

## The Discipleship and the World

### The Holy Family

In the November issue we see that our journey is approaching a sacred moment that is marked by our waiting for the coming of the Lord. In many ways we are preparing ourselves especially in faith and spirituality: we renew our baptismal vows; we partake in the sacrament of penance to inspire our inner conversion; we strive to get closer to the Lord through the prolonged exposure of the Blessed Sacrament. We are filled with abundant hope and charity in this messianic time.

This sacred moment draws us closer than ever to the Holy Family. Jesus was born through Mary into the Holy Family as the fulfillment of the prophecy: “Behold the virgin shall be with child and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel, which means “God is with us” (Mt. 1:23). God takes time preparing for the coming of the Messiah and He chose the worthy persons to cooperate with Him in carrying out His plan of salvation. Mary and Joseph both experienced the calling from God and they both answered with affirmation – Mary replied, “May it be done to me according to your word” (Lk 1:38) while Joseph did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him (Mt 1:24).



**Pass It On!**  
堂區一家，薪火相傳  
One Church One Family

The Family was poor, lowly but holy, and their holiness lies in the gladness to put God in the center of their married life and follow Him at any time, at all cost. The challenges the Holy Family encountered as Mary was going to give birth to Christ the child (Lk 2:7) and during their flight to Egypt to escape Herod’s persecution (Mt 2:13-15) revealed the coldness and cruelty of the world towards the children of God: the cost of being disciples is high and the courage to side with God against the evil forces of the world is astounding. However it is particularly this enduring courage the Holy Family has demonstrated through the trials that has connected them profoundly and realistically with the disciples of Christ and the persecuted Church of the 21<sup>st</sup> century: we share the joy and sorrow that the Holy Family experienced as we strive to follow Jesus, realizing what sustained the Holy Family is the grace of the Christian faith from which courage springs in abundance. Mary and Joseph listened, believed and followed through the word of God: “Do not be afraid” (Mt 1:20; Lk 1:30).

On the journey of faith the Holy Family upheld the Gospel values of humility, simplicity and great trust in God. Mary nurtured while Joseph protected the family. These values bounded them in great unity with which they prayed together and lived together in holiness. It was in this family that the child Jesus “grew in wisdom and grace before God and men” (Lk 2:52).

Therefore in this sacred season let’s immerse ourselves in the devotion to Christ and his Holy Family by proudly upholding the Christian values of solemn and joyous simplicity, caring for the poor and defending the value of life. Let’s gather in the Church, the body of Christ, to experience once more the encounter of Christ and the wonderful life after the model of the Holy Family.

## My First Christmas

Yang

My first celebration of Christmas took place in a most singular way at a time when I had to live alone as a teenager during the Chinese Cultural Revolution.

On one night in December I decided to take a walk on the complex of the dormitory where mom and I lived, for I was terribly attracted by the outstandingly beautiful moon in the deep blue sky. It was very quiet and dark on the complex. People went to bed at 9:00 pm, since TV and computer were not yet born in China.

I walked on the narrow path around the dormitory with the bright moon following me all the way. A veil of silver gracefully enveloped the world where everything in it seemed magical. At this moment I was with the moon. I forgot my worries about my detained parents but was entrapped by her perfect beauty that emitted nothing but joy and peace.

Suddenly I spotted a human shadow leaning against the building with a mop in the hand. The shadow was looking up into the sky, too. I recognized it was Ms. Gao, the woman was condemned for being born into a landlord family and who had been serving the punishment by mopping the ground every day. She forever cast down her eyes, as expected of the condemned, to demonstrate an obedient and repentant attitude towards the punishment, while the passersby including me who were actually her neighbors ignored her presence, also as expected, to keep distance from the condemned one. But today she looked up at me directly with a smile.

“Do you know what day is it today?” she whispered to me. I waved my head. I just wanted to walk away to avoid trouble, although I myself belonged to the condemned family, too.



## Time Bank

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“It is the Eve before Christmas, ” she said, her eyes shining. “It is the time people in the West celebrate the birth of King Jesus. They exchange gifts and eat good food together and then put on nice clothes to go to church. Girls all wear dresses,” she added. I listened, and readily believed her words. I reasoned that what she said was beautiful, especially that girls wear beautiful dresses. And if it is beautiful, it must be true. I had many questions to ask her, but for the time being I didn’t want to stop the beautiful flow of her story. For the first time I discovered this ragged, lowly woman had a soft, musical voice and I was enchanted by it.

She kept talking about the wonderful things happening on the Eve of Christmas until I asked, “Where did you learn all this from?”

“From a priest who taught me when I was a little girl like you, in my village. He said Jesus came to save us. He is in prison now,” Ms. Gao lamented. “I am waiting for Jesus, every day,” she turned her gaze into the deep, vast sky again.

My heart was bumping fast at her story and the incredible phenomenon that two persons of the condemned gathered under the most beautiful moon on the Eve of Christmas where only holy and great things are happening. I looked at her with awe. Obviously moved by a girl’s eye contact that had been absent from her life for so long, she took out a note of 10 cents and thrust into my hand, “Buy yourself some candy tomorrow and celebrate Christmas,” she said.

“Christmas, Christmas” I muttered this precious word all the way back to my studio apartment, to my bed, for fear that it would slip from me. I didn’t use Ms. Gao’s money but kept it in a jar, for I knew she was making about 4 cents a day for some innumerable years of which neighbors lost count. But I did cook a full table of dishes for myself the next day, for the encounter with Ms. Gao, for the good news she brought to me, and for the celebration of Christmas, a new thing in my life that made me a partaker in a big celebration of the glorious unearthly things such as liberty, freedom and abundance that existed only in certain part of the globe, the mystic West, and remained inaccessible for the ordinary Chinese.

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’.

## 門徒與世俗生活

### 聖家

上一期的月刊提到，我們信仰旅程來到一個神聖的時期，將臨期等待救主來臨的時期。我們在信德和靈修上用很多方法去預備救主的來臨：我們重宣領洗誓詞；我們透過悔罪禮儀去激發內在的歸依和轉變；我們熱切地朝拜聖體和領受聖體想和基督更接近。在這個時期，我們都充滿著主的希望和慈愛。

這神聖的時期也使我们更接近聖家。透過聖母瑪利亞耶穌誕生在聖家當中，應驗了先知的預言：「看，一位貞女，將懷孕生子，人將稱祂的名字為厄瑪奴耳，意思是：天主與我們同在。」（瑪 1:23）天主在預備默西亞降生時，揀選了相稱的人去配合祂的救贖工程，瑪利亞和若瑟都受到天主的召叫而答應了天主：瑪利亞說：「看，上主的婢女，願照你的話成就於我吧！」（路 1:38）若瑟就照上主的天使所囑咐的辦了。（瑪 1:24）

他們的家庭是貧窮和低下的但是神聖，他們的神聖在於他們在任何的時間和付出多少代價都把天主放在他們的婚姻生活中。聖家的挑戰在於聖母童貞生子和產子的過程（路 2:7）和逃避黑落德的追殺而逃到埃及。（瑪 2:13-15）他們要向聖子揭露世界的冷漠和殘酷：作為門徒的代價是很高的，而且需要極大的勇氣去和天主一起對抗世上邪惡的力量。就是聖家在遇到考驗時的這份堅定的勇氣，使他們能夠聯繫宗徒們和現今廿一世紀受苦中的教會：我們一同分享到聖家在跟隨基督所嘗到的喜樂和痛苦，透過聖家我們認識到基督徒的信德是恩典和勇氣的泉源。瑪利亞和若瑟聆聽、相信和跟隨天主的說話：「不要害怕」（路 1:30）。

在相仰的旅途中，聖家確認了福音的價值觀：謙卑、真誠和對天主的信賴。瑪利亞養育耶穌

而若瑟在保護家庭。這些價值觀使他們聯繫在一起，他們一起祈禱和渡聖善的生活。就在這樣的家庭下，「耶穌在智慧和身量上，並在天主和人前的恩愛上，漸漸地增長。」（路 2:52）

所以在這神聖的時期中，就讓我們獻身於基督和聖家，持守基督徒的價值觀，去關心貧苦和維護生命的價值。就讓我們在教會，基督的身體，再一次體驗基督的來臨和以聖家作我們的模範去體驗精彩的人生。



### 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”。

## 最佳的治療師

Joe

聖經中耶穌基督治癒了很多的病人，每次祂都會說：「信德救了他」。雖然現在耶穌基督不能親自為我們治病，但祂還是很愛護我們，而祂為我們的安排亦遠非我們所能想像到的，祂永遠都是給我們作最好的安排。最近我就經驗到祂的臨在，時刻為我們分擔困苦。

事源我太太在個多月前開始發覺身體陸續出現多種的不適，而且情況愈來愈差。期間她看了不同的醫生，也找不到真正的病源，她看過家庭醫生、腸胃科醫生和針灸醫師，都得不滿意的效果，病情還是反覆，時好時壞。身邊的家人和好友都很關心她，為我們分析病情和介紹不同的專科醫生，最後他們提意她去見腦神經科和內分泌科的醫生。但是所有醫生都需要預約，最快都要一星期後才有空檔！

就在這等候和困擾無助的期間，我和太太到了附近的聖堂參加了一台於晚上七時舉行的治療彌撒。在彌撒當中我們請求聖母和耶穌聖體的幫助，而整台治療彌撒的過程亦十分長，我們參與了彌撒和聖體降福兩部份已經要三個小時。最後一個部份神父為每人續一祈禱，因太太覺得疲倦所以沒有參與，提早離開回家休息。

就在當晚睡到半夜的時候，我太太開始嘔吐和不適，類似的情況之前亦出現過，所以不以為然。早上她還有不適，說很疲倦不送兒子上學了，我唯有匆忙地送兒子上學，之後再回家和她看醫生。其實當時亦不知看什麼醫生才對，所以打算和她商量到城中有名醫院的急症室求醫。當回到家時，向她建議到急症室，她並沒有回答我，總是說想睡覺。我察覺到她的神智不是十分清晰，於是打 911 叫救護車送她到附近醫院的急症室。在急症室詳細說明她的病情和病歷之後，他們替她進行腦部掃描，發現她左腦有腫瘤和

積水，情況危急需要即時照磁力共振和安排手術。幸好手術非常成功，她於第三日清晨已經完全清醒過來可以坐在椅子上，而她只是記得去過治療彌撒，至於期間嘔吐和入院的過程已經沒有多大的印象了！

天主確是最佳的治療師，祂不需要我太太逗留到治療彌撒第三部份已經垂允了她的請求，而且立即展開了祂的治療計劃。醫院的麻醉師可以令她做手術時不覺痛楚，但天主就連她嘔吐和送院期間的痛楚也忘記了。另外送她到急症室後，三小時之內已經做好腦部掃描、磁力共振和預備好一項這麼複雜的腦部手術，一些在醫院工作的朋友都說我們非常幸運和難得。而且手術非常成功，沒有帶給我太太一些嚴重和永久性的傷害，她迅速地康復，不需要到康復中心留醫，而可以直接出院回家休息。天主已給她作了最好的安排，在未到原先預約腦神經科醫生的日子前已經把她治療好！

而天主除了照顧我太太身體上的健康外，也照顧她心靈上的需要。期間有神父為她傅油，執事和教友為她送聖體，很多的親友對她和我們家庭的關懷、支持和為我們祈禱。雖然她還要繼續接受治療，但最困難和危險的時間已經過去了，現在我們的心情是充滿感恩和希望的！

在我太太突然要接受手術的時候，我實在很憂心，所以在「面書」上邀請親友為她祈禱，得到很多的回應，而出乎意料之外其中有些是沒有宗教或很少到聖堂的，這也可以說是「另類的福傳」。在聖經中耶穌治好了一個附魔的人，之後耶穌打發他回去說：「你回家去吧！傳述天主為你做了何等大事。」（路 8:39）在你的生活上有沒有感受到天主的恩寵呢？歡迎投稿和大家分享，福傳就是這麼簡單，為天主作見證，不用講深奧道理的。



## 時間銀行

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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。



### 這個聖誕你願意送給耶穌最好的生日禮物嗎？

世人幾乎把聖誕的起源和意義完全忘掉，甚至刻意埋沒。“Merry Christmas”已被“Happy Holidays”取代。「聖誕節」只是購物和狂歡的代號。

**福傳小組特別訂購了一批精緻的聖誕襟章，希望大家配帶向別人宣認聖誕是來自耶穌的。**