

從聖屋談到信仰的外展

李海龍神父

做堂區主任司鐸,經常有機會到教友家中去聖屋。 聖屋過程中要選讀一段聖經,屋主往往會選讀瑪竇福音第 六章第廿五節至第卅三節的[不為生活憂慮篇]。

今天上午十一時,龔姓的上海教友駕車來聖堂,接我去聖屋。途中他問及我的健康,我說多謝天主,一切都有賴天主的照顧。天主從小就特別照顧了我,經過那麼次的經歷後,我已確定自己是一個[受保護的動物]。所以我並不在意保健:不忌諱甚麼,不定期檢查身體,不做預防性的保健措施。我的邏輯是:如果有祂照顧我,還有比甚麼更好和更有效的辦法呢!?我當時這麼說是有幾方面的理由的:一則我可以見證天主的眷愛,二則可以藉此鼓勵別人多信賴天主;我在這裡寫,也是為了同樣的理由。

到了龔宅,屋主所選的讀經恰巧又是瑪 6:25-33 那段。這段福音是要我們信賴天主,因為對於不播種也不耕耘的飛鳥,和今天還在,明天就要投入爐裡焚燒的野草,天主尚且養育和裝飾牠們,何況我們人呢?!所以我們不應該為衣食住行過份操勞,以致疏忽了敬愛天主的大事;耶穌說:「你們先該尋求天主的國和祂的義德,其它的一切祂自會賜給你們的。」

[聖屋]本來就是一種信賴天主的行為。我們請神父來聖屋,其實是要向天主表達信望愛三德:我們相信祂是萬物的主宰,我們祈望祂的祝福和我們願意做祂忠貞孝愛的子民。

聖屋不比聖一串念珠或一張聖像。[屋]是家,是社會最基本的單位,所以要以適度的、社會性的行動來配合。例如請些至親好友來,預備一些糕點等,讓[聖屋]不僅是祈福;也是,在親友的參與中,將信,望,愛三德形諸於外的信仰行為。有時我被請到一些尚未入住,毫無人氣的空屋裡去聖屋,把[聖屋]當作是入住前一個辟邪淨化的程序,未免是偏頗了些。聖屋的主要成份在於主持者的祝禱和屋主的信德。

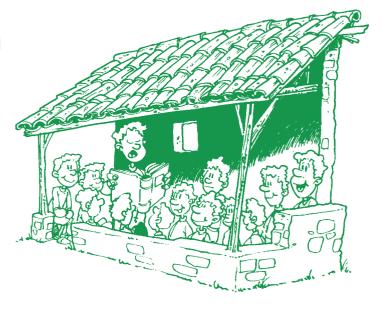
說到這裡,我發覺所說的已涉及了兩個信仰問題: 一個是現世與永世的抗衡;另一個是內在與外在的整合。

有關現世與永世的抗衡,耶穌說得最多。可說這是 耶穌講道的重心。除了上述瑪竇福音的[不為生活憂慮 篇]外,祂還以許多不同的說法講出了同樣的道理,例 如:「要積聚天上的;而非現世的財寶。(參見瑪六:19-20)」;「沒有人能事奉兩個主人:事奉天主而又事奉錢財。(參見瑪六:24)」;「你們要捨棄(現世的)性命,才能獲得(永世的)性命(參見瑪十:39)」。

他看得遠、看得真,所以祂把人生真正重要的事指 給我們看,以免我們迷失在會生銹、會消失的世物上。其 實現世和世物並非是毫無用途的。它們對永世和天國的職 能是〔踏腳石〕,是〔紙幣〕之與〔用品〕的關係。〔紙 幣〕的功能在於它能換取〔用品〕。能換到〔用品〕的〔紙 幣〕才算完成了〔紙幣〕的功能;換不成〔用品〕的〔紙 幣〕是廢物。現世之與永生也是一樣。

至於內在的信念與外在的行為整合的問題,耶穌有下列的訓勉:「那裡有兩個或三個人,因我的名聚在一起,我就在他們中間。(參見瑪十八:20)」。「你們要去使萬民成為門徒,因父及子及聖神之名,給他們授洗。(參見瑪廿八:19)」。這兩句話都申明了[信仰]必須外展的要素。人是靈魂與肉體的合成體,信之於內的必須形之於外,才稱得上是內外合一。基督徒不是孤島,他們應該參與信仰小團體,和禮儀生活;此外他們也應該把所信的宣揚出去,以言以行為福音和天國作見証。

請問,請反省:你/妳的信仰生活是否是封閉的,不外展的呢?你/妳在成為地上的鹽和世上的光方面做過些甚麼呢?完全絕緣於信仰小團體或堂區內的團體生活是否一樣可以活出一個理想的基督徒的生活呢?!



問: 怎麼說讀聖書,默想聖經為靈魂是這麼重要的嗎?

答: 一天,人群中有一婦人高聲向耶穌說:「懷過你的胎,及你所吮吸過的乳房 是有福的!」耶穌卻說:「可是那聽天主的話而遵行的人,更是有福的。」 這段聖

經一方面使我們瞭解默想聖經並加以實踐的重要性,另一方面也是告訴我們聖母之偉大是在那裡。她被稱為 [滿被聖寵者],因為她常把天主的聖言留存在心內,而又熱心恒心地遵行了它。

中的瓶就再也倒不出油來了。婦人隨後把這奇妙的事告訴了先知。先知就對婦人說:「你去把油賣了,還你的債;剩下的你和你的兒子可用來過活。」



AFewThoughtson TheLord'sPrayer

I CANNOT PRAY **Our,** if my faith has no room for others and their need.

I cannot pray **Father**, if I do not demonstrate this relationship to God in my daily living.

I cannot pray who art in heaven, if all of my interests and pursuits are in earthly things.

I cannot pray **hallowed be your name**, if I am not striving, with God's help, to be holy.

I cannot pray **your kingdom come**, if I am unwilling to accept God's rule in my life.

I cannot pray **your will be done**, if I am unwilling or resentful of having it in my life.

I cannot pray **on earth as it is in Heaven**, unless I am truly ready to give myself to God's service here and now.

I cannot pray **give us this day our daily bread**, without expending honest effort for it, or if I withhold from my neighbour the bread that I receive.

I cannot pray **forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who tresspass against us**, if I continue to harbour a grudge against anyone.

I cannot pray **lead us not into temptation**, if I deliberately choose to remain in a situation where I am likely to be tempted.

I cannot pray **deliver us from evil**, if I am not prepared to fight evil with my life and my prayer.

I cannot pray **yours is the kingdom**, if I am unwilling to obey the king.

I cannot pray **yours is the power and the glory**, if I am seeking power for myself and my own glory first.

I cannot pray **forever and ever**, if I am too anxious about each day's affairs.

I cannot pray **Amen**, unless I honestly say, "Cost what it may, this is my prayer."

--Anonymous--

默想:舊約時代,人類建比天高的塔,天主破壞,無人死傷。 現代的人的破壞、報復,卻是死傷無數。是否有人想扮演神呢?



九時許,各人均趕著上班,趕到這紐約最高的大廈,樓層越高地位越高。途人望著屋頂摩天的高樓,均想到頂層餐廳,一覽紐約的全景。冷不防,看到的是一架飛機從遠處慢慢地飛來,飛機越來越大,竟然撞向那座高樓。後來的事,也不用多說了。

他坐在地球的另一邊,看著電視直播著這場悲劇的發生,仍是不敢相信。他立即打ICQ 及電話給他在美國的朋友,很難才聯絡上,報得平安。

那一晚他輾轉反側不能入睡,打開聖經看看有沒有什麼啟示。還記得舊約時代,人類要建一座塔與天比高,不是被天主破壞了嗎?遂找到巴貝耳塔的一段。

噢!原來天主破壞人的高塔也祇是要他們言語

不通,建不成塔。也沒有命令雷電擊倒他們的塔引致傷亡。面對人類的挑戰,天主的反應是那麼溫和。反觀現代的人類呢?「報仇」可以使人殺害一大批、一大批無關的人,為什麼呢?

為什麼「世貿大廈」的人要死呢?為什麼阿富汗平民要受難呢?

是否有人想扮演神呢?是誰給他權柄呢?

中國人有句話:「四海之內皆兄弟也」。剛發生的事件就像看到兄弟互相殘殺一樣。

人原來是那樣可怖!這不是聖經,也不是故事,是赤裸裸的現實。想到這裡他也不願再想下去。唯一可以做的就是專心祈禱,希望戰爭早日結束,和平可以降臨阿富汗。



打高球,談靈修

梁昌倫

朋黨因素:觀乎大部份的高球發燒友都是三、五成群,他們彼此之間既是互相競爭又是互相鼓勵,吃飯時分析賽果,研究球技,更為未來的賽事作安排。但是靈修嗎?很少的分享是自發的,聚會時總是:一、羞於啟齒;二、互相禮讓;三、或苦無話題。單簡地說,是因為體驗不足,參與不夠,分享時急就章,自然便流露於表

面膚淺。

沒有成功人物:世界知名的高球手例如雷 士 Jack Nicholas ,等等代有人才出,在電視 如電視 如電視 大文章 大文章 大文章 大文章 大文章 大大之章 大大之章 大大之章 大大之章 大大之章 大大之章 大大之。 大大之章 大大之。 大大之章 大大之章

(下期待續,敬請留意)

(編者按:筆者為聖母進教者之佑會的資深會員,現職專科顧問醫生,對靈修有其獨特見解。)

好介格本

PAY IT FORWARD

author: Catharine Ryan Hyde

"What does the world mean to you?"

"What does the world expect of you?

"These are not a philosophic question, rather they are questions from a social studies teacher in Las Vegas junior-high-school who wants to prepare his junior high-school students to face life.

"Think of an idea to change our world - and put itinto action."

In response to this provocative assignment, an abstract extracredit assignment, one student leaps at the chance and reconfigures the golden rule as a sort of chain letter. If someone does you a favor, don't pay him back. Do something nice for three other people. Then suggest they do the same for three more people. He develops the "pay it forward" plan. Sort of a do-gooder pyramid scheme whilst devises a sort of existential chain letter whereby asks people to return favors by doing good deeds for others, and so the good deed will spread exponentially. Before long, random acts of kindness sweep the town. "Mushroom clouds of kindness" "A Mother Teresa conga line" as described in the novel.

"Pay it forward" is a novel written by Catharine Ryan Hyde. The book's unusual title is about a system of goodwill implemented by the student. If a person does something nice for you, you "pay it forward" by doing a good turn to someone else.

Today, society covered with poverty, discontent; addiction, and violence; facing the threat of child molestation, family abuses and senseless murder. What's wrong with that? Mistrusts, greed and selfishness flows among the human relationships. Individual habitually isolated themselves with their PCs or laptops. They'd rather chatted through ICQ or email with their identity hidden. Over self-protection turns oneself mistrust others and isolates oneself as well. In theory the idea that society makes selflessness seem unnatural and that only consciousness design - a regime - to do good can put people in touch with their essential decency is less sentimental than it first appears.

However, kindness and the best intentions are not always enough. It's interesting to watch people get suspicious and angrily shout, "I didn't ask for yourhelp," when strangers offer to go out on a limb. Lack of mutual trust in the human relationship aroused the

distrustful between the individuals. "There is no free lunch in this world" even you pay it forward, the receiver will doubt your intention and your longing rewards.

The overall message of "Pay It Forward" movement is one of hope and optimism. Once confronted with a random act of kindness, one would be willing to keep the compact and pass on the goodwill. Providing an honest answer might require more soul-searching than many of us are comfortable doing.

It is not an improbable dream or overly utopian idea. It works only the habitually lonely oneself, the isolated individual willing to reaching out and coming together, not disconnecting. Once you free yourself with hope and love, you will automatically feel the warmth that God already seeded inside our hearts.

Most of the children's mind are pure and simple, the irresponse are direct and sincere. While the disciples arguing "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" among themselves, Jesus called a little child unto him, set him in the midst of them and told the disciples that except they converted themselves as little children, they shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. [Mt18: 1-3]

Trevor, the student who plans the "pay it forward" system is nothing special or genius. He is a boy in search of stability and meaning - he has the childlike ability to see the good in people and to ignore the consequences of his actions, but the adult insight to understand what others need.

The "Pay-it forward" system, is a practical application of karma, coming up with a rather simple,inventive idea of thinking globally but acting locally. The plan - dubbed "paying it forward" -has three steps that basically calls for everybody to help three other people in unique ways. In turn,these people will help three more people, who will help three more people, and so on and so forth, until the whole world becomes one cosmic pyramid scheme of do-gooders.

Jesus said, "Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And who so shall receive one such little child in my name receiveth me." [Mt18: 4-5] Well, lets humble oneself, read this novel and try if the plan can work out.

精神會員 / 靈火讀者天地

孔妙瑩

聖母進教者之佑會第十分會剛於十一月份在聖安多尼堂舉行了招募活動,反應熱烈。現謹代表本善會歡迎以下兄弟姊妹加入成為靈火讀者:

李淑貞 祁慧芬 陳健信 李志剛 張鳳儀 李樂儀 林美瑩 Lina Yeung 鐘永根 葉 夭 欣 Cindy Wong 黄子璧 黄敏賢 吳全母 蔡玉珍 何佩儀 何詠芳

東東華 秦詠珊 Margarini Lam

8

另外,亦非常感謝**林楊秀珍**姊妹的捐獻,願主祝福以上各位兄弟姊妹,讓我們繼續勤讀聖書做默想,以聖化自己,聖化他人。

我們誠意邀請你成為本會《靈火》讀者或精神會員,

有意者請填妥回條及影印寄回:

香港薄扶林道 69A 轉交聖母進教者之佑會

(或傳真: 2898 8875)

我願意成為《靈火》讀者,請給我定期寄上《靈火》

我願意嚮應聖母進教者之佑會的呼籲,嘗試每天讀聖書和

做默想,藉此豐富自己的靈性生活,並加入成為精神會員

姓名: (中)

周思維

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日期: 每月的第一個星期五

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