

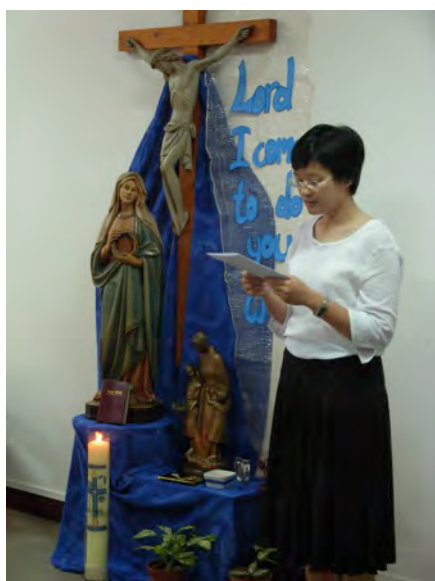


CANNOZEST

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I COME TO DO YOUR WILL

The fire for a meaningful life in Christ was re-ignited in Adeline Tan. On a beautiful 12 September, it burnt with passion and adventure as she took that confident step in the Acceptance Rite to Postulancy.



Adeline Tan, 26, our new postulant at the Canossian Formation House

It is certainly with God's grace that I am able to embark on this journey.

In preparation..

I remembered seeing the built-up of fears within me merely few weeks before the Acceptance Rite. I started to doubt and I saw myself beginning to take several steps backwards. I was fearful not because of the uncertainties but because this does not seem to be the path which I would take (in terms of my character & background, if I were to look back).

I am very glad that a personal retreat was conducted the week



I come to do Your will (con't)

This retreat has allowed me to put all things together. All my fears were casted out and I was able to accept the fact that I had really chose to embark on this sacred journey to walk more closely with God and thus allowing Him to reveal His will for me. God is the One who has been working wonderfully and beautifully in my life. The fire within me started to rekindle after His embraces during the retreat and it started to burn brightly and vigorously just as before. All my doubts had been burned away with all my fears, leaving behind the sweetness, calmness and peace of God.

The day finally arrives..

The day itself began with much enthusiasm and excitement as I prepare myself for the Rite. All the Sisters seemed to be so busy and yet I was told to rest and to prepare myself. It seemed to me that the time was passing by so slowly. I was filled with much anxiety as I wished the hour to come quickly. As noon came, adrenaline within me started to rush as I watched the hands of the clock go "tick-tick-tick".

As I stepped into the dining area for tea at 2+pm, I saw the Sr Marilyn, the provincial and Sr Theresa the Vicar, I noticed my heart went racing. The hour is near, I guessed. I was very nervous and at the same time, filled with excitement. I had a chat with Sr Marilyn before the Rite began and whatever she had shared with me had added more kerosene/ oil onto my fire. It exploded within me and I know that I was not alone. I was not having any illusion nor was I imagining things. The conversation has further affirmed me that I was not fantasizing and I am very sure and certain that I would really love to go on the journey. The main thing is not to look back any more, but to move on.

The Acceptance Rite itself was a very touching moment for me as I offered my life to God, thus allowing myself to be loved by Him in concrete and absolute availability. The love, support and encouragement given to me by the sisters in CFH community as well as all the sisters of St Anthony's Province have really touched and spurred me on. Whenever I see any sisters from the other communities during events/ visits, I would be reminded and assured that they have been praying for my journey and will continue to do so.



Moving on..

I know that I will not have any regrets the moment I step in. I am certain that I am going to enjoy the moments in this journey ahead as I allow God to lead and guide me along the way because this has always been what I wanted (and that is to be His full-time disciple, not 44hours per week but 24/7). I am not going to look back anymore but to move forward and to be open to the Spirit of God, thus allowing Him to work through me. I will continue to allow myself to be the instrument of God so that I can reach out to as many people as He wants to so as to make Jesus known and loved.

I am certain that I will never be alone in this journey because I have God walking with me; I have all the Canossian Sisters around the world, friends and families who are consistently keeping me in their prayers.

For this milestone of my life, I thank and praise God.



In life, we have different crosses to bear.



CROSSES IN MY LIFE

In this session our theme was “Crosses in my Life”. Interestingly, in this exercises, we were choosing our crosses. As we shared along, we realised that we carried many crosses due to our own human making and yet God never abandoned us. Our Lord is always so present and reassuring, sending “guardian angels” along our journey. Thanks be to God.

In coming together to share, enrich one another in our live experiences.



Let us share our crosses and be companions on the journey



EXPERIENCE OF WORLD YOUTH DAY IN MADRID 2011

by Sr Jessica

World Youth Day (WYD) is a youth-oriented Catholic Church event. While the event itself celebrates the Catholic faith, the invitation to attend extends to all youth, regardless of religious convictions.



WYD was initiated by Pope John Paul II in some countries. Over the recent years, this event has created great impact on many youth who had the opportunity to attend the world youth day. It is also a great worldwide encounter with the Pope which is celebrated every two to three years in a different country.

This time it was celebrated in Madrid from 16th to 21st of August 2011. From 16th to the 19th, there were great varieties of programmes that allow the pilgrims to choose. It ranged from Body of Theology to Celtic Rock Band to artwork in museum that depicts the story in the gospels, etc. Most of us broke into small groups and visited some of these cultural programmes. We shared with our small group as we went along. It was very enriching and heart-warming to hear from our youth how they had experience and encounter God through all these events. I've enclosed with a list of cultural events.



The picture (above) is the place called Cuatro Vientos, where all the pilgrims gathered for the night vigil. In this big space, it accommodated more than 1.5 million of people. Even though during the day it was scorching hot, the young people simply stayed and enjoyed their friends company. Some were busy exchanging words, gifts and forged new friendship.



At about 6pm, the Pope arrived at Cuatro Vientos. There was the blessing of the cross and the picture of our Lady of Perpetual Succour. This was followed by the prayer and night vigil.



Among the many messages our Holy Father had shared over the 5 days, the key message for the youth was: "Faith is not the simple acceptance of abstract truths, but a close relationship with Christ".

On the night of vigil, while our Pope was presiding the prayer, there was a great thunder storm that broken out. My friends and I couldn't believe our eyes, for hardly anyone ran to seek shelter or panic, all stood firmly from where they were and prayed with the Pope. This was truly a great eye witness of faith.



Our Pope a great defender of truth and theologian, was able to break down the most complicated questions of the Christian faith by using simple language: he tells the young people the 'trick' of Christian life is the personal relationship with Christ.

