

ST. IGNATIUS CATHOLIC CHURCH

BI-MONTHLY ENGLISH BULLETIN

April – May 2022

“Once I was dead, but now I am alive forever and ever” by Fr. David Wessels, SJ

John’s vision on the island of Patmos was of “one like a son of man,” the term that Jesus used often to speak about himself. The words in the title of this article are those spoken by that person. They say briefly what we celebrate in the Church at this time of year: for about three months we annually mark the seasons of Lent and Easter. Our liturgies in these holy seasons lead us slowly through the mysteries of the Passion, Death, and Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. These are seasons above all of encounter with Jesus. We may use a theological term like the “Paschal Mystery,” reminding us of the “Passover” by which God saved the Israelites from the cruel oppression that they were experiencing in Egypt. But in short, Jesus died, and then rose from the dead and now lives forever. In the Apostles’ Creed, we proclaim that the Lord Jesus “suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day.”

During the season of Lent, we read in the Gospels about how a conspiracy grew against Jesus, a threat which Jesus and his disciples knew about for some time before his arrest, trial, passion, and crucifixion. The disciples grew afraid when they heard about this, and Jesus himself underwent an agony in the garden before he was betrayed. The Gospels report many details of the physical sufferings and repeated injustices that Jesus had to bear in those last hours before his death. He was abandoned by many of his disciples, and he saw the pain that his mother Mary shared with him at the foot of the cross.

The scripture readings of the Easter season can sometimes leave us wondering what was going on in those days after Jesus rose from the dead. The Gospels report an empty tomb, with the burial cloths left behind. Then Jesus meets individuals and groups of his disciples once again in a mysterious set of appearances that seem to defy the limits of space and time. Throughout the forty days between his Resurrection and Ascension, his message is “Peace be with you.” The Church has learned those words well and repeats them in the Mass both as the words of Jesus and as the words that we have come to share in greeting one another.

One of the unusual features of this post-Resurrection time is that the seeming departure of Jesus when “He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father,” is not an absence. For he says to the disciples, and

through them to us: “And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age.” (*Matthew 28:20*) The Holy Spirit is Jesus’s own Spirit, one with God the Father and the Son. We conclude the season of Easter with the great feast of Pentecost, when we recall the pouring out of the Holy Spirit upon the followers of Jesus.

We already anticipate this gift of the Spirit through the Scripture readings at Mass during the Easter season. We read in the *Acts of the Apostles* of the preaching and mighty deeds of the early Church as it proclaimed a very simple message, the same one that the son of man spoke to John on Patmos. St. Paul goes into a little more detail: “For I handed on to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures; that he appeared to Cephas, then to the Twelve.” (*1 Corinthians 15:3-5*) Paul and other disciples also received such appearances. We, too, have an appearance to look forward to, as we declare in the Creed: “He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.”

The period in which we are now living is marked by evils of many sorts: a raging pandemic, continuing warfare, and silent threats to our global environment. In the face of all this, let us find hope in the Lord: “Once I was dead, but now I am alive forever and ever.” (*Revelation 1:18*)





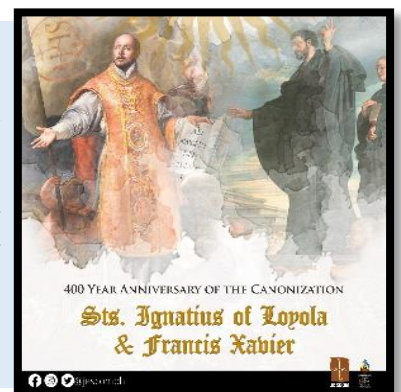
We do not want to use the word “Sayonara” but “Thanks” as Fr. Ryuichiro “Francis” Hanafusa, our Pastor and Sr. Leny Fery, one of our English Center Coordinators, leave us to go to their new mission places. So today, April 3, as this Bulletin issue is being distributed, the 4:30 English Mass is to be celebrated as a Thanksgiving Mass for both of them. Our gifts? Spiritual bouquets, assuring them of our prayers, and a promise that we will continue to take care of the ministry as best we can. Do you want to read the Bulletin interview with them? Go to page 4 and 5 of this issue.

These past two years, because of the pandemic, many have not been to St. Ignatius Church and are nostalgic. For the many people outside Japan who access the Church website and Facebook and plan to visit one day, the good news is that soon you can have a “virtual tour” of our Church in three languages: Japanese, English and Spanish. This project was initiated by some Japanese and Vietnamese youth, in collaboration with the various language groups, and is in the last stage of its realization. To access it, you can use this QR Code. At the moment, all you can see are pictures but soon it will be the experience of a guided tour. Do you know who will be the first one to see it? Fr. Hanafusa, before he leaves. Another gift from the parishioners!



Remember our overseas 2021 Christmas fund-raising drive for the poor? The different communities of St. Ignatius collaborated thru a Mini Bazaar, the SIIYM sang Christmas carols, you dropped your offering in the box during the Christmas Masses, all collections during the 12 noon mass and the Feast of St. Nino were contributed as well. Through the Tanging Yaman Foundation, of the Jesuits of the Philippine Province, we were able to find recipients - poor fishermen of Dinagat Island, one of the hardest hit places by Typhoon Odette. Together with donations from other sources, twelve new boats were built, this time using fiber glass materials and equipped with small engines. Last March 26, they were turned-over to twenty-four families, each family taking turns in the use of one boat. Now they have their source of livelihood again - another way of our parish concretizing the Jesuits' Universal Apostolic Preference (UAP) no 2 which is "to walk with the poor".

On March 12, the Church celebrated the 400th anniversary of the Canonization of St. Ignatius of Loyola and St. Francis Xavier, along with 3 other great figures of the Church, St. Isidore the Farmer, St. Philip Neri, and St. Teresa of Avila. For the Jesuits, it was a very important celebration within the Ignatian Year. It is rare for a founder and one of his first companions to be proclaimed “Saints” at the same time. The impact of the charism and mission of these two saints continues to be felt in the Church. In fact, the Church of Japan owes its birth to St. Francis Xavier, who was sent by Ignatius, Superior General of the Society of Jesus, to bring the seeds of faith to the Far East. If you want to know more about who they are and how the anniversary was celebrated, click one of the following sites: #ignatius500 #ignatiu500 #ignatianyear#Jesuit Communications (FB@jescomph)



Whose heart does not bleed when we see videos or photos of the on-going war in Ukraine? Yes, you have probably seen many, but do you know how the Church has been responding to the crisis? Pope Francis himself went to the Russian Embassy in the Vatican to plead for peace. He also sent emissaries to Ukraine and the surrounding countries receiving refugees to show his closeness to them. One of these, Cardinal Krajewski, went to Ukraine to see the situation firsthand. In his report, he said, “I saw great suffering but strong faith in Ukraine.” Click <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/vatican-city/news/2022-03/cardinal-krajewski-in-ukraine-great-suffering-but-strong-faith.html>. Another was Cardinal Czerny. He wrote, “I left for ‘a journey of prayer, prophecy and denunciation.’ So it was. But on my return, I can say that it was also a journey of witness, love, and hope.” (<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/vatican-city/news/2022-03/ukraine-cardinal-czerny-war-hungary-pope-francis-slovakia.html>)

On March 25, Pope Francis consecrated the people of Ukraine and Russia to the Immaculate Heart of Mary at a penitential celebration in St Peter's Basilica. The same rite was performed on the same day by the Papal Almoner, Cardinal Konrad Krajewski, in the Portuguese Marian shrine of Fatima. In both the Catholic and Orthodox Churches, 25 March is the feast of the Annunciation of the Lord to Mary. The Marian apparitions in Fatima spoke, among other things, of a consecration of Russia to the Mother of God. (<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/world/news/2022-03/russia-bishop-pickel-ukraine-consecration.html>)

What is Synod 2021–2023? *by Ryan Hicks*

In her nearly two-thousand years of existence, the Church has held many synods, or "comings together," for various purposes at various levels. Since 1967 alone, the Synod of Bishops has met 18 times. Yet, Synod 2021–2023 promises to be different in many ways. When Pope Francis convoked Synod 2021–2023 last October, he invited **all the baptized** to participate.

Since then, the Church has undertaken a massive consultation of the faithful at all levels. This synod has the theme of "Synodality," a word that may strike many as new and ambiguous. Yet, it can be found in our Bibles. Luke 2:41 and 44 tell us: "Now Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem every year at the feast of the Passover." They would make this annual journey "in the company (*synodia*)" of a large number of friends and relatives. **To be synodal is to be truly journeying together** as companions in active communion with one another. Like the Holy Family, we are all on a journey together towards greater conversion, greater communion, and finally to that Heavenly Jerusalem. But no one makes this journey in isolation. The goal of Synod 2021–2023 is to form the Church in the art of Synodality. In Pope Francis' words, Synod 2021–2023 seeks to allow the Holy Spirit to "*weave together relationships, awaken a dawn of hope, learn from one another, and create a bright resourcefulness that will enlighten minds, warm hearts, give strength to our hands.*"

Pope Francis has stated that "*It is precisely this path of synodality which God expects of the Church of the third millennium.*" However, the Church is incredibly large and diverse, with many levels (laity, priests, bishops, etc.) and spanning the entire globe. By becoming formed in Synodality, the Church will become more receptive, and thereby overcome the danger of a spiritual individualism which blinds us to true encounters and hinders our journey **together**. By listening and being receptive to others in our local communities (especially to those on the peripheries), we encounter our fellow travelling companions, possibly for the first time. We become aware of their dignity as children of God, and we begin to see how God's providence is shaping them. By inviting **all the baptized** to participate, the Pope is saying that everybody has something to learn from others- the laity, the priests, the bishops, and even the Pope himself.

The historian John W. O'Malley once wrote that after the First Vatican Council (Vatican I), some believed that there would never be another council because the Pope would decide everything from that point on. The understanding of the Church was "top-down" or **vertical**- with the Pope at the top making all decisions and rendering the bishops superfluous. Vatican II changed this perception, emphasizing the **horizontal** aspect of the Church- all the baptized as the People of God, as well as the bishops, who help the Pope to govern the Church (an idea it termed "Collegiality"). Interestingly, when we put this vertical "bar" and horizontal "bar" together, we get the image of the Cross.

Pope Paul VI took the first steps in expanding this horizontal bar by creating the Synod of Bishops in 1965. In 1998, Pope John Paul II further strengthened the horizontal aspect by allowing the conclusions of these synods to enter into the authentic magisterium of the Church. Pope Francis has taken the next logical step, expanding the synodal consultation to all the baptized (beginning at the diocesan level) and by calling on each of us to develop a mindset of "journeying together." Since Vatican II was a gift from the Holy Spirit, we may view Synod 2021–2023 as the further unwrapping of that gift.

By "*weaving together relationships*," Synodality promises to bring about change where it truly counts- the interior. Therefore, the most lasting contribution of this event will not be any document or new policy, but rather the forming of each one of us in the art of Synodality, allowing us to "journey together" in a fuller sense of the word "together." This will bear fruit long after this particular synod has ended.



Ryan Hicks is an American lay member of St. Ignatius Church and occasionally contributes articles to the Bulletin. He presently lives in Vietnam with his wife and child.



St. Ignatius Church News and Events

Interview with Fr. Ryuichiro Hanafusa, SJ



1. How long have you been missioned to St. Ignatius? How would you summarize your years as Pastor of the parish?

I was Assistant Priest for four years, then Pastor for four years, a total of eight years. I was quite busy in both responsibilities, but especially as Pastor. I had to overcome many large and small challenges, some very difficult like dealing with many things regarding the coronavirus pandemic. For the 2019 Papal Mass in the Tokyo Dome, it was great to have everyone's cooperation. All my memories are really good.

2. What was most memorable event (joyful or challenging) of your term here?

It was great to encounter and get involved with so many different kinds of people. It has been a joy to meet many people with beautiful faith and good will. It is a pity, though, that there are many persons with mental illnesses. We could not help them much because we could not communicate with them well enough.

3. As you leave, what would you say are your "still unrealized plans or dreams" for the parish?

In a big city such as Tokyo, many people are individualistic and lonely. I had hoped to make the parish a place where people could connect with one another. But the pandemic only made people feel more isolated. Once the pandemic is over, I hope that the parish will become a concrete place reconnecting people with one another.

4. Could you please give a short message to the International Community?

The blessing of this parish is that it is a gathering of people of diverse nationalities, ethnicities, and languages. Please continue to walk with one heart and mind while valuing diversity. I also look forward to the energy of the youth.

Interview with Sr. Leny Fery, FdCC



1. How long have you been working in St. Ignatius?

I started as a volunteer for the Choir and Angels Group in 2016. Two years later, when Sr. Abby Avelino, MM left, I became one of the coordinators of the English Center. Officially, I worked for a total of four years.

2. How would you summarize your stay? What was most memorable, joyful, or challenging for you?

The first year of working together as a team with Sr. Rose Remigio FI, Adelfa Armentia TA, and Sr. Flor Florece FI was most memorable. Though we have different personalities, we all worked very joyfully and brightly. Our Directors during the first two consecutive years, Fr. Gunther Kerkman SJ and Fr. Robert Chiesa SJ, were both supportive and very concerned for what was going on with the Ministry and the volunteers. The most challenging was the transition stage from one Coordinator to a Collaborative Team in fulfilling our mission. All of us, Coordinators and lay volunteers, had to adjust to one another and to a different way of proceeding, especially regarding communication. My most joyful memory was having so much fun with the young people, laughing with them and listening to their experiences of success and failure. Accompanying them in their journey has formed the heart of a mother within me. I really love them!

3. As you leave, what would you say are your "still unfinished plans or dreams" for the parish?

I guess it would be the desire that the SIIYM will be able to work closely with the Japanese youth. Also, to stabilize the formation of the different Ministries and Groups in order to deepen their commitment as our mission partners.

4. Could you please give a short message to the International Community?

I thank the St. Ignatius parish and particularly the John de Britto English Center for having been a place of solace for me, a place I could call "home," where I could be who I am, with the support and love I received from my colleagues and the people entrusted to my care. You are all treasures I will carry in my heart. My heartfelt gratitude for all the trust, the spirit of generosity, the dynamism and the commitment of each one, the blooming and unconditional service of the young people, the sense of at-home-ness and support I felt with Sr. Flor, Fr. Bony, and Fr. Hanafusa. I will surely miss each one of you. To all, please continue to support and extend your service to the English Center, for Sr. Flor and Fr. Bony, for the glory of God and the good of all! I will keep you in my prayers!

Other Parish News and Events

Synod on "Synodality" by Peter Joy Hudson

Synod 2021-23 was explained during the February 19 English Group Meeting of the John de Britto English Center. Led by the Team of Coordinators, the content of the Synod and its process was explained to the attendees, many of whom did not know anything about it. The intention of the presentation was to raise awareness and to promote and develop the experience of being "synodal" in our way of being and doing mission.

Two videos were shown:

Synod on Synodality - All You Need to Know:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I5IAktuejwo>

A Synodal Church: Communion, Participation and Mission: An Overview of Synodality

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=90mRI7IY-vA>

The topic generated much interest and lively discussion. As one commented, "In Japan, the process has been initiated only recently, after overcoming hurdles in translation. It is not clear how we are supposed to send our responses." One questioned, "Apart from the English Center Meetings, are there any other ways to get involved in the process?" One who is updated on the Diocesan Proceedings pointed out that the Catholic Bishops Conference of Japan (CBCJ) has set June 2, 2022 as the deadline to submit responses, considering that the extended deadline internationally is August 15, 2022. Another asked, "Can we expect further information? Apart from the international communities in various parishes, are the Japanese parishioners involved?"

The Coordinators gave two points for reflection until next session. 1. How it this "journeying together" proceeding in the John de Britto English Center? In St. Ignatius Church? 2. What steps does the Holy Spirit invite us to take so as to grow in out journeying together? Thus, the end of Part 1.

Lived Experience at the Local Level by Raymond Gasu

Part 2 of the Synodal theme was held on March 12. Attendees were given time to share their reflections. Of the 23 who attended the meeting, 14 had the chance to share their synodal journey, covering experiences on Communion, Participation, and Mission.

Many pointed out the value of **listening**. By listening more, they were learning new things from other members, while at the same time feeling listened to. It gave them a sense that they were part of a community, journeying together.

Members affirmed the presence, guidance, and support of **the Holy Spirit** working to supply for "the shortage of time, materials and lack of members."

They preferred working in small groups, as St. Ignatius is a very large parish. Under the umbrella of the John de Britto English Center with its 17 ministries and groups, working with different kinds of people and nationalities led them to great personal growth like in flexibility and openness to the ideas of others. One was grateful for the trust given her and guidance when necessary. There was more interaction, and involvement now with parents of Sunday School children. Others found joy in volunteering in spite of challenges. They realized in carrying out the mission in the Church, they could not do it alone; the ministries and groups needed the help and support of one another. Somebody also pointed out that, while appreciative of being part of the St. Ignatius community, he asked for more inclusiveness of the foreign community in the activities of the parish.

There was a strongly-felt **sense of mission**, -of being sent out to proclaim the Good News to all people. Living in a country where the population of Christians is less than 1% of the total population, members felt that they need to do more, by directly taking the Good News to non-Christians and reaching out to others outside the Church. Some have been volunteering in the prison apostolate, others working with the homeless, etc. One pointed to the importance of Christian witnessing, to pray for peace in the world, and to continue praying for all Christian Churches to unite. We continue, she said, "the Acts of the Apostles".

A member of our Youth Group looks forward to **more cooperation** among the various groups, as this nourishes our faith and leads to stronger bonds. She reported that the SYIIM (St. Ignatius International Youth Ministry) is also planning a number of Synodal activities, with two other Youth Groups of the parish and Sophia University.

There was so much to share and many members had not yet shared. There was an atmosphere of wanting more. At the end of the meeting, Sr. Flor announced that for us to deepen the spirit of solidarity, the English Center would continue organizing various activities in the future. One upcoming activity is the **Lenten Retreat 2022** (see page 8). Unlike previous years, this year's retreat will have **lay speakers** in place of ordained ministers.



Special Feature



My Cannonball Experience

by Fr. Joseph Nha SJ



We are celebrating 500 years since the conversion of St Ignatius, founder of the Society of Jesus. St Ignatius' conversion began with an incident on May 20, 1521. While he was fighting in a battle at Pamplona, Spain, a cannonball shot through his legs and shattered not only one of the legs but also his dreams for the future. His spiritual conversion began from the time he was confined to his bed waiting to recover. That cannonball was the direct means that God had used to call this man to conversion.

We can look at this event in many different ways. As for me, whenever I meditate on this event, I come to realize that God works in all human situations. All things that happen to us, both good and bad, are opportunities for God to act and manifest what he wants from us. Here I would like to share the "cannonball" that I experienced before I came on mission to Japan. I call this experience my "cannonball experience" because it happened to me, as with St Ignatius, in a way that I did not foresee or even like.

I entered the Society of Jesus in Vietnam at the age of 22. After finishing my two years of novitiate and three years of philosophy, my Provincial suddenly said that he was going to send me to Japan. I had known that the Society of Jesus is an international religious order and that the possibility of being sent abroad was great. However, since I had lived as a Jesuit scholastic for 5 years, I had formed many good relationships with the people I served in Vietnam and just wanted to remain with them. Also, at that time, Japan seemed so far away and mysterious to me, and I thought that the language and the culture of Japan would be too difficult for me. I preferred to stay in Vietnam or go to some English-speaking country rather than go to Japan.

However, because we have a vow of obedience, I answered "YES" to my Provincial and began preparing for my mission to Japan. Everything went smoothly and we had even booked tickets for the flight to Japan. I thought that I could manage this mission. But as the time for departure grew closer and closer, the mission began to seem more than I could bear. I went to see my Provincial 3 days before the flight. He listened to me carefully and answered that it was a natural feeling before leaving one's own country for some other place. He sent me back to my room to pack my luggage.

I tried my best, but just one day before departure I went to my Provincial again and told him that it was impossible for me to take the flight the next day. He took a deep breath and said, "You don't have to go tomorrow." I was so happy with his decision and asked his permission for a short retreat to reflect on these feelings in my heart.

I spent 12 days in a Benedictine monastery. I was totally alone because no priest could accompany me, except for my rector, who came every day for about an hour to hear what I would share with him. During this retreat, little by little I came to realize that my desire to remain in Vietnam was only a temptation. It had not come from God. I wanted to stay because I was afraid of a new place and was too much attached to my own world. I was building my own territory around me in Vietnam and did not want to lose it. It had nothing to do with my vocation. Although it was difficult to accept this insight, God convinced me and gave me the strength to accept it. Of course, the fear of being in an unfamiliar place still remained in my heart, but instead of being afraid and feeling heavy, I totally trusted in God for this mission.

It has already been 13 years since I came to Japan. Looking back on this experience, I believe that God did want me to pause for a while before entering on the mission. In other words, God wanted me to accept this mission as my own choice and not only because of the vow of obedience. During those 12 days of retreat, God led me to understand that he wanted me to be in Japan but had waited for me to take the mission as my own.

This experience helps me a lot even now. When things seem complicated, I generally take a deep breath and tell myself, "This is the mission from God, which you decided to undertake" and continue moving forward. I believe that this "cannonball experience" will help me more from now on also.

There is one more thing that I want to share before ending this article. The place where I made my retreat in Vietnam was near the airport. Every day, when I was walking around the garden of the monastery, I could see planes taking off and landing. I saw many planes with the Japanese flag. Later I learned that they were JAL and ANA planes. While looking at those planes, it came to mind that, somewhere in Japan, Jesuit companions were waiting for me to join them for the mission. I think this was a concrete sign that God gave me to confirm his desire to send me to Japan.

Month of May



The Story behind the Marian Statue



May is the month when the Church all over the world honors our Blessed Mother Mary with flowers, processions, songs, and praying of the rosary to express their love for her. On May 31 we celebrate the Visitation of Mary to her cousin Elizabeth.

Surely you have noticed the statue of the Blessed Mother on the main floor of St Ignatius Church! You must have noticed she looks different from the usual popular Western images of the Blessed Virgin Mary. She is surrounded by thousands of paper cranes representing the petitions of many individuals who seek her intercession.

Have you ever wondered about the story behind the statue? In an on-line video released during our New Year's celebration this year, one of the features was the statue of the Blessed Mother (See Shin-nen-kai. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TiqEoyccBQQ> time in the video: 50:40 - 1:00:59). The Bulletin asked Izumi Sakura, one of our volunteers in the English Center, to translate it into English as our tribute to Mary this month of May.

Mr. Nakano Shigeru, Sculptor of Mary's Statue, Parishioner of St. Ignatius

Facilitator: Have you noticed that during the Christmas and New Year holidays, the hands of the statue of the Blessed Mother, blackened from people touching them with devotion, have regained their whiteness? We asked the sculptor, Mr. Nakano Shigeru, who takes care of Mary's statue every year as Christmas and the New Year approach.

Mr. Nakano: At the time of the 'church clean-up,' I have tried to cleanse the hands of Our Lady with detergent, but it did not work, so for the past few years, I have been removing the stain by rubbing stones that are used for finishing off a sculptural work.

Facilitator: Our Lady's statue in the church is very much loved. We often see people reverently praying before it, sometimes kneeling, touching our Lady's feet, some letting their tears flow. It is amazing! What was your image of this statue as you were creating it?

Mr. Nakano: I also created the statue of the Resurrected Christ to be in time for the Dedication of the Church. After that, I was commissioned to create a statue of Our Lady, but it took time because I sculpted it from stone all by myself. I felt sorry to be making the members of the parish wait with patience. When at last it was completed, it was already two years after the Dedication of the Church. Before starting the work, I heard a lecture from Fr. Nicolas. Then Fr. Cangas gave me a huge amount of material about Mary.

Facilitator: So you were under a lot of pressure!

Mr. Nakano: Yes. Also Fr. Ikejiri gave me various advice. After all these, there was consensus among all the Fathers that Our Lady's statue should be simple and modest in appearance, so I followed their direction.

Facilitator: You also went on a pilgrimage in order to enrich your image of the statue.

Mr. Nakano: Yes. Just after completing the basic structure of the Resurrected Christ, I had some time on my hands. I was able to go on pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela. We passed through small villages in Spain, and in the churches of these villages the statues of Our Lady showed a motherly figure, like mothers of peasant families. I realized that a statue of Mary should express closeness and love between the Blessed Mother and the local people. I came back to Japan and started the work. Still, it was difficult to give shape to what I envisioned. But the simple work of scraping the stone as the image of Our Lady gradually took shape was a soothing experience. I did not get tired at all.

Facilitator: You said the stone "tells" us, or "speaks" to us. Could you tell us more?

Mr. Nakano: I mean that "the presence" was already there in the block of stone. My job was to sculpt away the surface, while listening to the voice of the stone. I did not feel I created the statue according to my own preconception, but in dialogue with the stone, without hurrying, putting aside concern about the date it was due, concentrating fully on my dialogue with the stone. That is how I could bring the work to completion. I think it went well that way.

Facilitator: Tell us about the stone. Was it of a special kind?

Mr. Nakano: The stone was from Nagasaki, Japan. It seems that this stone is usually considered only as building material, not valuable for art. But my teacher, Mr. Funakoshi Yasutake, found the same stone used for a bench in Dejima, Nagasaki. He was sitting on it and when he looked closely, he became convinced that it would be excellent for sculpture. He acquired the stone from Nagasaki and created sculptures of St. Cecilia and St. Claire, so I followed in his footsteps. I acquired the same type of stone from Isahaya, Nagasaki, to make the statue of Our Lady for St. Ignatius Church. It is called, 'Isahaya-ishi (stone)', the same as that used for the cobblestones of the Dutch Hill (*Oranda-zaka*) in Nagasaki. As Funakoshi-sensei said, you cannot find such wonderful sculpting material anywhere else in the world. It is soft, but sharp edges can be made with it. It is not fragile, and you can make delicate, soft features from it. Working on it has been a healing experience.

Facilitator: Thank you so much for sharing your beautiful experience. I think it has been very benefiting for us to know that the sculptor who created the Resurrected Christ and Our Lady is a fellow parishioner and that you continue to take care of the statue of Our Lady for its maintenance. Thank you very much!

Mr. Nakano: I feel the responsibility. As long as I can move, I would like to continue taking care of the maintenance of the statue."

Facilitator: Yoroshiku onegaishimasu! This has been a precious time hearing a testimony that would have not been heard otherwise.

Important Notices

Schedule of Masses, etc.

WEEKDAYS: All in Japanese, Main Church

7:00 AM	EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION
12:00 NN / 6:00 PM*	MASS OR EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION
12:00 NN(ELDERLY)	SATURDAY MASS SCHEDULE
6:00 PM (ANTICIPATED)	

SUNDAYS: Main Church

7:00 AM / 8:30 AM / 10:00 AM / 6:00 PM	JAPANESE MASS
12:00 NN	ENGLISH MASS
3:00 PM	VIETNAMESE MASS
1:30 PM	SPANISH MASS
4:30 PM	ENGLISH MASS

MASSES AT OUR LADY'S CHAPEL

1ST SUNDAY: 12:30 (PORTUGUESE) 4:00 PM (POLISH)
2ND AND 4TH SUNDAY: 4:30 PM (INDONESIAN)

Upcoming Activities in May

May 22	First Holy Communion of Sunday School Children 12.00 Noon English Mass
May 29	Living Rosary Sponsored by Children and Teens 5.45 p.m. Church Lawn

Holy Week/Easter Schedule

On-line Registration needed. Access English Website: www.stignatius.jp/en/

April 10	Palm Sunday: Same as Regular Sunday
April 14	Holy Thursday: 7.00 p.m. St. Mary's Chapel
April 15	Good Friday: 7.00 p.m. St. Mary's Chapel
April 16	Easter Sunday: Regular 12.00 Noon Mass 4.30 p.m. mass changed to 7.30 p.m.



LENTEN RETREAT 2022

JOURNEYING TOGETHER IN FAITH thru
THE SEVEN LAST WORDS OF JESUS
As Reflected by the Laity

When : April 10, 2022 (Sunday)
Time : 1:00- 4:00 p.m.
Where : St. Joseph Hall



Organizing Group : John de Britto English Center
Maximum attendees: 50
To Register : Visit the English Center

Staff of St. Ignatius Church

Pastor: Fr. Saturnino Ochoa, S.J.

Associate and Support Priests:

Fr. Kiyoshi Shibata S.J. Fr. Bony James S.J.
Fr. Manuel Silgo S.J. Fr. Generoso Florez S.J.
Fr. Javier Garralda S.J. Fr. Nguyen Thanh Nha S.J.

Sister: Sr. Ivette Sanchez, M.C.

John de Britto English Center:

Fr. Bony James, S.J. Director, Sr. Flor Florece, FI

Welcome
Fr. Saturnino Ochoa

Pope's Prayer Intentions

April: For Health Care Workers

We pray for health care workers who serve the sick and the elderly, especially in the poorest countries; may they be adequately supported by governments and local communities.

May: For Faith-Filled Young People

We pray for all young people, called to live life to the fullest; may they see in Mary's life the way to listen, the depth of discernment, the courage that faith generates, and the dedication to service.

For all those who made this Monthly Bulletin possible, we express our deepest gratitude.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH and GOD BLESS!

Sunday Masses Online Registration

12 Noon



4:30 PM



English Mass
Registration Links

Holy Week Masses Online Registration

Holy Thursday



Good Friday



**Church Website &
Facebook Page**