

## Discipleship and Discipling

In the last three months we've been focusing on the understanding of the meaning and some essential aspects of discipleship, such as the renewed life, personal evangelization and holiness. In this issue we will discuss the mission of the disciples to disciple others, as our Lord commands, "Go, therefore, and **make disciples** of all nations" (Mt 28:18).

But how to disciple others and where is the model for discipling? Gospels recorded a unique way Christ employed to teach that is composed of storytelling, discourse, instruction, preaching, question and answer.... He lived among the disciples and built up a new way of life for them to come in communion with God. Thus, he "discipled" them, and He commanded them to disciple others, which they did.

The following is a list of some characteristics of Christ's way of discipling that might be helpful in our mission.

- Christ came to preach the Kingdom of God and has been "the one mediator between God and man" (1Tim 2:5). He says, "My teaching is not mine, but his who sent me." (Jn 7:16) Likewise, his students, the first disciples evangelized by speaking of what they have seen and heard (Act. 4:20), so that "you (the hearers) may have fellowship with us." (1Jn 1:3) In our work of discipling we need to focus on our encounters with the person Jesus Christ. Like Christ to the Father and the first disciples to Christ, we need to serve as the link between Christ and world in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, bringing people to Christ, one at a time.
- Christ invited and called people from all walks of life to become his disciples (Mark 1:16-20; 2:14-17; 3:13). Likewise, we should break the barriers of language, culture, race, gender, social and economic status to inspire and encourage the fellowship in Christ, with special attention to the weak, the poor and the marginal who might be in most need for Christ's love and charity.
- Christ was an itinerant preacher and he taught the followers whenever and wherever deemed appropriate. Likewise, in the busy modern life we need to naturally seize every moment of teaching through our interaction with people around us at home, work, on the trip or at gatherings when situation calls for evangelization.
- Christ poured his time on his disciples, for the discipling is a growing experience through a committed relationship over a period of time. They asked, "Rabbi, where are you staying?" "Come," he replied, "and you will see." So they went and saw where he was staying, and spent that day with him. (Jn 1:35) Likewise, we need to generously dedicate our time and attention to people who have interest, inquiry or even curiosity about Christ and faith.
- Christ entrusted the leader of the disciples: Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You will be called Cephas" (Jn 1:42). Likewise, we need to lovingly recognize the God's given talent and strength of people and tell them what we see, especially the faith within them. We need to be happy to entrust them with responsibilities in serving the Church and designate them the work that will help the development of the discipleship while staying alongside to let them know they can always count on us.



- Jesus is a praying teacher: he prayed constantly, alone, with or for the disciples. He is the person who taught the humanity over the world how to communicate to the Father through the Lord's Prayer. In our discipling, we need to be constantly in praying mode so as to be totally open to the active communication with God through the Holy Spirit.
- Jesus modeled his faith for his disciples: in his words and deeds he exemplified what he preached – the truth. However his teaching might not be accepted at once: he tried to teach about his upcoming suffering, but the disciples couldn't grasp fully. (Mk 8:31;9:30-32; 10:32-34) Understanding that the Christian values are quite different from those of the secular world and face the rejection, we nevertheless should not soft sell the truth, but patiently share the Church teachings that bring about the full value and dignity of human being. As each of us is a creature that bears the image of God, we can be confident that even the damaged human conscience still holds the ability to echo the truth.

- Christ before his Passover announced the sending of “another Advocate” – the Holy Spirit to be with and in the disciples, to teach and guide them “into all the truth”. (cf. Jn 14:17, 26; 16:13; CCC #243) Today we renew our trust in the Holy Spirit who continues to guide us in our discipling. We are proud to witness the existence and power of the Holy Spirit presiding over the formation of the first 12 disciples 2,000 years ago. Today 1/3 of the world population is Christians.

We encourage you to think about discipling, practice discipling and come to share with all of us the joy of carrying on the mission of discipleship that our Lord has commissioned us.

***The Bible passage relating to the questions in March issue of discipleship and Holiness:***

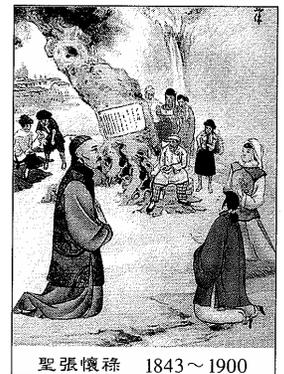
- a. What is not individual evangelization?**
  - It is not a chance to preach with our talent or smart rhetorics.
  - It is not trying to solicit church members only.
- b. What are the obstacles of individual evangelization?**
  - Fear, lack of training, wrong concept, without the real-life witness of faith.

Please visit our EV Web page:

1. Go to church web site at [www.transfigurationnyc.org](http://www.transfigurationnyc.org)
2. Click 'Evangelization Group' under the pull down menu 'Parish Life'.

**Our Role Model of Discipleship**

**St. Huai Lu Zhang (1843-1900)** was from HeBei Province, China. He was martyred at the age of 57 just as he was learning Catholicism. He was not even baptized. Filled with the zeal for Christ, he said, “I love and serve God whole-heartedly. The Church teaches me how to save our souls. Even though I am not baptized yet, I am a Catholic all the same.” When the bandits came to the village to search for the believers they caught Huai Lu Zhang. To protect him, a villager pleaded, “Sir, this man is not a Catholic, please let him go.” Another pleaded, “He does not even know how to pray, how could he be a Catholic?”



聖張懷祿 1843~1900

St. Huai Lu Zhang

When Huai Lu Zhang heard this he was very anxious about losing the opportunity to be a martyr for God. He announced, “I am a Catholic. I worship God.” Upon hearing this, a bandit struck a deadly blow at him. He was thrown to the floor, killed by the bandits with rifles and knives.



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## 門徒與門徒的培育

在過去三個月我們集中說明門徒的定義和門徒的各項特質，如更新生命、聖潔生活和個人福傳。在今期我們會討論門徒的使命，就是使其他人成為門徒，正如耶穌所命令的：「所以你們要去使萬民成為門徒」（瑪 28:19）。

我們怎樣使別人成為門徒呢？在那裡能找到培育門徒的方法和例證呢？在福音中記載了耶穌基督用獨特的方法去教導門徒，祂同時結合了講故事、比喻、講道、訓示、問答．．．等多種形式，而更重要的是祂和門徒們一起生活，給他們建立一個和天主結合一起的新生活方式。祂使眾人成為門徒，並命令他們要使別人成為門徒，就是這樣建立了教會。

以下是一些耶穌基督培育門徒的方法，可以幫助我們完成祂交託我們的使命。

- ❖ 基督到來世上教導天主的國度，成為「天主與人之間的中保」（第前 2:5）。祂說：「我的教訓不是我的，而是派遣我來者的。」（若 7:16）同樣，祂的學生——宗徒們也是以他們的所見所聞出外傳教（宗 4:20），「為使你們也同我們相通」（若望一書 1:3），因此在我們培育門徒時，我們應該集中分享我們和耶穌基督相遇的體驗。就像基督對天父和宗徒對耶穌基督，我們要成為基督和廿一世紀整個世界的橋樑，令世人逐一歸向基督。
- ❖ 基督在不同的生活層面中召叫祂的門徒（谷 1:16-20; 2:14-17; 3:13）。同樣我們應該打破各種障礙，向處於不同語言、文化、種族、性別、社會階層和貧富狀況的人傳教，喚醒和鼓勵他們跟隨基督。並應該特別關注弱小貧窮和邊緣階層的人，因為他們更需要天主的慈愛。
- ❖ 基督是一位靈活的導師，在任何地點和時間，祂不會錯過任何講道的機會。因此在我們忙碌的生活中，我們也應把握和別人互動的機會。這可以在我們的家庭、工作、旅途和聚會中，我們都不難找到福傳的機會。

- ❖ 基督時常都和門徒在一起，因為要成為門徒就要在一段互相承諾的關係中隨著時間來成長和體驗。「他們說：「辣彼！——意即師傅——你住在那裏？」祂向他們說：「你們來看看吧！」他們於是去了，看了祂住的地方；並且那一天就在祂那裡住下了。」（若 1:38-39）。同樣我們需要慷慨地投放我們的時間去接觸對基督信仰有興趣、疑問和懷疑的人。
- ❖ 基督信任祂的門徒：耶穌注視他說：「你是若望的兒子西滿，你要叫『刻法』」——意即伯多祿。」（若 1:42）。同樣我們應該確認天主給各人的恩寵和才能。當我們看見別人以信德來運用他們的才能和恩寵時，應該讓他們知道我們的感受，並信任和委託他們為教會所作的服務和門徒職務的發展，而使他們知道我們會從旁幫助和作出配合的。
- ❖ 基督是一個祈禱的導師：祂恆常祈禱，無論獨自或和門徒一起或為門徒祈禱。祂透過天主經教導世人怎樣向天父祈禱。要成為門徒，我們亦應常懷祈禱的狀態，透過聖神開放自己和天主緊密地溝通。



聖張懷祿 1843~1900

St. Huai Lu Zhang

### 中國聖人張懷祿 (1843 - 1900)

聖張懷祿，河北人。五十七歲殉道那年，他才開始學道。庚子教難時，他還未受洗。雖然年歲大仍然滿懷熱忱，他說：“無論如何，我一心愛慕天主，事奉天主，天主會教我如何救靈魂。我雖尚未受洗，卻同樣是准教友啊。”拳匪來村裡搜殺，教友們聞訊出逃。張懷祿年老跑不快，被抓住。有人說：“這個人不是教友，請大師兄放了他罷！”同時，一個被捉住的教友也說：“他連經都不會念，怎麼算是奉教人呢？”懷祿聽了，很怕錯過殉道的良機，就反駁說：“我真是個奉教人，恭敬天主。”匪首聽罷，一拳把他打倒，其他匪黨刀槍齊下……這是一個血洗的活見證。

天主聖三聖母會福傳中國小組

- ❖ 耶穌基督為門徒實踐信仰：以祂的言行去實踐祂的教導－真理。但有些時候門徒還不能完全了解當中的含意，如當祂說到祂的受難時（谷 8:31; 9:30-32; 10:32-34）。我們要知道基督徒的價值觀和世俗的價值觀不同，難免會受到拒絕和排斥，但我們不能扭曲真理而求大眾的認同，我們應該忍耐地和完整地把教會的價值觀和人類的尊嚴與別人分享。因我們是以天主的肖像而受造的，我們應該相信即使人類的良心受損，真理依然存在。
- ❖ 基督在祂的逾越前預許另一位護慰者－聖神的來臨，祂要教訓你們一切，也要使你們想起，我對你們所說的一切。（若 14:17, 26; 16:13）今天我們應重新建立對聖神的信賴，相信祂會繼續引導我們成為基督的門徒。經過二千多年，聖神由十二宗徒時代開始，直至現在全世界三分之一的人口都是基督信徒了。

我們鼓勵大家思考門徒的職務並實踐它，歡迎你向我們分享履行上主交給我們門徒使命時的喜樂。



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## 上期討論题目的相關聖經章節:

### 門徒與個人福傳

#### 1. 什麼不是個人福傳?

- 不是以我們的智慧和動聽的言語去教導別人。
- 不只是聯絡教友一起。

#### 2. 個人福傳有什麼阻礙?

- 畏懼、缺乏訓練、錯誤的觀念和生活沒有見證。

## 請瀏覽我們的福傳網頁：

1. 請先前往聖堂網站:  
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2. 選擇中文
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報名表格可於聖堂後面的接待處索取。