it looks like that of a 20 year old woman.

When a journalist interviewed her, she said: "I do not take medicines but I only exercise every day. I used almost all of my time exercising and laughing." Yes, she enjoys her life well. She knows how to keep her beau-

ty and health. She is a person we must emulate.

I hope that people will stop taking a lot of medicines or if they want, use only a little. We should use the Laugh Therapy to prevent illnesses. This is the best way to keep our lives longer. We will pay little money for that.

How about you? Would you like to take a lot of medicines? Or should you believe instead in Laugh Therapy?

Greetings from the Bridge (Logos) Class

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Mashu, Japan

Hello everybody! I am Mashu. My country is Japan. Japan is famous for many delicious foods for example ramen, sushi, and soba. My favorite food is udon. Udon is a popular food in Japan, and it is very cheap.

Another favorite Japanese food of mine is gyudon. Gyudon is also very delicious. Japan has many gyudon restaurants. They are all very cheap. Gyudon and Udon are my favorite food. You should try them, too!

Father Antonio, China

Hello, I'm a new student. My name is Antonio. I'm from China. My country is very large. There are 31 provinces and cities in my country. My family lives in the middle of my country. In one year, we have four seasons—winter, spring, summer, and autumn. The eastern and northern parts of China are very cold. They have longer winter. It snows most of the

times. But the south is very warm. There are many rich people living in the east and south of China.

Many cities are very beautiful in my country. There are beautiful places to visit too. I will welcome anyone who wants to visit my country. However, in my country many people do not believe in God. They only believe in money so they only work very hard to get rich. I'm very worried. Pray for them please! Thank you!

Sister Livine Kiripi Kahindo, Democratic Republic of Congo

My country's name is the Democratic Republic of Congo or DRC. The capital's name is Kinshasa. Our President's name is Joseph Kabila. My country is located in Central Africa. In the north, it

is bordered by Central Africa and Sudan; in the south, Angola and Zambia; and in the west, Congo Brazaville.

DRC is a vast and enormous land. It is the second biggest country in Africa next to Algeria. It is rich in mineral resources, fertile land, and green vegetation. We have a tropical climate: rainy and sunny.

We have many beautiful places for tourists to visit like the park of Virunga and of Karisimbi, the Pic Rwenzori, the Lac Kivu, the Equatorial Forest, and the different mineral zones.

Congolese food is simple. We eat cassava, rice, potatoes, sweet potatoes, bananas, green and dry beans, small peas, and corn. We also have the following vegetables—cabbage, carrots, tomatoes, onion, garlic, cucumber, and many other leafy and green vegetables. We seldom eat

meat like beef, goat, pork, sheep, chicken, rabbit, and fish. We eat meat only in special occasions like feasts.

The political and economic situation in my country is bad. We have a problem. We have an ongoing civil war. Many people are suffering because of this.



We were allowed to help but sisters then called our community father and said they already had enough volunteers.

So I went back to my room and read a book. When I was reading a book, one brother came to my room and asked me whether I have free time. "Yes, I have," I answered. After that some brothers and I went to Carmel Church and helped the people there.

The Carmel Church had many people who were flooded and they came there to evacuate. We just assisted the sisters and priests in helping the victims of flood. We gave food to them.

This was the first time I helped people of another country during a flood.

Flood, No Classes, and Days' Love

By Brother Tam, Vietnam

Tuesday, August 7, 2012. When our community was having breakfast, the phone rang and immediately everyone said "We don't have class today." The Theology teacher of my brothers informed them that they would not have class. After that, our teacher at ALC also informed us that we wouldn't have class.

Do you know why we didn't have class? It's because

it was raining. The raining was too heavy, and it only grew stronger. I watched news on the television and saw flood everywhere in the Philippines. Oh my God! I never saw that flood before. The flood was very big and many things were destroyed by it but I couldn't do anything. So I just prayed for the victims of the flood.

On second day, it went on raining and we

still did not have class, so I thought that I should have a meaningful activity for myself during the flood. Two hours after breakfast, our community (Salvatorian) Father called all of us and asked if we could go out and help some sisters in giving food and clothes to people who are victims of the flood.

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Opinion

Importance of Vocabulary

By Sister Hoang Thi Hoan, Vietnam

We know that English has four skills. These are listening, speaking, reading, and writing. These four skills are very important in English, but I think that vocabulary is the most important. Why?

First, if you do not have vocabulary, you cannot listen, speak, read, and write. But if you have many words in your vocabulary you can do anything. For example, you can listen, speak, read, and write very easily. On the other hand, vocabulary will help us understand many problems when we read books and newspapers in English, or when the teacher teaches a lesson in English to us.

Second, if you have a big vocabulary you can travel to other countries, converse with friends and foreigners, and establish friendship. At the same time, it will help you find a job easily and work better.

In short, vocabulary is the most important because it is a basic skill. Vocabulary is like the root of a tree that helps us develop our skills and open up knowledge.

Living and Learning

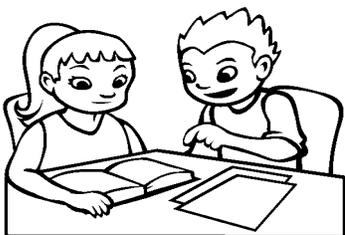
By Brother Cai, China

Learning is part of our life. I think, for me, we need a lot of concentration. Some of us think this is "hard work." In fact, I think of it as something new to learn.

The process of learning is always the same. It's like you are learning how to drive a car, or how to think positively.

In the beginning, we may make mistakes, but we continue to practice.

The more we practice, the fewer mistakes we make. Of course, we won't be "perfect" on the first day; we just do the best as we can. That's good enough for a start. So we always say to ourselves: "We're doing best we can."



Treasure that God gave me

By Michael John Vincent
Becera, Philippines

Everyone of us has a treasure that God has given. For me, my family is God's greatest gift. I am so lucky to have this kind of family because I was born in a happy and respectable family.

My family gives me strength to face all the challenges that I encounter. They inspire and love me even if we have difficulties financially. We don't mind that, as what Dan Wilcox said, "He doesn't care how poor a man is; if he has family, he's rich." That's true. We are rich not in material things but because we are united in love, love that cannot be taken away by other people.

I owe my life to my family because they give me reasons to fight. I want to thank God for all of

the gifts that he has given me. Even though my family is strict with me, it's okay. I understand them because everything that they do is all for me. I have become a good and respectful person because of them.

My most memorable experience with my family was our regular Sunday mass. One time my brother was so dirty because it was raining and then we were still far away from the church. He suddenly slipped because the road was so slippery. My mother and father encouraged my younger brother to still go to the church. Then he stepped on a



dirt of *carabao* (water buffalo). We were laughing because of what had happened, but that did not hinder him and he didn't feel ashamed.

I am lucky that I have such a family who always loves me. Every time in our life we feel discouragement for all the circumstances that we go through. We just pray to God and keep in mind that always, we do it for Him and for our family.