



Message from Fr. Au

Dear beloved sons and daughters of our Father:

I am very excited about being your Parish Priest at Canadian Martyrs Parish. Thinking back about it, I can see God has His humour.

On April 1 this year, I attended a funeral in this parish. I realized that I had not been at Canadian Martyrs since Father Henry Yeung was ordained as a priest by Archbishop Roussin. That was 10 years ago. One earlier time was when this Church was blessed by Archbishop Adam Exner. It crossed my mind that I did not know this parish well. But it is as though the good Lord put an idea in my head that stirred my soul. It was an irksome feeling.

One hour after the funeral at Canadian Martyrs, I was scheduled to meet with Archbishop Miller. There was no warning. Matter of fact, I was told to go to the Archbishop's Office one day earlier. That was Wednesday of Holy Week, which is the busiest week for a priest's liturgically calendar. His Grace told me that I was going to be re-assigned to be the Parish Priest at Canadian Martyrs. Archbishop Miller could not have an April Fools' joke on me, could he? It was April 1 - April Fools' Day. He is too serious for that. It was a strangest feeling because it is as though that God has already let me know. That is, I was going to Canadian Martyrs Parish. Fr. Paul Chu did not say anything when I saw him for the funeral earlier. When I was walking out of the Archbishop Office, the Archbishop asked me to confirm if I would be willing to accept this new appointment. Well, how can I say "No". Okay, I solemnly made the Vow of Obedience almost 20 years ago when I was ordained. Also, in less than 5 hours on the same day, all the priests would be gathered at the Cathedral to make an annual renewal of our Vow of Obedience at the Chrism Mass. But, I believe that Providence has something to say.

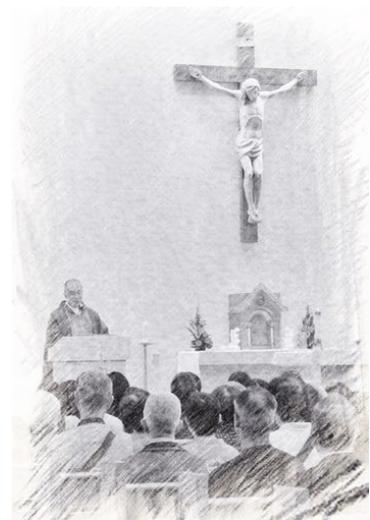
Canadian Martyrs has been known to be a very welcoming community. I already taste the goodness since I moved in to the priest's residence (rectory) last Wednesday's night by their help and support. There are generous and faithful people here at Canadian Martyrs. There are other many wonderful reasons, but the most compelling one for me is as though the good Lord has shown a line in His diary about this new Pastoral assignment. Whatever we want to call, either intuition or gut feelings, something had stirred in my heart on that April Fool's Day. I realized that I must be God's fool to carry out His Divine Will. Truly, God works in marvellous way.

Our Catholic Faith brings us together Sunday after Sunday. It is the same Faith that has made us His sons and daughters through our common baptism by which we have the warranty of Eternal Life. A life that I believe with all my heart because we are already experiencing through the Eucharist. This Real Presence of the Lord Jesus in the Eucharist is truly a taste of heaven, if only more people would come to realize how good our Lord is to us. How humble Jesus remained with us. St. Paul calls us to be fools for Christ, but Christ has first become a "fool" for us in the eyes of the world by dying on the Holy Cross for us. That's why we are not afraid to be His fools by following Him faithfully, wherever He leads us.

Faith in the Lord brought us together in this wonderful parish, which we call our spiritual home. Here at Canadian Martyrs, we are nourished by the Lord's Word and Sacraments through His Church. May we continue to acknowledge that we are given the greatest gift of Faith of belonging to Jesus through Baptism. Knowing that we have a common Father in Heaven who called us to serve Him in various ways. In faith, let us then give and serve with greatest generosity with our time, talents, and treasure, so that others may come to know the goodness of the Lord. May the Holy Mother Mary, Queen of Heaven lead us always closer to the Heart of Jesus.

In Christ,

*Fr. Richard Au, STL
Parish Priest
Canadian Martyrs Parish*



歐神父的話

親愛的主內的弟兄姊妹們：

我十分興奮能成為加殉堂的主任司鐸。回想起來，我可看見天主有他的幽默。

今年四月一日在這聖堂的一個殯葬彌撒做共祭，才發覺自十年前楊永明神父(Fr. Henry Yeung) 由總主教 Roussin 在此主持晉鐸後就沒有來過加殉堂。更早的一次已是總主教 Adam Exner 祝聖新聖堂的時候。我忽然感覺到我和這堂區的聯絡不多，但這正是天主喚醒我的心靈要為這堂區多作服務。

在那殯葬彌撒之後一小時，總主教 Miller 約見了我。我在早前一天才收到通知。而這日正是聖週三--在禮儀年曆中教會最繁忙的一周。在會面中，主教通知我要調派到加殉堂。這是否總主教跟我在愚人節開的玩笑？因為上一任期只是兩年。但他是認真的！這真是奇妙的感覺，好像天主一早已通知了我要到加殉堂上任。當我離開主教辦公室前，主教問我是否願意接受這任命。我怎能拒絕呢！早在二十年前在晉鐸時，我已鄭重地宣認了服從的誓言。再者，在幾小時後，所有的神職人員會齊集在總堂的聖油彌撒中重宣這服從的誓言。難道這是天意！

眾所週知，加殉堂是一個熱情的團體。在上週三，我遷入司鐸宿舍時，我已感受到教友們的幫助和支持--他們都是慷慨和有信德的人。這新司鐸任命背後是有很多原因的，但對我最主要的原因是按天主的旨意而行。直覺上，在這愚人節發生的事已藏在我心中。我明白到我是上主所選的愚妄的人去承行祂的旨意。誠然，天主的作為真是奇妙啊！

我們因著同一的信仰，每個主日都聚在一起，正是這信仰使我們藉著聖洗成為天主的子女而獲得永生的保證。這是我全心信賴的新生命，因為我們已在領聖體中感受到。主耶穌親臨在聖體中是天國的預嘗，只要更多人來體驗主的美善。多麼謙虛的主基督和我們在一起！聖保祿宗徒要我們為基督作愚妄的人，但基督卻已成為第一個在世人的眼中在十字架上為世人犧牲的愚妄的人。因此我們不要懼怕跟隨主基督作愚妄的人。

主內的信仰領我們聚在這美好的堂區--我們心靈上的家。在加殉堂，我們藉著聖言和聖事滋養我們。願我們繼續明認我們所得到基督藉聖洗給我們信仰的最大禮物。在信仰上，讓我們慷慨地付出我們的時間、才能和金錢去令更多人來認識主的慈愛。願天主之母--天上的母后--帶領我們更靠近耶穌聖心。

主佑

歐健明神父
主任司鐸
加拿大殉道聖人天主堂

