

Parish Assembly 10 October 2004 Parish Hall 1.30pm start Daniel Tsi start opening song – We Are One in the Spirit / Ave Maria Daniel Tsi on behalf of Steering Committee welcomed everyone and invited Fr John V Lee for opening prayer and short address. Fr John said this is not something new to most parishioners. The Parish Assembly is a general meeting for parishioners who would include anyone who worships here regularly and is involved in the activities here, even though they may not be staying within parish boundaries. He welcomed these parishioners. Mainly PA is for discussing pastoral issues and to elect members into PPC which will meet quarterly to discuss the concerns of the whole parish, what are the matters to be attended to, giving priority to the more urgent matters. Basically issues deal with family, elderly, youth. They should not include material things which would fall under maintenance. Pastoral issues parish as a whole and not the concerns of individual church groups so that everyone who does not belong to a group would also be taken care of. When voting, must ensure we vote people who can help the parish discern what is needed and to help it grow. Personal feelings should not influence the vote. Fr John said he would invite the nominees to give a self-introduction later so that the assembly will at least know who they are. Fr John then gave the same address in Mandarin and asked the Mandarin-speaking parishioners to feel free to ask for clarification if necessary. Proceedings will be recorded by the Parish Secretary. Father also introduced members of the Steering Committee (Theresa & Wilson Tok, Daniel Tsi, Mark Leong, Sebastian Peters) (end 1.45pm)

Daniel invited Theresa Tok to explain the proceedings – 3 levels of Lay Participation - PA - PPC - Executive Committee - Decision making with ... / 1st level PA - consultation, feedback from faithful, subsequent meeting / P P Process with Community – 6 topics express views, needs of the community - envision pastoral needs - on name tag there is a number which refers to the discussion group you belong to and also the discussion topic. PPC apportionment, outline programme for the day, PPP all put in groups name label at random 12 groups station facilitator take down views half hour bell - finish -move to other stations to give views as group or individual 20 minutes bell must return to hall ten minutes before 3pm - facilitators will consolidate all the points and views and present them to everyone -there will be opportunity for views from the floor. Daniel described the 6 topics / prompting questions to steer group // with Holy Spirit's inspiration contribute (no venting of frustrations or criticisms as per Ms Tok) (1.55pm)

Assembly dispersed to various groups for discussions – (name the topics and group numbers) refer to folder for details on discussion segment.

After discussions returned to hall – at 2.45pm Daniel welcomed everyone back and hoped everyone had fruitful discussion on issues - more pressing issues will be tackled by new PPC to help build vibrant Risen Christ community .. only initial channel ideas, later additional ideas can be passed to the Parish Secretariat ... group facilitators briefly outline presentation of issues and recommendations on 6 topics discussed.

Group 1 & 2 - Peter Ong – Family - home visits, rosary retreat for family outing for all families, family Masses neighbourhood, bible sharing, family intercessory prayers organizing talks on family, activities for family like church family day, social gatherings, priests and families, families from different organizations parish celebrations, funfair / teenagers - come to church as family - need parental guidance during Mass, love of family, unity, support parish help, visitation by priests by appointment, encouraging prayer in family, support groups for families with sick members, poor-counseling employment, publicize tuition and prayer ministry - troubled families / organize talks for family, parents, encourage them to read God's Word by example and home prayer

(during teabreaks the butcher paper will be left in hall for assembly to see)

3 & 4 – Audrey Youth – formation after confirmation, encourage to serve in groups, awareness of activities, present confirmands to help with next batch, avenues for help, trained counselors, helpline, big brother/sister system, awareness of problems, symptoms, youth mass contemporary music by youth for youth, family involvement family soccer matches games family open up their homes for youth, help seminar for youth, allow space for study computers etc, formation of counseling and parents, problems youth face

Elderly 5 & 6 Anthony Soh - keep in touch with them by phone, home visit, provide transport to and from church, car pool etc, befriender service, allocate one person to one elder - commit to him or her, allocation special seating for elderly, Mass for elderly activities for friendship, social and rosary, room for elderly in church – recreation, keep proper directory to allocate volunteer and help so no overlap with other help groups like Legion, information pamphlets (bilingual) to publicize services like hair-cutting

7 & 8 Evangelization – Veda - courses for catholics, training to deepen faith, NET team within parish, e-learning CAFÉ programme, non-catholic courses (gather share faith - CAFÉ) secular courses through which can let them get acquainted and want to ask about faith, website provide info, communicate activities non-catholics like soup kitchens free meal and fellowship, charity work, work in secular groups, welcome group to make non-catholics feel at home, pre-school classes for non-catholic children, Masses more lively, dynamic speakers, trips overseas ???

9 & 10 - Gilbert & Vivienne Lim - Christian Leadership - qualities in Jesus - secular world qualities of a leader different, love, prayerfulness, close to God, role model, set good example, virtues like patience honesty, servant leader not for self glory, assist one another in acquiring such qualities, training, Bible conscious know God better, organize faith formation courses for leaders, praying together as church, feedback and communication among various church groups, meeting other leaders, exposure/ rotation of leadership, new blood and new ideas, youth leadership – integration of events among groups, share ideas / inject more ideas, encourage parents to support youth and allow them time to participate, give them appreciation for their effort, build confidence, youth activities, during catechism classes can inculcate the qualities, groups should have young members for renewal

11 & 12 Faith Formation - Nathan – formation through neighbourhood groups, rosary, bible sharing, effective catholic catechism for children, from 7-11yrs fun-filled programmes, strong bonding / 16 and above youth involvement other church groups, post-confirmation projects, camps, with you, visits to home, facilities for fellowship after Mass, mingle, through parents and movie influence.

3.10pm from the floor

new renovations good, projections – include text for readings – noise from congregation difficult to hear

Simon Tan says FFG does organize talks but people don't readily attend, hard to get them to come

Harvey Campbell - old folks who come to church everyday - provide for their needs, loneliness - consider them at Christmas and Easter, no group involvement can be lonely, must reach out to them, youth can stay behind and liven things up in parish after Easter Masses

Diana Catechist - St John's Home and sing praise & worship as a group with the inmates - we can form small group in parish and have praise & worship sessions with the elderly like one hour per week.

Josephine Cheong - on behalf of Mandarin-speaking – mixed liturgy – organize Masses with Eng Mand & Indian community - so there is no divide, and can relate to one mother perhaps Feastday Mass or Christmas Mass multilingual

Lester - better distribution of church funds so that youth groups do not have to struggle in funding for youth leadership camps or for confirmation camps, catechists this year first time organizing fund-raising for confirmation camp and the children are paying more than ever before - question of channeling in proper direction - physical church good but must focus also on building up the community

Christine Chay - do something unusual this year - make wish list of inmates from 2 Homes come true – paste list in parish and parishioners can offer the items (Daniel Tsi said perhaps too late to do for this year - maybe the next year)

Christine Chew - support group for bereaving people (3.25pm)

Ms Tok explained election procedure, distribute list and invite nominees to introduce themselves, a final line-up to show assembly. 14 out of 23 to be elected Rosie did not come deemed as disqualified (3.40pm)

Assembly voted and lodged slips into the voting boxes and proceeded for tea reception at 3.45pm

4.25pm - Fr John introduced the nominees already elected into the PPC through the proceedings of the Mandarin-speaking community and general parishioners and Indian councilor - refer to folder for details on apportionment... the numbers are apportioned in proportion to the size of the community they belong to, so as to have a fair representation. Fr John read out the elected persons into PPC..... In alphabetical order .. number of votes not to be made known. (name the persons)

all called up for line-up - PPC absentees from general parishioners - should show more commitment and turn up for PA even though they are already in the PPC

27 altogether and 3 priests -30 councilors

Fr John said that the PPC has a long road ahead in tackling issues - but must tackle the pastoral concerns in order of priority and urgency ... other matter dealing with Finance should not tackled in the PPC. Purpose to work for parish and not for the ministries they belong to. Other people will be appointed to sit in the council to ensure PPC will work for the parish. First meeting h Jan 2005

60 absentees from registration list - catering okay cos food is all finished

Existing PPC will wind up in Dec2004 and he thanked and applauded all the non-elected nominees for agreeing to stand for elections they could not sit in because the number exceeded 14 and so had to vote

Fr John led closing prayer and we sang the closing song... we are called, chosen ...

4.35pm ended.