

## **For The Bulletin Of May 31, 2015**

### **TRINITY SUNDAY**

#### ***From Father Robert***

Military officers are commissioned; they are given specific authority to carry out the duties of their rank. Sales personnel might earn a commission; they are given a percentage of a sale over and above their regular salary. Etymologically, the word “commission” means to be “sent with.” So, someone commissioned might be sent forth with authority and reaps the rewards of a task well done.

This year, the gospel for this Sunday concludes with what is sometimes called “The Great Commission.” No other gospel so explicitly refers to the three Persons of the Trinity. We hear the very words of the baptismal formula we use today, and no doubt this gospel passage reflects the baptismal practice of the Matthean community some decades after the historical events of Jesus’ life, death, resurrection, and ascension. The disciples are sent forth to “all nations” with the authority of Jesus and they reap the rewards of being faithful to Jesus’ command and having Jesus always with them.

In this gospel passage for today’s feast, Jesus commands the disciples to baptize “in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.” Jesus reveals His undivided, divine relationship with the Father when He declares, “All power in heaven and on earth has been given to Me.” Baptism professes our faith in the Holy Trinity and celebrates our insertion into the intimate, relational life of Father, Son, and Spirit.

The depth and intimacy of God’s relationship with us leads to our own identity – “we are children of God” and “heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ” (from the Second Reading). As children and heirs, we share in the identity of Christ and therefore, of God. Moreover, we participate in God’s saving work because we share in the power and mission of Christ through the Holy Spirit. To share in divine identity is to share in divine doing – we, too, are to do mighty deeds. To be formed into the identity of Christ, therefore, is to be formed into His mission.

The gospel rather succinctly and clearly lays out the mission with which Jesus charged the disciples (and us) before He ascended into heaven: “make disciples, baptize in the name of the Trinity, teach, and observe all that Jesus has commanded.” Jesus can entrust this mission to us because we share in His identity through the power of the Holy Spirit. This identity is the fruit of our faithfulness. Has anything more wondrous or greater happened before?

#### ***Living The Paschal Mystery***

Liturgy does for us what the Deuteronomy texts from the First Reading did for Israel of old: helps us remember God’s mighty deeds and enter into a covenantal relationship with the Divine. Liturgy calls us together to ask, “Who is this God?”

Knowing God isn’t something we can find out in the abstract; knowing God is sought and expressed in our own doing – in taking up Christ’s mission and living our own privileged identity as daughters and sons of God “until the end of the age.” Without doing as Jesus did, we

cannot answer “Who is God?” This doing is nothing less than to “suffer with,” which means a constant dying to self. By our own self-emptying are we filled with the divine identity, are faithful to our own baptismal identity, and continue the mission with which Jesus has entrusted us.

Once again, we are given the opportunity to reflect on the Mystery of the Trinity.

- For me,, the Trinity touches my life when...
- The Trinity influences how I relate to others by...
- My baptismal commitment means to me...

### ***About Liturgy: The Return to Ordinary Time***

It might be tempting to think of this Sunday as a continuation of the Easter Season, or even Pentecost, since this solemnity comes immediately after Pentecost. After all, this is just one more high festival in a whole string of them. It seems like we have been celebrating resurrection and new Life for a long time, and we have! ...for a full fifty days. It is good to remind ourselves at this point in the Liturgical Year that we resumed Ordinary Time this past Monday, the day after Pentecost. Trinity Sunday is a solemnity during Ordinary Time. It is now that we consciously take up Jesus’ paschal mission and live what we have been celebrating. All good things come to an end and we must get on with our life. So it is with Easter. The constant celebration has come to an end. Now we must live what the celebration means.

### ***Retreat***

I will be away this coming week, from Monday through Friday, making the annual retreat required of all Diocesan clergy. I will be joining a group of brother priests at San Damiano Retreat Center in Danville which is run by the Franciscans. I will return Friday afternoon.

### ***Eucharistic Minister Training***

Next Sunday, June 7<sup>th</sup>, immediately following the 10:00 a.m. Liturgy, there will be a training session for all current and new Eucharistic Ministers. The training will update training and the protocol for all ministers. Please put it on your calendar and plan to be with us. I will be present and participate in the training process.

### ***Lector Training***

On Tuesday, June 9<sup>th</sup>, our Lectors, both new as well as veterans, will gather for training and an update by our new Lector Coordinators, **Steve and Frances Rojek**. Please put the date on your calendar and plan to be with us. If you will not be able to attend, please be sure to contact either Steve or Frances to find out what you have missed and what you need to know! The session begins at 7:00 p.m.

### ***CCISCO Night Walk Against Violence***

Our next CCISCO Night Walk Against Violence takes place on Friday, June 12<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 6:30 p.m. The site for the witness is International Christian Ministries, located at G and Madill Sts.

### ***Altar Servers Pizza Night and Recognition***

On Tuesday, June 16<sup>th</sup>, our Altar Servers will be treated to Pizza and then will be

honored and recognized for their service to our community. If your child is an Altar Server, please contact Peter Degl'Innocenti, Pastoral Associate, through the Parish Office to let him know your child will be attending. The event will begin at 7:00 p.m.

### ***Gifts and Memorials***

There are opportunities for individuals and families to honor or memorialize a loved one by designating something for the church, such as the Icons or the new Presidential and Diaconal Chairs, or flower arrangements at the Altar and Ambo. If you are interested in providing something in honor of or in loving memory of a family member or friend, please speak with me and I will assist you in making your gift possible.

### ***Concert Series Begins Again***

This past week, **Don Pearson, our Organist/Director of Music/Artist-in-Residence**, announced the Summer Series of Concerts that continue on into the Fall. The first of the Summer concerts will take place on Friday evening, June 19<sup>th</sup>, 8:00 p.m. and will feature French Classics and music of the German Romantic era. The concert is free and following the concert, a reception will take place in our parish hall. A free will offering will be received to help defray the cost of the reception. A flyer detailing the dates and times of the upcoming concerts will be found in today's bulletin. I hope you will be able to join us.

### ***The Death of Fr. Lucas Chan, S.J.***

Last week, Fr. George Griener, S.J., shared with me the untimely and sudden death of Fr. Lucas Chan, S.J., at the age of 46. He has been a colleague and dear friend of Fr. George. In tribute,

Fr. George composed the following tribute which was posted in *America*, the magazine of the Jesuit Order:

### ***Remembering Lúcas Chan Yiu-Sing***

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[In All Things](#)

[George Griener](#) | May 24 2015

He had wanted to be a veterinarian, but at the time one couldn't study veterinary science in Hong Kong. Nevertheless, his affection and love for the animal world, especially cats, never faded, as is evidenced by the subject matter of so much of his near-professional quality photography.

Instead, he would end up studying biblical ethics. Two years ago the late Jesuit Dan Harrington observed in this journal: "In The Ten Commandments and the Beatitudes: Biblical Studies and Ethics for Real Life, Yiu Sing Lúcas Chan, a Jesuit from Hong Kong...[has achieved] something of a milestone in the history of the relationship between biblical exegesis and Catholic moral theology."

His second monograph, *Biblical Ethics in the 21st Century: Developments, Emerging Consensus, and Future Directions* complemented the first. He was a modern, highly gifted pioneer in the field, publishing widely in *Asian Christian Review*, *Asian Horizons*, *Budhi*, and *Chinese Cross Currents*, among others. Recently, March 2015, he published a survey of the contemporary field in *Theological Studies*, "Biblical Ethics: 3D". A book review authored by Chan appeared in *America* earlier this year.

Lúcas Chan died Tuesday, May 19th, only weeks short of turning 47 of an apparent heart attack in his Marquette University office. Two days before he had been invited, after only one year on the faculty, to deliver the invocation at Marquette's Commencement for Arts and Sciences. His death was met with shock and disbelief by scholars and friends from Myanmar and Slovenia, Taiwan and mainland China, to Germany, Ireland and the United States. People who knew about each other only through their own conversations with Lúcas began to search each other out to share their grief.

When he died, he was finishing preparation for coordinating and hosting the first ever International Asian Conference of Catholic ethicists this July in Bangalore, India. He was to team-teach a two week course on ethics in Bangalore prior to the conference. He would then spend the summer doing research in Berlin, retreat work in Slovenia, and enjoying visits to Dublin and Prague with Professor Emeriti. He was also co-editing a book, *The Bible and Catholic Theological Ethics*, which would draw biblical scholars and ethicists from seventeen countries. Editors of the planned next edition of the *Jerome Biblical Commentary* had also asked him for a major, almost book length essay on biblical ethics. His death was a major loss not only to the many who knew and loved this wise, generous and faithful friend, but especially to the world of cross-cultural theological ethics. His remarkable ability to move serenely across cultural boundaries would have made him an excellent person for bridging the multicultural world of Asian theology. Moreover, his long range agenda,

already evident in his two published monographs, was to provide a bridge between Christian ethics and the world of Confucian values.

Lúcas Chan was born in Hong Kong June 7, 1968, where his family still lives. Education studies in his home town led to graduate work at the University of Birmingham in the United Kingdom. In 1993 he entered the Chinese Jesuit Province. Contact with Irish Jesuits working in Hong Kong wetted an interest in Ireland, Irish culture and justice for the Irish cause that never left him: green framed glasses were only one expression of this affection!

One summer, when studying Irish culture, he was chosen to be part of a group to meet the President of Ireland. His usual simple dress—jeans and sneakers—wouldn't do. He was taken to a shoe store, fitted with fine black shoes. Then he asked the proprietor: "Where were these shoes made?" "In England," was the reply. To which he answered: "I won't visit the President of Ireland wearing English made shoes." He was resolute in carrying out what he held dear, but always with a sense of humor. Humor, even self-effacing humor, was an endearing and enduring quality of his: he said he spoke Italian best after several glasses of wine!

After early Jesuit training in Singapore, social work among the handicapped in Cambodia, theological studies in Manila, Chan completed his PhD at Boston College under James Keenan, Dan Harrington and Lisa Cahill. He was then awarded two visiting fellowships, at Yale University and the Woodstock

Center. He also spent summers in Germany and Italy.

But he would return to Ireland for tertianship (Jesuit “finishing school”) and then was proud to spend a second year there as the first occupant of the Michael Hurley, S.J. Fellowship at the Irish School of Ecumenics at Trinity College, Dublin. Michael Hurley had been a pioneer in ecumenical and peace studies in the war-torn country. He was the brother of Hong Kong Jesuit, James Hurley, who had introduced Chan to the Society of Jesus.

Chan made close friends with politicians and kitchen staff, world class academics and ordinary parishioners, judges in Kentucky, and condemned prisoners in Singapore jails—he was once the messenger between an inmate and his parents, who could not afford to visit their dying AIDS-infected son. He loved people and the world passionately, no one was excluded from his affection. He made everyone he met feel that he or she was the most important person in the world for him. Writing to a friend the day before his own death, he outlined his world-wide summer itinerary, then concluded: “But no matter how exciting this agenda sounds, above all I look forward to seeing you, your wife....and the cats!” His enduring smile and warm heart are the characteristics most often mentioned by friends since his death.

One grieving colleague wrote from Germany: “I imagine him in the peace of God, where his smile and his joy will never end.” But he could also gently chide when his own deeply rooted Confucian sense of values was offended by aspects of Western individualism. He

owned the authentic dimensions of his Chinese roots.

Lúcas Chan, S.J., was an excellent scholar, a compassionate pastor, a loyal friend, a kind teacher, and a wise, loving human being. New Testament scholar Jesuit John Donahue suggested an apt saying for Chan: “Rabbi Yohanan taught that when the living quote the teachings of a scholar who has died, that departed scholar’s lips whisper in the grave.” May his lips whisper in our ears into the future.

**George Griener, S.J.**, Jesuit School of Theology, Berkeley CA

If you would like to send Fr. George a Sympathy Card, you may do so and we will mail them from the Parish Office. And, since Fr. Chan, S.J., was such a force in the educational world, perhaps a contribution to our Building Fund for the Educational Center might be in order. That is what I am going to do in Fr. Chan’s memory.

### *Thank You*

...to the members of our Art & Environment Committee for their work in transforming our sanctuary from Easter to Pentecost: **Rich Confetti, Nancy DiMaggio, Don Benson, Denise Moss, Tom Catchings, Stevie Catchings, Jose Palomino, and Harlan Young.**

...to those who came early Saturday morning to clean and prepare the church and parish hall for the weekend: **Mency Osborne, Jun Bajet, Rose Salamanca, Jack Goncalves, Angela Bueno, and Carole Miller.**

...to those who cleaned and maintained our restrooms in both the church and parish hall: **Robert Goncalves, Mary**

**Ewing, Patricia Britton, and Harlan Young.**

***From St. Vincent de Paul***

To all our benefactors at St. Ignatius of Antioch, thank you so much for your continued support financially as well as through your dried and canned goods donations. Our members, and those we help, appreciate you very much.

Sincerely, Mary Hennessy, Secretary  
St. Vincent de Paul Society

***Second of the Season Hospitality***

***Sunday Next Week***

Our Social Events Committee is sponsoring Hospitality after the 8 and 10 am liturgies next Sunday. These folks are well known in our community for their wonderful and creative events including the St. Nicholas Dinner in December and the St. Joseph Dinner in March.

So . . . next week, just don't take a donut and run. Stop and say hello and converse with some of your fellow parishioners.

Also take a moment to thank the Social Events Committee and maybe talk to them about getting involved in their ministry.

A Free Will offering basket will be on the table and all donations will be deposited into the New Building Campaign.

***St. Martha's Guild***

This new ministry of hospitality, service and support is offered to grieving families who are celebrating the gift of life for a loved one. As St. Martha served Jesus and His disciples, thinking it not a duty but a privilege, we also wish to serve.

Celebrating the gift of faith with family and friends is an essential part of the healing process. It is our hope to accompany the grieving family during this time of loss.

We would like to take this opportunity to *sincerely thank all parishioners who volunteered* a few weeks ago to occasionally help in the kitchen and/or provide food for funeral receptions.

Your response was heartwarming. Anyone else interested in joining St. Martha's Guild is asked to contact Mary at 754-8599, Nancy at 757-8555 or Lorraine at 754-2746.