

基督的門徒

親愛的兄弟姊妹：

祝大家聖誕及新年快樂！福傳小組在此祝大家在信仰和靈修生活上有豐盛的一年。願在這新年之始，上主能更新和燃點你們福傳的心火！

上主仁慈的召叫我們成爲“地上的鹽”和“世界的光”(瑪 5:13-14)，爲此祂教授我們門徒的身份：他是耶穌基督的跟隨者，他是耶穌基督的學徒，願意犧牲自己去完成基督給他在世的使命。

有人可能會提出，我們每個星期日都來到聖堂參與彌撒和渴望在主的恩寵下得到永生。這樣有錯嗎？我們並不是好過其他的外教人和無神論者嗎？

無錯，作爲信徒固然之好，但耶穌基督告訴我們這還是不足夠的。信徒得到基督的救贖，生活中起了正面的改變。但這只是一個好的開始，並不是基督徒的最終目標。

相對來說，門徒相信基督並跟隨祂，他們願意爲基督奉獻他們的生命，靈魂和所擁有的一切。

有時信徒會表現得上主爲他而存在，爲照顧他的要求和需要。而門徒則是爲主而活(格後 5:15)，與基督一起受苦和同享光榮。

信徒以自己認爲重要的東西來生活，而門徒則以完成基督托附給他的使命而活。

信徒只是一個感情豐富的旁觀者，而門徒則是戰場上的精兵。

信徒白白享用天主給他的恩寵，而門徒則願意爲主犧牲性命，就如基督爲罪人捨棄生命一樣。

信徒把十字架掛在前面作爲光榮的標記，而門徒則背著自己的十字架跟隨基督。

信徒只參與其中，而門徒則作出承諾。

顯然作爲信徒較爲容易和舒服，但在福音當中很少提及「信徒」的字句。反而耶穌多次召叫門徒跟隨祂，「門徒」一詞出現在福音和宗徒大事錄中總共有 270 次之多。耶穌對門徒的要求是：「誰若願意跟隨我，該棄絕自己，天天背著自己的十字架跟隨我。」(谷 9: 23)「你們是地上的鹽....你們是世界的光....你們的光也當在人前照耀，好使他們看見你們的善行，光榮你們在天之父。」(瑪 5:13-16)

爲什麼耶穌基督要求我們成爲門徒而不是信徒呢？

因爲祂愛我們並時常和祂的門徒在一起。在若望福音中復活的基督曾三次問伯多祿：「你愛我嗎？」當每次伯多祿確認愛祂之後，祂分別訓示他要去「餵養我的羔羊」，「牧放我的羊群」和「餵養我的羊群」(若 21: 15-17)。

因為祂要門徒在世為祂作証。在瑪竇福音當中，復活的基督在山上顯現給門徒並對他們說：「天上地下的一切權柄都交给了我，所以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，教訓他們遵守我所吩咐你們的一切。看！我同你們天天在一起，直到世界的終結。」(瑪 28:18-20)

因為祂與門徒分享祂的身份和特質，和他們結合一起完成使命。「我是世界的光，跟隨我的，決不在黑暗中行走，必有生命的光。」(若 8:12)「你們(門徒)是世界的光....你們的光也當在人前照耀，好使他們看見你們的善行，光榮你們在天之父。」(瑪 5:13-16)

教會的支柱正是門徒，他們不斷的支持，服務及不怕犧牲和受苦地為基督作証。

為此福傳小組將會在這一年為大家介紹門徒的各種特質和如何裝備自己成為門徒。在以後的月刊中將為大家刊登有關門徒的文章，如門徒的使命、訓練、屬靈恩賜、獻身之路、同工合作....等等。我們希望藉此加深大家對福傳的認識和了解。

如大家想了解更多些我們門徒的身份，可以到聖堂後面的接待處索取有關的文章回家參閱或在你們的團體中討論分享。如對這個題目有任何意見和疑問，歡迎你向我們提出和討論。你們可以透過電郵與我們聯絡或將你的意見投入聖堂後面的意見箱內。

願主保佑你，你的事工和你的家庭！

福傳小組敬上

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



Pass It On!

堂區一家, 薪火相傳

One Church One Family

CHURCH OF THE TRANSFIGURATION

顯聖容天主堂

The Disciples of Jesus Christ -- a letter from the editors

Dear brothers and sisters,

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you all! The members of the evangelization team wish you a very fruitful year in faith and Catholic learning! May the New Year's momentum reenergize and renew our spirit of evangelization!

Our Lord lovingly calls us the "salt of the earth" and the "light of the world" (Mt 5:13-14), by which he teaches us the identity of a disciple: he is a follower of Jesus, the student of the Master who answers His calling and is willing to sacrifice for His mission on earth.

Then some would argue what's wrong of being a mere believer who believes in Jesus, goes to church on Sundays, participates in the Mass and repents for the grace of the eternal life? Isn't that good enough, compared with the non-believers and atheists?

Of course it is good to be a believer but Jesus shows us it is not good enough. The believer has a positive change in his life, thanks to Jesus' salvation. However, it is just a good beginning, not the end goal for a true Christian.

By comparison the disciple believes in Jesus but also follows Him. He gives Jesus his life, soul and all his possessions.

Sometimes some believers might behave as if Jesus exists for them, for their wants and needs. The disciple exists for Jesus (cf. 2Cor 5:15), being with the Lord in suffering and glory.

The believer carries on what he thinks it's important. The disciple carries on what Jesus commands him: the mission.

The believer is a compassionate onlooker. The disciple is a real trooper in the field.

The believer does not have to pay a high price for the grace freely given. The disciple has to sacrifice even his life as his Master did.

The believer likes to wear the cross on the front as a sign of glory. The disciple prefers wearing the cross on the back to carry the cross with the Lord.

the believer is involved ; The disciple is committed.

While it is comfortable to stay being a mere believer, the Gospels point to a contrary scenario: Jesus calls the disciples to "follow me" and the word "disciple" occurs 270 times in the Gospels and Acts where Jesus defines the identity of the disciple: "Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself,

take up his cross and follow me" (Mk 8:34). "You are the salt of the earth.... You are the light of the world.... Your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father." (Mt 5:13-16)

Then why does Jesus want us to become his disciples rather than mere believers?

Because he loves us and always is with us through the discipleship. In the Gospel of John after the resurrection Jesus asked Peter three times "Do you love me?" with three respective commands: "Feed my lambs."; "Tend my sheep."; "Feed my sheep." (Jn 21:15-17).

Because he wants the disciples to be the witnesses of him on earth. In the Gospel of Matthew Jesus appears to the disciples on the mountain after the resurrection: "All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you and behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age" (Mt 28:18-20).

Because he shares his identity and character with the disciples, binded with them who actively carry on his mission. "I (Jesus) am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life"(Jn 8:12) "You (disciples) are the light of the world.... Your light must shine before others that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father." (Mt 5:13-14)

The vitality of the Church depends on the true disciples who support, serve and continue to be the witnesses of Jesus at the cost of sacrifice and suffering.

Therefore, the evangelization team is planning on a church-wide learning of the meaning and formation of the discipleship in this New Year of 2012. We would discuss and probe on a renewed life of the discipleship including the topics of mission, training, spirituality, sacrifice, cooperation ... etc. We hope this will help lead to a more profound understanding of Christian evangelization.

We encourage your active participation in this initiative. Please feel free to discuss with any member of the evangelization team should you have any questions or just a thought to share. You can always contact us through internet or leave your suggestions in the feedback box at the back of the church.

May the Lord bless you, your faith and good work and your families!

Evangelization Committee

** 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.*