

## 門徒與聖潔生活

上個月的主題是門徒與更新，我們知道領洗後，基督徒能夠得到重生，而他們的生活和人生觀也會有正面的改變。今期我們會探討門徒的另外一個重要原素就是聖潔。我們將會透過以下兩母女的對話來剖析對聖潔的不同觀念和怎樣能夠過聖潔的生活呢。

**女兒：**媽媽，我同意你說作為耶穌的門徒需要更新自己。但對於門徒的聖潔生活，雖然我讀天主教學校，我亦很少聽到‘聖潔’這個字眼！聖潔不是只屬於聖人嗎？普通天主教徒能夠成聖嗎？

**媽媽：**聖潔不是屬於少數人的，一般基督徒都能做到。是天主首先稱我們是聖潔的：“因為我上主是你們的天主：你們該表現為聖潔的，你們應是聖的，因為我是聖的。”(肋 11:44)

**女兒：**學校教過我，天主要我們聖潔，因為我們是依祂的肖像而創造的。我相信我們本身是應該擁有天主的至善和聖潔的。

**媽媽：**無錯我們應該有的。但是我們的聖潔隨著原祖犯罪便失去了，而我們都被污染了，我們的身體喜歡短暫和表面上的享受，我們的思想變得混沌和缺乏思考能力，我們懷疑聖潔的存在而失去對成聖的渴求。

**女兒：**但是我們都知耶穌基督把我們從痛苦中拯救出來，祂用祂的聖善和寶血拯救我們，使我們回復聖潔，是不是呢？

**媽媽：**絕對正確。你看，聖經清楚地說明耶穌以自己的血聖化人民(希 13:12)。“祂是一位同情我們弱點的大司祭，是一位在各方面與我們相似，受過試探的，只是沒有罪過。”所以作為祂的門徒，“我們要懷著依恃之心，走近恩寵的寶座，以獲得仁慈，尋到恩寵，作及時的扶助。”(希 4:15-16)

**女兒：**這樣我們便有理由和能力去成聖。但你可不可以詳細地說明，怎樣才是聖潔呢？

**媽媽：**聖潔就是遠離污穢與罪惡，無論我們對天主或他人，在言行上都保持純潔和至善；亦即是遠離世俗的各種引誘，好像金錢、欲望和物質享受等。我們應該全心全意地光榮天主，作什麼事都以天主為先。正如聖保祿勸告我們：“你們應設法與眾人和平相處，盡力追求聖德；若無聖德，誰也見不到主。”(希 12:14)

**女兒：**原來這樣。提到聖人，我揀了中國聖女王亞納作我堅振的聖名。她和我的年紀相約，但我永做不到她的無尚聖潔。在中國只有少數的天主教徒，因為她的關係，我很慶幸能成為其中的一份子。雖然受到宗教的迫害，祂從沒有離開過天主。她被拳匪砍掉一隻手臂仍然舉手向主祈求。及後給斬了頭，身體還是跪著保持禱告的姿勢！



**媽媽：**現在正是四旬期，就讓我們學習她的信德聖潔一個真正門徒的典範。

**女兒：**媽媽，我想學習她的勇敢，我不會在武力和迫害之下背棄我的信仰。我信主並會以此為榮地對說出來。我會偶然犯罪因為我仍然是凡人，但我相信依靠天主的恩寵我可以過聖潔的生活。

## 討論問題

我們在此鼓勵大家對本主題作出討論和回應，如大家能找到聖經章節來回答以下任何一條問題，將可得到精美福傳禮品一份，閣下可到聖堂後面的接待處領取或把答案連同聯絡資料放入位於聖堂後面的福傳意見箱內。歡迎大家踴躍參加！

1. 作為門徒，為什麼聖潔這樣重要？
2. 怎樣能夠過基督徒的聖潔生活呢？
3. 在你們的日常生活中，有沒有一些聖潔生活的好例子可以和我們分享呢？

### 上期討論题目的相關聖經章節：

#### 門徒與更新生命

##### 1. 我們為什麼要更新？

- 所以誰若在基督內，他就是一個新受造物，舊的已成過去，看，都成了新的。(格後 5:17)
- 我們藉著洗禮已歸於死亡與祂同葬了，為的是基督怎樣藉著父的光榮，從死者中復活了，我們也怎樣在新生活中度生。(羅 6:4)

##### 2. 如何找到更新的證明？

- 天主的話確實是生活的，是有效力的，比各種雙刃的劍還銳利，直穿入靈魂和神魂，……。(希 4:12)
- 為此，我們不斷地感謝天主，因為你們由我們接受了所聽的天主的言語，並沒有拿它當人的言語，而實在當天主的言語領受了，這言語在你們信者身上發生了效力。(得前 2:13)

##### 3. 什麼使我們更新？

- 難道你們不知道，你們的身體是聖神的宮殿，這聖神是你們由天主而得的，住在你們內，而你們已不是屬於自己了嗎？(格前 6:19)

### 請瀏覽我們的福傳網頁：

1. 請先前往聖堂網站：  
[www.transfigurationnyc.org](http://www.transfigurationnyc.org)
2. 選擇中文
3. 在“堂區生活”的下拉目錄中點擊“福傳小組”。



## 時間銀行

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- 以積分換取所需的服務。
- 享有購物優惠。

歡迎各教友善用天主賞賜的各種恩寵和才能去服務社區，以行動來回應天主的召叫。

報名表格可於聖堂後面的接待處索取。



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# EV Express

Mar 2012

## The Discipleship and Holiness

Last month we discussed the topic of discipleship and a renewed life and we see most baptized Christians would acknowledge that the baptismal grace has positively changed their lives. This month we extend our reflections onto another important element of the discipleship – the holiness and we anticipate questions and probing. Let's listen to the dialogue between a teenager and her mom and see if it speaks of your thoughts and concerns as well.

**Daughter:** Mom, I agree with you that our life is renewed as a disciple of Jesus, and it's cool. But the holiness of the discipleship! I seldom hear the word "holiness" even though I am in a Catholic school! Doesn't it belong to the saints? Is it possible for ordinary Catholics to become holy?

**Mom:** It doesn't belong to the few and it is not above and beyond ordinary Christians. Remember our God is the one who in the first place called us to be holy: "I, the Lord, am your God; and you shall make and keep yourselves holy, because I am holy." (Leviticus 11:44)

**Daughter:** I have learned in school that God wants us to be holy because we are made in His image and likeness. He anticipates us to be like him. I bet originally we must have carried His holiness.

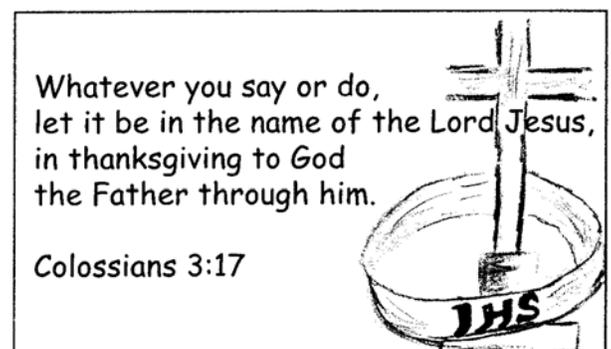
**Mom:** We must have. But our original holiness has been tarnished after the humanity's First Fall and we become the polluted people: our body delights in transient and superficial pleasures; our mind becomes dull and unimaginative; we doubt the existence of holiness rather than strive to be holy....

**Daughter:** But someone we know is saving us from this misery: Jesus is the hero who is bringing us back to the original holiness, with His holiness and precious blood, right Mom?

**Mom:** You are right on the target! You see, the Gospel says clearly that Jesus consecrate the people by his own blood (Hebrews 13:12). He is a compassionate Savior who sympathizes with our weaknesses and went through temptation in every way, yet without sin. Therefore, as his disciples, we have the confidence to approach the Lord to receive the grace and mercy for our daily strife for the holiness. (cf. Hebrew 4:15-16)

**Daughter:** It seems that we are given the compelling reason and God's grace to be holy. But what is being holy, to be more specific?

**Mom:** In a way holiness is about saying goodbye to being a wretch; it's about sinning no more; it is about being pure and innocent in our words and deeds in front of the Lord and His people; it is about setting ourselves apart from the attractions of the secular world: money, temptation and material things; it's about honoring our Lord whole-heartedly; it is about giving ourselves to Him and putting Him first everyday of our lives.... As St. Paul urges us, "Strive for peace with everyone, and for holiness without which no one will see the Lord." (Heb 12:14)



**Daughter:** I see. Talking about saint, I have picked up my confirmation name from St. Anna Wang, the patron saint of China. She was my age when she was under religious persecution. But she never let go of God's hands. The bandits chopped her arm off and she still lifted her arms to God. They even beheaded her and she was still kneeling down to God.

**Mom:** In this special season of Lent let's commemorate her dearly, her holiness and her true discipleship....

**Daughter:** Mom, I want to learn from her and to be as brave as she was. I will never deny my religion. I believe in God and I will say it with pride. I will sin once in a while because I am human but I believe with grace I can be holy.



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### Reflection Questions

We would like to encourage you to participate in the discussion on discipleship and renewed life by providing at least one Biblical passage that relates to the answer of the following questions:

- a. Why holiness is so important in discipleship?
- b. How am I going to practice the Christian holiness in life?
- c. Would you like to share the good role models of holiness you have encountered in life?

Your correct answers will be rewarded with gifts and printed out in the next issue. So please take this opportunity to send to or discuss the answers with the people at the welcome desk or in the feedback box at the back of the church. Thank you very much for participating!

### *The Bible passage relating to the questions in February issue of discipleship and renewed life:*

**b. What is the reason for the renewal?**

- “So whoever is in Christ is a new creation: the old things have passed away; behold, new things have come.” (2Corinthians 5:17)
- “We were indeed buried with him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live in newness of life.” (Rom 6:4)

**c. What is the proof of the renewal?**

- “Indeed, the word of God is living and effective, sharper than any two-edged sword, penetrating even between soul and spirit....”(Hebrew 4:12)
- “And for this reason we too give thanks to God unceasingly, that, in receiving the word of God from hearing us, you received not a human word but, as it truly is, the word of God, which is now at work in you who believe.” (1 Thessalonians 2:13)

**d. What caused the renewal?**

- “Do you not know that your body is a temple of the holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?” (1 Corinthians 6:19)

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1. Go to church web site at [www.transfigurationnyc.org](http://www.transfigurationnyc.org)
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