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教宗方濟各 2017年復活節文告

注 愛的弟兄姐妹們·復活節快樂!

今天·教會在全球重申首批門徒們充滿驚喜的宣報:「耶穌復活了!」「正如祂所預言·祂真的復活了!」

古代的逾越節,猶太民族紀念他們從奴役中獲得釋放的日子,現今達致圓滿:藉著祂的復活,耶穌基督把我們從罪惡及死亡的奴役中解救出來,為我們開啟了抵達永生的道路。

我們眾人若順從罪惡驅使,便會偏離正道,走上流浪之途,有如迷途的羔羊。可是天主,我們的善牧親自來尋找我們,而且為了拯救我們,自我貶抑直至接受十字架的恥辱。如此,我們今天才能宣報說:「善牧復活了,祂曾為自己的羊犧牲了性命。阿肋路亞!」(《羅馬禮彌撒經書》復活第四主日〈領主詠〉)

世世代代以來,基督善牧不辭勞苦地尋找我們,祂這些在現世荒漠中迷失的弟兄們。祂藉著苦難的標記,慈悲聖愛的創傷,吸引我們走上祂的道路——生命的道路。今天,祂也背負著我們如此眾多受到各種罪惡壓迫的弟兄姊妹。

復活的善牧去尋找走失在孤獨和被邊緣化迷宮裏的人; 祂藉著那些懂得以尊敬和溫柔相待的弟兄姊妹與他們相遇,讓他們聆聽祂的聲音,一個令人難忘且呼喚他們與天主建立友誼的聲音。

願復活的基督善牧陪伴那些因武裝衝突、恐怖攻擊、饑荒和政權壓迫而被迫離鄉背井的人,讓這些強制性移民無論走到哪裏都能遇到弟兄姐妹們,在同行中與他們分享食糧與希望。

在子民這些既複雜又時而戲劇性的處境中,願復活的主引領那些尋求正義與和平者的步履;賜予國家執政者勇氣去阻止衝突擴散,以及停止武器販賣。

在這些日子裏,求復活的基督特別支持那些努力向 敘利亞平民提供救濟和安慰的人。可愛卻備受折磨的敘 利亞,成了一個不斷播撒恐懼與死亡的戰爭的受害者。 願復活的主也賜給中東和平,尤其是聖地,還有伊拉克 和葉門。

願我們的善牧不忘關懷南蘇丹、蘇丹、索馬里和剛果民主共和國的人民,他們經受長年的戰爭,又因非洲一些地區的嚴重饑荒而苦上加苦。

願復活的主耶穌支持那些維護社會公益的人,尤其是拉丁美洲,那裏有時出現政治和社會緊張情勢,甚至發生暴力。願他們能建起溝通的橋樑,恒心抵拒貪腐,尋找和平的有效途徑來發展和鞏固民主體制,完全尊重依法治國。

願基督善牧幫助仍被流血衝突蹂躪的烏克蘭重獲和 諧,陪伴他們的行動,並且安慰那些遭受悲劇後果的 人。

願復活的主不斷使歐洲大陸滿溢祂的降福,把希望 賜予那些因失業而經歷危機和困境的人,尤其青年人。

親愛的弟兄姐妹們,今年我們各教會的基督徒一起 慶祝復活節。為此,在世界各地都同聲迴響著這個最美 的宣報:「正如祂所預言,祂真的復活了!」祂戰勝了 罪惡與死亡的黑暗,願祂賜予我們的時代平安。

復活節快樂!

(梵蒂岡中文電臺翻譯)



教宗方濟各

第三十二屆世界青年日文告

「全能者在我身上行了大事。」

(路加福音1:49)

未見愛的青年朋友們:

我們又再次踏上旅程,繼續我們在克拉科夫所慶祝的第三十一屆世界青年日,以及與青年們一同所慶祝的「慈悲禧年」。為了能具體回應時代的挑戰,我們選擇了聖教宗若望保祿二世和慈悲使徒聖女傅天娜作我們的嚮導,我們當時體驗到強而有力的手足情誼與喜樂,給世界帶來希望的標記。我們之間不同的旗幟和語言並沒有成為對立與分裂的理由,反而使我們有機會打開心門,建立橋梁,互相連結。

在克拉科夫世界青年日的閉幕典禮之際,我宣布了我們朝聖之旅的下一站:賴天主的助佑,我們在2019年將前往巴拿馬。此行將有萬世萬代都稱她有福的童貞瑪利亞相伴(參閱路1:48)。上屆世界青年日主題為「真福八端」,而我們這趟新的旅程則承襲上屆的精神,並鼓勵我們繼續向前邁進,不僅要珍惜過往的美好回憶,更要在此刻鼓起勇氣,以望德邁進未來。而這些態度全都展現在納厄肋年輕的瑪利亞身上,

並藉由接下來三屆的世界青 年日所選定的主題明白地表 達出來。今年2017年我們 要默想瑪利亞的信德,她在 〈謝主曲〉中說道:「全能 者在我身上行了大事」(路 1:49)。明年2018年主題則 是「瑪利亞,不要害怕,因 為妳在天主前獲得了寵幸」 (路1:30)。我們將默觀童 貞瑪利亞勇於接受天使報喜 的愛德。至於2019年的主題 則來自瑪利亞對天使充滿望 德的回應:「看,我是上主 的婢女, 願照祢的話成就於 我吧! (路1:38)

2018年10月,教會將召開世界主教會議,主題,清年、信德與聖召分辨」。主教們將會討論你們青年人在這時代的挑戰中是怎樣經驗信仰生活的,也是不經驗信仰生活的發展,以計劃人生的發展,獻身生活或司鐸聖召。我個人,無持在準備前往巴拿馬世界青

年日之際,世界主教會議的 籌備也能同步而行。

我們的時代不需要「沙發 馬鈴薯」的青年

根據路加福音的描述, 當瑪利亞一領受天使的報 喜,並且說了「願意」成為 救主的母親, 之後她便立刻 啟程探訪已懷胎六個月的表 姊依撒伯爾(參閱路1:36、 39)。瑪利亞非常年輕, 她被告知一份大恩寵,但同 時也是大挑戰。上主雖向她 保證祂的臨在與支持,然而 在她心裡還是百思不解。可 是瑪利亞沒有因此就足不出 門,或者因為害怕而手足無 措或自傲。瑪利亞不是這樣 的人——貪圖安逸,需要一 座沙發,要感到安全舒適。 她才不是沙發馬鈴薯呢! (參閱〈克拉科夫世青徹夜 祈禱道理〉,2016年7月30 日)年邁的表姊需要援助之 手,她毫不猶豫就立即動 身。

全能者在我身上行了大事

 利亞領受的諸多莫大恩賜· 其中當然包含信德。信任天 主,是無價的恩賜。但人也 必須願意領受恩賜。依撒伯 爾為此祝福瑪利亞,而瑪利 亞則以〈謝主曲〉回應,裡 面是這樣寫的:「全能者在 我身上行了大事。」(49 節)

天主一旦碰觸青年男 女的心靈·他們便能成就 些大事。全能者在瑪利亞 生命中所成就的「大事」

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也使我們回想個人的生命 旅程:它絕非是漫無目的 的到處游盪,而是一耥朝聖 之旅:儘管路途上總有未知 數和煎熬,但在天主內卻總 能找到圓滿(2015年8月15 日三鐘經)。你們或許會問 我:「可是,聖父,我有限 度,還是個罪人,我能做什 麼?」當上主召叫我們,祂 不會只看我們的現況,或我 們曾經做過什麼。相反的, 在召叫的當下, 祂看到我們 的潛能,看到我們能給予的 所有的愛。你們可以效法年 輕的瑪利亞,讓你們的生命 成為使世界更加美好的徐 徑。耶穌下在召叫你們,在 自己和別人的生命和歷史上 留下印記。(〈克拉科夫世 青徹夜祈禱談話〉,2016年 7月30日)

年輕不是與過去脫節

瑪利亞當時才剛度過 青少年階段,跟你們一樣。 但在〈謝主曲〉中,她唱出

自己民族的讚頌及其歷史。 所以年輕不代表就與過去脫 節。個人的歷史也是人類源 遠流長的共同旅程的一部 分。我們跟瑪利亞一樣,屬 於自己的民族。歷史教導我 們,即使教會要在犴風巨浪 上航行,天主的手總是引領 她,助佑她度過艱難。教會 的真實經驗不像快閃行動: 人們約好在同一地點見面, 完成該做的事之後就分道揚 鑣 教會繼承了悠久的傳 統,代代相傳,被每一個信 友的經驗富裕。因此,你們 個人的歷史在教會偉大的歷 史中也占有一席之地。

留意過往,也能幫助我們保持開放,不去限制天主要如何在我們內及透過我們去行動,也能幫助我們自己同樣地要開放,接受被召叫,成為天主救恩計畫的工具。身為青年人,只要你們認出天主在你們生活中施行的慈悲及大能,你們也可以成就大事、肩負更大的責

任。

我想問問大家幾個問 題。你們怎麼在記憶裡「儲 存工生命中的事件與經驗 呢?你們怎麼處理存在記 憶中的事實和圖像呢?你 們當中的一些人,曾被生 命的處境所傷害,或許想把 過去「重新啟動」,從頭來 過好忘記一切。但我想提醒 大家,每個聖人都有過去, 而每個罪人都有未來。蚌殼 內有傷口才能產出珍珠,诱 過耶穌的愛, 祂治癒我們的 心靈,將我們的生活化為珍 珠。就如聖保祿所言,在我 們的軟弱上上主彰顯祂的大 能。(參閱格後12:9)

但我們的記憶也不該 被塞得滿滿的,跟硬碟容量 一樣。我們也不能把什麼東 西都儲存在「雲端」上。我 們需要學習去把過去的事件 轉化為饒富活力的事實,能 讓人反省、從中學習教訓並 尋得意義,有益於現今與未 來。這項任務誠屬不易,卻 實為必要:我們從中發現天 主愛的線條——貫穿了我們 整個的人生。

很多人說年輕人分心 和膚淺。他們可真是大錯特 錯!當然,我們要明認自己 需要反省生活,然後將生活 導向未來。有段過去不等同 擁有一段歷史。在生活中有 滿滿的記憶,但其中有多少 能成為回憶的一部分?其中 有多少對我們的心靈是事關 重要的,目能有助於賦予生 命意義的呢?我們看到, 在大眾媒體中,年輕人的 面孔出現在人數眾多的照 片上,講述一些大概是真實 的事件,但我們不清楚其中 又有多少會成為真實的「歷 史」——能夠被傳達,而目 是具有目的與意義的經驗。 電視有很多「實境秀」,但 所訴說的並非是真的故事, 只是主角在攝影機前出現, 心無大志地度過一天又一 天。你們不要被現實的假象

誤導!你們要當自己人生歷 史的主角,決定自己的未 來!

如何連結,追隨瑪利亞的 芳表

瑪利亞心中珍藏所遇到的事情,並將一切默存,在心中反覆思想(參閱路2:19、51)。這位謙遜的納匝肋年輕女子以身作則,教導我們保留好我們人生事件的回憶,把零碎事件串聯起來,構成一幅鑲嵌畫。我們要怎樣學習去具體地付諸實行?讓我提供你們一些建議。

在每天結束的時候,我們要停下幾分鐘回顧所度過的美好時刻和遇到的挑戰的發生的好事以及所犯的錯。用這樣的方式,在天可,在天可自己的感恩、遺憾,如果你自己的信賴。如果你願意,你也可以在筆記本裡寫下來成為一種靈修日記。這

意味著:在生活中、藉著生活和為生活祈禱,這確實會幫助你去意識到天主在你們每一個人生活中的偉大作為。聖奧斯定說,我們可以在我們一望無際的記憶領域中尋找天主。(參閱《懺悔錄》十8、12)

在唸〈謝主曲〉時,我 們明瞭瑪利亞是多麼明白天 主的話語。她的每段歌詞都 能與舊約的內容相聯。這位 年輕的耶穌的母親用心神體 會她民族的頌濤。無疑的, 她的父母和祖父母都曾經這 樣教導過她。將信仰一代傳 給一代是多麼重要!從我們 所承襲世代相傳的祈禱中蘊 藏了珍貴的寶藏,這一般人 生活中的顯修,我們稱為民 間敬禮。瑪利亞承襲了她相 先的信仰, 並融合在完全屬 於她自己的頌歌當中,同 時,這也是整個教會偕同聖 母一同詠唱的頌歌。如果身 為年輕人的你,想要唱出屬 於你自己的〈謝主曲〉,讓 你本身的牛命成為全人類的 禮物,你就必須先跟過去的 傳統和先人的禱文做連結。 為了要這樣做,重要的,就 是你們必須每天持續閱讀聖 經,熟悉天主的話語,並讓 它對你們說話,同時從上主 在聖經對你們所說的話中得 到啟油,來詮釋你們每天的 牛活中所發牛的事件。在祈 禱中及诱過閱讀聖經來祈禱 (聖言誦讀),耶穌會點燃 你們心中的熱火,並照亮你 們的腳步,即便是在生命黑 暗的時刻。(參閱路24:13-35)

 新·也將成為常年讚美全能 天主的行動。「你們應信任 天主的記憶··· 祂的記憶是一 顆充滿溫柔憐憫的心、一顆 樂於滌除我們心中任何罪惡 痕跡而欣喜的心。」(參閱 〈世青彌撒講道〉·克拉克 夫·2016年7月31日)

我們看到〈謝主曲〉是 瑪利亞在探訪她年長的表姐 依撒伯爾時,從心中有感而 發的。靠著信德,敏銳的眼 光及言談,依撒伯爾幫助童 貞女更完整地了解天主將要 在她身上成就的偉大事蹟, 以及祂所交付給她的使命。 而你呢?你明白當長者和年 輕人交會時, 意義會有多麼 豐富嗎?你投注了多少的關 心在年長者身上,你關心你 的祖父母有多少?你有很好 的理由可以「展翅飛翔」, 你的內心充滿了偉大的夢 想,但你需要長者的智慧與 遠見。你要振翼和展翅,但 你要明瞭,你需要再次發現 你的根源,而目手拿起前人

有創意的忠於傳統為建設 未來

 有當我們體驗過真正的愛, 這樣才能幫助我們具體地分 辨和回應主的召叫。唯有如 此,才能帶給我們真正的幸 福。

親愛的青年人,我把我 們前往巴拿馬的旅程,以及 下一次的世界主教會議的籌 備工作,都託付於童貞瑪利 亞慈母般的轉禱。我懇請你 們記住2017年紀念的兩個 重大事件: 尋獲巴西阿帕雷 西達聖母像三百调年,以及 葡萄牙法蒂瑪聖母顯現一百 週年,如果天主允許,我 計劃在今年5月去法蒂瑪朝 聖。拉丁美洲的主保聖人之 一——聖瑪定,包瑞斯,同 時也是我們2019年世界青年 日的主保,生前每天盡他卑 微的本分。他習慣準備最好 的花送給聖母,象徵他對聖 母的孝愛之情。願你們也能 跟聖母建立起親切及友好的 關係,把你們的一切喜樂、 憂愁、掛慮都交託給她。我 保證你們絕對不會後悔!

願這位納匝肋少女—— 為要更靠近她的孩子們,以 各種不同的名號與面貌在世 界各地展現,替我們所有的 人轉求,並幫助我們歌頌上 主藉著我們或在我們身上正 在完成的偉大工程。

教宗方濟各

發自梵蒂岡

2017年2月27日·痛苦聖母 聖加俾額爾紀念日

(天主教會臺灣地區主教團 恭譯)



宗座牧函

慈悲的主與可憐的罪人

教宗方濟各 於特殊慈悲禧年閉幕時 慈悲及平安 與閱讀本函者同在

1. 這段福音正好是一個縮影,標記了過去一年我 工學思定,《若望福音釋 義》,第三十三條,5。 一名女子與耶穌相遇。 她——犯了姦淫的罪婦,按 照法律,理當受石頭砸死; 祂——毫不保留地自我交 付,以致於即將被領到苦架 上,卻藉著講道和完全的自

我奉獻,回復了梅瑟法律真 正和原本的含意。這事件的 中心既非法律、亦非法規上 的下義,而是天主的愛。天 主知道如何洞察每個人的內 心,從而得知當中最隱祕不 官的渴望:天主的愛當應高 於一切。在這福音記載中, 並非要抽象地描述「罪愆」 碰上「公義」,而是講述兩 個人的相遇:罪婦和救主。 耶穌注視婦人的雙目並從中 讀到她的內心: 祂找到婦人 希 冀 獲 得 理 解 、 寛 恕 和 釋 放的渴望。因罪愆而來的 悲苦,重新披上慈悲的愛。 為耶穌來說, 衪的評斷, 無 不依罪婦的情況,刻劃了惻 隱和同情。對那譴責罪婦並 要處死她的人,耶穌以漫長 的沉默回應; 祂是為了讓天 主的聲音,在婦人和譴責者 的良心中浮現出來。是故, 讃青婦人的群眾紛紛丟下手 中的石頭,逐一離去(參閱 若八9)。在那沉默過後, 耶穌說:「婦人!告你的人

2. 耶穌在另一情況中 清晰明切地教導同一道理: 當祂受一名法利塞人邀請共 進午餐時·一位人所共知的 罪婦趨前靠近(參閱路七36-50)。她把香液倒在耶穌的 雙腳·以眼淚洗滌·並以自 己的頭髮擦乾(參閱路七37-38)。就法利塞人的羞憤· 耶穌回答:「她的那許多罪 得了赦免·因為她愛得多; 但那少得赦免的·是愛得 少。」(路七47)

「寬恕」是天父聖愛 有形可見的標記·亦是耶穌 想藉祂整個生命去呈現的。 福音中沒有一頁可以剔除這 個愛的命令·愛到直至思地 他人。耶穌就算到自己地上 的生命最後一刻·被釘在十 字架上·祂仍然吐出寬恕上 字架上,被仍然吐出寬恕! 因為他們不知道他們做的是 甚麼。」(路廿三34)

痛悔的罪人在天主的慈悲前無論獻上什麼,沒有不被祂寬恕的懷抱所接納的。 所以,我們當中無人可限制慈悲;那是天父白白贈予的施恩,是無條件而人並不堪當的愛。我們不能隨便由, 這份愛裡所充盈著的自由, 這份愛裡所充盈著的自由, 因為天主是攜同此愛, 每個人的生命中。

慈悲就是這源於愛的確切行動,透過寬恕,轉化並改變生命;由此,慈悲的神聖奧祕得以呈現出來。天主是慈悲寬仁的(參閱出三十四6),祂的仁慈永遠

常存(參詠一三六)·在世世代代中擁抱每一個信靠祂的人;天主藉著讓人分享祂的生命,轉化每一個人。

3. 從這兩個女人的心 中——分別是犯了姦淫的婦 人和人所共知的罪婦,多少 喜樂湧現出來!寬恕讓她們 終於感受到自由和從未嘗過 的喜悅。羞恥和痛苦的眼淚 化為笑容,那是人得悉自己 被愛的笑容。慈悲讓喜樂湧 現,因為前者讓人心朝向新 牛活的希望開放。寬恕的喜 樂雖是無可言喻、不可表達 的,但每當體驗到時,便會 **綻放出來。寬恕源於天主的** 愛;天主以這份愛與我們相 遇, 衝破人自私的樊籠, 讓 我們成為慈悲的工具。

指引教會初期信徒的 古老教導,對今日的我們仍 饒具意義:「披上喜樂,可 時常悅樂天主,並為天主悅 納;天主取樂其中。喜樂的 人行善、思想積極,並鄙厭 憂愁……,遠離憂愁、披上 喜樂的人,將在天主內生活」²。體驗慈悲讓我們獲得喜樂。願我們不受各種憂愁與顧慮分神;願這份喜樂存留並在我們的心中扎根,使我們能常平靜地面對每天的生活。

在一個 恆 常 由 科 技 主 導的文化中, 憂傷和孤獨愈 顯常見, 甚至在年青人當中 出現。基於無法肯定前景, 「將來」充斥著朝不保夕的 陰影。於是,憂鬱、悲傷和 躁悶的心情不時湧現, 甚至 慢慢把人領到絕望中。我們 需要希望和真喜樂的見證, 驅走只應允即時快慰和虛假 美景的幻象。很多人心中無 垠的空虛能夠被我們心中懷 抱的希望、以及由此引發的 喜樂所填滿。因慈悲觸碰內 心,從而顯現的喜樂,多麼 需要我們予以承認。讓我們 謹記宗徒的話:「你們在主 內應當常常喜樂。」(斐四

4;參閱得前五16)

4. 我們慶祝了活動緊 湊的禧年,從中獲得了滿溢 的慈悲之恩。彷如一陣生機 勃勃的烈風,上主的美善和 慈悲注滿世界。我們每人受 到天主充滿愛慕的長久注 視,生命得以轉化,所以無 人能夠繼續保持冷漠。

在這聖年中,教會明白 到要全心全意去聆聽,從而 更深切經驗到天父的臨在和

^{2 《}何而馬牧者》,第四十二 章,1至4。

靠近;祂和聖神一同工作·並使她從耶穌的自我奉獻和祂的使命中·具體地理解到有關寬恕的含意。這實在是上主一次新的來訪·超野充滿生靈的處氣·輕拂教會的發展,於問題中。我們感受聖神罷!就給實力,你們領受聖神罷!你們有受聖神麗的,就給說不知,你們有留。」(若二十22-23)

的福音去。

首先,我們被召慶祝 慈悲。教會的祈禱裡呼號天 主為「仁慈的天父」,當 中有如何豐沛的含義!在 禮儀中,慈悲不僅被重覆 呼喚,更是實實在在地得 以領受並顯現出來。於感恩 聖祭的開始和結束時,祈禱 的信眾和天父聖心之間的對 話中,慈悲多次顯示;天主 每次在贈予自己的慈愛時, 聖心悅樂。在彌撒開始時求 主寬恕,呼求「上主,求祢 垂憐,,我們即時得到信心 的保證:「願全能的天主垂 憐我們,赦免我們的罪過, 使我們得到永生」。憑藉這 份信心,我們的團體—— 特別於耶穌復活的聖日當 天,在上主的臨在中相聚。 很多「集禱經」就是為了讓 我們記憶慈悲這份厚禮。例 如在四旬期中,我們祈禱 說:「無限仁慈、萬善萬源 的天主, 祢曾曉諭我們: 齋 戒、祈禱與施捨都是治療罪 人的良藥,求祢垂憐我們的 卑微,使我們俯首認罪, 當我們軟弱失足跌倒時, 求祢大發慈悲, 將我們扶 起。」4 我們心神沉浸於感 恩經的祈禱中,藉頌謝詞呼 喊:「祢這樣憐愛世界,竟 為我們派遣了救主。祢願意 祂與我們相似,只是沒有罪 過。」⁵感恩經第四式乃是歌 頌天主慈悲的讚曲:「祢反 而大發慈悲,向所有的人伸 出援助的手,使尋求祢的人 都能找到祢」。「求祢垂念 眾人」6 是司祭在感恩經中 不斷的懇求,求盼能分受永 牛。在《天主經》後,司祭 繼續祈禱,呼求「藉著祢的 仁慈」,讓人得享平安和脫 免罪惡。而互祝平安,則表 達了一份因獲得寬恕而在眾 人間洋溢的手足情誼;在此 之前,司祭再次祈禱:「求 称不要看我們的罪過·但看 物有會的信德。」⁷透過這 讀詞,我們以謙卑的信靠, 央求賜予慈母聖教會安定 是體時到達恩聖祭在是記 是體的逾越奧蹟;歷史和 整個人、整個人類歷史和 題問而言之,感恩聖祭的 的個世界,獲得救恩的泉源 個世界,舊恩聖祭的 動越呼應著天主的慈悲

³ 參閱宗座勸諭《福音的喜 樂》27。

^{4 《}羅馬彌撒經書》,四旬期 第三主日內集禱經。

⁵ 同上,常年期主日通用頌謝 詞(七)。

⁶ 同上,感恩經第二式。

⁷ 同上,共融禮。

^{8 《}懺悔聖事禮儀》46。

慈的主·以聖神的恩寵助佑你。」⁹

由此可見,教會的祈 禱中提到「慈悲」時,不是 純粹的安撫人心的呼號,卻 是带有高度執行實踐的意 味,即是當我們懷有信德呼 求慈悲時,就能獲得此恩; 當我們活出慈悲, 並明認慈 悲是真實的,慈悲便會實在 地轉變我們。這是我們信仰 的基本內涵,我們應當好好 保存其原來的特性:在罪進 入世界前,天主愛的啟示便 存在: 祂以愛創造世界和人 類。愛是天主的第一個行 動,天主藉此自我顯示,並 與我們相遇。因此我們要打 開心門,相信自己是天主所 鍾愛的。祂的愛永遠先於我 們;就算我們犯了罪,祂的 愛依然陪伴我們, 跟我們在 一耙。

6. 在這脈絡中, 聆聽天主聖言尤有深意。每一

個星期天, 在基督徒團體中 都會恭讀天主聖言,好讓主 日能被逾越奧蹟光照10。舉 行感恩聖祭時,我們參與了 天主和祂的子民之間真實的 對話。恭讀聖經章節時,藉 官講天主的慈悲永不間斷的 工作,我們重溫了救恩史。 天主至今仍宛如朋友般,跟 我們交談; 衪樂於在我們當 中11,陪伴我們,並向我們 顯示生命的道路。祂的聖 言道出了我們心中的訴求 和憂慮, 並帶來成果豐碩的 答案,因此我們能夠具體地 感受到祂與我們非常親近。 彌撒講道是多麼重要—— 「在講道中,真、善、美 三者攜手並進」12,讓信友 的心在無與倫比的慈悲前震 撼不已!我熱切鼓勵要做好 講道和一般宣講的準備;司

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^{9 《}傅油聖事與病人牧靈照顧》76。

¹⁰ 參閱梵蒂岡第二次大公會 議,《禮儀》憲章106。

¹¹ 同上,《天主的啟示》教 義憲章2。

¹² 宗座勸諭《福音的喜樂》 142。

透過祈禱去閱讀聖言·好讓 靈性生命得到支持和繼續成 長。以「慈悲」作為聖言誦 讀的默想主題·可讓人觸碰 到聖經淵博的豐饒內容·尤 其在教會靈修傳統的光照下 閱讀聖言·必然可結出實際 愛德行動和工作的果實¹³。

8. 和好聖事以非常獨 特的方法慶祝慈悲。我們從 中感受到天父的擁抱,祂前 來跟我們相遇,賜予我們再 次成為祂子女的恩寵。我們 是罪人, 背負著我們願做的 和實際做兩者之間的矛盾 (參閱羅七14-21)。但恩 寵卻永遠在我們之先, 並以 慈悲的面容臨在,使和好與 寬恕產生果效。當我們明認 自己是罪人時,天主便讓我 們理解到, 祂對我們深廣無 垠的慈愛;恩寵遠比罪愆強 而有力,可克服所有阻撓, 因為愛勝過一切。(參閱格

前十三7)

在和好聖事中,天主 顯示了向祂皈依之途, 並激 請我們再次體驗祂的親近。 這份寬恕,尤其能藉著活出 愛德而獲得。伯多祿宗徒提 醒我們:「愛德掩蓋許多罪 過」(伯前四8)。只有天 主能寬恕罪愆,但祂亦要求 我們樂於寬恕別人,一如祂 寬恕我們:「求祢寬恕我們 的罪過,如同我們寬恕別人 一樣」(瑪六12)。若我 們繼續自我封閉,無法寬恕 別人,這是如何傷悲黯然! 當怨恨、憤怒、報復占領上 風,這只會讓牛命悲悽,無 法喜樂地履行慈悲的使命。

9. 在禧年裡·慈悲傳教士的服務·讓教會體驗到效果豐碩的慈悲。他們的牧靈行動旨在彰顯:天主並不會限制心懷痛悔者去尋覓祂,因為祂如同父親般與眾人相遇。我聽到許多喜樂的見證;他們藉告解聖事,與上主重新相遇。不要錯失機

會·讓我們也透過修和·活出信仰。「與天主和好罷」 (格後五20)·宗徒的這個邀請今天仍然迴響著·好使每一名信友能發現愛的大能·它能讓人「改變成新的造物」。(格後五17)

 有的人;無論罪愆如何深 重,你們都要作為父愛柔情 的見證人;殷勤地幫助他人 反省自己的過犯;清晰地闡 述倫理法則;在信友懺悔的 路上,陪伴他們,耐心地與 他們同行:在各具體的個 案,都能具洞見地分辨;以 及慷慨地施予天主的寬恕。 就像耶穌在犯了姦淫的婦女 前,選擇保持緘默,好拯救 她免受處死;而司鐸亦應在 告解亭,保持開放的心,明 白每名痛悔者都使他回想起 他本身的條件:司鐸本身是 罪人,但也是慈悲的聖職人 員 ∘

11. 我希望我們眾人· 都能默想宗徒在臨終時向弟 茂德的剖白;他承認自己本 來是罪人之魁首:「但是我 因而蒙受了憐憫」(弟前一 16)。這話語裡有激烈的力 量·催逼我們反省自己的生 命·從中看見天主慈悲的工 作·改造、轉化我們的形 使之蛻變:「我感謝那賜我

能力的我們的主基督耶穌· 因為祂認為我忠信·就派定 了我服役。原先我是個褻瀆 者、迫害者和施暴者;但是 我蒙受了憐憫。」(得前一 12-13)

讓我們懷著時常更新的 牧靈熱情,記住宗徒的話: 「天主曾藉基督使我們與祂 自己和好,並將這和好的職 務賜給了我們」(格後五 18)。鑑於這份職務,我們 首先獲得寬恕, 並親身體驗 到寬恕的普世件。沒有任何 法律或規律可以阳止天主去 擁抱祂的兒子;他明認自己 曾經走上歧途,但現在決定 改過自新。只停留在法律層 面,就等同低估了信仰,以 及天主的慈悲。法律中有其 初步知識的價值(參閱迦三 24),其目的就是愛德(參 閱弟前一5)。基督徒被召 去活出福音的嶄新精神: 「在基督耶穌內賜與生命 之神的法律」(羅八2)。 包括在情況紊雜的個案中,

更易誘使人只按法律衍生的 公義來判斷;我們應該要相 信從天主恩寵源源湧出的力 量。

和好聖事需要再次成為 基督徒生活的中心;為此。 司鐸需要把自己的生命奉獻於「和好的職務」(格後五 18)。如此一來·沒有任何 真心痛悔的人·被禁止領受 天父的愛;天父一直在等待 他們的歸來。所有人將有機 會·經驗到慈悲把人從罪惡 釋放出來的力量。 其中一個合宜的時機, 便是奉獻廿四小時給天主, 可在臨近四旬期第四主日時 舉行。不少教區已參與這活動,當中含有豐富的牧靈價值,鼓勵教友能更熱忱地活出告解聖事。

12. 有鑒於此,為避 免出現任何妨礙人渴求與天 主和好及獲得寬恕的情況, 我現在賦予所有司鐸,由於 他們的司鐸職,能有權赦免 圖謀墮胎罪的人。之前我暫 時授權他們,局限於特殊禧 年中行使這項權力14,即使 任何成文法則另有規定:現 今正式延續下去。容我再次 嚴正重申,墮胎是重罪;因 為導致無辜生命喪亡。但同 時,我亦需強調,當人懷著 痛悔定改的心,希冀與天父 和好時,沒有任何罪愆,是 天主的慈悲所無法接觸、無 法滌除的。是故,每一位司

鐸需成為悔罪者的嚮導、支 持和安慰,在這獨特的和好 之旅中陪伴他們。

13. 慈悲亦有著安慰的面容。「你們安慰·安慰我的百姓罷」(依四十1)是先知悲愴的呼號·至今依然迴盪著·為使希望之聲可以傳到苦難哀痛者耳邊。不要讓我們喪失希望;這希望來自我們對復活的主的信德。的確·我們經常面對艱苦的

15 同上。

¹⁴ 參閱《教宗方濟各致函說 明信徒們如何於特殊慈悲 禧年獲得大赦》,2015年 9月1日。

挑戰,但不要因此質疑上主 對我們的愛。在哀傷和磨難 的日子中,許多弟兄姊妹對 我們的親近、關愛和支持, 也彰顯了天主的慈悲。拭乾 眼淚,是打破孤獨的囚籠, 讓人不再自我封閉的具體行 動。

有時候·沉默也能帶來 莫大的幫助;因為在某些時刻,往往無法以言語回答受 苦的對方。當詞窮時·藉臨 近者所展現的同情,足以彌 補:他們守候在我們身邊、 愛護我們並牽著我們的手。 沉默絕非是放棄之舉;相反 的·是表現堅強和愛的時 刻;沉默亦是安慰的語言· 因為藉著沉默·我們具體地 參與和分擔弟兄姊妹的痛 苦。

14. 尤其在我們這個危 機四伏,甚至危及家庭的時 代,我深感有必要向所有家 庭寄以強而有力的安慰。婚 姻這禮物是偉大的召叫; 夫 婦二人,藉著基督的恩寵, 以慷慨、忠信和含忍的愛回 應這召叫。儘管今天情勢極 不明朗、加上出現其他替代 方案,但家庭的美好依然保 持不變:「愛的喜樂——在 家庭所體驗的喜樂,亦為教 會的喜樂。」16 生命的軌跡 讓男人與女人辦诟、相愛, 於對方;可是,這條人生路 卻時常因痛苦、背叛與孤獨

16 世界主教會議後宗座勸諭 《愛的喜樂》1。 而中斷。養育新生命這份禮物既帶來喜樂·亦同時讓父母們為子女的成長、教育擔憂·為著他們的將來是否康莊而緊張。

我們絕不可忘記,每一個人在各自的生命歷程中,不僅乘載著豐盈,也背負之。 重擔,高低起伏各有不同。 重擔,高低起伏各有不同。 我們的生命,有悲有喜。 我們的生命,無法複製的。是 獨一無二、無法複製的。是 天主慈悲的注目下流轉。我 們尤其需要有司鐸作出謹 慎、深刻、具洞見的分辦, 好讓每個人——沒有任何人 將被排除在外——無論在任 何現實情況中,都可以實在 地感受到被天主接納,並可 積極地參與團體生活,成為 天主子民,不懈地走向圓滿 的天國,走向充滿公義、慈 愛、寬恕和慈悲的天國。

15. 死亡的時刻亦有其 特別的重要性。耶穌基督的 復活,開闢了通道,使人對 未來的生活充滿信心;教會 也一直在此光照下,切身經 驗這峰迴路轉的過程。我們 須面對極大挑戰,特別在現 今文化中,人們傾向淡化死 亡, 甚至到僅視之為幻象, 且將之隱藏的地步。然而每 人都需面對死亡,我們必須 準備好穿越這段旅程,儘管 痛苦而無可逃避,卻饒富意 義:對我們要別離的人和我 們要走向的天主而言,這是 愛的終極之舉。在所有的宗 教中,死亡的時刻,正如出 生,都伴隨著宗教含意。對 於基督徒,我們以充滿希望

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¹⁷ 參閱同上,291-300。

的禱聲舉行殯葬禮儀,為亡者的靈魂,也為因失去心愛者而受苦的人祈禱。

16. 禧年一旦結束· 聖門亦隨之掩閉;但慈悲的 大門在我們心中永遠敞開。 我們明白到·天主為我們新 尊俯身(歐十一4)·叫我 們能師法祂為弟兄姊妹俯 身。對天主的溫柔慈愛做出 真誠和慷慨的見證·激發許 多人回歸父家的渴望;祂靜 候他們回來。在這禧年裡· 走過的聖門引領我們走上愛 德之路;我們受召懷著忠信 和喜樂·日復一日地在這路 上行進。這是慈悲之路·使 我們跟許多弟兄姊妹相遇· 並攜著他們的手一起前行。

如想親近基督,必需 親近那些向我們伸手的弟兄 姊妹:他們希望有人緊握他 們的手,一齊前進。因為沒 有任何事, 比具體的慈悲標 記更讓天父悅樂。慈悲的本 質是誘過具體和有力的行動 才可能被人看見和觸摸。體 驗過慈悲的人,不會有所後 悔:它會不斷茁壯成長,並 改變生命。它確實使受造物 焕然一新:它給人一顆嶄新 的心,讓人可以全心全力地 去愛,並潔淨我們的雙眼, 使人看出隱而不見的需要。 教會在逾越節守夜禮的禱詞 是如何真實!讀過敘述創世 的經文後,伴隨的是這祈 禱:「天主,祢奇妙地創造 了我們人類,更奇妙地救贖 了我們。」¹⁸

17. 在聖年裡·特別在「慈悲善工週五」中·我親身體驗到臨於我們這個世界的豐厚良善。這良善日復一日地以不引人注目的方式不默默地實踐出來·所以不開為人所知。雖然沒有大肆宣傳,但多少表達良善與溫柔的具體行動·被施行在最卑微、最無依無靠、孤淒與受

^{8 《}羅馬彌撒經書》,逾越 節守夜禮,第一讀經後禱 詞。

得以為人所見。

直到今天,有整個的 民族依然受饑渴之苦:缺乏 食糧的兒童的圖片,看了使 人多麼憂慮。成千卜萬的人 為了溫飽、工作、安居等原 因,離鄉背井。形形式式的 疾病導致人不斷受苦,需要 別人的援助、安慰與支持。 監獄是囚禁犯人的地方,在 其中有著不少艱辛,經常因 為不人道的生活條件,使情 況更為惡劣。文盲的情況依 然十分普遍,兒童因此無法 發展潛能,更使他們成為新 式奴役的受害者。極端的個 人主義,特別在西方社會, 使守望相助和我為人人的精 神變得無影無蹤。今時今日 許多人不再認識天主, 這不 僅代表最大的匱乏,亦是最 大的阳礙,使人無法認識到 人類生命的尊嚴,是不可侵 犯的。

總而言之,持續至今 的神、形慈悲善工,證實了 慈悲作為社會價值,含有巨 大而正面的影響。慈悲催逼著我們,捲起衣袖,開始工作,讓數以百萬計的人重拾尊嚴;他們是我們的弟兄姊妹,我們全都受召要建設一個「可靠的城」¹⁹。

19. 在是次聖年裡,慈悲以許多具體的方式展現出來。不同團體、各家庭以及個人信友,重新發現到分享的喜樂,以及團結互助的喜樂,以及團結互助的實力。但這並不足夠。這個世界繼續推動新形式的調子,對學物質的貧窮,教會的意思,對學問,可以慷慨和熱忱實行之事下。

讓我們繼續以各種努力,具體實踐愛德,並以與時並進的方式繼續慈悲善工。慈悲所觸及的層面廣泛,總猶如燎原大火般傳開,不受任何束縛。從這意義上來說,我們受召賦予傳統的慈悲善工新的面貌。其

實慈悲超越一切·並不斷向 前邁進·其結實纍纍;一如 酵母·讓麵團發酵(參閱瑪 十三33);亦如一粒芥子· 生長成了大樹。(參閱路 十三19)

讓我們注視著哥耳哥達山上的耶穌。天主子赤身露體·被釘在十字架上; 士兵們以擲骰子·來瓜分 祂的長衣(參閱若十九23-24)。祂身無一物;這個十 字架正代表了耶穌終極的分 2017 / No.352

²⁰ 參閱聖西彼廉,《論天主 教會的的合一》7。

慈悲的社會性要求我們不要袖手旁觀,擯棄冷漠與偽善,好使我們的計劃和工作不會流於紙上談兵。願聖神幫助我們,時常就緒,與於積極、無私地貢獻自己,於積極、無私地貢獻自己,後成陳腔濫調,而是那些願意為天國臨在作見證的人,他們所作出的實際承諾。

20. 我們被召·要藉著 重新與他人相遇·去推廣慈 悲的文化;這文化叫我們不 會對他人的情況視而不見· 亦不會在看見弟兄姊妹受苦 時·轉面不顧。慈悲善工是「手工藝品」,每個善工都是獨一無二的。雖然慈悲善工的原型由天主啟發,而「原材料」都是慈悲本身,但我們的雙手能使此善工千變萬化,以種種形式綻放出來。

慈悲善工影響人的整個 生命。亦由於此,我們投身 於一個真正文化上的革命, 藉著簡單的行動,觸碰人的 身心靈、即人的牛命,以革 新今日文化。這是基督徒團 體理應承擔的工作,因為他 們深明上主聖言時常召叫他 們,要擺脫冷漠和個人主義 的誘惑;那使人封閉自己, 企圖過輕鬆舒適、沒有煩擾 的牛活。耶穌向門徒說: 「你們常有窮人和你們在一 起」(若十二8)。當耶穌 視自己是窮人中的一員時, 我們沒有挑辦的藉口,理首 **氣壯地不為窮人丁作。**

慈悲文化的塑造·需要 孜孜不倦的祈禱·並對聖神 的做工俯首聽命,又要詳知 聖人們的牛平, 月須親沂窮 人。這是一個急切的激請, 要在真正有需要的地方地投 入精力。日常生活內的參與 和分享,可戰勝誇誇其談慈 悲理論的誘惑。另一方面, 不要忘記聖保祿宗徒如何描 述自己在皈依後,與伯多 禄、雅各伯和若望的相遇。 他特別強調自己基督徒生命 中最核心的使命:「他們只 要我們懷念窮人;對這一點 我也曾盡力行了」(迦二 10)。我們不可忘記窮人: 這份激請在今天依然舉足輕 重,其福音重青亦催温著我 們不得不身體力行。

21. 禧年的經驗將聖伯多祿宗徒的話印刻在我們心上:「你們從前沒有蒙受愛憐,如今卻蒙受了愛憐」(伯前二10)。我們不要獨享我們所獲贈的,卻要懂得與受苦的弟兄姊妹分享,好讓他們也能從天父的慈悲中,獲得支持的力量。希望

我們的團體保持開放,去親 近周圍的人們,使所有人都 能藉著信友的見證,感受到 天主的撫慰。

現在是慈悲的時刻:我 們人生旅途的每一天都被天 主臨在所標記——天主藉 聖神把恩寵的大能灌注在眾 人的心中, 並指引我們, 使 我們有能力去愛。這是為眾 人、為每一個人而言的慈悲 時刻:沒有人將再覺得,自 己被天主的親折與祂憐愛的 力量排除在外。這是慈悲的 時刻:軟弱無助、受排斥者 和孤獨者將感受弟兄姊妹的 臨在,以應他們之需。這是 慈悲的時刻:貧困者將感受 受人尊重和關心,這些人克 服了冷漠,重新發現牛命中 最重要的價值。這是慈悲的 時刻:每個罪人祈求寬恕時 皆得應允, 並能感到天父的 手時常接納和擁抱他們。

當世界各地的主教座 堂、朝聖地都把慈悲的聖門 掩閉時,在「為被社會排斥

者的禧年」這概念的啟迪之 下,我顯光一閃,想到全教 會都應在常年期第三十三主 日,慶祝「世界窮人日」, 作為這個特殊禧年的另一個 具體標記。這將會是慶祝我 們的主耶穌基督普世君干慶 節的最佳準備,因為主耶穌 把自己當作最卑微、最貧困 者的一員;我們的慈悲善 工,將成為祂審判我們的準 則(參閱瑪廿五31-46)。 這「世界窮人日」將幫助各 基督信仰團體,以及所有已 領洗者, 去反思福音的中心 議題——貧困,只要拉师 綠依然躺臥在我們家大門前 (參閱路十六19-21),世 界便不會有公義, 社會亦不 得和平。這個紀念日也將成 為新福傳的真實形式(參閱 瑪十一5),使教會在持續 不斷地進行牧靈皈依工作、 並為慈悲作見證的同時,其 面貌亦得到更新。

22. 天主聖母永遠以慈悲的雙目垂視我們;在為愛

作見證的路途上,她領先開路,更沿途陪伴我們。慈悲聖母以她的斗篷庇護我們,一如有關她眾多的藝術作品中所顯現的那樣。讓我們信靠慈母的助佑,並追隨她永恆的指引,看著耶穌——反映天主光輝燦爛的慈悲面容。

教宗方濟各 頒布於羅馬聖伯多祿大殿 主曆 2016 年 11 月20 日 我們的主耶穌——基督普世 君王慶節 本人在職第四年

(天主教臺灣地區主教團恭譯)



主教團新書



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Message of His Holiness Pope Francis Urbi et Orbi Easter Sunday, 16 April 2017

Dear Brothers and Sisters, Happy Easter!

Today, throughout the world, the Church echoes once more the astonishing message of the first disciples: "Jesus is risen!" – "He is truly risen, as he said!"

The ancient feast of Passover, the commemoration of the liberation of the Hebrew people from slavery, here finds fulfilment. By his resurrection, Jesus Christ has set us free from the slavery of sin and death, and has opened before us the way to eternal life.

All of us, when we let ourselves be mastered by sin, lose the right way and end up straying like lost sheep. But God himself, our shepherd, has come in search of us. To save us, he lowered himself even to accepting death on the cross. Today we can proclaim: "The Good Shepherd has risen, who laid down his life for his sheep, and willingly died for his flock, alleluia" (Roman Missal, IV Sunday of Easter, Communion antiphon).

In every age, the Risen Shepherd tirelessly seeks us, his brothers and sisters, wandering in the deserts of this world. With the marks of the passion – the wounds of his merciful love – he draws us to follow him on his way, the way of life. Today too, he places upon his shoulders so many of our brothers and sisters

crushed by evil in all its varied forms.

The Risen Shepherd goes in search of all those lost in the labyrinths of loneliness and marginalization. He comes to meet them through our brothers and sisters who treat them with respect and kindness, and help them to hear his voice, an unforgettable voice, a voice calling them back to friendship with God.

He takes upon himself all those victimized by old and new forms of slavery, inhuman labour, illegal trafficking, exploitation and discrimination, and grave forms of addiction. He takes upon himself children and adolescents deprived of their carefree innocence and exploited, and those deeply hurt by acts of violence that take place within the walls of their own home.

The Risen Shepherd walks beside all those forced to leave their homelands as a result of armed conflicts, terrorist attacks, famine and oppressive regimes. Everywhere he helps these forced migrants to encounter brothers and sisters, with whom they can share bread and hope on their journey.

In the complex and often dramatic situations of today's world, may the Risen Lord guide the steps of all those who work for justice and peace. May he grant the leaders of nations the courage they need to prevent the spread of conflicts and to put a halt to the arms trade.

Especially in these days, may he sustain the efforts of all those actively engaged in bringing comfort and relief to the civil population in Syria, prey to a war that continues to sow horror and death. May he grant peace to the entire Middle East, beginning with the Holy Land, as well as in Iraq and Yemen.

May the Good Shepherd remain close to the people of South Sudan, Sudan, Somalia and the Democratic Republic of Congo, who endure continuing hostilities, aggravated by the grave famine affecting certain parts of Africa.

May the Risen Jesus sustain the efforts of all those who, especially in Latin America, are committed to ensuring the common good of societies marked at times by political and social tensions that in some cases have resulted in violence. May it be possible for bridges of dialogue to be built, by continuing to fight the scourge of corruption and to seek viable and peaceful solutions to disputes, for progress and the strengthening of democratic institutions in complete respect for the rule of law.

May the Good Shepherd come to the aid of Ukraine, still beset by conflict and bloodshed, to regain social harmony. May he accompany every effort to alleviate the tragic sufferings of those affected by the conflict.

The Risen Lord continues to shed his blessing upon the continent of Europe. May he grant hope to those experiencing moments of crisis and difficulty, especially due to high unemployment, particularly among young people.

Dear brothers and sisters, this year Christians of every confession celebrate Easter together. With one voice, in every part of the world, we proclaim the great message: "The Lord is truly risen, as he said!" May Jesus, who vanquished the darkness of sin and death, grant peace to our days.

Happy Easter!

MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS

FOR THE THIRTY-SECOND WORLD YOUTH DAY 2017

"The Mighty One has done great things for me" (Lk 1:49)

ear Young Friends,

Here we are, on the road again, following our great meeting in Kraków, where we celebrated the Thirty-first World Youth Day and the Jubilee for Young People as part of the Holy Year of Mercy. We took as our guides Saint John Paul II and Saint Faustina Kowalska, the apostles of divine mercy, in order to offer a concrete response to the challenges of our time. We had a powerful experience of fraternity and joy, and we gave the world a sign of hope. Our different flags and languages were not a reason for rivalry and division, but an opportunity to open the doors of our hearts and to build bridges.

At the conclusion of the Kraków World Youth Day, I announced the next stop in our pilgrimage, which with God's help will bring us to Panama in 2019. On this journey we will be accompanied by the Virgin Mary, whom all generations call blessed (cf. Lk 1:48). This new leg of our journey picks up from the one that preceded it, centred on the Beatitudes, and invites us to press forward. I fervently hope that you young people will continue to press forward, not only cherishing the memory of the past, but also with courage in the present and hope for the future. These attitudes were certainly present in the young Mary of Nazareth and are clearly expressed in the themes chosen for

the three coming World Youth Days. This year (2017) we will reflect on the faith of Mary, who says in the Magnificat: "The Mighty One has done great things for me" (Lk 1:49). The theme for next year (2018) – "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God" (Lk 1:30) – will lead us to meditate on the courageous charity with which the Virgin welcomed the message of the angel. The 2019 World Youth Day will be inspired by the words "I am the servant of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word" (Lk 1:38), Mary's hopefilled reply to the angel.

In October 2018, the Church will celebrate the Synod of Bishops on the theme: Youth, Faith and Vocational Discernment. We will talk about how you, as young people, are experiencing the life of faith amid the challenges of our time. We will also discuss the question of how you can develop a life project by discerning your personal vocation, whether it be to marriage in the secular and professional world, or to the consecrated life and priesthood. It is my hope that the journey towards the World Youth Day in Panama and the process of preparation for the Synod will move forward in tandem.

Our age does not need young people who are "couch-potatoes"

According to Luke's Gospel, once Mary has received the message of the angel and said "yes" to the call to become the Mother of the Saviour, she sets out in haste to visit her cousin Elizabeth, who was in the sixth month of her pregnancy (cf. 1:36, 39). Mary is very young; what she was told is a great gift, but it also entails great challenges. The Lord assured her of his presence and support, yet many things remain obscure in her mind and heart. Yet Mary does not shut herself up at home or let herself be paralyzed by fear or pride. Mary is not the type that, to be comfortable, needs a good sofa where she can feel safe and sound. She is no couch potato! (cf. Address at the Vigil, Kraków, 30 July 2016). If her elderly cousin needs a hand, she

does not hesitate, but immediately sets off.

It was a long way to the house of Elizabeth, about 150 kilometres. But the young woman from Nazareth, led by the Holy Spirit, knows no obstacles. Surely, those days of journeying helped her to meditate on the marvellous event of which she was a part. So it is with us, whenever we set out on pilgrimage. Along the way, the events of our own lives come to mind, we learn to appreciate their meaning and we discern our vocation, which then becomes clear in the encounter with God and in service to others.

The Mighty One has done great things for me

The meeting of the two women, one young and the other elderly, is filled with the presence of the Holy Spirit and charged with joy and wonder (cf. Lk 1:40-45). The two mothers, like the children they bear, practically dance for joy. Elizabeth, impressed by Mary's faith, cries out: "Blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord" (v. 45). One of the great gifts that the Virgin received was certainly that of faith. Belief in God is a priceless gift, but one that has to be received. Elizabeth blesses Mary for this, and she in turn responds with the song of the Magnificat (cf. Lk 1:46-55), in which we find the words: "The Mighty One has done great things for me" (v. 49).

Mary's is a revolutionary prayer, the song of a faith-filled young woman conscious of her limits, yet confident in God's mercy. She gives thanks to God for looking upon her lowliness and for the work of salvation that he has brought about for the people, the poor and the humble. Faith is at the heart of Mary's entire story. Her song helps us to understand the mercy of the Lord as the driving force of history, the history of each of us and of all humanity.

When God touches the heart of a young man or woman, they

become capable of doing tremendous things. The "great things" that the Almighty accomplished in the life of Mary speak also to our own journey in life, which is not a meaningless meandering, but a pilgrimage that, for all its uncertainties and sufferings, can find its fulfilment in God (cf. Angelus, 15 August 2015). You may say to me: "But Father, I have my limits, I am a sinner, what can I do?" When the Lord calls us, he doesn't stop at what we are or what we have done. On the contrary, at the very moment that he calls us, he is looking ahead to everything we can do, all the love we are capable of giving. Like the young Mary, you can allow your life to become a means for making the world a better place. Jesus is calling you to leave your mark in life, your mark on history, both your own and that of so many others (cf. Address at the Vigil, Kraków, 30 July 2016).

Being young does not mean being disconnected from the past

Mary was little more than an adolescent, like many of you. Yet in the Magnificat, she echoes the praises of her people and their history. This shows us that being young does not mean being disconnected from the past. Our personal history is part of a long trail, a communal journey that has preceded us over the ages. Like Mary, we belong to a people. History teaches us that, even when the Church has to sail on stormy seas, the hand of God guides her and helps her to overcome moments of difficulty. The genuine experience of the Church is not like a flash mob, where people agree to meet, do their thing and then go their separate ways. The Church is heir to a long tradition which, passed down from generation to generation, is further enriched by the experience of each individual. Your personal history has a place within the greater history of the Church.

Being mindful of the past also helps us to be open to the unexpected ways that God acts in us and through us. It also helps us to be open to being chosen as a means by which God brings about his saving plan. As young people, you too can do great things and take on fuller responsibilities, if only you recognize God's mercy and power at work in your lives.

I would like to ask you some questions. How do you "save" in your memory the events and experiences of your life? What do you do with the facts and the images present in your memory? Some of you, particularly those hurt by certain situations in life, might want to "reset" your own past, to claim the right to forget it all. But I would like to remind you that there is no saint without a past, or a sinner without a future. The pearl is born of a wound in the oyster! Jesus, by his love, can heal our hearts and turn our lives into genuine pearls. As Saint Paul said, the Lord can show his power through our weakness (cf. 2 Cor 12:9).

Yet our memories should not remain crammed together, as in the memory of a hard drive. Nor can we archive everything in some sort of virtual "cloud". We need to learn how to make past events a dynamic reality on which to reflect and to draw lessons and meaning for the present and the future. This is no easy task, but one necessary for discovering the thread of God's love running through the whole of our life.

Many people say that young people are distracted and superficial. They are wrong! Still, we should acknowledge our need to reflect on our lives and direct them towards the future. To have a past is not the same as to have a history. In our life we can have plenty of memories, but how many of them are really a part of our memory? How many are significant for our hearts and help to give meaning to our lives? In the social media, we see faces of young people appearing in any number of pictures recounting more or less real events, but we don't know how much of all this is really "history", an experience that can be communicated and endowed with purpose and meaning. Television

is full of "reality shows" which are not real stories, but only moments passed before a television camera by characters living from day to day, without a greater plan. Don't let yourselves be led astray by this false image of reality! Be the protagonists of your history; decide your own future.

How to remain connected, following the example of Mary

It is said of Mary that she treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart (cf. Lk 2:19, 51). This unassuming young woman of Nazareth teaches us by her example to preserve the memory of the events of our lives but also to put them together and reconstruct the unity of all the fragments that, put together, can make up a mosaic. How can we learn to do this in practice? Let me offer you some suggestions.

At the end of each day, we can stop for a few minutes to remember the good times and the challenges, the things that went well and those that went wrong. In this way, before God and before ourselves, we can express our gratitude, our regrets and our trust. If you wish, you can also write them down in a notebook as a kind of spiritual journal. This means praying in life, with life and about life, and it will surely help you to recognize the great things that the Lord is doing for each of you. As Saint Augustine said, we can find God in the vast fields of our memory (cf. Confessions, X, 8, 12).

Reading the Magnificat, we realize how well Mary knew the word of God. Every verse of her song has a parallel in the Old Testament. The young mother of Jesus knew the prayers of her people by heart. Surely her parents and her grandparents had taught them to her. How important it is for the faith to be passed down from one generation to another! There is a hidden treasure in the prayers that past generations have taught us, in the lived spirituality of ordinary people that we call popular piety. Mary inherits the faith of her people

and shapes it in a song that is entirely her own, yet at the same time the song of the entire Church, which sings it with her. If you, as young people, want to sing a Magnificat all your own, and make your lives a gift for humanity as a whole, it is essential to connect with the historical tradition and the prayer of those who have gone before you. To do so, it is important to be familiar with the Bible, God's word, reading it daily and letting it speak to your lives, and interpreting everyday events in the light of what the Lord says to you in the sacred Scriptures. In prayer and in the prayerful reading of the Bible (lectio divina), Jesus will warm your hearts and illumine your steps, even in the dark moments of life (cf. Lk 24:13-35).

Mary also teaches us to live "eucharistically", that is to learn how to give thanks and praise, and not to fixate on our problems and difficulties alone. In the process of living, today's prayers become tomorrow's reasons for thanksgiving. In this way, your participation in Holy Mass and the occasions when you celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be both a high point and new beginning. Your lives will be renewed each day in forgiveness and they will become an act of perennial praise to the Almighty. "Trust the memory of God ... his memory is a heart filled with tender compassion, one that rejoices in erasing in us every trace of evil" (cf. Homily at Mass, World Youth Day, Kraków, 31 July 2016).

We have seen that the Magnificat wells up in Mary's heart at the moment when she meets her elderly cousin Elizabeth. With her faith, her keen gaze and her words, Elizabeth helps the Virgin to understand more fully the greatness of what God is accomplishing in her and the mission that he has entrusted to her. But what about you? Do you realize how extraordinarily enriching the encounter between the young and the elderly can be? How much attention do you pay to the elderly, to your grandparents? With good reason you want to "soar", your

heart is full of great dreams, but you need the wisdom and the vision of the elderly. Spread your wings and fly, but also realize that you need to rediscover your roots and to take up the torch from those who have gone before. To build a meaningful future, you need to know and appreciate the past (cf. Amoris Laetitia, 190, 193). Young people have strength, while the elderly have memory and wisdom. As Mary did with Elizabeth, look to the elderly, to your grandparents. They will speak to you of things that can thrill your minds and fill your hearts.

Creative fidelity for building the future

It is true that you are still young and so it can be hard for you to appreciate the importance of tradition. But know that this is not the same as being traditionalists. No! When Mary in the Gospel says: "The Mighty One has done great things for me", she means to say that those "great things" are not over, but are still happening in the present. It is not about the distant past. Being mindful of the past does not mean being nostalgic or remaining attached to a certain period of history, but rather being able to acknowledge where we have come from, so that we can keep going back to essentials and throwing ourselves with creative fidelity into building the future. It would be problematic and ultimately useless to cultivate a paralyzing memory that makes us keep doing the same things in the same way. It is a gift of God to see how many of you, with your questions, dreams and uncertainties, refuse to listen to those who say that things cannot change.

A society that values only the present tends to dismiss everything inherited from the past, as for example the institutions of marriage, consecrated life and priestly mission. These end up being seen as meaningless and outdated forms. People think it is better to live in "open" situations, going through life as if it were a reality show, without aim or purpose. Don't let yourselves be deceived! God came to enlarge the horizons of our life in every direction. He helps us to

give due value to the past so as better to build a future of happiness. Yet this is possible only if we have authentic experiences of love, which help us concretely to discern the Lord's call and to respond to it. For only that can bring us true happiness.

Dear young people I entrust our journey towards Panama, together with the process of preparation for the next Synod of Bishops, to the maternal intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary. I ask you to keep in mind two important anniversaries in 2017: the three-hundredth anniversary of the finding of the image of Our Lady of Aparecida in Brazil and the centenary of the apparitions in Fatima, Portugal, where, God willing, I plan to make a pilgrimage this coming May. Saint Martin of Porres, one of the patron saints of Latin America and of the 2019 World Youth Day, in going about his humble daily duties, used to offer the best flowers to Mary, as a sign of his filial love. May you too cultivate a relationship of familiarity and friendship with Our Lady, entrusting to her your joys, your worries and your concerns. I assure you that you will not regret it!

May the maiden of Nazareth, who in the whole world has assumed a thousand names and faces in order to be close to her children, intercede for all of us and help us to sing of the great works that the Lord is accomplishing in us and through us.

FRANCIS

From the Vatican, 27 February 2017

Memory of Saint Gabriel of Our Lady of Sorrows

CHINESE REGIONAL BISHOPS' CONFERENCE MINUTES OF THE 2016 AUTUMN PLENARY ASSEMBLY (Summary) II

II. Bishop John Baptist Lee of Hsinchu Diocese

Proposal: Over-all consideration of CRBC on planning and installation of Catholic cemeteries

Explanation:

- I. It is a long-standing problem that there is not enough cemetery space for the Catholic Church, and this issue has been discussed and studied within the Hsinchu Diocese repeatedly. However, because of the limits set by laws, the difficulty of land acquisition, the lack of proper legal funeral agency, the right solution is not found yet. If the situation continues and is not handled promptly, it will be more difficult to find the solution in the future.
- II. According to the current regulations on management of burial grounds, "Cemeteries, ash deposit facilities and cremation facilities belonging to religious temples or communities built before the implementation of these regulations can be used continuously. Any damages can be restored in situ construction, but the height can't be increased and the area can't be expanded." Therefore the existing cemeteries can't be expanded, and their long-term availability in the future should be

considered as an urgent issue.

- III. In addition, the procedure of cemetery installation is very complicated and long; a new cemetery can only be built and run under the following important conditions:
- A. The land must be cemetery land. A cemetery land must keep a proper horizontal distance from densely populated areas, factories, schools, places where explosives or other flammable gas and oil materials are produced, useful water sources, rivers and mines. A burial ground or cemetery land can not hinder the utility of the area. The width of the access road to the burial facilities must be more than 6 meters. The area of a private cemetery installed on a hillside can't be less than 5 hectares. The procedure is time-consuming and takes 1 to 2 years.
 - If the land is a non-urban planning land and does not conform to conditions of a cemetery land, the modification of the use of the land should be handled according to relevant rules on the control of nonurban planning land use.
 - 2. If the land is an urban planning land, and the area used does not belong to burial ground or cemetery area, a thorough examination and the handling of the case are required.
- B. After the acquisition of the cemetery land, the following procedure should be followed:
 - 1. To write a project, to carry out an investigation on the site, to convene a committee for deliberation.
- 2. To write a soil-and-water conservation project, to make an assessment on the environmental impact or to apply for a developmental license.

- 3. To apply for a construction permit or a reinforcement on examination of hillside construction.
- 4. To start the construction.
- 5. To apply for an occupation permit.
- 6. To apply for a procedure of putting into effect.
- 7. To announce the putting into effect of the burial facilities. (No violations of regulations are found after various examinations.)
- 8. To run private burial facilities.
 - a. Operating license of burial facilities.
 - b. Certificate of putting into use.
 - c. Certificate of ownership and business conduct.
 - d. Facilities configuration plan and explanation, names and quantity distribution of the content and their relative positions.
 - e. Service items and charges.
 - f. Management fee as funds for special use. The 2% of it should be provided to the local authorities to set up the operation and management funds for burial facilities.
- IV. The existing cemeteries can't be expanded due to the restriction of regulations, and the establishment of a new cemetery is beyond the capacity of any single diocese in Taiwan. Therefore, the CRBC plenary assembly was requested to consider and investigate the cemetery issue of Catholic Church, in order to find a solution for the long-term development of Catholic Church.

Resolution: Approved. A co-operation among different dioceses will be made as much as possible.

III. The CRBC Commission of Sacred Liturgy

Proposal: Promotion of the day of Blessed Fr. Gabriele Allegra to be an obligatory memorial in the liturgical calendar of the local church of Taiwan.

Explanations:

As the Biblical scholar Fr. Bonaventure Lin said, one of the most important resolution of Vatican II is to allow particular churches to use local languages for liturgy, and to make considerable use of the Word of God in the public liturgy. The Chinese all around the world, including the Taiwan Catholic local Church, can easily follow this important resolution together with the universal Church, thanks to the Chinese translation from Hebrew and Greek of the whole Bible completed by Fr. Gabriele Allegra, OFM, and members of the Scottish Bible Society established by him one year before the opening of Vatican II (1961). For Chinese-speaking Church, this contribution can be compared to the air that we breathe: it is so natural that one almost ignores its existence, and it is so important that without it the life of faith can't develop. Therefore, the "Venerable" Fr. Gabriele Allegra was announced to be beatified at the Cathedral of Arcircale of his hometown Sicilia on September 29, 2012, by Benedict XVI. He is praised to be the humble disciple of the Wisdom, the faithful apostle of the Word and the missionary of Far-East, full of zeal. In the "Ordo" of Taiwan local Church, as other Martyr Saints of China, the day of the Blessed Fr. Gabriele Allegra is to be celebrated as "Optional Memorial Day". In order to remind the local faithful the importance of the Blessed Fr. Gabriele Allegra to the life of faith of the local Church, and

to encourage the faithful to imitate his spirit of devotion, the "Promotion of the day of Blessed Gabriele Allegra to be an obligatory memorial in the liturgical calendar of the local church of Taiwan" is hereby proposed.

Means:

In view of the Blessed Fr. Gabriele Allegra's active influences and importance to the local Church, the CRBC plenary assembly is suggested to discuss the "Promotion of the day of Blessed Gabriele Allegra to be an obligatory memorial". However, the Optional Memorial Day of the Blessed Fr. Gabriele Allegra is on January 26, and it is the day of Saint Timothy and Titus, Bishops, an obligatory memorial, so it is suggested to celebrate this day on weekday of January 30 in Ordinary time (as the diocese of Hong Kong does, to celebrate at the same time with Hong Kong Diocese), or on another day.

Resolution: Approved.

IV. The Commission for Evangelization of CRBC, Section for Family

Proposal A: The bilateral journey of faith education for children—A golden key of faith education for mentors—three workshops

Explanations:

1. The first church children come into contact with is the Family. However, most of the time, parents do not know how to accompany their children all along the path of faith. As a result, parents are at a loss for the transmission of the faith, so the task of Catholic education for children is transferred to Sunday school teacher.

- 2. Professor Li-Wen Chen who lives in Switzerland and who is the Chinese pastoral executor of the Commission of care for immigrants of the Swiss Bishops' Conference, write "To see God with the vision of the heart—catechism of communication between parents and children" to help parents to accompany their children on the path of faith.
- 3. In order to help parents of Sunday school children recognize that the transmission of the faith to children needs their full collaboration with Sunday school teachers so that faith can really take root in children's heart, and that parents can learn ways to accompany their children's Catholic education, the Section for Family of the CRBC invites Professor Li-Wen Chen to hold 3 workshops of 2 days respectively in Taipei, Hsinchu and Kaohsiung on February 25-26, 27-28 and March 4-5.
- 4. We hope that through these 3 workshops, Family becomes a fertile soil for the growth of our faith, where husband-wife and parent-child relationship are nurtured, and that sharing and living faith become a habit.

Means:

- 1. The Section for Family of the CRBC collaborates respectively with the Taipei Archdiocese's Section for Family, the Hsinchu Diocese's Pastoral and Evangelization Section and Marriage and Family Center, and the Kaohsiung Diocese's Pastoral and Evangelization Center for Family, on the planning of 3 workshops and relevant arrangements. Each diocese is invited to send people to attend these workshops in order to encourage the deepening of faith of each diocese.
- 2. The details of these workshops are being planned; relevant information will be sent to each diocese when the plan is finished.

Resolution: Approved. (The Section for Family of the CRBC will be in charge of reporting on similar activities in the future.)

Proposal B: East Asian Regional Family Conference in Taiwan

Explanation:

- 1. In order to respond to the invitation of the FABC Office of Laity and Family, the Section for Family of the CRBC will undertake the East Asian Regional Family Meeting on May 15-19, 2017. The venue will be the St. Theresa's Center. Pastoral and evangelization workers for family from Korea, Japan, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Macao and Mongolia will come by then and gather together to discuss relevant issues.
- 2. The secretary of the FABC Office of Laity and Family came to Taiwan recently to have a meeting to plan the theme of conference, the speakers and the budget for next year with the preparatory working group which has been established. In principle, on the part of attendees of each country, they will not be charged individually. The FABC will deliver a letter to the Bishops' Conference of each country and ask them to pay respectively USD 1,600. In addition, the FABC is expected to subsidize USD 3,500 and to raise funds from the Singapore Diocese and the Missio Munich. Therefore, the Section for Family of the CRBC proposes that the host country raises by itself an amount of NT 500,000 (the part of USD 1,600 included).
- 3. About the number of conference attendees of each country, in principle each country can have 5 attendees; Taiwan, as a host country, can have 10 attendees. Each diocese will have 1 attendee and the Section for Family of the CRBC will have 3 attendees.

Means:

- 1. Each Bishop is invited to assign a suitable person to attend the East-Asian Regional Family Meeting. This person may not be a member of the Section for Family of the Diocese, but he or she should be capable to collaborate with the Section for Family of each Diocese in the future.
- 2. Taiwan needs to pay the amount of USD 1,600. On this part, Bishops are invited to discuss about how to pay: or it is divided by the number of the attendees (each person needs to paid about NTD 5,120), or it is all paid by the CRBC, or it is paid partially by attendees and the CRBC will pay the rest.
- 3. On the part of the funds that the hosting country will raise funds by itself, the Section for Family of the CRBC plans to apply for subsidy from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of the Interior and the Taoyuan City Government. If there is still insufficient funds that need to be brought up to full strength, Bishops are asked to agree on the fund-raising started by the Section for Family of the CRBC

Resolution: Agreed. The attendees will pay and the organizer will raise funds.

V. The Commission for Social Development

Proposal: Creation of National Catholic Association of Cooperatives for Savings

Explanation:

 In the 60's, our most respectable Cardinal Paul Yu Pin introduced from Canada the idea and practice of Cooperative for Savings in the Catholic Church, in order to relieve the economic difficulties of local society in Taiwan at that time.

- 2. At that time, almost every parish of each diocese had a cooperative, and the system had developed into the Protestant church and the military dependent community. Thousands of people are benefited: Some get their life improved, some get their business established, some finish their studies and some go for further studies.
- 3. The system of cooperatives brings up financial professionals. Therefore, 30 years ago, the cooperatives set up in Taichung a corporate group to run independently, gradually turn to financial system and management. However, the basic members are still in the Church!
- 4. The Presbyterians established soon the Presbyterian association of cooperatives and continue to put the primary purpose into practice and to work for the public welfare, and the result is very good!
- 5. The association can bring into play the function and the mission of cooperation.

Means:

- 1. To ask the National or Diocesan Association of Parish Evangelization Council to help to increase the number of cooperatives in the Diocese.
- 2. To take the Presbyterian Association of cooperatives as reference and to gather information.
- 3. To convene a National Catholic Forum of Presidents and Cadres of Cooperatives.
- 4. To invite experts and specialists to give speeches.
- 5. To prepare the Plenary Assembly of the Association.

Resolution: Agreed, and the Commission for Social Development will

plan, prepare and carry out the means mentioned-above.

VI. The Commission for Social Development and Caritas-Taiwan R.O.C.

Proposal: It is suggested that the Diocesan Bishops should bring the Diocesan Caritas in the Diocesan Association of Parish Evangelization Councils. The Parish Caritas Section will be set in the Parish Evangelization Council.

Explanation: The Caritas-Taiwan R.O.C. will have close cooperation with the Association of Parish Evangelization Councils and the Parish Evangelization Council. The organization of Caritas-Taiwan R.O.C. is strengthened. The two complement each other, for that the pastoral care and the social concerns go together. The Diocesan Caritas and the Parish Caritas Section can completely bring into play their mission and task.

Means:

- 1. The Diocesan Caritas will be brought into the Diocesan Association of Parish Evangelization Councils, but has its independent operation. At the same time, the Diocesan Caritas maintains its special membership with the Caritas-Taiwan R.O.C., the Caritas-Asia and the Caritas International.
- 2. Caritas should be brought in the Parish Evangelization Council as Parish Caritas Section.

Resolution: Approved.

VII. Commission for Interreligious Dialogue

Proposal A: 2017 International Conference for Catholic and Buddhists.

Explanation: 60 believers are invited to share their experiences of religious life in 4 days, in order to collect wisdom and knowledge of life, among them 30 are Catholic religious (15 native believers, 15 foreign believers), 30 are Buddhist Masters.

Means:

Venue: 3 choices

Choice 1: Ling Jiou Mountain (Reception upon arrival)

Advantage: Lesser cost. (About NTD155,000)

Disadvantage: Other Buddhist societies are not willing to attend, and the Catholic laypeople can't have a full participation.

Co-organizer: Ling Jiou Mountain

Choice 2: Catholic Venue: in the North, the Taiwan Catholic Regional Seminary (Capacity of only 50 people) and the Fu Jen University as venue, Wen Cui Building as hostel and spiritual activity venue. In the South, the Mount Beatitude. In the Central, the Bishop's office of Chiayi Diocese or the Manresa Center of Spirituality.

Advantage: The Catholic Church has a dominant place and can invite each Buddhist society.

Disadvantage: Fund-raising difficulty. (The budget is NTD 800,400) (To apply for the subsidy from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

Potential Co-organizer for the Catholic Church: the Taiwan Catholic Regional Seminary, the Fu Jen University, the Manresa Center of Spirituality.

Choice 3: Master Shi Jing Yao (Abbot of Ci Fa Chan Temple, Director of

the International Affairs Department of the Buddhist Association of the Republic of China, Chairman of Taiwan Conference on Religion and Peace)

Advantage: Lesser cost.

Disadvantage: Four other Buddhist big societies such as Dharma Drum Mountain, Chung Tai Mountain, Fo Guan Shan and Tzhchi and other Buddhist societies may not be willing to attend.

Potential Co-organizer: Ci Fa Chan Temple (No. 21, lane 23, Section 1 of Xue Fu Road, Tu Cheng District, New Taipei City)

Resolution: Agreed. All will be handled by the Commission for Interreligious Dialogue.

Proposal B: The Hong Kong Diocese intends to reach a consensus with the CRBC to upload on the Chinese website of the Vatican the booklet of Justification by Faith published in 2014.

Explanation: Bishop Thomas Chung received a letter from Hong Kong Diocese on September 30, 2016 to express that they will upload the booklet together with the declaration on the Chinese website of the Vatican.

Means:

1. Bishop Thomas Chung already contacted Fr. John Lai in May 2015 and his opinion about the booklet of Justification by Faith was as follows:

The Hong Kong Diocese can decide on its own to upload the Chinese version of the booklet of Justification by Faith on the Chinese website of the Vatican, no agreement or endorsement of the CRBC is needed.

The Bishops are suggested to decide.

Resolution: Approved.

VIII. Taichung Diocese

Proposal: The 5th Asia Oceania Mariological Conference

Theme: Virgin Mary and Family

Venue: Manresa Center of Spirituality of Changhua

Attendees: 50 fathers and religious sisters from Asia and Oceania, 70

laypersons from Taiwan.

Resolution: Approved.

IX. Chiayi Diocese

Proposal: The 4th National Eucharistic Congress is suggested to be held

in 2019.

Explanation:

- 1. The 3nd National Eucharistic Congress (hereinafter referred to as NEC) is held by Taichung Diocese. In the review meeting, it is told that for the past 3 times, the NEC is held 1 time every 2 years, and the frequency is high; it is suggested that from the next time on, it is more appropriate to held every 3 or 4 years.
- 2. The 52nd International Eucharistic Congress will be held in 2020, in Budapest, Hungary.
- 3. It is suggested by the Section for Eucharistic Devotion Promotion of the CRBC that it can be held around the International Eucharistic

Congress, so that the atmosphere can be more cohesive and relevant activities can be planned

4. There is special significance to hold the NEC in 2019, the 160th anniversary of the coming of Catholicism in Taiwan.

Suggestion: The Bishops are suggested to approve that Chiayi Diocese will hold the 4th NEC in 2019.

Resolution: Approved.

X. Commission for the Doctrine of Faith and Catechetical Instruction - Bible Apostolate

Proposal: Revision of the Statutes of the Chinese Biblical Association.

Explanation: In order to encourage connections among different Diocesan Bible Apostolate Associations, to promote together with them relevant pastoral work through biblical studies in Taiwan and to bring into play the organizational effectiveness, the Chinese Biblical Association revised its statutes. (Cf. the attachment documents)

Resolution: Approved. (Date: November 23, 2016)

Extraordinary motion:

1. The surplus of the 2016 National Eucharistic Congress.

Explanation:

1. The surplus of the 2016 National Eucharistic Congress is NTD 1,220,108.

(It is NTD 1,203,402 on July 30, 2016)

2. After the approval of the proposal at the meeting on July 30, 2016, the preparatory committee of the 2016 National Eucharistic Congress will give half of its surplus to Hualien Diocese for the typhoon rebuilding fund of Taidong; it will remit the other half to the special account of the CRBC for the National Eucharistic Congress as fund for holding the National Eucharistic Congress in the future. This proposal is submitted to the CRBC.

Resolution: Approved.

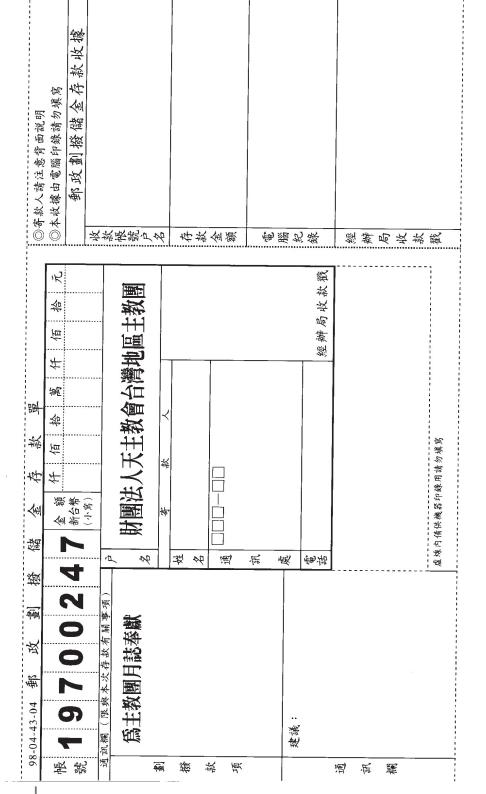
Memorandum:

• Bishops and Men and Women Religious Superiors Joint Meeting

Date: 10:00am – 3:00pm, Tuesday 28 March, 2017

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





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