

# 教友通訊

## Newsletter

June/July/August 2018 六月/七月/八月



**Mass: Sundays 3:00 p.m.**

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## **Words from Fr. Nicholas Ho**

### **An Unexpected Name - JOHN.**

We celebrate the birth of John the Baptist on June 24th.

We may ask: 'Why did Zechariah doubt the angel's announcement?'

The most obvious answer is his wife's advanced age.

But there is a second reason. The angel announced that Zechariah's Son would be called John. The common practice of giving the firstborn son the name of his Father indicated that the child would be like the Father and would provide continuity for the family. So, when the angel told Zechariah that his Son was to be named John, the angel was saying that the child would not be like his Father.

It is not easy to accept others when they do not meet our expectations.

Perhaps we have a Friend who has changed drastically that we think he or she needs a new name. Of course, there are changes that are not acceptable, and when they do happen, we need to resist them. But change is not always negative.

The story of John's birth invites us to be patient with changes and consider the possibility that God is at work. God may be shaping the person who surprises us to be like John, someone called to do God's work.

Eventually Zechariah accepted his Son. His example should give us hope that, with time, we too can learn to accept the qualities of others we may not like.

## **何神父的話**

### **一個意想不到的名字 - 若翰。**

我們慶祝 6 月 24 日洗者若翰的誕生。

我們可能會問：'為什麼撒迦利亞懷疑天使的宣告？'

最明顯的答案是他妻子的高齡。

但還有第二個原因。天使宣布撒迦利亞的兒子將被稱為若翰。給長子父親的名字慣例表示，孩子會像父親一樣，並為家庭提供連續性。所以，當天使告訴撒迦利亞他的兒子要被稱為若翰時，天使在說，孩子不會像他的父親。

當他們不符合我們的期望，接受他人並不容易。

也許我們有一位朋友發生了巨大變化，我們認為他或她需要一個新名字。當然，有些變化是不可接受的，當它們發生時，我們需要抗拒它們。但變化並不總是負面的。

若翰誕生的故事教我們對改變要存有耐心，並考慮天主可能正在工作中。天主可能塑造了讓我們感到驚訝的人，像若翰一樣，被叫去做天主的工作。

撒迦利亞最終接受了他的兒子。他的榜樣應該給我們希望，假以時日，我們也可以學會接受一些在別人身上我們不太喜歡的特質。

## 警醒吧！10種在教會出現的奇怪現象，太真實了.....

1. 天主給我們的誡命和要求，竟然成為我們約束、教訓他人的“憑證”，以顯示自己在教會中“有地位”。
2. 開心幸福的時候，把天主忘得乾乾淨淨；傷心困苦的時候，又拼命地呼求天主能來幫幫自己。
3. 在彌撒中奉獻 100 塊錢覺得是“巨款”，出門逛街購物花 100 塊錢覺得太便宜。
4. 跪在耶穌聖體前一句話說不出，和朋友聚會聊天竟能說個沒完沒了。
5. 看電影遲到一分鐘覺得遺憾萬分，去教堂參與彌撒遲到十分鐘都覺得無所謂。
6. 出門時刻帶著手機、錢包，從來不落；聖經、念珠、聖牌卻從來不帶在身上。
7. 看演唱會、表演拼命坐在最前方，參與彌撒喜歡卻坐在最後方。
8. 向他人傳播八卦娛樂熱情很高，向他人傳播耶穌福音熱情卻小。
9. 手機沒電了著急的不得了，生怕和別人斷了聯繫，天主就在身邊，卻始終不聯繫一下。
10. 巴結上司領導的花招挺多，博得耶穌喜歡的辦法卻沒多少。

警醒吧！在教會出現的奇怪現象，太真實了.....

Shared by Oliver Wan  
<https://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/pnLtuXPuRLalmSEi78GsA>

1. The commandments and requirements that God has given us have actually become the "evidence" for us to restrain and teach others, in order to show that we have "position" in the church.
  2. When we are happy and joyful, we clearly forget about God; when we are sad and desperate, we desperately call on God to help us.
  3. In the mass, we think the dedication of 100 dollars is "a huge sum of money", when we are shopping, spending 100 dollars feel so cheap.
  4. We have nothing to say to Jesus when we kneel in front of His communion. When we meet and chat with friends, we can talk endlessly.
  5. We feel regret when we are one minute late to a movie, but it did not matter a lot to us if we were ten minutes late to go to the church to participate in the mass.
  6. Whenever we leave home, we have a cell phone and a wallet. We never forget to bring them, but we never carry The Bible, rosary, nor holy cross.
  7. When we watch concerts, performances, we desperately want to sit in the front. However, when we participate in mass, we like to sit in the back.
  8. When we spread gossip to others, we are very enthusiastic and excited, but only little enthusiasm when we spread Jesus' Gospel to others.
  9. When our cell phones are out of battery, we are so worried that we will be disconnected from others. God is there, right next to us, but we do not want to contact with Him.
  10. We have many tricks to be obsequious to our bosses, but we only have a few ways to have Jesus' favor.
- Be Aware! The strange phenomena that are happening in the church, they are so real...

*“When an alien resides with you in your land, do not mistreat such a one. You shall treat the alien who resides with you no differently than the natives born among you; you shall love the alien as yourself; for you too were once aliens in the land of Egypt.” (Leviticus 19:33-34)*

Immigration is one of the most discussed issues. We often hear pundits and politicians debating immigration issues. We also hear about conflicts and atrocities causing many to flee their homes. News reports often mention estimates of the number of people who have fled and the struggles that they have faced.

However, we have to remember that they are not numbers. They are people. Regardless of their immigration status or whether or not they are refugees, they are human beings and our brothers and sisters. They deserve our love and support. As mentioned in the verse above, we should treat our immigrant and refugee brothers and sisters the way we would like to be treated. Indeed, in Mark 12:31, Jesus states, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” Immigrants and refugees are our neighbors.

After all, Jesus and his family were refugees. In Matthew 2:13-15 we discover that Jesus, Mary, and Joseph fled from Israel to Egypt to escape from Herod’s campaign of mass murder. They were not able to return until Herod passed away (Matthew 2:19-20). Similarly, many around the world are fleeing atrocities. From Syrian families fleeing mass murder by the Assad regime and ISIS to Central American families fleeing gangs and corruption, there are many who have been

forced to leave their homes for safety and security. Just as we feel compassion for the Holy Family, we should be compassionate towards our immigrant brothers and sisters, including, but not limited to, those who have fled violence and persecution. As Pope Francis once said, we should, “understand the hopes and potential of the newly arrived as well as their fears and vulnerabilities.”

Thus, we should do what we can to show our love and support for our immigrant and refugee brothers and sisters. We should pray for them and keep them in our prayers. We should also speak out against xenophobia- and advocate against xenophobic and harmful policies (especially policies that tear families apart). Another great action to take is to donate to- and/or volunteer for- organizations that help immigrants and refugees. For instance, both Catholic Charities and the International Rescue Committee have chapters in Sacramento that help immigrants and refugees. Overall, there is much we can do to stand in solidarity with immigrants and refugees. Let us do so daily and to implement Jesus’ message of love in our lives.

*John L. Allen Jr. “Fear of immigrants, not a sin, but being driven by it is, Pope says.” Crux. January 14, 2018. <https://cruxnow.com/vatican/2018/01/14/fear-immigrants-not-sin-driven-pope-says/>*

## 愛和團結與我們的移民和難民兄弟姐妹們

「若外方人在你們的地域內，與你住在一起，不可欺壓他；對與你們住在一起的外方人，應看作你們中的一個同鄉，愛他如愛你自己，因為你們在埃及地也做過外方人：我，上主是你們的天主。」- 肋未紀 19:33-34

移民是討論最多的問題之一。我們經常聽到權威人士和政治家在辯論移民的問題。我們也聽說有關衝突和暴動，導致許多人逃離家園。新聞報導經常提到逃離的人數以及他們面臨的困難。

但是，我們必須記住他們不是數字。他們是人。無論他們的移民身份或他們是否難民，他們都是人類和我們的兄弟姐妹。他們應當得到我們的愛和支持。正如上面的經文所述，我們應該以我們希望得到待遇的方式來對待我們的移民和難民兄弟姐妹。的確，在馬爾谷福音 12:31 中，耶穌說：「你應當愛近人如你自己。」移民和難民是我們的鄰居。

畢竟，耶穌和他的家人是難民。在瑪竇福音 2:13-15 中，我們發現耶穌，瑪利亞和若瑟從以色列逃到埃及，以逃避希律的大屠殺運動。直到希律去世，他們才能回來（瑪竇福音 2:19-20）。同樣，世界各地的許多人都在逃避暴行。從敘利亞家庭逃離阿薩德政權的大規模屠殺，和從伊斯蘭國中逃離幫派和腐敗的中美洲家庭，還有許多人被迫離開家園進行安全保衛。正如我們對聖家同情一樣，我們應該對我們的移民兄弟姐妹表示同情，包括但不限於那些逃離暴力和迫害的人。正如教宗方濟各曾經說過的那樣，我們應該「了解新抵達的希望和潛力以及他們的恐懼和脆弱性。」

因此，我們應該盡我所能去表達我們對移民和難民兄弟姐妹的愛和支持。我們應該為他們禱

告，並讓他們留在我們的禱告中。我們也應該反對仇外心理，倡導反對仇外和有害的政策（尤其是將家庭分開的政策）。另一個偉大的行動是捐贈和/或當志願者 - 幫助移民和難民的組織。例如，天主教慈善組織和國際救援委員會在薩克拉門托都有部門幫助移民和難民。總而言之，我們可以做很多事情來幫助移民和難民。讓我們每天這樣做，並在我們的生活中實施耶穌愛的訊息。

Links:

*Catholic Charities Sacramento:*

<http://catholiccharitiesca.org/our-network/catholic-charities-of-sacramento/>

*International Rescue Committee Sacramento:*

<https://www.rescue.org/united-states/sacramento-ca>

**“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.”**  
**“You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”**  
 - Mark 12:30-31

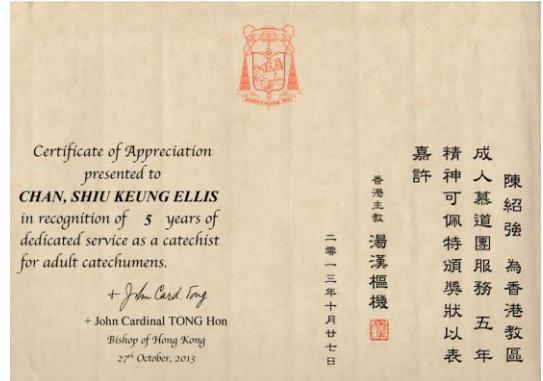
With the 16-month catechism almost came to the end, I asked Sister, “Can I not to take the baptism?” Out of my surprise, the Sister said, “Why not!” Her reply not only made me feel much relieved but also sensed the love and generosity of our Lord. Sister further said, “God gives us the freedom to choose. On Sunday we can choose to stay in bed, or hang around with friends, or go to mass to stay at peace in Christ. We set our priority according to what we need.” Her words brought me back to our Lord again and since then I attend mass every Sunday morning before going to catechism class and then returning home to spend time with wife and daughter.



Finally, I received the Sacrament of Initiation one year later on April 19, 2003 and our second child Justin was born 8 days later too. What a wonderful arrangement of our Lord! Also thanks to his blessing, our family could enjoy the peace and joy amid the outbreak of a deadly epidemic

(Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome) in Hong Kong at that time.

Life inspires life. I met in my second catechism class the late Deacon Joseph Sung who had influenced me greatly on my road to faith. He taught me to “love the Lord our God with all our heart, and with all our soul, and with all our mind, and with all our strength.” and “shall love our neighbor as ourselves.” (Mark 12:30-31) He also



let me understand that evangelization is not done only through our mouths but the way of living our faith and let people find Jesus on us. He devoted himself fully to serve in mass, lead retreat and act as spiritual director for catechism and other parish communities. He even brought my kids to look for snacks after Sunday school and helped Justin to find and enroll into a Catholic primary school. I was deeply touched by what he had done.

Therefore, I joined the Ministry of Lector soon after my baptism so as to study bible more and to serve the parish. Then I also took the 2-year Catechetical Training Course at the Catechetical Centre of the Hong Kong Catholic Diocese. I have to walk uphill every Saturday morning from the underground station at Central to the Cathedral of The Immaculate Conception at Caine Road to attend 3-hour classes in order to be able to preach the Gospel. Like our parish priest said, we have to first “sacrifice enjoyment” before we can “enjoy our sacrifice” later.

During that time, I also participated in the parish council committee work and tried to devote in all activities to serve parishioners and people in the society. It gave me the opportunity to get to know many brothers and sisters in Christ that completely changed my life. In the next issue I am going to share my faith in life at the parish in the past decade, which are also the most colorful days in my life. That will be my last sharing and so do not miss it!

## 我是誰？

陳紹強

『你應當全心、全靈、全意、全力愛上主，你的天主。』『你應當愛近人如你自己。』(谷 12:30-31)

在 16 個月的慕道期快將結束之際，我鼓起勇氣問修女：『我可否不領洗？』出乎我意料之外，修女淡淡然說：『為何不可！』她的回答不但令我鬆了一口氣，而且更讓我感受到天主的慈愛和寬仁。修女再補充說：『其實天主讓我們自由選擇一切，星期天我們可以選擇躲在牀上，或和朋友吃喝玩樂，當然也可以上聖堂參與彌撒和感受那份平安，凡事的優次都是我們自己決定。』這番話再次把我帶回天主身邊，自此每個主日我一大清早便跑到聖堂參與感恩祭，跟著上慕道課程，然後才回家與太太和女兒共聚天倫。

一年後，我終於在 2003 年 4 月 19 日領受入門聖事，而 8 天之後，我們的第二名孩子洛天亦出生了，再一次見證了上主奇妙的安排。而當時香港正經歷一場世紀疫症「沙士」（非典型肺炎），感謝天主的恩賜，讓我們一家人得享平安和喜樂。



生命影響生命，在我第二次慕道時遇上已故宋雲龍執事，他不緊是當時的神司，亦是我信仰路上的好導師。他教懂了我「應當全心、全靈、全意、全力愛上主，你的天主。」並「應當愛近人如你自己。」

(谷 12:30-31) 他更讓我明白福傳不只靠我的口，而是要生活出我們的信仰，令身邊的人在我們身上也能找到耶穌。他竭力服務堂區，服務教會，不單輔彌撒，帶避靜，還作為慕道團和堂區各小團體的神司，主日學後還把我的孩子帶去找吃的，最後更幫洛天弄到一所天主教小學去成長。我深深的被他觸動了！

所以，在領洗後不久我便加入了堂區的聖言宣讀組，一方面可以研習聖經，而同時又可服務堂區。其後我再立志成為傳道員，於是參加了香港教區教理中心的兩年制成人教理講授訓練課程。就如神父所說，先要「犧牲享受」，每逢週六早上由中環地鐵站徒步走上半山堅道的主教座堂上三個小時的課，兩年期間每週如是，為的是希望可以傳揚福音，他日真的可以「享受犧牲」。

在報讀教理課程的同時，亦嘗試參與堂區議會幹事的工作，全程投入教會團體的活動，服務教友及其他社會人士，當然亦給我機會結識了很多主內的弟兄姊妹，將我的人生徹底改變了。下期亦是我最後一次在這裡和大家見面，我將和大家分享最近十多年在堂區的信仰生活，也是我生命中最色彩繽紛的一段日子，大家千萬別錯過喔！

