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2016年 第二十四屆世界病患日 教宗方濟各文告 (2016年2月11日)

如同聖母那樣信賴慈悲的耶穌:

「祂無論吩咐你們什麼,你們就作什麼。」(若二5)

亲見愛的弟兄姊妹們:

第二十四屆世界病患日給我機會與患病的你們 · 以及那些 照顧你們的人更加 親近。

由於本屆的世界病患日將在聖地隆重慶祝·所以我建議一 起默想加納婚宴這段福音故事(若二1-11)·經由聖母的介 入·耶穌完成了祂在世的第一件奇蹟。今年的主題:如同聖 母那樣信賴慈悲的耶穌:「祂無論吩咐你們什麼,

你們就作什麼」,非常切合慈悲特殊禧年的主旨。世界 病患日的隆重感恩聖祭,是當日的首要大事,將於2016年2月 11日在納匝肋舉行。聖言在那裡取了 肉軀,居住在我們中間 (若一14)。耶穌也在納匝肋展開祂救贖世人的使命,應驗 了依撒意亞先知的話,如同聖史路加提醒我們的:「上主的 神臨於我身上,因為祂給我傅了油,派遣我向貧窮人傳報喜訊,向俘虜宣告釋放,向盲者宣告復明,使受壓迫者獲得自由,宣布上主恩慈之年。」(路四18-19)

疾病──特別是嚴重的疾病──總是使人陷入危機,令人對 生命發出更深的疑問。有時在得知患病之初,我們可能會反 抗:為什麼這事會發生在我身上?我們會傷心絕望,認為一 切付之烏有,從今以後一切都失去意義......。

在此等情況下,一方面對天主的信心受到考驗,但另一方 面也顯示出其所有的正面力量。並非由於信德可使疾病、痛 苦或接踵而至的問題蕩然無存,而是因為信德給予我們-把 金鑰匙,藉著它我們得以發現正在經歷的一切某種的更深層 意義;這把金鑰匙幫助我們接受疾病,將之視為一條可與耶穌 更加親近的道路——祂背負十架,與我們同行。這把金鑰匙, 透過專精此道的聖母瑪利亞,交給了我們。

在迦納婚宴中,瑪利亞是那位注意他人需要的婦人,她眼 見一對新人的絕大 窘境:沒酒了。酒,是歡慶的象徵。瑪利 亞發現此一困難,感同身受,將之 視為己任,並且在不引人 注目的情況下,迅速反應。她不袖手旁觀,更不追 究責任, 耽擱時間,卻轉而尋求耶穌,把實情告訴祂:「他們沒有酒 了」(若二3)。當耶穌回答她說,祂的時刻尚未來臨時(參 若二4),她對僕役說:

「祂無論吩咐你們什麼,你們就作什麼」(參若二5)。 之後,耶穌開始行奇蹟,使大量的水變為酒,且立刻成為婚 宴中最好的酒。我們從加納婚宴的奇蹟中,為此屆世界病患 日,能獲得怎樣的教導呢? 加納的婚宴,就是教會的圖像:在中間有慈悲的耶穌施行 奇蹟;在祂的周圍 是門徒—新興教會的初果;在耶穌和祂的 門徒旁邊的是瑪利亞,深具遠見 和時常祈禱的母親。瑪利亞 參與一般人的喜樂,並助他們享有更大的喜樂;她為了新人 和所有賓客的益處,向她的兒子祈求。耶穌沒有拒絕祂母親的 請求。這場加納婚宴,盡給我們眾人希望!我們所擁有的這 位母親,她的目光 留心一切,充滿良善,一如她的聖子;她 那顆慈母的心,也像耶穌那般慈悲 為懷;她的雙手切願提供 援助,彷彿是耶穌為飢餓者擘餅、撫摸病人使他們 痊癒的那 雙手。這一切使我們充滿信心,向基督的恩寵及慈悲敞開。瑪 利亞 的轉求使我們得到安慰,保祿宗徒曾因此讚頌天主說: 「願我們的主耶穌基

督的天主和父,仁慈的父和施與各種安慰的天主受讚 揚,是他在我們的各種 磨難中,常安慰我們,為使我們能以 自己由天主所親受的安慰,去安慰那些 在各種困難中的人」 (格後一3-4)。瑪利亞是「受安慰」的母親,她也安慰 她的 子女。

耶穌以及祂使命的特色,在加納一一浮現:祂來解救有困 難、有需要的人。當祂執行祂的救世工作時,祂治癒各種殘 疾、驅趕邪魔,使瞎子復明、瘸子 行走、讓癩病人恢復健康 和尊嚴、令死人復活、向貧窮人宣報福音(參路七 21-22)。 因此,瑪利亞在婚宴中的請求,是聽從聖神的建議,從她的慈 母心 腸而提出,不僅顯示出耶穌救世的權能,也展現了祂的 慈悲。

瑪利亞對人的關懷 · 反映出天主的溫柔 · 這份溫柔 · 也 展現在許多人的生命 中 · 他們隨侍病人身邊 · 了解病人的需 要,無微不至,因為他們凡事以充滿愛的眼光看待。有多少 次母親在生病孩子的床頭,子女照顧年長父母,孫兒 關心祖 父母時,不將自己的祈禱交託在聖母的手中!那些為病所苦 的至親至愛,我們首先就為他們求身體健康;耶穌自己也特 別藉由疾病的治癒,顯示 天國的臨在:「你們去,把你們所 見所聞的報告給若翰:瞎子看見,瘸子行走,癩病人得了潔 淨,聾子聽見,死人復活」(瑪十一4-5)。然而,因著信德 所生出的愛,令我們還要為他們求比身體健康更大的:我們求 一份平安,求一份心靈的寧靜,那是天主的恩賜,聖神的果 實,天主父決不會拒絕那些滿懷信心向祂祈求的人。

在加納婚宴的場景中,除了耶穌和他的母親以外,還有那些被稱為「僕役」的人,他們接受她的指示:「祂無論吩咐你們什麼,你們就作什麼。」奇蹟的發生理所當然是耶穌在工作;儘管如此,祂希望藉由人的協助來完成。祂也可以直接把酒變進石缸。只是祂寧願依靠人的合作,請僕役們先將石缸裝滿水。能成為別人的僕役,這是多麼寶貴,多麼令天主喜悅!這要比其他的一切,更能使我們肖似耶穌,「因為人子,不是來受服事,而是來服事人」

(谷十 45)。這些出現在福音中寂寂無名的 人給我們許 多教導。他們不僅服 從,而且慷慨大方地服從:「他們就灌 滿了,直到缸口」(參若二 7)。他們信 賴聖母,立刻去做 好要他們去做的事,沒有抱怨,沒有拖延。

耶穌的母親,也是我們的母親,藉這次的世界病患日, 我們可以透過瑪利亞向仁慈的耶穌祈求,請祂賜給我們每個 人恩寵,隨時準備好去服務那些有需要的人,特別是那些患 病的弟兄姊妹們。有時候,這項服務可能會是令人疲 倦和繁

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重的,但我們確信天主必然會將人的努力轉變為天主的工程。 我們也 能用我們的雙手、雙臂和我們的心,協助天主去行祂 那些經常是隱而不見的 奇蹟。不論我們是健康或是患病,我 們都可以將我們的疲勞和痛苦奉獻出來,一如在加納婚宴中 灌滿石缸的水,最後將變成美酒。默默地幫助那在病中受 苦

灌滿石缸的水,最後將變成美酒。默默地幫助那在病中受苦的人,或忍受自己的病苦,這就是背起我們每日的十字架,並且跟隨「師傅」(參路九23);儘管遭遇痛苦永遠是一項奧祕,耶穌將幫助我們揭示痛苦的意義。

聖母對我們說:「祂無論吩咐你們什麼,你們就作什麼。」倘若我們知道聽從她的聲音,耶穌必將我們平淡無奇的生命轉變成醇酒。因此,本屆世界病患日,除了將在聖地隆重慶祝之外,也有助於實踐我在慈悲特殊禧年詔書中所許下的心願:「我相信慶祝天主慈悲的禧年,將促進我們與猶太信仰和伊斯蘭教及其他高尚的宗教傳統相遇;願這禧年給我們開啟更熱切的交談,好使我們更能知己知彼;願這禧年淌弭各種方式的自我封閉和不尊重,並驅除各種暴力和歧視」 (參《慈悲面容》23)。每間醫院和照護中心都能成為可見的標記,成為推動和平文化的所在,在那裡,不論是病痛的經歷、醫護的救助或是兄弟姊妹的接濟,都能促進人類跨越各種限制和分裂。

兩位出於聖地、去年五月封聖的修女: 聖瑪利安·阿勒 豐辛·達尼爾·加大思(Mariam Alphonsine Danil Ghattas) 和聖被釘耶穌的瑪利亞·巴烏亞爾第(Marie de Jésus Crucifié Baouardy)·正給我們最好的榜樣。前一位是溫和及合一的 證人·給予我們清楚的見證:實踐互相承 擔、彼此服務的生 活,是極為重要的。 後一位是謙卑的女子,雖然目不識丁,卻敏於聖神,成為 與穆斯林世界相遇的橋樑。

我深信所有為病患服務的人們 · 必受瑪利亞——慈悲之母 的啟發。「願慈悲 之母的甘飴目光在這聖年憐視我們 · 使我 們都能重新發現天主仁愛的喜樂」

(參《慈悲面容》 24)。讓聖母的精神深入我們的內 心,並表現在我們的行動中。我們信賴她的轉禱,將焦慮困苦 及喜樂安慰都託付於她,尤其在痛苦的時刻,向她祈禱,使 她那仁慈的雙目轉向我們,讓我們得以從今世直到永遠,仰 望她耶穌聖子的慈悲面容。

我藉此祈禱頒布給你們我的宗座遐福。

教宗方濟各

梵蒂岡

2015年9月15日

真福童貞瑪利亞——七苦聖母紀念日





教宗方濟各 2016年四旬期文告

「我喜歡仁愛勝過祭獻」(瑪九13)

慈悲禧年 踐實善工

1、瑪利亞——教會的圖像,因為教會被福傳而傳播福音

在慈悲特殊禧年詔書中,我懇請各位信友能「更熱心善 度這禧年的四 旬期,使成為慶祝和經驗天主慈悲的特殊卓越 時刻」(《慈悲面容》17)。我請求大家用心地聆聽天主聖 言,也鼓勵大家「奉獻廿四小時給天主」藉此強調在祈禱中聆 聽天主聖言的重要性,特別是先知性的話語。天主的慈悲是要 向世人宣告,但每一位基督徒卻先被召叫去體驗天主的慈悲。 為此,在四旬期間,我將派遣慈悲傳教士作為天主親近和寬恕 所有人的具體標記。

聖母瑪利亞從總領天使佳播領受了喜訊後,在讚主曲中 以預言的方式歌頌天主的仁慈,她是因天主的仁慈被揀選。這 位曾與若瑟訂婚的納匝肋童貞女,因聖神受孕生子,就成為教 會的圖像,因為教會被福傳而傳播福音,而教會藉著聖神的大 能,在過去和現在一直都被福傳。在舊約先知的傳統中,甚至 從語源學來說,「慈悲」正是與「母胎」(rahamim)緊密相關,也與在夫妻及父母關係中所表現的慷慨大方、信實忠心及慈悲為懷(hesed)有密切關係。

2、天主與人類所立的盟約:一部慈悲史

在天主與以色列子民的盟約史中,啟示了上主慈悲的奧 祕。天主顯示自己是永遠富於仁愛,永遠願意以無與倫比的溫 柔及憐憫之心對待祂的子民,尤其是在可悲的時刻:當以色列 的不忠破壞這盟約,以及事後必須更堅定地在公義和真理中被 確認盟約的時候。我們在此面對的,是一個真正和寫實的愛情 故事,在這故事中,天主扮演遭背叛的父親和丈夫,以色列則 是不忠信的孩子和配偶。這些都是家庭的圖像,正如在歐瑟 亞先知書中所述(參歐一-二),為表達出天主是多麼希望與 祂的子民密切地結合為一。

這愛情故事在降生成人的天主子身上達到巔峰。天父在基 督內傾注了無窮無盡的慈悲,甚至使祂的聖子成為「化身成人 的慈悲」(《慈悲面 容》8)。降生成人的納匝肋耶穌,是真 正的以色列之子;祂具體展現了下面這段經文對每一個猶太人 所要求的全然的聆聽,即使今天,這也是天主與以色列人民所 立的盟約的核心:「以色列!你要聽:上主我們的天主,是唯 一的上主。你當全心、全靈、全力,愛上主你的天主」(申六 4-5)。身為天主子的耶穌是新郎,盡其所能要贏得祂淨配的 愛,祂對這位淨配的愛是無條件的,並在永恒的婚筵上彰顯出 來。

這就是宗徒最初宣講 (apostolic kerygma) 的核心——天主

的慈悲就是其基礎及重點。亦即「天主藉著死而復活的耶穌 基督所彰顯的救贖愛情」(《福音的喜樂》36),這宗徒的最 初宣講必須「遍及教理講授整個過程中的每個層面和時刻,我 們必須用不同的方式,一次又一次地予以聆聽,並設法予以 宣告」(《福音的喜樂》164)。慈悲「表達了天主如何向罪 人伸出援手,給他新的機會去再次省察、悔改,以及相信」 (《慈悲面容》21)。天主就是要藉著被釘在十字架上的耶穌 接近罪人,正是在罪人迷失及遠離天主之處。天主這樣做, 是希望能軟化祂淨配的心硬。

3. 慈悲善工

天主的慈悲能轉變人心,使人因經驗到信實的愛而變為滿 懷慈悲。天主的慈悲在我們的生命中散發光芒,積極鼓勵每個 人去愛自己的近人,投身於教會傳統稱為神哀矜和形哀矜的慈 悲善工,這是一種歷久彌新的奇蹟。這些慈悲善工提醒我們, 我們的信仰就在每天幫助近人的具體行動中表達出來,而我們 將來就是要在這些事上受審判:餵養他人,探訪他人、安慰他 人及教導他人。因此「我熱切渴望,基督子民能在這禧年,思 索慈悲的神形哀矜善工。讓我們深入福音的核心;在這裡窮人 尤其體驗到天主的慈悲」(《慈悲面容》15)。因為在窮人當 中,「基督的身體,有形可見於受酷刑、受壓迫、受鞭笞、忍 饑受餓、流離失所者身上......,等待著我們的肯定、撫慰、關 懷」(同上,15)。

無罪羔羊的受苦,竟隨著時間而延伸,這是個史無前例及 難以置信的奧祕:在這燃燒著無償之愛的荊棘面前,我們要像 梅瑟一樣脫下鞋子(參看出三5),尤其是當那些窮人正是為 信仰而受苦的主內弟兄姊妹。 在猛如死亡的愛光照之下(參看雅歌八 6) · 真正的可憐 人是那些不願視自己為窮人的人。他們自認為富有 · 實際上卻 是窮人中的最貧窮的人。因為他們是罪惡的奴隸 · 不把財富和 權力用於服侍天主及他人 · 反而壓抑了內心最深處的感覺 : 他 們也只不過是貧窮的乞丐。他們的權力和財富越多 · 他們的盲 點和自欺也越多 · 甚至在門口乞討的拉匝祿都視而不見(參 看路十六 20-21) 。窮人拉匝祿是基督的圖像 · 基督藉由此位 窮人懇求我們悔改。拉匝祿代表了天主所給予我們悔改的機 會 · 但我們或許根本沒有看見。這樣的盲目往往伴隨著一種傲 慢的錯覺 · 誤以為自己無所不能 · 也就是反映在魔鬼詭詐的話 語中 : 「你會像天主一樣」(創三 5) · 而這正是一切罪惡之 根源 · 這個錯覺同樣能以社會和政治形式出現 · 例如廿世紀的 極權制度 · 以及現代的壟斷思想和科技思維等 · 把天主視為無 關緊要 · 並把人類淪為可加以利用的資料。同樣 · 在基於金錢 崇拜的虛假發展模式上 · 也看得到罪惡的結構

---較富裕的個人及社會對窮人漠不關心,向他們關上大門,甚至拒絕看窮人一眼。

因此,對所有人而言,這慈悲特殊禧年的四旬期是一個良機,藉著聆聽天主聖言及慈悲善工,好能擺脫生命的失落感。 藉著形哀矜,我們就在那些需要被餵養、被著衣、被收留、被 探望的弟兄姊妹身上觸摸到基督;我們實踐神哀矜——解人疑 惑、教導愚蒙、赦人侮辱、勸人悔改和為生者死者祈禱這些善 工便直接地觸及到我們自己的罪人之身。神哀矜與形哀矜絕對 不能分離。其實,正是在受苦者的身上觸摸被釘十字架的耶 穌,罪人也能意識到,如同獲得恩賜一樣,他自己也是窮人和 貧困者。若遵循這途徑,讚主曲中所說的那些「心高氣傲」、 「有權勢」、「富有」的人,也都會有機會察覺到自己是不配 得到被釘十字架、死而復活的基督所愛。人以為能從知識、權 力和財富等偶像中獲得滿足,但唯有在基督的愛中,人才能滿 足對他對無窮幸福及愛的渴望。然而,這種危險經常存在,由 於內心越來越封閉,所以拒絕接納在窮人身上的基督,以致那 些富有、心高氣傲、有權勢的人最後還是會自定其罪,因而墮 入永遠的孤獨深淵一地獄。所以,亞巴郎令人深省的話語在此 重新為他們以及為我們所有的人迴響著:「他們自有梅瑟及先 知,聽從他們好了」(路十六29)。這樣積極地聆聽聖言是最 好的方式,去準備慶祝復活的新郎戰勝罪惡及死亡的勝利— 祂渴望潔淨期待祂來臨的新娘。

我們千萬不要錯過今年四旬期悔改的良機!讓我們藉著 童貞聖母瑪利亞慈母的轉禱,祈求天主,她是第一個在天主偉 大的慈悲,無條件地賜予她時,承認了自己的卑微(參看路一 48),又自稱為上主卑微的婢女。(參看路-38)

教宗方濟各 發自梵蒂岡

2015年10月4日,亞西西的聖方濟慶日

(台灣明愛會恭譯)



発見愛的青年朋友們:

全教會正在歡慶慈悲禧年,這是充滿恩寵、平安、悔改和 喜樂的一年,對於眾人,不論年齡,不分遠近,都深具意義。 沒有任何高牆或任何距離能阻止天父的慈悲接觸我們和擁抱我 們。位於羅馬和世界各地教區的聖門現在已經開啟。

親愛的青年人,這恩寵滿盈的時刻,也與你們有關。我鼓勵你們主動地參與歡慶慈悲禧年的各項活動,並明瞭你們每一個都是天主的孩子(參見若一書三1)。我希望能一一地邀請你們,像耶穌那樣,天天呼喚你們的名字。你們應當知道,你們的名字,都已經被登記在天上了(路十20),也在天父的心中;祂那顆滿懷慈悲的心,是一切和好和良善的泉源。

在慈悲禧年為期一年的慶祝期間,我們時時刻刻都有機會 在聖德的道路上邁進。我們可在此時發現,像兄弟姊妹們般地 一起生活,就如同一場盛大的派對,這可能是我們所能想像得

到最美好的一場派對·這場派對沒有終結——耶穌教導我們要 以祂的聖神來慶祝。慈悲禧年是一場派對·耶穌邀請我們每一 個人參加·不排斥任何人。因此·我也希望能有幾天和你們一 起祈禱、共同慶祝。我熱切期待在今年四月能見到你們當中許 許多多的人。

「如同天父滿懷慈悲」,這是慈悲禧年的主題,也是我們 以耶穌的名歡迎你們時,為你們每一個人所作的祈禱。「滿懷 慈悲」是指在無所畏懼、慷慨大方和真實無欺的愛中成長。不 只在體格成長,也要在靈修上有所成長。為建造出一個和平的 世界,你們正準備成為有能力,甚至在小事情上,作出勇敢選 擇和決定的基督徒。

你們的生活是充滿令人驚嘆的變化。諸事看起來好像同時是既可行又不可行的。我重複曾向你們說過的話:「你們要 在信德的旅途中保持忠貞不移,在主內懷抱堅定的希望。這就 是我們永不懈怠的祕密!天主賜予我們勇氣,是要我們逆流而 上。我親愛的青年朋友,你們要留意:切莫隨波逐流;這能使 我們心靈茁壯,但我們也要有勇氣,才能逆流而上。耶穌會賜 給我們這份勇氣!...我們要與祂一起才能成就大事;祂會賜我 們身為祂的門徒及見證人的喜樂!你們要投身於偉大的理想和 至為重要的事。我們基督徒並非被上主揀選僅做小事,我們要 百尺竿頭,更進一步。你們要投注你們的生命,去追求崇高的 理想。」(2013年教宗授予青年堅振聖事時講道)

在此我難以忘懷你們當中那些身處戰亂、極度貧窮、日日 憂煩和孤單寂寞的青年朋友,你們千萬不要失去希望!上主懷 有偉大的夢想,祂希望藉著你們的協助而夢想成真!你們的朋 友——與你們同年齡,生活卻不如你們艱辛的那些青年人,並 沒有忘記你們;他們正在世界各地為每個人應享有的和平與正 義而努力奮鬥。你們切莫被我們身邊充斥的仇恨和恐怖的訊息 所擊敗,反而要去締結新的友誼。你們要付出時間,向那些尋 求你們幫助的人,表示關心。要勇於逆流而上;成為耶穌的朋 友,祂是和平之子(參依九6)。「在耶穌內,一切都述說慈 悲;在耶穌內,無處不是憐憫。」(《慈悲面容》8)

我知道你們無法全都來到羅馬,儘管如此,慈悲禧年確實 是為所有的人宣布的,而你們所在的本地教會也正熱烈慶祝當 中。你們全都被邀請,共同歡度此一喜樂時刻。你們不要只準 備你們的背包和旗幟,而更要準備你們的心靈。你們現在就要 認真地思考,在我們共同慶祝的堅振聖事及感恩祭中,將要交 託給耶穌的種種期盼和渴望。當你們穿過聖門,要記得你們正 在交付自我,為求在聖德的道路上步步前進,並從福音及感恩 祭——生活的聖言及食糧中汲取養分,以協助建立一個更公正 及更友愛的世界。

願上主降福你們前往聖門的旅程。我祈求聖神引領你們的 腳步並光照你們。願童貞榮福瑪利亞——我們眾人的母親,成 為你們和你們全家的慈悲之門。

教宗方濟各

梵蒂岡

2016年1月6日,主顯節

(臺灣地區主教團祕書處恭譯)



台灣天主教會3月6日上午10時於台北總教區主教座堂慶祝「教宗方濟各就職3周年」,舉行感恩彌撒聖祭,由宗座萬 民福音傳播部秘書長韓大輝總主教主禮。韓大輝總主教在講道 中指出,教宗方濟各邀請所有人看到天父喜愛正義,且富於慈 悲,宣布「慈悲禧年」就是要找回那迷失的。他也勉勵準副總 統陳建仁協助百姓提升生活,並在靈性上有所成長。陳建仁致 詞時則說,他從教宗所著作的書籍學到「真正的權力」就是服 務,好的牧羊人應該沾滿羊的氣息。教宗方濟各上任後,相當 關心台灣,每次台灣有災難,都會為大家祈禱,這是台灣人民 的福氣,相信新的政府也能夠展現出新天新地。

天主教會台灣地區主教團主席洪山川總主教在彌撒一開 始致歡迎詞。他指出,3年多來教宗方濟各一直是媒體追逐的 焦點。2月12日教宗方濟各於古巴首都哈瓦那與俄羅斯東正教 會大主教基里爾一世會面,是自1054年東正教從羅馬教會分裂 後,雙方宗教領袖首度碰面,可謂「千年破冰」。

今年2月5日至5月2日由國立故宮博物院與梵蒂岡宗座禮儀 聖器室主辦的「天國的寶藏:教廷文物特展」更是史無前例。 台南大地震教宗也在第一時間派代辦慰問災民,都看出教廷與 我之友好。台灣教會今年派了17位慈悲傳教士,也是在宗座萬 民福音傳播部秘書長韓大輝總主教協助下,由教宗親自派遣。



因此,也請韓總主教向教宗表達台灣教友的崇敬與謝意。

韓總主教以《路加福音》第15章第1-3節、第11-32節,教 友極熟悉的「浪子回頭」的經文講道表示,《禮記,大學》湯 之盤銘曰:「苟日新,日日新,又日新。」教宗總樂於時時表 達「新」意。在就任時以方濟各為名號即一新意,又破格地在 當選談話要大家為他祈禱;教宗也了解台灣政治的新局,台灣 福地也有新意,教友陳建仁爵士當選副總統,如同《格林多人 後書》的「誰若在基督內,他就是一個新造的人」。

韓總主教更強調,福音中浪子回頭的小兒子落魄時心中有

一聲音——「我得罪了天」,回到父家;這也是教宗方濟各 今年特頒「慈悲禧年」的意涵。父的慈悲吸引著他回頭,我們 是否也在「慈悲禧年」找回迷羊?雖曾是罪人的小兒子,父親 也親吻了他,你是否也同樣對待回頭的浪子?教會內也有大兒 子,不願與父親歡慶小兒子的回頭,但慈悲要告訴所有的人, 包括「大兒子」在內,我們都是罪人,教宗甚至多次表示自己 是個大罪人,要回頭、要改過。宗座萬民福音傳播部長費爾南 多•斐洛尼(Fernando Filoni)樞機就表示,梵二50年特賦福傳 新意——天主的慈悲——因此要多為教宗祈禱,讓教會更有 力量將天主的慈悲傳給眾人。

慶祝彌撒除韓大輝總主教、教廷駐華代辦陸思道蒙席率教 廷官員外,準副總統陳建仁爵士伉儷、監察院尹祚芊和江綺雯 兩位監委、外交部李澄然次長、國防部陳永康副部長、故宮博 物院馮明珠院長,包括駐華使節團團長柯克大使在內的多位外 國駐台大使,都參加了此一盛會。天主教會台灣地區主教團主 席洪山川總主教、高雄教區劉振忠總主教、新竹教區李克勉主 教、台中教區蘇耀文主教、榮休狄剛總主教和萊普蒂斯•馬尼 亞領銜總主教葉勝男等人,以及神父、修士、修女、教友及各 界人士500多人欣喜與會。

教廷駐華大使館代辦陸思道強調,教宗方濟各對中華民國 及教廷間關係,固有善意及伸出的友誼之手是不言自明的。教 廷僅有有限的預算及人事編制,雖然台灣與他國相較下教會規 模非常小,教廷仍持續保留大使館、外交官員及官舍,客觀而 言,台灣的狀況真的非常特別。教廷教育部長維撒迪樞機主教 將於5月訪台,可期望擴充2011年簽訂的教育協定。10月教廷 宗座宗教交談委員會主席將與道教進行第一次高層對話,2017 年宗座宗教交談委員會也將在台舉行第6屆國際基督徒與佛教 徒的對話。可預期的未來,兩國在人道援助和醫療照護都將進 行一些更讓及積極的合作。

為慶祝教宗方濟各就職3周年感恩聖祭專程來台的韓大輝 總主教·並於下午4時在台北總主教公署舉行「慈悲禧年」講 座·以「傳揚福音•根植教會」為題·提出〈教會傳教工作法 令〉現世50周年的省思·分享新福傳的理念和使命。(文摘自 天主教周報380期.圖:陳奮)



韓大輝總主教證道

教宗方濟各上任三週年的慶典上·容我向各位致
金、特別是宗座代表陸思道蒙席·台北的洪山川總
主教·在場的主教、神父、修士、修女和教友·也向各位貴
賓和政府官員致意。

我們進入四旬期第四主日,更靠近禮儀年的核心,就是 聖週和逾越三日祈求。教會今天所恭聽的聖言,邀請我們反 省憐憫和修好,其實這正是教宗所發起的慈悲特殊禧年的主 題。

在沙漠中,天主以瑪納滋養祂的子民。當他們進入福 地後,天主便停止下降瑪納,以色列民就在那年食用客納罕 的出產(讀經一)。在進入福地的神聖旅程結束之際,選民 獲賜土地,他們耕種,並能第一次以當地的出產來慶祝逾越 節。他們滿懷喜樂,慶祝逾越:從埃及的奴役中他們得到決 定性的解放,深深感受到天主的大愛長伴左右。在慶典中, 他們回想到天主那不離不棄的眷顧,這體驗驅使聖詠作者高 呼:請你們嚐嚐,請你們看看,上主是何等的美善。

如今在這三年中,天主的眷顧在教宗的職務上顯示出 來,教宗對天主子民的愛護在他的言行舉止上閃耀發亮。教 宗方濟各以無比的決心,致力展示天主偉大的慈悲。天主就 如今日福音所說的慈父,跑向那回歸的兒子,撲到他的脖 子上,熱情地親吻他。同樣,教宗方濟各宣布特殊的慈悲禧 年,就是要找回那迷失的,鞏固那脆弱的,堅強所有人對基 督的信仰。



教宗有很多天赋,但歌唱的嗓子並不在其中,儘管如此,他卻動員教會唱出悅耳的歌曲:《福音的喜樂》、《願 祢受讚頌》、《慈悲的面容》,從而邀請教友和全部有心人 重新發現與基督相遇的樂趣,激發他們愛護母親大地--我 們共有的家園,再肯定每個人不可侵犯的尊嚴,特別是貧苦 的一群。

教宗方濟各呼籲各方人士,不管是何種身分,不可為了 意識形態而妄顧人民公益,不可為了追求私利,不擇手段, 漠視人的尊嚴,相反,應該歡迎那些為了和平、食糧、工作 和尊嚴而被迫離鄉別井的人,要以禮相待。教宗提醒我們有 關婚姻和家庭的崇高價值,在家庭中丈夫和妻子、父親和 母親各有自己的尊位,不幸地這些價值和尊位今日受到嚴峻

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的威脅:即摧毀人性的意識形態,和不擇手段只求私益的妄 念。教宗要求教會唱出的美妙的歌曲,為世界帶來平安和希 望。

當兒子離得還遠的時候,他父親就看見了他,他動了 憐憫的心,跑上前去,撲到他的脖子上,熱情地親吻他。這 圖象使我記起教宗被選當晚,站在伯多祿大殿的中央陽台上 的講話。他說樞機們去到遠方找到宗徒伯多祿的繼承人!不 錯,教宗來自遠方,卻通過伯多祿的職務接近民眾,包括那 些身在遠方的人。

上任不久,他便前往巴西,主持世界青年日的慶典, 在大西洋海岸上,接觸過上百萬的青年人。後來,他更去了 非洲、亞洲、北美和中美,將修好、和平、共融和希望的訊 息,帶給所有人,不論教友與否,不計較任何宗教,包括沒 有信仰的人。

他使伯多祿的繼承人更為接近窮人、病人、邊緣化的 人,所有因不同方式遭到排斥的人。另一方面他從遠方的角 落,任命神職人員參與樞機團,來和他一起坐席紅衣主教會 議,共同服務教會。這樣,對那些處於外圍的教會,他予以 肯定,並對那些被俗世權力認定不起眼的人,他予以重視。

教宗向世界展示一個榜樣:教會內的領導是由教宗帶領 主教們一起群策群力組成的,因此他任命來自不同地方的九 位樞機,組成一個議事團,以更新羅馬教廷,並對今日世界 最迫切的需要,提出解決方案。他個人與莫斯科及全俄羅斯 東正教宗主教基利爾(Kirill)舉行會晤,那是千年破冰之 舉,他與美國、古巴以及其他國家領導人的會晤,使世界綻 放和平的希望。

過去三年教宗的任職也受人誤會,甚至不當的批評,大 部分源於一些不正確或誤導群眾的評論,可是,他毫不畏懼 並堅持對基督的完全信賴。

「誰若在基督內,他就是一個新造的人,舊的已經過去,請看,一切都變成新的了」(讀經二)。保祿的這番話,應用在教宗方濟各身上,正道出他的新意和驚人的活力 乃源於基督,使他勉力創新和深化聖座與各國的外交關係。 儘管傳媒報導北京與梵帝岡所謂的交談有良好的氣氛,我想 向你們保證,可敬的教宗作為普世教會的牧者,非常愛台灣 的人民,而他的心常常關顧你們每一位。

親愛的兄弟姊妹,在教宗任職三週年紀念上,讓我們滿 懷喜悅,感謝天主給予教會一位如此出色的牧者,給予世界 一位如此德高望重的精神領袖。

結束時,容我向你們傳達教宗的致候,同時也代表萬民 福音部的部長斐洛尼樞機向你們問好。最後,就如教宗方濟 各常要求的,請勿忘記為他祈禱。

祝大家主內平安!

教廷代辦 陸思道蒙席致詞

设愛的韓總主教、總主教及各位主教、各級政府官 **以**員,特別是副總統當選人陳建仁先生、監察委員江 綺雯博士、國立故宮博物院馮明珠院長、外交部李澄然次長、 國防部陳永康次長及敬愛的駐華使節團團長柯克大使、各國大 使、代表與夫人及家人、尊敬的台灣各宗教團體代表、各位敬 愛的神父、修女及修生、各位敬愛的朋友:

早安!誠摯地感謝各位參與這臺為慶祝聖父方濟各膺任宗 徒伯多祿牧職三週年的感恩祭典。每在教宗方濟各週三的公開 覲見活動及團體覲見以及三鐘經祈禱的結尾時,他總是請大家 為他祈禱。他總是說「別忘了為我祈禱!」因此我們今天所能 做最好的事,就是為教宗祈禱。

過去三年,若要說全世界都為教宗方濟各他個人及他的 論述所著述,絕非言過其實。不同國家、宗教甚至毫無信仰、 社會各階層的人們都見證著教宗方濟各是完全以言以行活在耶 穌教導中的人-表現出最崇高的人類價值。簡言之,教宗方濟 各「言行一致」。不只一位外交同仁-他們理應以客觀與審慎 地分析著名-曾以「搖滾巨星」來描述教宗方濟各。教宗方濟 各試著幫助所有人,重新讓我們聚焦在這個時代最重要也最關 鍵的議題上。其中包括在人際關係上付出更大的友善、同情與 慈悲,這就是為什麼他指定了今年為慈悲禧年。他呼籲全球仍 存在死刑的國家暫緩執行。他同時敦促我們更加關注世上受苦 的人們:貧困者、弱勢者、邊緣者、那些為疾病所苦的人、那 些悲慟的人、以及那些移民和難民-尤其是那些身處戰亂中的 敘利亞人。他在他的通諭《願祢受讚頌》中,試著讓我們瞭解



「關心我們共同家園」的道德責任,對於環境的尊重及關懷, 與對於所有人的尊重及關懷是密不可分的。源自古羅馬語,教 宗的一個最重要的名銜是 "pontifex maximus" - 意即偉大的 造橋者。當然,人和神之間的鴻溝是那最需要被連接的,同時 我們也看到教宗方濟各在族群、宗教及文化之間建造了關鍵的 橋樑,我們僅就他在美國與古巴歷經五十五年互不往來後所扮 演的角色,以及他最近首度為彌合自1054年以來與俄國東正教 的分裂,而與基里爾牧首的會晤,即可見一斑。

因此,我們感謝天主使教宗方濟各膺選教宗,並祈求天主 持續保佑他,幫助他繼續引導及帶領我們更加接近耶穌,並使 人們得以更相互同情、理解及和平。

教宗方濟各對中華民國及教廷之間的關係固有的善意及所 伸出的友誼之手是不言自明的。我們自1942年10月23日建立的 外交邦誼·如我在諸多場合所述·立基於共享的人性尊嚴價值 觀、人權的促進、特別是宗教與信仰的自由、對於國際及國內

或

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法治的尊重、對於基本民主體制與促進其價值 - 包括思想及言 論自由 - 的尊重、對於世界和平與消彌族群和國家之間緊張關 係的承諾,並希望與其他民族和國家建立友善的關係。這些重 要的共享價值為我們的友誼提供了非常豐富、穩固與持久的基 礎。這不是說好聽的,而是說明一個事實。我剛剛說,教宗方 濟各「言行一致」,且讓我們看看教廷與中華民國在近幾年如 何已「言出已行」。

教廷僅有有限的預算及人事編制,因此教廷通常將其重心 集中投注在教會蓬勃發展的國家。雖然,台灣與其他國家相較 之下教會的規模非常小,教廷仍持續保留其駐華大使館、外交 官員及官舍。客觀而言,台灣的狀況真的非常特別。

台灣與教廷所享有的是非常高規格的互動。近年來,台灣 和梵蒂岡之間有著非常頻繁的交流,特別是包括一些在我們的 邦誼間未曾發生過的事件。2011年12月2日,教廷與台灣簽署 了教育合作協定,並於2012年12月正式生效。這是首次中華民 國與教廷簽署的協定。

教廷與中華民國高層曾多次互訪。在教宗方濟各膺任教宗 時,總統馬英九與夫人出席了在梵蒂岡的教宗就職彌撒。彌撒 之後,教宗方濟各接見了馬總統與夫人。這是中華民國總統第 一次與教宗的會面。而在2014年4月,副總統吳敦義出席了教 宗若望二十三世與教宗若望保祿二世的封聖彌撒。彌撒之後, 吳副總統也覲見了教宗方濟各。外交部林永樂部長在2014年10 月出席了教宗保祿六世的授福彌撒。彌撒後,教廷國務卿鮑若 林樞機主教又與林部長闢室會談。

教廷亦有許多高層拜訪台灣。過去幾年間,造訪台灣的包 括教廷教育部部長、教廷修會部部長、教廷宗座宗教交談委員 會主席及官員、教廷宗座一心委員會主席及官員、教廷宗座健 康牧靈關懷委員會主席及官員、教廷傳信部秘書長及官員、國 際聖體大會主席、梵蒂岡天文台台長,以及其他教廷國務院與 宗座正義與和平委員會之官員。教廷選擇於台灣舉辦相當多重 要的國際性研討會,由非常多的國家和數百位與會者所參與。 我敢說,全球絕對沒有任何其他國家有如此多的教廷官員來 訪。

我們之間互惠的關係亦見諸於許多重要的文化交流。2015 年9月,西斯汀教堂合唱團於香港、澳門及台灣演出。這是西 斯汀教堂合唱團首次於亞洲,也是首次於台灣演出。西斯汀教 堂合唱團直屬於教宗,僅能於教宗所親自核准的國家演出。宗 座禮儀處與國立故宮博物院所合作包含教廷六十組件珍貴文物 的特展正於故宮展出。這是宗座禮儀聖器室全球史無前例第一 次有如此大規模的物件在他國展出。

我們現在更進一步籌劃宗教交談、教育及文化上的合 作。

教廷教育部長維撒迪樞機主教將於五月訪台,並可期望能 擴充2011年所簽訂的教育協定。2016年10月教廷宗座宗教交談 委員會主席將與道教首座進行第一次的高層對話,我們已經在 認真籌備這次的交流。2017年,同個委員會將於台灣舉辦第六 屆國際基督徒與佛教徒的對話,我們也已經開始籌備工作。

無論哪個國家發生重大災難時,教宗總是呼籲國際團結,中華民國從不曾自外於回應教宗的呼籲。或許可預期未來 中華民國及教廷在人道援助,尤其是醫療照護方面,能進行一 些更新、更積極的合作。

我相信中華民國及教廷的關係,將能持續有所突破。

最後,感謝所有盡心協助安排這次慶典及隨後茶會的工作人員,特別是帶領我們祈禱的韓總主教、潘神父、以及主教團的工作人員。感謝所有共祭的主教與神父,特別是今天在場的修士及合唱團。更感謝所有參與這臺彌撒的你們!教宗為您們的出席深感榮幸!天主保佑大家!

外交部李澄然次長致詞

本人今日榮幸受邀出席教廷駐華大使館慶祝教宗方濟各 就任三週年感恩祭典, 謹代表中華民國政府及人民, 向教宗聖 座、韓總主教及陸代辦, 表達最誠摯之祝賀。

教宗自2013年當選就職以來,過去一年走遍波士尼亞、厄 瓜多、玻利維亞、巴拉圭、古巴、美國、聯合國、肯亞、烏干 達、中非以及墨西哥等地,為協助遭遇天災貧窮戰火的世人而 奔走發聲,與各國政治及宗教領袖會晤,希望以對話及愛來化 解人類間隔閡及仇恨,進而消滅世界上以各形式存在之歧視、 戰爭與貧窮;聖座謙卑為懷,關愛全人類之情,溢於言表, 「人民教宗」的封號,實至名歸。

中華民國作為國際社會一員,對教宗的信念及悲憫呼籲有 深刻感受,致力以實際行動回應。例如,過去一年我國透過與



教廷合作援助伊拉克北部災民、西非伊波拉疫情災民、尼泊爾 震災災民以及瓜地馬拉土石流災情等。而本(2015)年2月我 台南發生大地震,災情及傷亡嚴重,教宗立即委由教廷國務院 向我表達慰問之意,並透過一心委員會捐款5萬美金予天主教 會臺灣地區主教團協助災民。我們誠摯感謝教宗在我國遭遇災 害時對我國伸出友誼之手,教宗的慈愛,我們感受在心。

此外·本部協助國立故宮博物院與教廷合辦、刻正於故宮 正館展出之「天國的寶藏-教廷文物特展」·係教廷禮儀聖器 室珍藏全球首次大規模赴海外展出·意義非凡·更是天主教在 亞太地區之重要文化盛事。就此·教廷特別指派馬里尼總主教 (Archbishop Piero Marini)擔任特使訪華出席開幕典禮·以上 均可說明我與教廷在各項合作交流頻密、邦誼穩固。

中華民國與梵蒂岡邦誼即將邁入第74年,我國將續秉持自 由、民主、人權及博愛等普世核心價值,強化、深化我國與教 廷之人道慈善夥伴關係,共同為世界和平及福祉而努力。

各位女士,各位先生,欣逢教宗就職三週年,敬祝教宗聖 躬康泰,教廷教運昌盛,也祝福大家平安喜樂。

☆灣地區主教團月誌 31

CHINESE REGIONAL BISHOPS' CONFERENCE MINUTES OF THE 2015 AUTUMN PLENARY ASSEMBLY

Date: November 24-28, 2014 (Monday-Friday)

Venue: CRBC Secretariat Administrative Bldg.

(39 An Ju St., Taan District, Taipei 10672)

Chairman: Most Rev. John Hung, SVD

Attendees: Most Rev. Peter Liu, Most Rev. Bosco Lin, Most Rev. Philip Huang, Most Rev. John Baptist Lee, Most Rev. Thomas Chung, Most Rev. Martin Su

Absentee: Most Rev. John Tseng

Secretary: Fr. Otfried Chan

Guests: Msgr. Paul Russell, Msgr. Slađan Ćosić, Msgr. Ivan Santus

Opening Prayer

Address by Archbishop John Hung, President

Address by Msgr. Paul Russell (Summary)

Msgr. Russell began his address with a teaching of Pope Francis to remind the bishops at this meeting that they are brothers of Christ (cf. Mk 3, 31-34) and shepherds; with all their heart, all their soul and all their will, they should shepherd and protect the people of God from any harm due to evil. Furthermore, they have to look for strength from prayers (cf. 1 P 25). Evangelization is not to do profound preaching but to proclaim with joy Christ the Lord who had died and resurrected for us. Therefore, when the bishops administer sacraments, they should let the faithful have a foretaste



of the bliss of the Heavenly Kingdom. In this age full of challenges, the biggest temptation of a shepherd is to lose the vision of evangelization as a result of lack of courage. However, a shepherd is an interlocutor, he must follow the example of Christ the Lord who called us, and be faithful to Him; he should go proclaiming tirelessly the Kingdom of God everywhere, talk and communicate with the faithful and diverse non-Catholics.

When a shepherd feels the burden of the responsibility of leading the Church and its people, he should meditate on Jesus who is gentle and humble in heart (cf. Mt 11, 28-30) and on His way of doing things. The Church is a seamless garment, woven in one piece from neck to hem. (cf. Jn 19,23) As a consequence, the primary mission of the bishops is to strengthen the unity of the Church: the solidarity with the pope and other bishops, and the fraternity with their brothers in the priesthood. Finally, Msgr. Russell urged personally the bishops to be faithful to their ministry and to serve God with all their heart. Facing non-Catholic affairs, the bishops can uphold catholic position, avoid bureaucracy, keep vigilant and remind their flocks to be ready for the coming of the Lord at any time.

I. Reports

1. Secretariat

1) Seminar on Missionaries of Mercy

Lecturer: Msgr. Ivan Santus

Venue: 2F CRBC Administrative Bldg.

Date: 9:30-11:30 pm, Thursday of December 3

2) Christmas Charity Concert at the Taipei 101 Building

Date: 6:00 pm, December 7, 2015

Venue: Hall of 1/F, Taipei 101 (Xinyi Dist.)

Sponsor: Msgr. Paul Russell, Nunciature in Taiwan

Organizers: Taipei 101, CRBC, Pont. Societies for Propagation of the Faith,

Association of Papal and Knight of Holy Sepulchre,

LGT Bank, Taiwan Catholic Mission Foundation

- 3) Training of volunteers for "Treasures from Heaven: A Special hibition from the Holy See" of the Papal Sacristy of the Vatican. It will be held in the National Palace Museum of Taipei, from February 5 to May 2, 2016.
- 4) The reply from the Cardinal Paul Yu Pin Catholic Human Capacity Building Foundation
- 5) The Catholic Bishops' Conference of Korea reminded the CRBC to be careful of Korea's "Shincheonji" church by letter
- 6) A letter from the Congregation for Catholic Education: the modification of English translation of the Norm of Application of the Apostolic Constitution Ex corde Ecclesiae

- 7) The progress of the creation of the translation team among Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan Churches
- 8) The Association of Taiwanfamily invited the Germany sociologist Gabriele Kuby to come to Taiwan to give speeches from April 11 to 21, 2016.
- 9) The Closing Ceremony for the Year of Consecrated Life in Taiwan Catholic Church: special program for the communion of consecrated life persons (Date: 9:30am - 3:30pm, February 3, 2016, Stella Matutina Girls' High School, Taichung)
- 10) Moto proprio "Mitis Iudex Dominus Iesus": Pope Francis reformed the Catholic canonical processes for the declaration of nullity of marriage, the effective date of the simplified process was December 8, 2015.
- 11) Pontifical Council "Cor Unum" invited the CRBC to send a person to attend the international meeting in memorial of the 10th anniversary of the encyclical "Deus caritas est". (Date: February 25-26, 2016. Venue: Rome)

II Proposals

1. Proposals of the Secretariat

Proposal A: The 2016 Budget of the CRBC Secretariat

Resolution: Modified and approved.

Proposition B-1: Request for approval of the change of total property of the CRBC

Proposal B-2: Request for handling of property of the CRBC

Resolution: Approved.

Proposal C: The reparation of the fissures on the exterior wall and the parapet wall on the side of the firebreak alley of the CRBC Administrative Building.

Resolution: Passed and approved, and first compare the costs of the three companies.

Proposal D: Handling of Sexual Harassment Complaints; Investigation, Prevention and Control Policies of Taiwan Catholic Church: the modification of the main points of the creation of the Commission, the modification of the main points of the handling, the modification of the regulation of the handling and the modification of the handling process.

Explanation:

- 1. In accordance with the resolution of the CRBC Extraordinary Meeting on August 26, 2015, the CRBC convened again the meeting of the Commission for Sexual Harassment Prevention of the CRBC, in order to modify the main points of the creation of the Commission of Handling of Sexual Harassment Complaints; Investigation, Prevention and Control Policies of Taiwan Catholic Church. At this meeting, the Commission will also modify the main points of the handling, the regulation of the handling and the handling process.
- 2. In accordance with the resolution of the meeting of the Commission for Sexual Harassment Prevention of the CRBC, please see the attached document for the minutes of the meeting and the comparative chart of the main points of the creation of the Commission of Handling of Sexual Harassment Complaints; Investigation, Prevention and Control Policies of Taiwan Catholic Church.
- 3. After the CRBC has given its approval, it will deliver official documents for announcement and implement.

Resolution: Approved.

2. Proposals of the Commission for Sacred Liturgy

Proposal A:

- 1. What baptism of the Protestant Churches are recognized by the Catholic Church, so that when the members of these churches are converted into Catholicism, they need not to receive the sacrament of baptism again.
- 2. Does the Catholic Church need to sign an agreement with these Protestant Churches?

Explanation:

- 1. In the history, unfortunately, the Christianity is divided into different churches for different reasons.
- 2. Usually believers of diverse denominations are converted into other Christian communities.
- 3. The Christian baptism should not be repeated. For pastoral reasons, we need to make sure with which Christian communities and the Catholic Church recognize mutually the baptism.
- 4. Is there a need for these Christian communities which recognize mutually their baptism to sign an agreement for pastoral guidelines?
- 5. The local Catholic Church had signed the "Common Agreement on Baptism" with the Anglican Church in 1976. (cf. the appendix 1-2)
- 6. The Hong Kong Diocese had signed an agreement with the Anglican Church in 1974. (cf. the appendix 3)
- 7. In addition, enclosed herewith the Common Announcement of "Justification by Faith" of Lutheran, Methodist and Catholic Churches for reference.

Propositions:

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- 1. Create an ad-hoc Commission to commission competent scholars (for example: Fr. John Lai for the Doctrine of the Faith, Fr. Francis King for Canon Law, Fr. Charles Pan and Miss Teresa Chien for the Liturgy and sacraments) to do relevant research.
- 2. If necessary, the Catholic Church contacts the related Christian communities and signs a common agreement.
- For reference, the ad-hoc Commission can consult the procedure of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith and of other local churches. (cf. "The Door", pp.33-35, note 73)

Resolution: The Commission for Sacred Liturgy commissions the above-mentioned scholars to do relevant research and investigation, and presents a report at the next general assembly of the CRBC.

Proposal B: Regulation of Work and Salary for Experts of the Commission for Sacred Liturgy hired by the CRBC as full-time staff.

Resolution: The CRBC allows the expert to have a part-time teaching of 4 hours in the Fu-jen Faculty of Theology of St. Robert Bellarmine for which there is no need to ask for day leaves, but signs an official sheet as record. However, the teaching in the Major Seminary is classified as the work for the Section of Sacred Music.

3. Proposals of the Commission for Evangelization

Proposal A: To share the Bible story picture book as teaching material in the kindergartens of each diocese.

Explanations:

- The Bible story picture book "Listen! The voice of the Lord" made by the Kuang Jen Cultural and Educational Foundation is the main teaching material for life education in the kindergartens of the dioceses in North Taiwan. The book is easy to read and rich in content. It is worthy sharing it with other dioceses. It can be used widely as teaching material for Sunday school.
- 2. The Commission plans to use the resource of the Section for Pontifical Societies for Propagation of the Faith and to introduce this Bible story picture book to each diocese of Taiwan.
- 3. The Kuang Jen Cultural and Educational Foundation can support related activities by sharing teaching experiences, demonstrating teaching methods and other extended activities.

Resolution: Passed and approved.

Proposal B: To continue to hold the Camp for Growth in Evangelization and Communion, in order to train potential people for the work of evangelization.

Explanation:

- 1. According to the chart on the results of evangelization collected from each diocese by the Commission for Evangelization, a particular effort the Commission for Evangelization can do is to take care of the increasing foreign spouses and workers; moreover, the youth and the non-Catholic members in Catholic families should be taken into consideration.
- 2. The dioceses in North Taiwan (Hsinchu Diocese and Taipei Diocese) will hold a one-day Camp for Growth in Evangelization and Communion called"Listening, sharing and exchanging"on Saturday

August 29. There will be about one hundred participants; they are catechists, main collaborators in lay associations and volunteers in parish association for evangelization.

3. The other dioceses can organize similar activities.

Organizing means:

- 1) The Camp can be held both in the central and southern part of Taiwan, separately in April and July 2016.
- 2) The Section for the Pontifical Societies for Propagation of the Faith, the Section for Youth and the Section for Laity can share their resources and work together to promote this activity.

Resolution: Approved.

4. Proposal of Taiwan Catholic Mission Foundation (the Commission for Social Development of the CRBC)

Proposal: To set up the SOP of Disaster Relief Mechanism of Taiwan Catholic Church.

Resolution: The President of the Commission for Social Development of the CRBC, Bishop Philip Huang, will help to draw up the Operating Procedure of Disaster Relief and the draft will be discussed at the next plenary assembly of the CRBC.

5. Proposals of the Commission for the Clergy

Proposal A: Sister Jessica C. Aglavia of the Vocation Promotion Center of the Major Seminary applies for a leave of 1 year (from 01.07.2016 to 31.07.2017)

Resolution: The Rector of the Major Seminary will contact Sister Theresa

Tu, Superior of OHF, to see if there is any suitable person to replace Sister Jessica C. Aglavia during her absence for foreign studies.

Proposal B: 2016 Short-Term Summer Advanced Formation for Priests.

Explanation: Cf. Proposal B of the Canon Law Society.

Means: Cf. Proposal B of the Canon Law Society.

Resolution: Approved.

Proposal C: The adjustment of the monthly stipend of the formation team of the Major Seminary.

Resolution: The monthly salary of the priests of the Major Seminary will be as same as the monthly stipend of the priests of Taipei Diocese.

6. Proposals of the Canon Law Society

Proposal A: Catholic marriage procedure (cf. attached document)

Explanation:

1. It is specially designated for clergy and diocesan priests.

- 2. The specific forms have been made, translated and edited again, in order to make it more convenient for new migrants, foreign language speaking Catholics and priests to fill in. In the future, there will be only one unified version of forms. Other special forms are saved in the bishop's office for reference in the future.
- 3. It is suggested that the Chinese and English name of each diocese should be the same version.

Means: The forms are to be put on the website of the diocese for the parish priests to download, fill in by typing and print out on their own.

Resolution: Approved.

Proposal B: The topic of 2016 Advanced Formation for Priests

Explanation:

The formation of parish priests who help those who plan to get married: the content of premarital counseling for both of the future couple, the procedure of Catholic marriage, and the propaganda of the importance of premarital counseling and pastoral care after marriage.

Mean: The 2016 Summer Advanced Formation for Priests.

Resolution: Approved.

7. Proposal of the Section for Youth of the Commission for Evangelization of the CRBC

Cause: The plan for 2016: "Promotion of Investigation of Taiwan Catholic Youth" and "Supplier of Short Films of Catechesis/teaching for Youth on the Internet". The creation of a special planning team is needed for this purpose. The youth work section of each diocese needs to send representatives to join this team. Request for approval.

Explanation:

- The TYMM7 was held in the end of October 2015. In the resolution of this meeting, two proposals - "Survey on Taiwan Catholic Youth" and "Supplier of Short Films of Catechesis/teaching for Youth on the Internet"- were approved. The youth pastoral section of each diocese needs to send representatives to join the two projects.
- 2. The project "Survey on Taiwan Catholic Youth" will help different youth pastoral sections to plan the youth work in the future. There are mainly two directions:
- A. Survey on the 10 biggest issues that the Taiwan youth are interested in.

B. Survey on the importance of faith in Taiwan Catholic youth's life. In order to make sure that the questionnaire can help the youth pastoral sections of different dioceses to know better the faith of their youth, the Youth Section will not only collect responses of youth pastoral sections of each diocese by e-mail, but also convene a real meeting.

For the other project "Supplier of Short Films of Catechesis/teaching for Youth on the Internet", the participants of TYMM7 expressed the shared understanding that the Catholic youth nowadays need this kind of resource. When it concerns the concrete details such as the subjects, the content of teachings, the list of lecturers and the ways of propaganda, the special planning team will talk over it and help the Youth Section to set up the program and carry it out.

Resolution: Approved.

8. Proposal of the Hsinchu Diocese

Re: Creation of the "Saint John Paul II Center" and the "Small Faith-Sharing Group Center"

Explanations:

- The fruit of 2015 Synod of Bishops is the significant recognition of the family. The family is not an old-fashioned module, but a most basic reality of human society. In time of difficulties, there is no other place more reliable than the family, even when it is wounded or recomposed. Saint John Paul II said," Faults and sins should always be condemned and eliminated, but those who fell or committed faults should be understood and loved."
- 2. The 2015 Synod of Bishops is a pastoral gathering, in which the family's beautiful role for evangelization was discussed. "The Church not only cares for good and bad situations of the family, but

also gives its mission of evangelization to the family: families with clergy, with bishops and the whole Church, walk together on the road of evangelization. After the present Synod of Bishops, the Church becomes a Church who does not judge but accepts, who looks tenderly at the wounded families. Therefore, the Church needs to accompany and accept the wounded families according to a "merciful way of education". On the one hand, the Church does not treat the wounded families in another way; on the other hand, the doctrine of faith should not be "watered down" but be integrated into the pastoral work.

3. If we want to help the fiancées who will create a family to have a better preparation, - that they commit less faults in their future family life, - we need to develop a sophisticated formation procedure based on the Word of God. It is divided into 3 stages: long-term formation, short-term formation and the immediate preparation for the moment close to marriage. Talking about the catechesis for marriage preparation, we should give up school terms such as "marriage course"; instead, we should call this period "a journey to walk together".

Propositions:

- 1. When we try to respond to the recent Synod of Bishops, we find that the Taiwan Church is quite limited in many aspects. What we have is not enough to respond to questions mentioned at this meeting. In order that the Taiwan Church can respond to what this meeting demands and what the Pope expects from the Church, the CRBC wishes to cooperate with different religious communities and to create within 5 to 10 years the "Saint John Paul II Center" and the "Small Faith-Sharing Group Center".
- 2. The purpose of the "Saint John Paul II Center" is to spread the message and the teaching of the Church, to study Jesus' way of teaching and to transmit it in a new way. As the International Executive Committee of Christian Life Community mentioned, if we want the modern people

to totally understand the "Word of Wisdom" and the teaching of the Church, we have to use their language. The necessary conditions for the creation of the "Saint John Paul II Center" are as follows: 1. 3 people formed in Rome by the Center who possesses an S.T.D. 2. Translate of all the materials and books of the Center. We know that the Society of Jesus has sent a lay person to Rome for formation, and the Christian Life Community has already a translation team.

- 3. The purpose of the "Small Faith-Sharing Group Center" is to transmit the message and the teaching of the Church in a new way. The Center needs persons in charge of the operation to ensure the transmission of the message and the creation of several small faith-sharing groups in each parish. Fr. Simon Wong will help to form the persons responsible for the Center. The Center will start to function in 2 to 3 year's time.
- 4. The "Saint John Paul II Center" and the "Small Faith-Sharing Group Center" should work together and help each other.

Resolution: The Commission for the Clergy is entrusted to do detailed research and will report at the next meeting of the CRBC.

Extraordinary motion:

Proposal of the Commission for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant People of the CRBC

The CRBC celebrates from next year on the World Day for Migrants and Refugees together with the universal Church on the same day.

Explanation: The CRBC decided before that the Taiwan Church celebrates the Day for Migrants and Refugees on the last Sunday of September. In order to celebrate together with the universal Church, from 2016 on, the Taiwan Church will celebrate this day on January 17, with the universal Church.

Resolution: Approved.

Memorandum:

Seminar on Missionaries of Mercy

Lecturer: Msgr. Ivan Santus

Venue: 2F CRBC Administrative Bldg.

Date: 9:30-11:30 pm, Thursday of December 3, 2015

•International Eucharistic Congress

Date: January 24-31, 2016

Venue: Cebu, Philippines

• The Closing Ceremony for the Year of Consecrated Life in Taiwan Catholic Church: special program for the communion of consecrated life persons

Date: 9:30am -3:30 pm, February 3, 2016

Venue: Stella Matutina Girls' High School

• 2016 CRBC Spring Standing Committee Meeting

Date: 10:00 am, March 18, 2016

Venue: 4F CRBC Secretariat Administrative Building (39 An Ju Street, Taipei)

•2016 CRBC Spring Plenary Assembly

Date: March 28-31, 2016

Venue: 4F CRBC Secretariat Administrative Building (39 An Ju Street, Taipei)

• CRBC and AMRSMW Joint Meeting

Date: 10:00am - 3:00pm, Thursday of April 27, 2016

- Venue: Central Building
- National Eucharistic Congress

Date: 10:00am - 4:00pm, May 28, 2016

Venue: Stadium of Changhua

• The 11th FABC Plenary Assembly

Date: November 28 – December 4, 2016

Venue: Colombo, Sri Lanka (Bishop Philip Huang is entitled to attend the meeting)

Theme: Joy of the Gospel and Family in light of the Synod (not exact wording)



Homily by the Archbishop Savio Hon Tai-Fai

On the joyful occasion of the third anniversary of Pope Francis' Pontificate, I would like to greet all of you today. In a special way I would like to greet Msgr. Paul Russell, the Papal Representative, His Grace Msgr. John Hung, Archbishop of Taipei, my dear brother Bishops, Priests, Religious and lay faithful of the Church in Taiwan. I also extend a respectful welcome to the distinguished guests and the local civil authorities.

The fourth Sunday of Lent brings us ever closer to the very heart of the liturgical year, that is, to the celebrations of Holy Week and the Easter Triduum. Today, the Word of God to which the Church invites us to ponder focus our attention on compassion and reconciliation, which is also central to theme of this Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy inaugurated by the Holy Father.

In the desert God fed his people with manna, until the day that they entered the Promised Land. No longer was there manna for the Israelites, who that year ate of the yield of the land of Canaan (Jos 5:12). At the end of their pilgrimage to the Promised Land, the people received it as a gift where they tilled the soil and celebrated the Passover for the first time with the produce of the land. They were filled with joy for the Passover: the definitive liberation from the slavery of Egypt and God's loving presence. In the Paschal celebration the experience of God's unfailing Providence inspired the psalmist to proclaim: Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

God's Providence is made manifest in our day in the ministry of the Holy Father whose love for all of God's People shines brightly in the words and gestures that have marked the past three years of his Petrine ministry. With great determination, Pope Francis is committed to showing the world the great Mercy of God. He is likened to that Merciful Father in today's



Gospel who ran to his prodigal son, embraced him and kissed him. Thus, Pope Francis announced an extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy to bring back the lost, to strengthen the wavering and to reconfirm us all in the Faith of Chirst.

The Holy Father has many gifts, but a singing voice is not one of them. And yet he has mobilized the Church to sing beautiful songs - Evangelii Gaudium, Laudato Sì, Vultus Misericordiae – inviting Christians and all people of good will to discover anew the Joy of meeting with Christ, challenging them to take care of mother earth, our common home, and to rediscover the inviolable dignity of every person, especially of the poor.

Pope Francis has challenged the small and the great of this world to put people ahead of ideologies and to put the human person before the pursuit of profits at any cost; to welcome the stranger who is forced to flee his homeland in search for peace, food, and work with dignity. He has reminded us of the supreme value of marriage and family, of the singular role of the husband and wife, of the father and mother in the life of family 48

that is threatened today by destructive ideologies and a quest for personal pleasure and comfort at any cost. The Holy Father has asked the Church to sing a beautiful song that may brought peace and hope to the world.

While the prodigal son was still a long way off, his father caught sight of him, and was filled with compassion. He ran to his son, embraced him and kissed him (Lk 15:20). This scene reminds me of the first words that Pope Francis spoke from the central loggia of Saint Peter's Basilica after his election. His brother Cardinals had gone almost to the ends of the earth to get the next successor of the Apostle Peter! Yes, the Pope was chosen from afar, but he has brought the Petrine ministry closer to the far corners of the earth. Soon after his election he traveled to Brazil to meet with millions of young people on the shores of the Atlantic Ocean for World Youth Day. Since then he has also traveled to Africa, Asia, North and Central America, carrying the message of reconciliation, peace, communion and hope to Christians and non-Christians, to adherents of the many different religions of the world, and even to those who have no faith in God. He has made the successor of Peter accessible and close to the people, especially to the poor, the sick, the marginalized: all those who are in one way or the other excluded. He has called Ecclesiastics from the remotest parts of the world to sit in consistory with him, making them Cardinals to serve the Church. In this way, he has affirmed the importance of the Church in the periphery and of those whom the worldly power had underestimated as insignificant.

The Holy Father has also given the world an example of collegial leadership in the Church, creating the group of 9 Cardinals from different continents to work with him for the reform of the Roman Curia and to propose ways of moving forward in responding to the most pressing issues of the Church in today's world. His historic meeting with the Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Russia and his meetings with the President of the United States, the President of Cuba, and other world leaders have brought new hope for peace.

The past three years of the Pope Francis' Pontificate have also been marked by many misunderstandings, thus undue criticisms as well, mostly provoked by inaccurate and misleading comments of some people. However, he has remained undaunted and firm in the total trust in Christ.

Whoever is in Christ is a new creation: the old things have passed away; behold, new things have come (2 Cor. 5:18). These words of St. Paul express well the newness and astonishing vibrancy, drawn from Christ, in Pope Francis' extraordinary efforts to renew and deepen positive diplomatic relations between the Holy See and other nations. Notwithstanding what the media have reported about the good climate of the so-called talks between Beijing and the Vatican, I want to assure all of you that Our Beloved Holy Father as the Universal Shepherd of the Church loves the people of Taiwan and keeps all of you close to his caring heart.

Dear brothers and sisters, as we celebrate the third anniversary of the Holy Father's election as successor to the Apostle Peter, let us rejoice and give thanks to God for providing such a remarkable shepherd for his Church and such a moral leader for the world.

In closing, as I bring you heartfelt greetings from the Holy Father, as well as from the Cardinal Filoni, Prefect of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples, I assure you of the Holy See's solicitude for all of you. Let us also not forget, as Pope Francis often requests, to pray for him.

God bless you all.

Address by Monsignor Paul Russell Chargé d'Affaires a.i. of the Holy See

Dear Archbishop Hon, Archbishops and Bishops, Honorable Civil Authorities,

Especially Vice-President-Elect Mr Chen Chien-jen, Dr. Chiang Yi-wen Member of Control Yuan, Director of the National Palace Museum Mrs Fung Ming-chu,Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. Leo Lee Chen-jan, Vice-Minister of National Defense Admiral Chen Yeong-kang, and,

Your Excellency Ambassador Ludwig Keke, Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, and Your Excellencies the Ambassadors and Honorable Representatives of Countries together with your spouses,

Venerable Religious Authorities of Taiwan,

Dear Fathers, Sisters, and seminarians,

Dear Friends,

Good morning!

Thank you most sincerely for your presence at this Holy Mass for His Holiness Pope Francis on the occasion of the Third Anniversary of his Election. Whenever Pope Francis holds his Wednesday General Audience, Audiences for particular groups, and the Sunday Angelus, he always ends by asking those present to pray for him. He always says, "Don't forget to pray for me!" So the best thing we can do today is to say a prayer for Pope Francis.

Over the past three years, it seems no exaggeration to say that the world community has been captivated by the person and the message of Pope



Francis. People from many different countries, of various religions or no religion at all, from all levels of society see in Pope Francis a man who lives Jesus' teachings - expressing the most sublime human values - in a way which is completely coherent. To use a common expression, Pope Francis "walks the talk". More than one diplomatic colleague - and we are supposed to be distinguished by our objective and sober analysis - has described Pope Francis as a "rock star". Pope Francis has tried to help all of us refocus our attention on the most important and the greatest issues of our time. Among these are greater kindness, compassion and mercy in our human relationships; this is the reason for his proclamation of a Jubilee Year of Mercy. He has called for a world-wide moratorium on the application of the death penalty in those few countries where it still exists. He has urged greater attention to people who are suffering in the world: the poor, the disadvantaged, the marginalized; those who are ill; those who are grieving; those who are migrants and refugees - especially those from war-torn Syria. He has tried to help us understand our moral

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responsibility to "care for our common home" in his Encyclical Letter Laudato si'; respect and care for the environment are inseparably linked to respect and care for each and every human person. One of the most important titles of the Pope – borrowed from the ancient Romans – is "pontifex maximus" – the great bridge-builder. Of course, the greatest gap needing to be bridged is that between God and human persons; but we also see Pope Francis building important bridges between peoples, religions and cultures; we have only to recall his role in bringing together the United States and Cuba after 55 years of estrangement and his recent first-ever meeting with Patriarch Kirill of the Russian Orthodox Church, moving towards healing a separation which dates from the year 1054.

Therefore, we thank God for the Election of Pope Francis and ask God to continue to bless him, and help him continue to inspire us, lead us closer to Jesus, and to bring peoples together in greater compassion, understanding and peace.

Pope Francis' inherent goodness and desire to reach out have been very evident in the relationship between the Republic of China (Taiwan) and the Holy See. Our diplomatic relations, which date from 23 October 1942, as I have said on numerous occasions, are based on shared convictions about the dignity of the human person; promotion of human rights, especially religious freedom and freedom of conscience; respect for the rule of law among nations and within nations; respect for basic democratic principles and the promotion of democratic values, including freedom of thought and expression; a common commitment to the promotion of peace in the world and a reduction of tensions among peoples and nations, especially in this area of the world; the desire to have friendly relationships with all peoples and nations. These important shared values provide a very rich, solid, enduring basis for our friendship. These are not only nice words, but the expression of a reality which – for those who want to see it – is obvious in many concrete facts. I said that Pope Francis "walks the talk";

let us see how the Holy See and the Republic of China (Taiwan) have "walked the talk" in recent years.

The Holy See's resources in money and personnel are limited; thus the Holy See usually concentrates its presence in countries with a vibrant and increasing Catholic population. Although the Catholic Church in Taiwan is small compared with other States where the Holy See maintains an Apostolic Nunciature with permanent, resident diplomatic personnel, the Holy See maintains its Taipei Nunciature. Looking objectively at other countries, the situation of Taiwan is remarkable.

The Republic of China (Taiwan) enjoys very high levels of interaction with the Holy See. In recent years, Taiwan-Vatican relations have experienced a great degree of activity, including some events which had never previously occurred in our relationship. On 2 December 2011, the Holy See and the Republic of China signed an education cooperation agreement, which was ratified by both parties and took effect in December 2012. This is the first-ever international agreement between the Republic of China and the Holy See.

The Holy See and the Republic of China have exchanged a large number of high-level visits. On the occasion of the election of Pope Francis, President Ma Ying-jeou and his wife traveled to the Vatican and took part in the Pope's Installation Mass. After the Mass, President Ma and his wife were received by Pope Francis and had a conversation with him. This marks the first time in history that the President of the Republic of China met a reigning pontiff. Similarly, Vice-President Wu Den-yih traveled to the Vatican in April 2014 and participated in the Canonization Mass of Pope St John XXIII and Pope St John Paul II. After Mass, Vice-President Wu met Pope Francis. Foreign Minister David Lin traveled to the Vatican in October 2014 and participated in the Beatification Mass of Pope Paul VI. After Mass, Foreign Minister Lin was received privately by Secretary 54

of State Cardinal Parolin.

There have been many visits of high-level Holy See officials to Taiwan. At different times in the past years, Taiwan has seen the visit of the Prefect and other officials of the Congregation for Catholic Education, the Prefect and other officials of the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life, the President and other officials of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue, the President and other officials of the Pontifical Council "Cor Unum", the President and other officials of the Pontifical Council for Health Pastoral Care, the Secretary and other officials of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples (multiple visits), the Secretary and other officials of the Pontifical Council for Culture, the President of the Pontifical Council for the Family, the Secretary of the Pontifical Academy of Science, the President of the Pontifical Commission for International Eucharistic Congresses, the Director of the Vatican Observatory, and several other lower-level visits from officials of the Secretariat of State and the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace. The Holy See has chosen to hold several important international conferences in Taiwan, gathering hundreds of participants from an impressive number of countries. I can say with absolute certainty that no country in the world has seen so many visits of so many Holy See officials.

Our bilateral relationship has seen significant cultural events. The Pontifical Sistine Choir offered performances in Hong Kong, Macau, and Taiwan in September 2015. This was the first time the Choir traveled to Asia and the first time it performed in Taiwan. The Choir, the Pope's personal choir, can only travel on express permission of the Pope. The Office for the Liturgical Celebrations of the Supreme Pontiff and the National Palace Museum has just opened a Special Exhibition of 60 precious liturgical items from the Apostolic Sacristy. Never before in history has such a large collection of objects from the Apostolic Sacristy been exhibited anywhere in the world.

We are planning further religious, educational and cultural collaborations.

Cardinal Versaldi, Prefect of the Congregation for Catholic Education, will come to Taiwan in May. Perhaps we can expand the provisions of our 2011 education cooperation agreement. The Holy See Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue and Daoist Religious Authorities will hold the first-ever official High-Level Christian-Daoist Dialogue in Taiwan in October 2016; we are already working hard on this project. Next year, in 2017, the same Pontifical Council will hold the Sixth High-Level Worldwide Christian-Buddhist Dialogue in Taiwan; work has begun on this project as well.

Whenever there is an important disaster in some country of the world and the Pope calls for international solidarity, the Republic of China – perhaps unique of all the countries of the world – never fails to respond to the Pope's call. Perhaps the Republic of China and the Holy See will be able to announce important new cooperative initiatives in the future in the area of expanded humanitarian assistance, especially in health-care.

I am confident that the Republic of China and the Holy See will continue to break new ground in our relationship.

In closing, I thank all those who worked hard to make the arrangements for this celebration and the reception which will follow, most notably Archbishop Savio Hon, Father Otfried Chan. Fr Charles Pan and the staff of the Bishops' Conference. I thank the Bishops and the priests who have come to concelebrate this Mass, as well as those who have had other liturgical roles at this Mass, especially the seminarians and the choir. To all those who have come to this Mass, thank you all so much! The Pope is honored by your presence! God bless you all!

Address by Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs Leo Chen-jan Lee

The Most Reverend Savio Hon Tai-Fai, Secretary of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples; the Reverend Monsignor Paul Russell, Charge d'Affaires of the Holy See; the Most Reverend John Hung Shan-Chuan, Archbishop of Taipei; Most Reverend Bishops; Vice President-elect Chen; Mrs. Chiang, Member of the Control Yuan; Director Fung; Deputy Minister Chen; Your Excellency Ambassador Ludwig Keke, Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, and Your Excellencies the Ambassadors and Honorable Representatives of Countries; Distinguished guests; Ladies and gentlemen:

Good morning!

I am truly honored to be here, at the invitation of the Apostolic Nunciature of the Holy See in Taipei, for this Holy Mass to celebrate the Third Anniversary of the Pontificate of His Holiness Pope Francis. On behalf of the government and people of the Republic of China (Taiwan), I want to convey to His Holiness the Pope, as well as to the Most Reverend Savio Hon Tai-Fai and the Reverend Monsignor Paul Russell, our sincerest congratulations.

Since assuming office in 2013, His Holiness has travelled extensively around the world. In the last year alone, His Holiness has visited Bosnia, Ecuador, Bolivia, Paraguay, Cuba, the United States, the United Nations, Kenya, Uganda, Central Africa, and Mexico, where he has helped give a voice to people whose lives have been blighted by natural disasters, poverty, and the ravages of war. He has met with religious and political leaders in every country in the hope that dialogue and love can dissolve the barriers and hatred that so often divide people, and that all forms of discrimination, armed conflict, and poverty can be eliminated. The humility and loving concern that His Holiness has so clearly shown in both word and deed have rightly earned him recognition as the People's Pope.

The Republic of China is deeply inspired by the faith and compassion that His Holiness calls for, and, as a committed member of the global community, has responded with concrete actions. In the past year, our country has joined in several of the Holy See's humanitarian endeavors, assisting refugees from northern Iraq, fighting Ebola in West Africa, supporting earthquake relief efforts in Nepal, and donating relief aid to Guatemala after it was hit by a mudslide. In the wake of a strong earthquake that hit Tainan in February causing severe damage and heavy casualties, His Holiness expressed his condolences through the Holy See Secretariat of State. He also donated US\$50,000 to the Chinese Regional Bishops' Conference through the Pontifical Council Cor Unum for Human and Christian Development, to assist citizens affected by the earthquake. We sincerely thank His Holiness for extending a hand of friendship to us in our hour of need. We are profoundly touched by his love and benevolence.

The Holy See and the National Palace Museum are currently holding a joint event called Treasures from Heaven—A Special Exhibition of Artifacts from the Holy See. This exhibition, with assistance from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, is the largest ever outside the Holy See to feature items from the Office for the Liturgical Celebrations of the Supreme Pontiff. Adding to its significance is the fact that it is a major cultural event held by the Catholic Church in the Asia-Pacific region. Archbishop Piero Marini was appointed by the Vatican as a special envoy to Taiwan and attended the opening ceremony of the exhibition. These developments highlight the close cooperation and solid friendship between the Republic of China and the Holy See.

As we continue to build on our 73 years of diplomatic relations, the R.O.C. remains committed to the core values of freedom, democracy, human rights, and compassion. We will enhance our humanitarian partnership and work jointly with the Holy See for world peace and well-being.

Ladies and gentlemen, I am delighted to be here today for the third anniversary of the Pontificate of His Holiness Pope Francis. I want to conclude my remarks now by wishing His Holiness the very best of health, the Holy See continued success, and peace and happiness for one and all.

MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS FOR THE 24th WORLD DAY OF THE SICK 2016

Entrusting Oneself to the Merciful Jesus like Mary: "Do whatever he tells you" (Jn 2:5)

Pear Brothers and Sisters,

The twenty-fourth World Day of the Sick offers me an opportunity to draw particularly close to you, dear friends who are ill, and to those who care for you.

This year, since the Day of the Sick will be solemnly celebrated in the Holy Land, I wish to propose a meditation on the Gospel account of the wedding feast of Cana (Jn 2: 1-11), where Jesus performed his first miracle through the intervention of his Mother. The theme chosen - *Entrusting Oneself to the Merciful Jesus like Mary: "Do whatever he tells you"* (Jn 2:5) is quite fitting in light of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy. The main Eucharistic celebration of the Day will take place on 11 February 2016, the liturgical memorial of Our Lady of Lourdes, in Nazareth itself, where "the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us" (Jn 1:14). In Nazareth, Jesus began his salvific mission, applying to himself the words of the Prophet Isaiah, as we are told by the Evangelist Luke: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord" (Lk 4:18-19).

Illness, above all grave illness, always places human existence in crisis and brings with it questions that dig deep. Our first response may at times be one of rebellion: Why has this happened to me? We can feel desperate, thinking that all is lost, that things no longer have meaning...

In these situations, faith in God is on the one hand tested, yet at the same time

can reveal all of its positive resources. Not because faith makes illness, pain, or the questions which they raise, disappear, but because it offers a key by which we can discover the deepest meaning of what we are experiencing; a key that helps us to see how illness can be the way to draw nearer to Jesus who walks at our side, weighed down by the Cross. And this key is given to us by Mary, our Mother, who has known this way at first hand.

At the wedding feast of Cana, Mary is the thoughtful woman who sees a serious problem for the spouses: the wine, the symbol of the joy of the feast, has run out. Mary recognizes the difficulty, in some way makes it her own, and acts swiftly and discreetly. She does not simply look on, much less spend time in finding fault, but rather, she turns to Jesus and presents him with the concrete problem: "They have no wine" (*Jn* 2:3). And when Jesus tells her that it is not yet the time for him to reveal himself (cf. v. 4), she says to the servants: "Do whatever he tells you" (v. 5). Jesus then performs the miracle, turning water into wine, a wine that immediately appears to be the best of the whole celebration. What teaching can we draw from this mystery of the wedding feast of Cana for the World Day of the Sick?

The wedding feast of Cana is an image of the Church: at the centre there is Jesus who in his mercy performs a sign; around him are the disciples, the first fruits of the new community; and beside Jesus and the disciples is Mary, the provident and prayerful Mother. Mary partakes of the joy of ordinary people and helps it to increase; she intercedes with her Son on behalf of the spouses and all the invited guests. Nor does Jesus refuse the request of his Mother. How much hope there is in that event for all of us! We have a Mother with benevolent and watchful eyes, like her Son; a heart that is maternal and full of mercy, like him; hands that want to help, like the hands of Jesus who broke bread for those who were hungry, touched the sick and healed them. All this fills us with trust and opens our hearts to the grace and mercy of Christ. Mary's intercession makes us experience the consolation for which the apostle Paul blesses God: "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and God of all encouragement, who encourages us in our affliction, so that we may be able to encourage those who are in any affliction with the encouragement with which we ourselves are encouraged by God. For as Christ's sufferings overflow to us, so through Christ does our encouragement also overflow" (*2 Cor* 1:3-5). Mary is the "comforted" Mother who comforts her children.

At Cana the distinctive features of Jesus and his mission are clearly seen: he comes to the help of those in difficulty and need. Indeed, in the course of his messianic ministry he would heal many people of illnesses, infirmities and evil spirits, give sight to the blind, make the lame walk, restore health and dignity to lepers, raise the dead, and proclaim the good news to the poor (cf. *Lk*7:21-22). Mary's request at the wedding feast, suggested by the Holy Spirit to her maternal heart, clearly shows not only Jesus' messianic power but also his mercy.

In Mary's concern we see reflected the tenderness of God. This same tenderness is present in the lives of all those persons who attend the sick and understand their needs, even the most imperceptible ones, because they look upon them with eyes full of love. How many times has a mother at the bedside of her sick child, or a child caring for an elderly parent, or a grandchild concerned for a grandparent, placed his or her prayer in the hands of Our Lady! For our loved ones who suffer because of illness we ask first for their health. Jesus himself showed the presence of the Kingdom of God specifically through his healings: "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them" (Mt 11:4-5). But love animated by faith makes us ask for them something greater than physical health: we ask for peace, a serenity in life that comes from the heart and is God's gift, the fruit of the Holy Spirit, a gift which the Father never denies to those who ask him for it with trust.

In the scene of Cana, in addition to Jesus and his Mother, there are the

"servants", whom she tells: "Do whatever he tells you" (Jn2:5). Naturally, the miracle takes place as the work of Christ; however, he wants to employ human assistance in performing this miracle. He could have made the wine appear directly in the jars. But he wants to rely upon human cooperation, and so he asks the servants to fill them with water. How wonderful and pleasing to God it is to be servants of others! This more than anything else makes us like Jesus, who "did not come to be served but to serve" (Mk 10:45). These unnamed people in the Gospel teach us a great deal. Not only do they obey, but they obey generously: they fill the jars to the brim (cf. Jn 2:7). They trust the Mother and carry out immediately and well what they are asked to do, without complaining, without second thoughts.

On this World Day of the Sick let us ask Jesus in his mercy, through the intercession of Mary, his Mother and ours, to grant to all of us this same readiness to be serve those in need, and, in particular, our infirm brothers and sisters. At times this service can be tiring and burdensome, yet we are certain that the Lord will surely turn our human efforts into something divine. We too can be hands, arms and hearts which help God to perform his miracles, so often hidden. We too, whether healthy or sick, can offer up our toil and sufferings like the water which filled the jars at the wedding feast of Cana and was turned into the finest wine. By quietly helping those who suffer, as in illness itself, we take our daily cross upon our shoulders and follow the Master (cf. *Lk* 9:23). Even though the experience of suffering will always remain a mystery, Jesus helps us to reveal its meaning.

If we can learn to obey the words of Mary, who says: "Do whatever he tells you", Jesus will always change the water of our lives into precious wine. Thus this World Day of the Sick, solemnly celebrated in the Holy Land, will help fulfil the hope which I expressed in the Bull of Indiction of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy: 'I trust that this Jubilee year celebrating the mercy of God will foster an encounter with [Judaism and Islam] and with other noble religious traditions; may it open us to even more fervent dialogue so that we might know and understand one another better; may it eliminate every form of closed-mindedness and disrespect, and drive out every form of violence and discrimination' (Misericordiae Vultus, 23). Every hospital and nursing home can be a visible sign and setting in which to promote the culture of encounter and peace, where the experience of illness and suffering, along with professional and fraternal assistance, helps to overcome every limitation and division.

For this we are set an example by the two Religious Sisters who were canonized last May: Saint Marie-Alphonsine Danil Ghattas and Saint Mary of Jesus Crucified Baouardy, both daughters of the Holy Land. The first was a witness to meekness and unity, who bore clear witness to the importance of being responsible for one another other, living in service to one another. The second, a humble and illiterate woman, was docile to the Holy Spirit and became an instrument of encounter with the Muslim world.

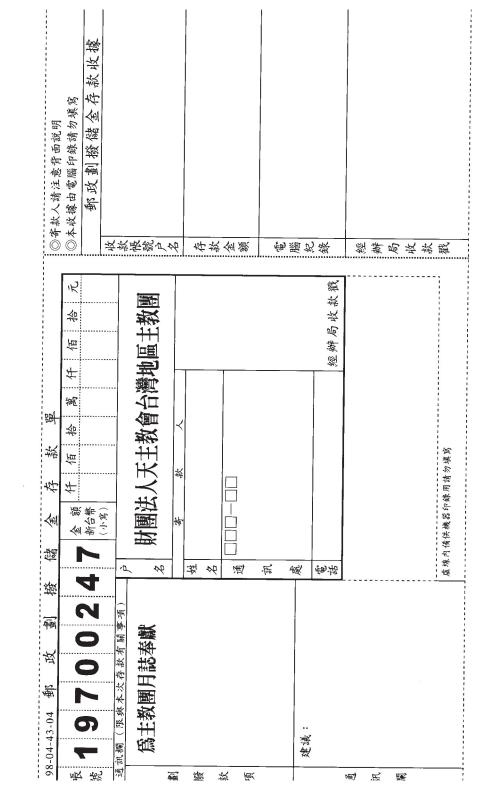
To all those who assist the sick and the suffering I express my confident hope that they will draw inspiration from Mary, the Mother of Mercy. "May the sweetness of her countenance watch over us in this Holy Year, so that all of us may rediscover the joy of God's tenderness" (*ibid.*, 24), allow it to dwell in our hearts and express it in our actions! Let us entrust to the Virgin Mary our trials and tribulations, together with our joys and consolations. Let us beg her to turn her eyes of mercy towards us, especially in times of pain, and make us worthy of beholding, today and always, the merciful face of her Son Jesus!

With this prayer for all of you, I send my Apostolic Blessing.

From the Vatican, 15 September 2015

Memorial of Our Lady of Sorrows

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