

## 聖神與福傳（九）

（摘自「神恩」第廿八期）

### 結語

福傳的事，歸根究底祇有兩個關鍵：與耶穌的關係和聖神的能力。

對主耶穌的愛和救恩要有份深刻的體驗和信念，那份救恩不單將來在永生兌現，也在人世現今每一天體現出來。如果我們深刻經驗到一個活生生的主和祂的愛，以及祂帶來的希望、力量與喜樂，那有不去主動跟人分享的道理？

如何提供這份愛與被愛的人神間的經驗和一份對主的熱情？被動地讓聖神充滿我們，燃燒我們的生命，在聖事、聖經、祈禱之中，也在被忽略了的資源——覆手祈禱中去體驗祂。聖神使我體驗到天主的真實性和祂對我對人的愛，我使用祂的能力去福傳，福傳時使用祂的能力又令我體驗耶穌屈尊就卑的愛……。就像一部機器，啓動後就不斷互相牽動，善性循環。

就在寫這篇文章期間，有位無信仰又面臨離婚問題的親人，累積了許多愛傷經驗和憤怒，以往每次爲其不對處勸解他，總是換來爭辯與不快。今次我爲他覆手祈禱，之後他與我並肩坐著十分鐘都沒有開口，再後來他說話的安詳平和是我一年來所未見過的。聖神的能力有多大？另外有兩位廿歲出頭的教友，也因爲我「經驗到天主是真的」和「祂的愛給了我希望」而迅速改變過來，由久不進堂和軟弱無力的信仰變成爲在聖體前祈禱五小時和熱切的福傳者。聖神的能力有多大？（參加神恩復興運動的人的靈修歷程，與傳統靈修的煉、明、合路次序不同，可參閱註(22)）。

「如果用聖神的能力去傳福音，那我們就進入了以特殊能力傳福音的時期」(23)。

神恩並非聖德的指標，它祇是「隨祂的心願，個別分配予人」的工作能力，是聖神力量的彰顯，伴以福傳和建立信友團體。

完稿之日，感到好像天主有要我們朝「盟約團體」路向發展的意思：相聚不再是爲祈禱聚會，而是有突顯的共同使命——傳揚福音：團體祈禱爲燃燒自己熱切福傳，建立友誼爲鞏固福傳，長期培育爲履行福傳，以盟約的認真態度，更有組織、支持、心火、效果，爲的是「傳揚福音，拓展天國」。

願你的旨意成就於我們吧！

\* 請記下你對以上文章的任何感想或有任何信仰分享，投入我們設在聖堂反面的收集箱內。

## **Holy Spirit and Evangelization (IX)**

(Article from the 28<sup>th</sup> issue of God Grace magazine)

### **Conclusion**

There are two fundamental principles of evangelization: the relationship with Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit.

We need to acquire a deep experience and faith in the love of our Lord Jesus and His salvation, for salvation will be actualized not only in eternity but also in every day of our lives on earth. If we have a deep experience of the living God and His love, as well as the hope, strength and joy, we'll voluntarily share the good news with people around us.

How to experience the relationship between the beloved and the loving God? How to acquire the enthusiasm towards God? Let us open ourselves and be filled with the Holy Spirit that lights up the flame of our life, experiencing God in the Bible, the sacraments and prayers, as well as the overlooked treasure of laying-hands prayers. The Holy Spirit enables me to experience the truth of God and His love to me and the humanity. I am using the power of the Holy Spirit to evangelize while experiencing the love from Jesus who humbles himself to be with us. The momentum of evangelization is like a machine, once started, every part participates in a great coordination to keep the machine moving in a positive cycle.

During the time when I was writing this article I experienced some unpleasant dispute with my relative whom I was trying to help. He was a deeply hurt and angry non-believer, facing the divorce. Today I did the laying-hands prayer for him. Afterwards he was sitting next to me, being silent for the next 10 minutes. Then he started talking in a kind and peaceful way that I have never seen for the past year. How big is the power of the Holy Spirit? Through me there are also two young parishioners in their twenties who came to realize that "God is real" and "His love gives me hope." They are transformed from not showing up in the church for a long time to praying in front of the Blessed Sacrament for 5 hours in a run. They are now enthusiastic evangelists. How big is the power of the Holy Spirit?

Using the power of the Holy Spirit we are entering into an era of evangelization with the supernatural power.

Chrism is not the goal of the Holy Spirit, but a special working power given to the individual at His will. It glorifies the power of the Holy Spirit in promoting evangelization and building up the faith community.

When I am completing this article, I have the feeling as if the Lord would like us to develop towards a "Covenant Community": our gathering is not only for praying together but for a common mission -- evangelization. The community prayers are for lighting the fire of evangelization, promoting friendship and strengthening

evangelization, and sustaining the evangelical movement in the long run. We need to establish a serious attitude towards the covenant with the Lord, to "spread the Good News and proclaim the Kingdom of God" with great conviction, better organization, support and effect.

May Your will be done with us.

*\* If you have any reflection on this article or your faith sharing, please write it down and put it into the collection box located at the back of the church.*

### **Reflection on last article :**

It is universally understood that one should not bring one's work on vacation because it would impose the pressure and distraction onto the family members or friends who would usually prefer spending the precious vacation with you for fun and enjoyment.

Therefore, shall we bring our mission of evangelization with us when we are on vacation or not? Is evangelization a work or a natural spontaneous outreach from a Christian? I have been pondering on these questions while reading the evangelization article published every 3rd Sunday in our church, and I am greatly inspired by the author's enthusiasm and the sense of mission that seem to be part of his nature, or an essential element of his being. He intuitively and constantly spreads the Good News wherever he goes and I can see that many times he created the occasions for evangelization, such as making an effort to sit next to the person on the flight who showed the interest in Christianity. Sometimes the Holy Spirit created the occasions for him to minister to the people in need of hearing the Gospel. He believes in the power of the Holy Spirit and the Holy Spirit was with him in his evangelical activities.

From my experience I found doing evangelization on vacation is a double rewarding experience, for the gracious Lord enables us to sally forth to enjoy His Creation and at the same time to spread his Word that is the source of Creation. Contrary to the common sense of the world that nobody would want to hear religious preaching on vacation, the vacation itself actually provides a perfect setting for evangelization, with plenty time and space for easy contact with the people who might hold interest in faith or search for spiritual nourishment. All we have to do is to pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit and apply the power and strength of the Holy Spirit into action by just being easy with ourselves and naturally making friends and carrying on conversations that hopefully would lead to a meaningful discussion. Always remember the Holy Spirit is the real worker.

When I saw the advertisements promote the travel destinations as the "complete escape", I wouldn't help thinking what are people escaping from? What is so terrible with the reality? Is it because of the lack of material abundance, too much stress in life, or because of the poverty in spirit? I would like to make the connection of the people on vacation with those who go to the movie, concert or play after work: we all spend the hard earned money for the exchange of something that might help release, nurture or fulfill the void in our heart. So the need to hear, discuss or encounter the Good News is certainly there deep down in the human heart.

Here are some evangelization tips I'd like to share with you when you are on your vacation:

1. Do not be afraid to wear the T-shirt with the church name and evangelization logo on it, because it is refreshing for people to see this well-made T-shirt on a nice person like you.
2. Do not be afraid to say the prayer of "Grace" before the meal, because people admire the sight of a decent family gathering over the dinner with a reverent attitude.
3. Do not be afraid to talk about the church you belong to, because people might easily connect their good impression on you to the good religious belief you have. You can also share with people the Catholic school your kids belong to and the strength of the Catholic education, with a factual and truthful evaluation people would respect.
4. Do not be afraid to ask or discuss questions about religion or faith during the group tour of an historical or biblical site, because people on the tour are generally interested in the information, knowledge and insights and would appreciate the richness of your knowledge and understanding.
5. Do not be afraid to share with people your faith and spiritual development during the discussion of life and work. People are looking for inspiration to escape the total boredom of spiritual deficiency in the workplace or worldly lives.

Be aware that the Holy Spirit is the driving force of evangelization. Relax on the vacation and enjoy being the coworker and cooperator with Him. The reward is tremendous, because the person who ultimate benefits most from this experience is you and the Holy Spirit is with you, your vacation has the foretaste of heaven.

