

# St. Peter Canisius International Catholic Parish Jakarta

Monthly Bulletin – April 2023

#### THE SOCIAL TEACHINGS OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH AND CONSUMERISM

#### Beloved Sisters and Brothers,

The Catholic Church has been a vocal advocate for social justice and the dignity of human beings throughout its history. The social teachings of the Church have always emphasized the importance of community, responsibility, and ethical behavior. Unfortunately, these principles are often at odds with the pervasive

consumer culture that has come to dominate our modern society. We live in a world which is obsessed with consumerism. We invest time, energy, and money on our gadgets, fancy food and drink, clothes, entertainment, home decor, etc. We chase wealth, fame, and the admiration or notice of others. How do the social teachings of the Catholic Church conflict with consumerism and what can we do to promote an alternative vision for our society?

One of the key tenets of the Catholic social teachings is the concept of the common good. This principle emphasizes the importance of community, cooperation, and mutual support over individualism and self-interest. Consumerism, on the other hand, is based on the idea that the pursuit of personal gain and material wealth is the ultimate goal of life. "Just do it," "Love Yourself," "Me-Time," "Me-First," - this is now the mindset to drive new consumer trends. The Church has long recognized the dangers of this mindset, warning that it can lead to a dehumanizing culture that values things over people.



I remember a little story about how a young mother tried to inculcate in her children that "sense of the other," something that parents should always strive to do both in words and example. Noticing that



whenever she gives her kids some special food or goodies, her eldest was always choosing the better or bigger portion and leaving the rest (which of course is fewer in amount or less attractive) to his little brother, she called their attention. The mother said to them, "My dear sons, I'm so happy that you're learning to share with each other. But you know what, real sharing means you always give the better portion or the bigger part to the other, and you take for yourself what's left." And so, one day, wanting to see if her kids got the point, she called them and handed a big red apple to the older one, who immediately

"shared" it with the brother while saying, "Hey li'l bro, look here's an apple for us... I give it to you so you

should share with me ok... and remember what Mom told us, when you share give the bigger part to the other and take what's left for yourself." That is "Me-First" mindset at a very early age!

The Catholic Church also teaches that all people have inherent dignity and worth. This means that each person is entitled to basic rights such as food, shelter, and healthcare. Consumerism, on the other hand, prioritizes the desires of the individual over the needs of the community. This can lead to a culture where the wealthy consume resources at the expense of the poor and vulnerable. We are all too familiar with the expression, "the wealthy are becoming wealthier while the poor become poorer!" I have always admired parents who have made it their family tradition to bring their





birthday son or daughter to an orphanage or an institution for children

with special needs and celebrate with those less fortunate boys and girls. What a great and beautiful impression it must have on their children's fresh and young minds!

The key is to have that "sense of the other" mindset. And if it is true that "Charity begins at home," then that "sense of the other" should start right at home in our families. Just a very practical example... how many times have you gone to the refrigerator to enjoy a glass of cold water, but as you try to pour, you realize that what you've got is only a cold empty pitcher! All because everyone who drank before you were just thinking

of themselves and not of the one who would be coming next after him. How much effort is needed to fill up that pitcher after I had my drink so that the next one after me could also enjoy a cold drink? But no, I have no "sense of the other!"

In addition to these social principles, the Catholic Church has also spoken out tirelessly against the harmful effects of consumerism on the environment. The Church has long recognized the importance of stewardship and care for the natural world. Consumerism, on the other hand, often ignores the environmental impact of our actions in the pursuit of profit and consumer goods. And what can we do to promote an alternative vision for society that emphasizes community, responsibility, and ethical behavior over consumerism? One approach is to actively support and promote the principles of the Catholic social teaching. This could include volunteering for organizations that work to reduce poverty and inequality, advocating for environmental protection, and supporting policies that promote the common good. Thanks to Pope Francis' ground-breaking encyclical *Laudato Sì*, millions of Catholics



all over the world have been inspired to better respond to the cry of the earth, the ecological crisis and the cry of the poor.

Another approach is to make more conscious choices about our consumption habits. This could include buying locally sourced and sustainably produced products, reducing our use of **single-use plastics**, and **consuming less in general**. By making these choices, we can send a message to corporations and policymakers that we value ethical and sustainable practices over profit at any cost.



In conclusion, the social teachings of the Catholic Church provide a valuable framework for promoting a more just and equitable society. They are, in essence, a program and way of life based on the "sense of the other" mindset. However, these principles often conflict with the pervasive consumer culture and "Me-First" mentality that has come to dominate modern life. By actively promoting the principles of the Catholic social teaching and making more conscious choices about our consumption habits, we can work to create a society that values community, responsibility, and ethical behavior over consumerism.

Fr. Noel Villafuerte, SDB



#### **ONLINE & OFFLINE MASS SCEHDULE**



| ST. PETER CANISIUS INTERNATIONAL CATHOLIC PARISH CHOIR SCHEDULE FOR APRIL 2023 OFFLINE/ONLINE FROM ST. THERESIA |     |   |         |                          |
|---|-----|---|---------|--------------------------|
| DATE  | DAY | MASS                                    | TIME    | CHOIR                    |
| Apr 01,   | Sat | Palm Sunday                             | 3:30PM  | Eucharistic Sounds Choir |
| Apr 02,   | Sun | Palm Sunday                             | 3.00PM  | ELFACS Choir             |
| Apr 06,   | Thu | Maundy Thursday                         | 1:30PM  | ELFACS Choir             |
| Apr 07,   | Fri | Good Friday                             | 11:00AM | The Choir Immortal       |
| Apr 08,   | Sat | Easter Vigil                            | 3.00PM  | The Choir Immortal       |
| Apr 09,   | Sun | Easter Sunday                           | 3.00PM  | The Choir Immortal       |
| Apr 15,   | Sat | 2nd Sunday Easter (Divine Mercy Sunday) | 3:30PM  | Eucharistic Sounds Choir |
| Apr 16,   | Sun | 2nd Sunday Easter (Divine Mercy Sunday) | 3:00PM  | ELFACS Choir             |
| Apr 22,   | Sat | 3rd Sunday Easter                       | 3:30PM  | Eucharistic Sounds Choir |
| Apr 23,   | Sun | 3rd Sunday Easter                       | 3:00PM  | ELFACS Choir             |
| Apr 29,   | Sat | 4th Sunday Easter                       | 3:30PM  | Eucharistic Sounds Choir |
| Apr 30,   | Sun | 4th Sunday Easter                       | 3:00PM  | The Choir Immortal       |
| CANISIUS CHAPEL   |     |   |         |                          |
| DATE  | DAY | MASS                                    | TIME    | CHOIR                    |
| Apr 02,   | Sun | Palm Sunday                             | 6:00PM  | Genesis Choir            |
| Apr 16,   | Sun | 2nd Sunday Easter (Divine Mercy Sunday) | 6:00PM  | Youth Choir              |
| Apr 23,   | Sun | 3rd Sunday Easter                       | 6:00PM  | Genesis Choir            |
| Apr 30,   | Sun | 4th Sunday Easter                       | 6:00PM  | Genesis Choir            |



#### YOUTH FELLOWSHIP ACTIVITIES



Topic: Freedom: Good or Bad?

Speaker: Patrik Elang Prakasa

Date: Saturday, 11 March 2023

Time: 1:00-2:30pm

# SPEAKER: PATRIK ELANG PRAKASA SATURDAY, 11 MARCH 2023 TIME: 1:00 - 2:30 PM AGE: 13 - 18 YEARS OLD RUANG PERTEMUAN BESIDE CANTEEN IN ST. THERESIA CHURCH "From eternity, he destined us in love, to be his adopted sons and daughters through Christ Desus." (Ephesians 1:5)

## REFLECTION 1 # By Dieter Ong (Springfield Raffles Hill – Grade 10)

Freedom - a Gift and a Duty

"For freedom Christ has set us free, stand fast therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery."

Galatians 1: 5

"Cultures and traditions should be abolished!" That was the first statement Bro Elang told us to think about in our most recent youth fellowship.

As a Catholic, I found it rather odd. Surely our traditions mustn't be abolished! After all, they are the lessons

our ancestors have passed down for generations. These beliefs and behaviours have survived the trials of time and they have united millions of people together. I admit that I find some customs rather tedious but the lessons and values invested in them are irreplaceable. So, when Bro Elang asked us about our reflections, I expressed my thoughts, and I was quite proud of myself.

But then, Bro Elang told us about the way our traditions can hinder our freedom and about the concept of cultural colonialism. When there is a collision between two different cultures, they can either tolerate one another or one can try to control the other. By dissociating people from their cultures



- like convincing young people to question their roots - Pope Francis wrote that it would be easier to convince these people to do whatever the manipulator wants.

Some traditions force us to do "useless" things and when two or more diverse cultures can't tolerate their differences, the consequences may be drastic. However, Bro Elang reminded us that cultures can teach us the proper ideologies that keep us anchored through the storms of life. They help us find a clear path through the infinite possibilities so that we do not drown in the vast ocean of ambiguity.

Next, Bro Elang asked us if freedom of speech is a human right and whether or not it should be protected.

Once again, I thought the answer was straightforward. Of course, it is! I know that some people abuse this right and use their freedom of speech to hurt others but if we are not allowed to say what we want, we cannot grow as a person. By expressing our opinions, by exposing our ideas to the world, we can learn about each other and progress together.



Then, Bro Elang started asking the group and I was surprised to find that many disagreed... Hearing a couple of my friends argue against freedom of speech puzzled me, especially when they started talking about social media since I always thought that we should never take the empty words of strangers to heart.

Once again, Bro Elang quoted Pope Francis, "The more one does what is good, the freer one becomes. There is no true freedom except in the service of what is good and just, the choice to disobey and do

evil is an abuse of freedom and leads to 'the slavery of sin'." Bro Elang reminded us that God gave us all freedom but we must be responsible for our actions and control our decisions. We can do this by strengthening our faith, appreciating our values and freely believing in God.

Bro Elang's interactive, thought-provoking lesson had opened my eyes. I think many of us use our freedom to do whatever we like and we get annoyed whenever rules or traditions restrict our wild ideas. However, all of our choices have consequences and if we want to be truly free, we should use our freedom for good and follow God.

So, what have you done with your gift of freedom? Have you been taking it for granted? How can you use it to spread the good will of God?

#### REFLECTION #2 Bonifacio Dillan Vittorio Gyula (ACS Jakarta, Grade 8)

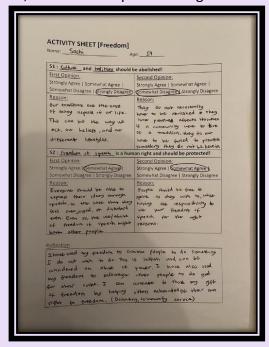
#### The Right and Wrongs to Freedom

Freedom is commonly known as having the power or right to act, speak, or think. This power was granted

to us by God and through that there is a common belief that generally, freedom is good. Freedom is important, as it is a necessary tool for humanity to advance and civilizations to exist. Nonetheless, with every given power, there comes the possibility of abusing such power. We should not be blinded to the fact that with freedom, comes responsibility.

#### **Culture and Traditions**

To take a deeper dive into what counts as "bad freedom", we need to first look at the freedoms we were given. For example, our cultures and traditions. In this world, we are freely able to express and show to others the cultures and traditions we have. Of course, this means that there are different viewings on different cultures, and as such, disagreements are bound to spur. This leads us to the first example of "bad freedom", cultural colonialism or imperialism. For context, imperialism is a practice in which a country engages



culture to create and maintain unequal balance among social groups. Moreover, in modern times, propaganda is now used to frame certain cultures as "bad". Through this example, we are reminded that cultures and traditions can actually work together, and that culture is not a prison of freedom.

#### Usage of Freedom in Becoming a Good Catholic



With this concept of "bad freedom" in mind, we really need to remember that we should not abuse the freedom we are given. Instead of using our freedom to put others down, we should instead use it to bring them up. God has called us to do 3 things as a Catholic with our freedom. Those three things are: **create dialogue**, **treasure tradition**, and **freely believe in God**. While doing this, we should also remember these four anchors to keep us grounded: culture/tradition, our community, the media, and prayers. Holding dear to these 4 things will allow us to treasure our freedom more and use it for the better good.

Topic: "Are you a Samaritan, Robber, or

Passer-by?"

Speaker: Br. Aman Aslam, SJ

Date: Saturday, 25 March 2023

Time: 1:00-2:30pm

# SPEANER: BROTHER AMAN ASLAM, SJ SAT, 25 MARCH 2023 TIME: 1:00 - 2:20 PM AGE: 13-18 TEAS OLD AGE: 1-10 TEAS OLD ST. THERESIA CHURCH "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," Galadians 5:14

#### **REFLECTION 1 # By Dieter**

The Good Samaritan: everyone's heard of it, but everyone has their own interpretations. In our most recent YF session, Bro Aman Aslam SJ took us through his perspective of the famous parable.



One of the greatest commandments Jesus has given us was to love Him with all our hearts and to love our neighbours as we love ourselves (Mat. 22: 37-40). As members of the Catholic church, we must abide by this commandment.

Bro Aman tells us that through The Good Samaritan, Jesus shows three types of neighbours: the Samaritan, the passers-by and the robbers. The Samaritan helps people in need while the passers-by ignore those who beg for help and the robbers hurt those around them. Bro Aman reminds us to be wary of our actions because

if we do not act properly, we might not only be neglecting those in pain but also rob them of the important resources they need.

Let us all reflect on our lives: count our blessings and help those around us. Be a good Samaritan.

#### **REFLECTION 2 # By Zack Patterson**



Bro Aman gave an interesting lecture on what is the attitude of a Good Samaritan. He shared some slides with conflicting images of the hungry and those who waste food. The many who die due to starvation. The homeless living in shacks verse those who live in plush homes and those who need help of some sort. This made me realize how blessed and privileged many of us are!

It is important for us to be Good Samaritans and display acts of

kindness, generosity, sympathy, being selfless and helpful at all

times. To feed the hungry, house the homeless, look after the sick and being there for those in need.

The Good Samaritan lives by the most important commandment of 'Love thy neighbor', may we also live by this virtue.



Topic: Music Jam – Praise & Worship (YF

*Initiative*)

Date: Saturday, 25 March 2023

Time: 1:00-2:30pm

Singing in praise and worship helped me make a powerful connection with my faith and express devotion towards God. It allowed the group and I to come together as a community and lift our voices in unison, creating a sense of unity and harmony. It was an uplifting experience, providing a sense of peace, comfort, and joy deep in my heart.





At the same time, It requires vulnerability and openness, as we must be willing to let go of our inhibitions and allow ourselves to be fully present in the moment— it helped to sing in the group as I felt more lively and comfortable doing it with my friends.

We sang one of my favourite songs ('Above all'). The message of "Above All" is very beautiful;

despite our human failings and limitations, God's love for us is constant and unchanging.



So, what did I do in this session?

In this session we were encouraged to bring our own musical instruments. I ended up playing the Cajon there! It was extremely fun and I was happy I could contribute even more to the session. This session encouraged me to show more love to the church and God with my voice by joining in the church choir and future Praise and Worship Sessions. Next time, you should explore by joining us, all youth are welcome...

**By Valeen** 



### **Faith Forum**



Topic: True repentance and the purpose of life

Speaker: Fr. Thomas Hidya Tjaya, SJ

Date: Saturday, 18 March 2023

Time: 01:00 - 02:30 pm



#### A brief reflection on the Lenten talk by Fr. Thomas Hidya Tjaya, SJ

Repentance is designed to bring us joy and closeness to the Lord. This flows from our faith in Christ Jesus. Are you willing to repent and have a change of heart?

We are in a fallen world that is chaotic and replete with discord, troubles, and dangers. However, we have the tendency to allow these events to set our lives on the loose and lead us to sinfulness. We also allow ourselves to be blinded by material and worldly things and to live as if there is no God, or worse, as if we are God! We ignore God's grace expressed in every sunrise and in every air particle we breathe.

Fr. Thomas Hidya Tjaya, SJ, at a Lenten Talk on True Repentance and the Purpose of Life held at St. Peter



Canisius Parish on 18 March 2023, reminded us to take the opportunity given by the Lenten season to reflect on the purpose of our lives, our being in this world, which is spiritual in nature and aligned with the will of God, the 'author of life'. We are also reminded that God is relentlessly pursuing us day by day for us to trust in His divine providence, to amend our relationship with Him, to learn to love Him, to keep His commandments, and to ask for forgiveness of our wrongdoing. We are invited to anchor our lives to Him.

In so doing, we are invited to repent. Fr. Thomas stressed the concept of 'true repentance,' which always includes steps and ways to amend our relationship with God, by working on our negativities and anything

that is against God's love, by learning to surrender everything to God and not to take all matters into our hands, and by being truthful and honest to God even in the midst of our struggles.

True repentance takes time because it entails a significant change in our way of life, including how we think, act, or behave. The talk also reminded us that true repentance manifests not only through outwardly gestures and deeds but also an act of the heart. True repentance demonstrates God's real purpose in life for us. The talk

Every man feels more comfort and spiritual joy after true repentance for a sin, than he had in that innocence before he committed the sin.

JOHN DONN

also cautioned about false repentance, which can include fasting and abstinence, serving mass, or being busy with church activities, if these are not done corresponding to the real purpose of our life. Fr. Thomas pointed out that human beings often hide their unwillingness to repent behind their acts of worship.

As we approach the Holy Week, it is time and again a God-given opportunity to repent and renew our relationship with God as we heartfully reflect on the passion, death, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Through amazing grace and redeeming love, God continues to call for repentance and welcome undeserving sinners like you and me.

Sis. Vivian Catampongan

Fr. B. B. Triatmoko, S.J. – Parish Priest,
Fr. Thomas Tjaya, S.J. – Priest &
Parish Council Members
wishes all Parishioners Happy Easter.



### **COME AND JOIN OUR PARISH INITIATIVES**



Dear Parishioners, inviting all of you to join our different parish initiatives to serve the Lord and the community. Your talents are your blessings from Lord, please use for the benefits of the community. Below are various Parish communities / groups / sections / ministries or activities you can join and contribute in different ways.



One of the aims is to introduce to our wider parishioners; including the newly baptized among us, that we have group/community with specific activities that they may join or be involved in.

At present our Parish has the following communities/groups/sections/ministries or activities:

- Ushers
- Lectors
- Choir/ Youth Choir
- Altar Servers
- EMHC Extraordinary Ministries of Holy Communion
- CCD Confraternity of Christian Doctrine
- RCIA Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults
- Komsos Social Communication
- JFC Jesus Friend of Children
- YF / YFC Youth Fellowship / Youth for Christ
- CYS Catholic Youth Society
- YAPro Young Adult Professionals
- FAM Family Apostolic Ministry
- VFF Virtual Faith Forum
- SMPG Santa Monica Prayer Group
- LOJF EF Light of Jesus Family English Feast
- CFC Couples for Christ
- ONLINE Comm.



The fundamental question many parishioners ask: How Can I Serve in the Church?

God has given you special talents and gifts that you can use to support your local congregation, help your community, and serve God's children everywhere. You follow the example of Jesus Christ as you seek to meet individual needs one person at a time. Some of the most important service you will give will be informal, simple acts of kindness and love toward individuals without being asked or assigned to do so. You can help others feel God's love and reach their potential as you share your time, talents, and means to help meet their needs. Part of your personal growth and learning will come as you serve in the Church and help others learn and grow as well. As you get to know others in your local congregation, you will realize that you have much to offer them.

Come Join Us, Let's make use of our talents and time to support our Parish in different ways....

#### YOUR KIND CONTRIBUTION MATTERS

We thank all Parishioners for your continued generous contribution for our Parish. You have wholeheartedly supported and helped our parish. It's your generosity keeps us moving and serving the Lord. Our second collection for the parish operational cost has been stopped since Jan 2023, we urge Parishioners to support our parish generously to continue our parish mission. You may use the QR code below to pay through Gopay, OVO, Dana, Shopee, T-money or direct transfer to Bank Account <u>- PGDP Internasional Santo Petrus Canisius, Acct No. 664 177 7773, Bank Danamon</u> – Cabang Usman Harun, Jakarta, or Bank Mandiri Account No. 103.000778611-0



Here is the QR Code for receiving offering and gifts for Mass intentions. Please end your transfer amount with Rp. 22/= (twenty-two) for Mass intentions. For example, if you wish to give 100K gift for Mass intention, kindly transfer to this parish account number the amount of Rp. 100.022,- Thank you and God bless you and your family for your continuous support.

For all other Parish operations cost, you can donate any amount to the above-mentioned bank accounts or by using QR code.

WWW.expatcatholicparish.org

SUNDAY MASS INTENTIONS
Send text to 08118039728; format:
Name (or Anonymous):
Parish of origin, City:
Intention:

ATTENTION: PLEASE SEND BY
SATURDAY EVENING AT THE LATEST

CONTACT US:

office@expatcatholicparish.org priest@expatcatholicparish.org Whatsapp: 081 180 EXPAT(39728)

# THANK

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Your generosity made a difference

YOU



#### We are here to respond should you need any information

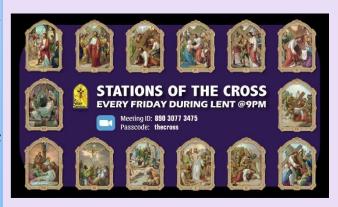
Please do not hesitate to contact us @ St. Peter Canisius International Catholic Parish office. Jl. Gereja Theresia No. 2, Jakarta Pusat - DKI Jakarta. Telephone. +62-21-3917806 / WA +62 811 8039 728, Email. office@expatcatholicparish.org

https://www.expatcatholicparish.org/

#### Parish Activities in the month of March

#### Stations of the Cross

The Stations of the Cross are a 14-step Catholic devotion that commemorates Jesus Christ's last day on Earth as a man. The 14 devotions, or stations, focus on specific events of His last day, beginning with His condemnation. The stations are commonly used as a mini pilgrimage as the individual moves from station to station. At each station, the individual recalls and meditates on a specific event from Christ's last day. Specific prayers are recited, then the individual moves to the next station until all 14 are complete. As previous years, this year too we continued this devotion every day at 0900 pm online and prayed the station of Cross.





#### Novena to St. Gabriel of Our Lady of Sorrows

To commemorate the Feast of St. Joseph, our parish had the 09 days Novena to St Joseph every Wednesday at 0900 pm via online.

St. Joseph faced a number of seemingly hopeless situations, and he always triumphed over them. He always chose the harder path. In each situation, the odds always seemed stacked against him, but Joseph continued on. He placed his faith in the Lord and found the grace to stand firm. And he was never disappointed.

Happy Feast of St. Joseph to you and to your family 🔻 🙏





#### **Prayer with Songs from Taize**

St. Theresia's Taizé Community with St. Peter Canisius Young Adults Professionals conducted Prayer with Songs from Taize' on 25<sup>th</sup> Mar 2023 at St. Theresia Church. The Taizé Community is an ecumenical Christian monastic fraternity in Taizé, Saône -et-Loire, Burgundy, France. The worship includes solemnly & devoutly filled with song, scripture, and silent meditation. We plan to do similar praise and worship in the coming's months too.

