

My 10th Ordination Anniversary

Fr. Paul Chu

Compared to some senior priests who celebrate their golden or silver ordination anniversary, ten years seems trivial.

Compared to eternity, ten years is nothing. So what is my 10 years of priestly life?

I am glad that God creates each one of us as unique, and any comparison will be futile. But I would like to liken it as a child reaching 10 years of age, attending Grade 5 in elementary school. He has grasped certain knowledge, continues to explore, but ahead of him, there is still much more to learn.

When I was first ordained, I wondered if I could fulfill such an awesome holy task of being a “spiritual father” to others. But God was kind to me (as He usually does), and He heard my prayer. He convinced me that if I try my best, I have given my best, and really there is nothing “better” than the best. Even God knows my offerings may not be the best by the standard of the world, He knows I have put my effort into my vocation. With this conviction and graces from God, I learnt and finally I settled in my priesthood.

I came to this parish in 1997 when this community was still very young. United in one heart to build up the parish, not burdened with strong tradition, together we explore, and I can see lots of potential to develop. And of course, we have our excellent zealous lay people who are second to none. Together

with the help from God, we accomplished many things including the greatest challenge of building a new church.

My last ten years has been a fulfilling one for me. As a pastor, there is no greater joy than seeing people coming closer to God, be that mean true conversion of heart, better knowledge of the faith, spending more time in prayer, greater involvement in church, or vocation to priesthood or religious life. Again, there is no greater challenge than to be patient and sensitive in my pastoral care, to confront charitably to others’ way of life, and to deal with hundred of things that we do not learn in the seminary. Once again, no words of thanks will be enough for me to those who love me, assist me and suggest me ways to become a better priest.

In the Christmas party, a watch was presented to me as a gift from the parish groups. It reminds me that vocation is not just a yes in my ordination date 10 years ago, but a continuous yes to God every single day.

What lies ahead is beyond everyone’s guess. But I do know that there are bound to be challenges ahead, and there are bound that more have to be learnt, but I firmly believe that if God is in our side, who will be against us.

Please keep me in your prayers as I continue to serve you in the Lord.

晉鐸十周年的感想

朱達章神父

十年的鐸職生涯不算長亦不算短，十年人事幾番新，人生又有多少個十年呢？另外，相對永恆的生命，十年就像滄海一粟。見到年邁神長慶祝他們的晉鐸金禧銀禧，十年光景真可說是微不足道。

回想十年前晉鐸時，心情戰戰兢兢，肩負如此神聖重大的使命，可幸天主垂聽我的禱告，不斷助祐指引我。七年前來到這堂區，初任本堂牧職，任重道遠。堂區內熱心積極成熟的教友不少，大大的幫助了我的工作。最富挑戰性的工作，莫過於興建新堂大業，教友鼎力支持，實在感激萬分。

十年的聖召生活，充實了我的生命，世上沒有一樣工作可與它相比。我充心感謝上主白白賜我這聖召方式來事奉祂。其實，正如聖保祿宗徒說神恩各有不同，但總是為天主的光榮。如果我們各人都忠誠地按天主的召喚而生活，我們的生命都是為光榮天主。

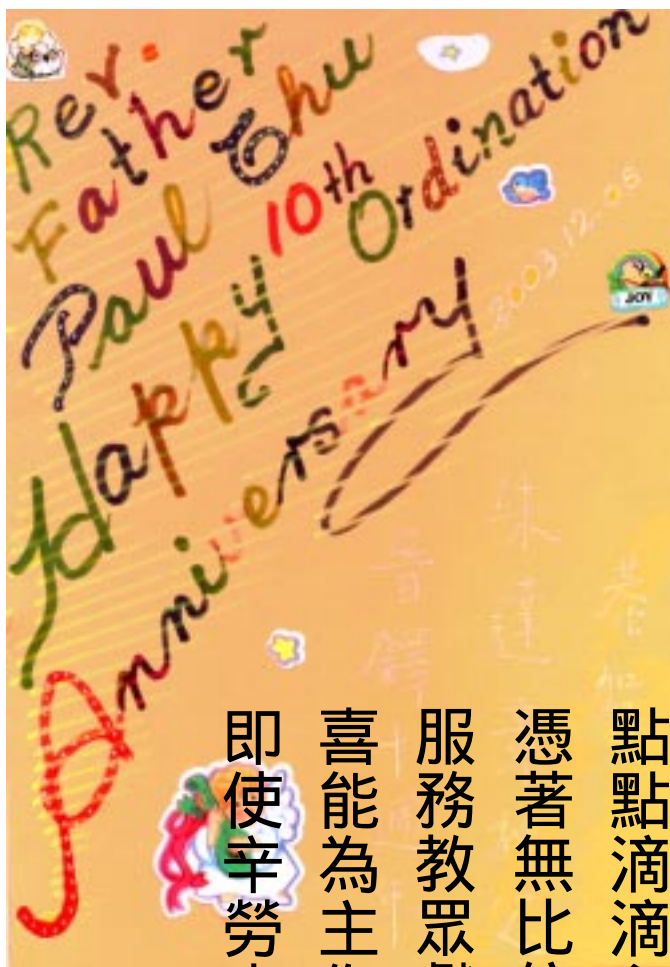
鐸兄周景勳神父際此周年紀念，送我「虛心之樂」牌匾。「虛心」即是使自己的心空出，讓天主進入生命。無

論什麼境況，都可自得其樂。對每日要處理繁瑣事務的我，這又是何等值得嚮往的境界，但十年鐸職教懂我，不要追求什麼神慰、什麼境界，只要在意中常存「虛心」，化煩惱為奉獻，把握這心境，樂趣已在其中了！

堂區善會花盡心思送我手錶一個，據悉，選擇的理由是手錶永遠有用，不會過時，留下美麗回憶。聽了這番解釋，心頭舒服一點，至少這樣的禮物，不是向我投訴不守時，或講道太長，或浪費太多時間。對我來說，這手錶提醒我兩點：一是叫我運用人生有限時間，去爭取永恆生命；二是叫我無時無刻都要不斷地回應上主的召叫。聖召不只是十年前一刻的承諾，更重要的是以整個生命去回應。當走完這手錶的時間後，盼望可到達永恆的福樂。

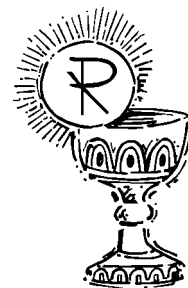
在我的紀念聖相上，我選了聖詠十八章卅一節：「天主的道路是完善的，上主的言語是精煉的，凡是投靠祂的人，祂必作他的後盾。」就讓我們以這聖詠章句，彼此互勉，繼續前進邁向聖善。

賀朱神父晉鐸十周年



十載鐸職轉瞬過
 人生百態盡看破
 萬般甜酸皆嘗透
 點點滴滴心裏流
 憑著無比信與望
 服務教眾獻關愛
 喜能為主作馬牛
 即使辛勞也樂哉

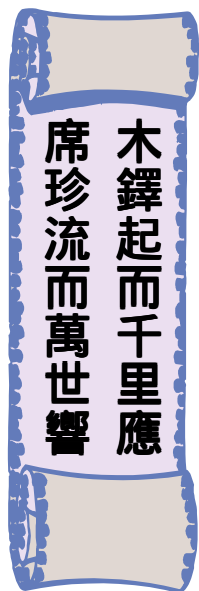
Mary Lee



1993 年晉鐸禮
 Rite of Ordination in 1993



善會獻給朱神父神花作禮物
 Fr. Chu received the gift of Spiritual Bouquet
 from parish groups on Dec 13



註：（此兩句摘自《文心雕龍》）

古人施政、施教時，常搖動金口木舌的手鈴以警醒世人。所以木鐸之聲起，雖居於千里以外的人，也必起而應對之，是「木鐸起而千里應」的注腳。故《禮記》說：「振木鐸於朝，天子之政也。」《論語》也說：「天下之無道也久矣，天將以夫子為木鐸。」
 聖詠第二十三篇說：「在我對頭面前，你為我擺設了筵席；在我的頭上傳油，使我的杯爵滿溢。在我一生歲月裏，幸福與慈愛常隨不離；我將住在上主的殿裏，直至悠遠的時日。」
 這節聖詠的深意，與「席珍流而萬世響」的含義，有異曲同工之妙！
 朱神父的證道，猶如豐盛的筵席，滿是珍羞百味的美饌，使萬世萬民，窮一生一世，都饗用不盡！



註：（此兩句摘自《詩經》）

詩句在說出：「滿被盛德的伊尹呀，你真是我們賢德的大師（即周朝的三公）。萬民都以你為馬首是瞻啊！」
 原來遠在商朝（公元前十七世紀），有一位賢相，名為伊尹。商朝開國之君成湯，特尊稱他為「阿衡」，成為後世君主之尊重賢臣的美談。
 這首詩是後人頌讚伊尹的名詩。
 今日，我們有位備受教友愛戴、支持的朱神父，他能於短短的兩年間，把興建加拿大殉道聖人天主教堂的大業，卓然完成，使到天主的榮耀，籠罩整個烈治文！
 在這裡，謹綴數語，以為一眾教友恭賀朱神父晉鐸十周年紀念的獻辭！

David Lai