

April 8
2023



*Dynamics of Evangelization
at St. Thomas Aquinas Church*

ST. THOMAS AQUINAS CHURCH

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CHINESE CATHOLIC APOSTOLATE

Sharing the Good News



Welcome and Pray for the
16 New Members to Receive
the Sacraments of Initiation

Easter Vigil 2023

歡迎 16 位朋友

於二零二三年 復活節前夕 領受入門聖事

蒙市聖湯瑪斯天主堂
新領洗者的心情故事

本堂神父：

Fr. John Kyebasuuta

指導司鐸：李文兩神父

福傳組：

趙龍修，黃思韻，喬愛莉，
喬偉剛，葉德容，鄭弘，
黃曉琴，孫水妹，朱勇，
陳家星，楊雪虹，陳聖響，
羅曙光，孫清秀，葉慧娜，
王健華，周稚傑，王萍，
田素珍，譚友棻，鄧麗霞，
陳忠貴，余佩瑜。

信仰講座：

李文兩神父，朱聖達修士
易澤航，丁穎達，吳春輝，
喬偉剛，岳德帆，馬明睿，
劉欣，張永康，吳海華，
嚴照春。

翻譯：Vicki 鄧麗霞

編輯：Sherry 許容榕



陳穎賢 Wing Yin Chan

聖名：Faith

代母：Virginia Leung 梁慕常

我來自天主教學校，從小就知道天主的存在。但因為種種原因，一直都沒有主動和天主的關係更進一步。直到 2021 年來美，可能是獨處時間多了，時常感到天主希望我能夠立定決心追隨祂。上年開始上慕道班，感謝教會的朋友花時間心機傳揚天主的福音。我還是很軟弱，以後我會繼續依賴天主，和教會的朋友一起傳揚天主的福音。✠

I knew God exists as I grew up from a Catholic school. But for various reasons, I have never taken the initiative to further the relationship with God. After coming to the United States in 2021, I might have stayed alone some time and then I often felt God desired me to determine to follow Him. Last year, I began attending Catechumenate classes. Thanking the friends of the church for taking their time to preach the gospel of God diligently. I am still very weak, and I will continue to rely on God in the future to preach the Gospel of God with my friends in the Church. ✠



陳淑珍 Shuzhen Chen

聖名：Susan

代母：Patty Yee 余佩瑜

我在 2005 年從中國只身來到美國，家人都是佛教徒。而我一直認為不同宗教如同我讀書時不同科目的教師一樣，都是擁有高於自己的知識。當時來到美國很徬徨，沒有方向，沒有目標，而且拿的是兩年臨時綠卡。兩年快到的時候，遇到不確定能不能拿到正式綠卡的困扰。佩瑜是我認識了二十多年的好朋友，她一直鼓勵我倚靠神（天主）。我也希望能留在美國生活。佩瑜時時關心我，她說為我祈禱，只要相信天主，我們心里就有光，活著便更精彩。我也感受到天主一直在我心裏，我開始學習祈禱，每天感恩，不斷學習，感謝蒙市慕道班老師的講解，讓我更了解天主。我知道我還不夠努力，希望未來的日子不斷靠向天主，用善心對待身邊的一切，做天主喜悅的女兒。✠

I came to the United States from a Buddhist family of China in 2005. And I have always thought that different religions, just like the teachers of different subjects when I was studying, contains knowledge above myself. At that time, I was so anxious when coming to the United States without any directions and goals, but only with a two-year temporary green card. As the two years approached, I was distressed whether I could get a formal green card. Patty is a good friend I have known for more than 20 years, and she has always encouraged me to trust God (Lord). I also hoped to stay and live in the United States. She always cared about me. She said to

pray for me. As long as we believe in God, we will have light in our hearts, and our lives will be more wonderful. I also felt that God was always in my heart. Besides, I began to learn prayer, give thanks every day and keep learning. Thanks for the teachers of the RCIA class in Monterey Park. They help me to understand God better. I know that I have not tried hard enough. And I hope that I will continue to rely on God, treat everything around me kindly, and be a pleasing daughter of God when the days to come. ✠



薛瑞蓮 Julia Jui-lien Chen

聖名：Julia

代母：Catherine Tsai 葉德容

我的父母都是基督教徒，我在年幼的時候也常去基督教會參加兒童的主日禮拜，第一次接觸到天主教是在十五歲時進入台灣高雄天主教聖吳甦樂會文藻女子外語專科學校的時候，第一次望彌撒是住校時參加聖誕夜的子夜彌撒，那時心中真是充滿了新奇。看到身著白色長袍的修女們在聖堂中恭敬的行禮令我印象十分深刻。我在這所學校渡過了快樂的五年，修女們給了我們非常良好的人格教育，這真是天主的恩賜，心中充滿了感激。畢業後結婚出國生子進入社會工作，也曾接觸到不同的宗教，可是都未曾令我心動。去年我在文藻同學王思韻的推薦之下，參加了本教堂的慕道班，開始接受教堂安排的一系列課程。在這幾個月的時間裡，聆聽了神父們及各界精英教友們和慕道班老師們的解說與輔導，感受到他們那份虔誠的心靈流露出的熱情與愛心，從容的態度，以及對其他宗教的寬容



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，令我十分動容。天主在我年幼時期種下的那顆種子發生了作用，我的心頓時安定下來，有了很深的歸屬感並且充滿了喜樂。我幸運的請到葉德容做我的代母，期待著領洗聖事。在此我要感謝教會所有的弟兄姐妹們，希望在未來的日子裡還能不斷的向他們學習。祈求聖神能常在我心中，引導我做一個好門徒，能與天主更親近，領洗以後，從心開始，重新做人。感謝天主。✠

My parents are Christians. I used to attend children's Sunday school at the Christian Church when I was young. My first encounter with Catholicism was at the age of fifteen when entered Wenzao Ursuline Women's Foreign Language College in Kaohsiung, Taiwan. It was a full of novelty at the first time I attended Christmas Eve mass when I was living on dormitory. I was very impressed to see the white-robed nuns performing respectfully in the church. I spent five years in this school happily. The nuns provided us very excellent personality education. It was truly a gift from God, and I was full of gratitude. After graduating, I got married, went abroad to have children, got to work in the society, and met with different religions. Yet none of them moved me. Last year, responding to a recommendation of Rita Wang, my classmate of Wenzao, I participated in the catechumenate class of this church and began to receive a series of courses arranged by the church. During these months, I listened to the explanations and guidance of priests, knowledgeable parishioners and catechumenate teachers. I was very impressed of their enthusiasm, love, calm attitude, and tolerance of other religions. The seed that God had planted in my youth worked. My heart suddenly settled down with a deep sense of belonging and I was filled with joy. I was my honor to have Catherine Tsai as my sponsor. I am looking forward to receiving the sacrament of baptism. I would like to thank all the brothers and sisters in the Church and hope to continue to learn from them in the days to come. Pray to the Holy Spirit will always be in my heart, guide me to

be a good disciple, to be closer to God. After being baptized, I will start from the heart and become a new person. Thank God. ✠



王文平 Lucy Wen-Ping Young

聖名：Lucia

代母：Tammy Wang 喬愛莉

我生長在中華文化和孔孟思想的世界裏，一切都是那麼的美好，直到我來到美國，才發現自己的能力有限，看到滿街老人無人扶持，令人痛心難過。畢業後為了留下工作，申請在職訓練，老闆也是我們學校畢業的，一切都非常順利，可是內心卻沒有那份喜悅，我開始尋找教會，當初我是天主教學校畢業的，母親又是一位虔誠的基督教徒，我陪她去教堂做禮拜，唱詩，看聖經，都沒能加入，卻被一個不認識的人帶去信了佛，剛開始我會害怕，因為我們從來沒拜過祖先，不過我們並沒有拜佛像，而只是一個法華經的字體，我知道它是佛教最高的一本經，又是在教師節時得到的，因此我每天早晚開始讀，漸漸地我快樂起來了！如果自己都不快樂怎麼會帶給別人歡笑呢？直到我的同學 Rita 引領我來到蒙市聖湯瑪斯天主堂，我才發覺似乎還有很多事情需要我做！在彌撒中我有感受到那種平安與喜樂，再通過慕道班的學習，好像越來越發現天主有好多的奧秘要啓示給我，我會努力繼續的去尋求祂的旨意。感謝老師們及神父的指導！感謝天主！✠

I grew up in Chinese culture and the world of Confucianism. Everything was so beautiful. Until I came to the United States, I found that my ability was limited

as I was depressed to see the elderly on the street without support. I applied for on-the-job training so that I could stay at work after graduation. The boss was also a graduate of our school. Everything went very smooth, but I didn't feel any joyful. I began to look for church. I graduated from Catholic school. My mother was a pious Christian, and I accompanied her going to church to worship, sing, and read the Bible but I did not join. On the contrary I was taken by someone I didn't know to believe in Buddha. At first, I would be afraid because we never worshiped our ancestors. But we did not worship Buddha statues. It was just a font of the Lotus Sutra, which I knew was the highest sutra in Buddhism. I got it on Teacher's Day, so I started reading it every morning and evening. Gradually I became happy! If you are not happy, how can you bring laughter to others? Until my classmate Rita led me to St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church in Monterey Park, I realized that there seemed to be a lot more I need to do! I felt that peace and joy during Mass. Besides, it seemed that I found more and more that God has many mysteries to reveal to me through the study of catechumen. I will try to continue to seek His will. Thanks to the teachers and priest for their guidance! Thank God! ✠



袁友梅 Yu Mei Yuan

聖名：Edith

代母：Pearl Tien 田素珍

我先介紹自己，我從小生在天主教家庭，到五歲我開始很不喜歡去教堂，常常跟父母反抗，一直到十六歲，父親生病我才開始天天跪在床前祈禱，請天主救父親，到十九歲父親過世，那時我非常傷心，都不跟同學接觸，那時我不願跟天主祈



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禱，我感覺天主不聽我祈禱，把父親生命帶走了，一直到我結婚生子，一切很平順，就在十七年前我先生突然過世，母親九年前過世，我非常傷心，我突然倒在地上，被小兒子打 911 送到醫院，醫院急救沒有反應，我聽到醫生對護士說：「20 到 30 分鐘沒有反應，就拔管讓病人走」，但我聽到了，可是我沒有力氣說話，我表哥來看我，一直呼叫我名字，我突然大叫一聲「聖母瑪利亞」我就清醒了，以後我一直在尋找天主教堂，我朋友帶我去的地方都不是天主教堂。四年前我在朋友花店裏碰到喬偉剛他給了我一張名片，我隔了半年才打給他，請問一些問題，他告訴我是一位天主教徒，我那時並沒積極跟他聯絡，到今年才給他電話，想去看看他去的教堂，他信奉天主，故我在 1 月 29 日 2023 年，我到了他去的天主教堂，我進入教堂裏，我看到天主聖母瑪利亞和天父耶穌，讓我心裏有一種說不出來的喜悅，我心裏呼叫天主，我找到了回家的地方，我告訴自己我終於回家了。感謝讚美天主！✠

Firstly, I introduce myself. I was born in a Catholic family. When I was five years old, I began to hate going to church very much and often rebelled against my parents. My father was sick when I was five. Then, I began to kneel in front of the bed every day to pray and asked God to save my father. My father passed away at the age of nineteen, I was very miserable at that time. I did not contact my classmates. I did not want to pray with God as I felt God did not listen to my prayers and took my father's life away. I got married and had children and everything was very smooth. Until seventeen years ago, my husband died suddenly. My mother passed away nine years ago too. I was very sorrow, then I suddenly fell to the ground. My youngest son called 911 to send me to a hospital. I did not have any response during emergency rescue. I heard a doctor said to a nurse. If she still had no response after 20 to 30 minutes, let patient go by

extubating. I could hear but I didn't have the strength to speak until my cousin came to see me and kept calling my name. Suddenly, I shouted "Virgin Mary", then I was sober. Since then, I had been looking for the Catholic church, my friend took me to the place was not the Catholic church. Four years ago, I met Francis Chiao in my friend's flower shop. He gave me a business card. I called and asked him some questions half a year later. He told me that he was a Catholic, but I did not actively contact him at that time. Until this year, I reached out to him again and wanted to see the church he went to. He believes in God, so I went to the Catholic church where he went on January 29, 2023. I entered the church and saw Virgin Mary of God and Jesus Christ. That made me feel an indescribable joy in my heart. I called God in my heart. I found a place to go home and told myself I was finally home. Praise be to God! ✠



袁 菲 Angie Fei Yuan
聖名：Angela

代母：Elizabeth W Chou 周王健華

感謝天主！我之前信仰的是佛教，認識我男朋友 Wayne 後他每天晚上為我祈禱，經常星期日領我去天主教堂參加彌撒。男朋友是我的大天使！他每天晚上的祈禱讓我很感動，天主真的慢慢引導我，有一天突然開悟想去認識天主。去年在我病痛的時候我無意間向天主祈禱：求天主不要讓我疼痛了！天主聽到我祈禱的聲音，結果病痛減輕了許多。於是我下定決心參加天主教成為真正的基督徒。我把這個想法告訴了我的男朋友，當他知道我想成

為一個天主教徒時他非常開心並對我說：去上課、洗禮，才能成為天主教徒。我馬上在網上查詢華人區域的天主教堂，找到了蒙市聖湯瑪斯堂，立即參加了慕道班課程。在慕道班學習過程中我瞭解和明白了一些天主教的道理，經過一段時間上課學習使我更感到天主的大愛和寬容。我現在感覺離天主越來越近了，感覺天主在陪伴、帶領我，讓病痛遠離我。還有，參加慕道班讓我認識很多弟兄姐妹，使我感受到了家人的溫暖，他們是不求回報，像真正的家人一樣。尤其是我的代母她無微不至的幫助和關懷我使我感到天主就在我的身邊愛護我，保護我給我勇氣和力量，我下定決心跟隨天主，渴望領受洗禮。我願意完全信賴主把一切托付給天主，祈求在天主的祝福下獲享平安、健康和未來有個幸福美滿的家庭，再次感謝天主！✠

Thank God! I used to be a Buddhist. After I met my boyfriend, Wayne, he prayed for me every night and often took me to the Catholic Church for Mass on Sundays. My boyfriend is my greatest angel. I was touched by his prayers every night. God really guided me slowly. One day I suddenly became enlightened and wanted to know God. Last year when I was sick, I prayed to God unintentionally, "may God not let me hurt." God heard my prayer. As a result, my pain relieved a lot. Therefore, I made up my mind to join the Catholic Church and become an authentic Catholic. I told my boyfriend about my thought. When he knew I wanted to be a Catholic, he was very happy and said to me, "go to class and receive baptism before becoming a Catholic." I immediately searched the Catholic Church in the Chinese community on the Internet. I found St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Monterey Park. Then I immediately attended the catechumenate class. While studying in the catechumenate class, I learned and understood some Catholic doctrines. After a period of studying, I felt God's deep love and his tolerance. I now feel closer and clos-



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er to God, and I feel that God is accompanying, leading me, and keeping me away from sickness. In addition, attending the catechumenate class allowed me to get to know many brothers and sisters. It made me feel the warmth of my family. They did not expect anything in return, like real family members. Especially my sponsor, her meticulous help and care for me, made me feel that God is by my side, loves me, protects me, and gives me courage and strength. I am determined to follow God and desire to be baptized. I am willing to rely and entrust to God. Pray for peace, health, and a happy family in the future with God's blessing. Thank God again! ✚



李 夢 Meng Li

聖名：Anna

代母：Jean Huang 黃曉琴

感恩天主！天主的安排讓我認識了王敏洋叔叔，在他的指引下我來到了聖湯瑪斯天主教堂，參加了第一次彌撒。後來我就愛上了這個地方。心靈深處受到很多的啟發，感動，總之，受益滿滿。我相信冥冥之中的自有安排。感謝天主的恩寵，感恩王敏洋叔叔的指引，感激教會內弟兄姐妹的陪伴。通過慕道班的學習我更堅信天主，我願意奉獻自己的愛，對待身邊的每一位。願我與我的家人可以得到天主的恩寵。感謝天主！✚

Thank God! Along with God's arrangement, I got known with Uncle Minyang Wang. I went to St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church to attend the first Mass under his guidance. After then I fell in love with this place. I was inspired and moved in my heart deeply. In short, it was very

beneficial to me. I believe in God's plan. Thank God for His grace. Uncle Minyang Wang for his guidance, and brothers and sisters in the Church for their companionships. I firmly believe in God through the study of catechumen. I am willing to give my love to everyone around me. May God's grace be available to me and my family. Thank God! ✚



武 娟 Juan Wu

聖名：Jenny

代母：May Yip 葉慧娜

我在三年級的時候跟著我媽媽開始接觸基督教會，我媽媽每個星期晚上都會帶我去教育家參加聚會，從小我就已經感受到教會的和睦氛圍，每個叔叔阿姨對我的關愛和溫暖祝福，只是我沒有好好去瞭解教會和耶穌的愛，可是主耶穌卻依然愛著我，感受到冥冥之中主耶穌都在幫助我，成全我的很多願望。我朋友說一定是天主在庇佑我，我感謝主的恩賜與眷顧，通過王叔叔的引領來到蒙市天主教加入了慕道班學習，讓我更加親近主，感謝所有老師們的辛勞付出，我願永遠跟隨我主，直到永永遠遠。阿們！✚

I started to encounter the Christian church with my mother when I was in the third grade. My mother would take me every night to attend their meetings. I have felt the harmonious atmosphere of the church since I was a child. Every uncle and aunt gave me caring and warm blessings. I had neither a good understanding of the church nor Jesus' love. However, the Lord Jesus still loves me, and I feel that the Lord Jesus is helping me and fulfilling many of my wishes. My friend said that God must be protecting me. I thank the

Lord for his gift and favor. Through the guidance of Uncle Wang, I came to Monterey Park Catholic Church to join the catechumenate class so that I can get closer to the Lord. Thank all the teachers for their hard work. I am willing to follow my Lord forever and ever. Amen! ✚



張 彥偉 Yanwei Zhang

聖名：David

代父：John Zhao 趙寵修

我是和我愛人(武娟)結婚後接觸到了基督教，每天我都能看到我愛人禱告主保佑我們全家平安健康，但是當時年輕不懂，後來通過我愛人的感染我也逐漸對主有所瞭解，我便與我愛人一同參入天主教信仰主耶穌基督，也感受到主給我們的愛，幫助我們赦免我們這些罪，救我們脫離苦難。還要感謝蒙市慕道班的講課老師，用寶貴的時間教我們聖經真理給我們分享見證，讓我更認識到主。感謝主，感謝老師！✚

I encountered Christianity after marrying my wife (Juan Wu). Every day I could see her praying to the Lord to keep our whole family safe and healthy. I didn't understand at that time. Later through her influence, I gradually understood the Lord, so I participated Catholicism and believed in the Lord Jesus Christ with her. Besides I also felt Lord's love, his help, his forgiveness of our sins and his salvation from our sufferings. I would also like to thank the teachers of the catechumenate class for taking their precious time to teach us the truth of the Bible and share us their testimonies so that I can know the Lord better. Thank the Lord and thank the teachers! ✚



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李祖恆 Zuheng Li

聖名：Jude

代父：Tom Chen 陳聖響

在中國湖南我沒有機會接觸到基督信仰。來了美國在西雅圖跟家人住了十幾年，再從西雅圖搬到洛杉磯，缺乏工作和生活的壓力，老來更加體弱多病。自從去年認識了教內弟兄姐妹，他們關心我，並把我帶進教會。在參與彌撒過程中，我感覺到很平安很舒服。特別在我考公民的時候有好多的弟兄姐妹為我祈禱！安慰我，讓我信賴天主，不用緊張盡管放鬆，我真的蒙恩通過了考試。我很感謝天主並藉著慕道班的熱心祈禱，我終於拿到公民身份。之後通過慕道班的學習讓我了解更多有關天主的道理，雖然還有很多對世界發生的意外讓我不能明白天主的旨意。但我會慢慢的學習，讓主的聖言來光照我啟發我。感謝天主接納我成為祂的門徒！✠

I did not have access to Christianity in Hunan, China. After coming to the United States, I lived with my family in Seattle for more than ten years. After then I moved from Seattle to Los Angeles, there was lack of work opportunity and life pressure. Became frailer and sicker when I got old. Since I met brothers and sisters in the church last year, they cared about me and brought me into the church. During the Mass, I felt very peaceful and comfortable. Especially when I was taking the citizenship examination, many brothers and sisters prayed for me! God comforted me, let me trust in Him, relieved my stress, and relaxed me. I was really blessed to pass this exam. I am thankful to God, and I was finally

granted citizenship by means of the enthusiastic prayers of the catechumen as well. Later, I learned more about God through the study of catechumen. I will study slowly and let the Word of the Lord enlighten me even though there were many accidents in the world that prevented me from understanding Lord's will. Thank God for accepting me as His disciple!✠



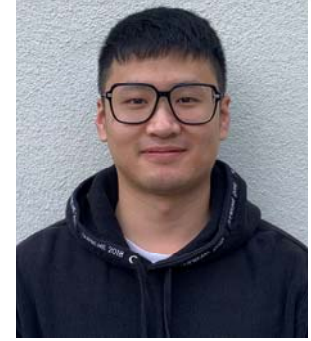
池瀚煊 Hanxuan Chi

聖名：Andrew

代父：Ken Zheng 鄭 弘

我來到美國後，由父親帶著來到教堂。我感覺到了教堂就像一個大家庭，每個兄弟姐妹都非常的友好。每次去完教堂，我感悟都很深刻、欣慰。其實自己能夠做到的事很少，但一點一滴的不懈堅持，使得我再次有了動力。即使前方有很多的質疑、很多的阻撓，我覺得我不應該放棄，我要在信仰的道路上一路向前走。還有，感謝慕道班的老師們為我們付出了這麼多，細心地教我們，謝謝你們。最後祈求天主保佑我們所有人！感謝天主！✠

When I came to the United States, my father brought me to the church. I felt that the church was like a big family, and every sibling was very friendly. Every time I go to church, I feel very profound and gratified. In fact, there are very few things I can do. Along with a bit of perseverance, I have been motivated. Even though there are many doubts and obstacles ahead, I feel that I should not give up. I must keep moving forward on the path of faith. In addition, thank teachers of the catechumenate class for giving their effort and teaching us carefully, thank you. Finally, ask God to bless us all! Thank God!✠



魯文博 Wenbo Lu

聖名：Bosco

代父：Francis Chiao 喬偉剛

現在回想起來非常感謝天主的安排，讓我步入教堂，接觸並學習瞭解天主教。我並不是出生在一個天主教家庭，但是我非常幸運的在來到美國以後通過老師、朋友、同學一點點接觸到了天主教，在教堂也結識了很多朋友。在每周日晚上的慕道班的學習中，讓我一步步的對天主教有更深的瞭解。在慕道班的學習中，我瞭解到了大家都是有自己的安排的，我才恍然大悟，其實一切都是安排好的，就像我來到聖湯瑪斯天主教堂一樣，沒有任何人帶領我過來，就是突然間想找到一個教堂去瞭解一下。其實是天主帶領我來到這裡。在教堂我感受到了家一樣的感覺，大家就像家人一樣對待彼此，非常溫暖。慕道班的結束其實是我的新的開始。感謝天主！✠

To recall now, I am very grateful to God for allowing me to walk into the church and encounter with and learn about Catholicism. I was not born into a Catholic family, but I was very fortunate to have exposed to Catholicism through teachers, friends, and classmates since I came to the United States. Also, I have made a lot of friends in the church. I have had a deeper understanding of Catholicism step by step while studying in catechumenate classes every Sunday evening. During the study of the catechumen, I have learned that everyone has their own arrangements. And I suddenly have realized that everything is arranged in fact, just like when I



請為領洗者祈禱 Pray for the Newly Baptized.



came to St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church. No one led me over but unexpectedly I wanted to find a church to get to know. Indeed, God brought me here. In the church I feel like home. Everyone treats each other like family members. It is very warm-hearted. The end of the catechumenate class will really be a new beginning for me. Thank God! †



李卓鴻 Eric Zhuohong Lee

聖名: Eric

代父: Matthew Ting 丁穎達

我出生在湖北十堰，從小和母親袁菲一起信奉佛教。在國內的時候我們是沒有機會接觸到天主教的。15歲隨母親來到美國后，受到未來繼父的影響，讓我感覺到天主教是一種引人入勝的信仰，讓我慢慢瞭解天主教。教會蘊含著歷史悠久的傳統和豐富的宗教文化。剛來美國不久我就跟隨著未來繼父每個星期天去教堂。當我踏入教堂的那一刻就感受到它是一個寧靜而莊嚴的地方。參加天主教儀式時，我感到十分舒適和安寧，周圍的人也特別的有愛，人們互相握手擁抱。儀式中也經常傳遞著對上天的敬仰和對教徒的啟發，使我心靈得到了治癒。同時，天主教教義中的愛、寬恕、救贖與和平的價值觀更加強烈地打動了我。最讓我下定決心信奉天主教的緣由是我母親的經歷。我母親因為做手術，而術後會經常性的肚子疼，看了很多醫生也不見效，去廟里拜過佛燒過香，也都沒有什麼用。那時候

我和母親還沒有開始真正信奉天主教。有一天母親肚子疼得實在是特別厲害了，試想向天主祈禱一下，看看能不能讓她的肚子不要這麼疼了。神奇的是過了一會兒母親的肚子真的就沒有那麼疼了。從那時候開始我和我的母親體驗到了祈禱的力量，之後我們就一起加入慕道班學習天主教教理。感謝所有老師的奉獻精神！感謝讚美天主！†

I was born in Shiyan, Hubei Province. I had worshiped Buddhism with my mother since I was a child. We didn't have the opportunity to encounter Catholicism when we were in my country. After coming to the United States with my mother at my age of 15, I was influenced by my future stepfather. I felt that Catholicism is an attractive faith and then I slowly learnt about Catholicism. The church contains a long tradition and rich religious culture. Soon after I came to the United States, I followed my stepfather to church every Sunday. The moment I stepped into the church, I felt that it was a peaceful and solemn place. When I attended the Catholic ceremony, I felt very comfortable and peaceful. People around me were with love. Besides, they shook hands and hugged each other. The ceremony also often illustrated respect to God and inspiration to the believers. It made my soul healed. In the meantime, I was moved strongly by the values of love, forgiveness, redemption, and peace in Catholic doctrine. My mother's experience made me decide to embrace Catholicism the most. She would often have stomach pain after the operation, and many doctor consultations did not work at all. It was also useless to go to the temple to worship Buddha and burn incense. At that time, my mother and I did not start to believe Catholicism. One day my mother's stomach hurt so much that she wanted to pray to God to see if she could stop her stomach from serious hurt. Miraculously, my mother's stomach really didn't hurt so much after a while. Afterwards, my mother and

I experienced the power of prayer, and we joined catechumenate classes together to study catechism. Thank you to all the teachers for their dedication! Praise be to God! †



Richard Nobuo Nakano

代父: Randy Brambila

My name is Richard Nobuo Nakano. I was born in Los Angeles, CA and have lived in Southern California my whole life. I grew up an Evangelical Christian; both my parents had a strong faith and did their best to teach my three siblings and me about God and how to live a righteous life for Him. We attended church every Sunday and many of our friends were made at church.

I have been attending St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church (STA) since last March, after the passing of my mother-in-law, may she rest in peace. Fr. John ministered to her in her last days, and presided at her memorial Mass. In so doing, he blessed our family with his love and kindness, and helped arouse in me a desire to finally join with my ever-patient wife, Noemi in the one true Catholic and Apostolic Faith.

With the guidance and prayers of my dedicated Catechists, Mrs. Divina Rodriguez and Mr. Henry Ayala, Religious Education Coordinator Mrs. Ana Martinez and support of the AFF program, and after much studying, reflection, and learning about the Catholic Church, a deep longing has developed in my heart and soul to fully join the Faith Community of STA,

(Continued on page 8)

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(Continued from page 7)

and to confirm, strengthen and deepen my Christian faith. I firmly believe God wants me to embrace His Complete Truth and only His Holy Catholic Church can claim that. That is why I am on this faith journey, and I hope and pray to be receiving the sacraments for the confirmation the First Communion soon. Thank you for your prayers and support! ✠

我的名字是 Richard Nakano，出生於洛杉磯，一生都住在南加州。我的父母都是虔誠的福音派基督徒，因此從小在他們的薰陶下長大，他們盡最大努力地教導我們四個兄弟姐妹認識、接近上帝，以及如何效法耶穌基督，過正當的基督徒生活。我們全家每一個星期天都去教堂，我們大部分的朋友都是在那裡結識的。

我的岳母去年過世(願她安息)，是本堂 Fr. John 在最後的日子裡常常關心、探訪她，並且為她主祭安息彌撒。在這樣往來的過程中，他用他的愛和仁慈祝福了我們的家人，同時感染並喚起了我及我的內人 Noemi 從去年三月開始來參加堂區的查經班，這是我接觸天主教的開始。

在我敬重的資深教友 Divina Rodriguez, Henry Ayala 和堂區宗教教育負責人 Ana Martinez 的指導和祈禱以及 AFF 計劃的支持下，經過一系列的讀經、省察和接觸了解天主教教堂之後，在我的內心深處渴望加入 STA 信仰大家庭，並確認、加強和加深我的基督信仰。我堅信天主希望我接受祂完整的真理，只有他的聖潔天主教堂才能宣稱這一點，這就是我踏上信仰之旅的原因，我希望並祈禱能早日領受堅振及聖體聖事。感謝您的代禱和支持！✠



Jose N Vanegas

代父：Elpidio Abrajan

My name is Jose N Vanegas, my journey into the Catholic faith after been baptized in 1965, started at the age of 8 years old in Mexico City. Were I began preparing for my sacraments of Holy communion and confirmation. But a few months later I had to postponed that proses because my future changed.

In 1973 I was brought to the United States, the language and not having the guidance to continue my journey into the catholic faith. As time passed me by and trying to survive growing up in society. I lost my way for a while, and only attending church periodically. After I had started my family, I continue to attend church periodically.

In my thoughts I had wonder about re starting my journey to receive the rest of my sacraments, but I didn't know how to go about it. In July of 2022, I came to realize that that it was time to continue with the sacraments, I came to father John and asked him if it would be permitted to received them.

My journey to receive my sacraments and understand the catholic faith, started in September of 2022. This journey has Renewed my faith and confirm my believe in God the father, the son, and the holy spirit. Spiritually it has given me a purpose, through the adult religious class, the bible studies and the great parishioners

at ST Thomas Aquinas church, my journey continues forward but not just for me, but also for my grandson. ✠

我叫 Jose N Vanegas，我在 1965 年受洗後開始信仰天主教，我 8 歲時在墨西哥城開始準備領受初領聖體聖事，但幾個月後，我不得不推遲所有的事。

1973 年我被帶來了美國，因為語言的因素當時無法繼續我的天主教信仰的道路。隨著時間的流逝，我努力設法在社會中求生存，我也迷失了一段時間，但還是有定期去教堂。在我成家組建家庭後，繼續定期去教堂。

在我的內心常常念及是否要重新開始我的旅程以接受其餘的聖事，但我不知道如何著手。2022 年 7 月，我意識到是時候繼續接受其他聖事了，我來找 Fr. John，問他我是否可以接受聖事。

我從 2022 年 9 月開始接受聖道和理解天主教信仰的課程，這次旅程更新了我的信仰，並堅定了我對聖父、聖子和聖靈的信仰。在精神上祂給了我一個目標，通過成人宗教教育課程、聖經查經和聖湯瑪斯教堂友善的教友們，我的旅程繼續前進，但不僅是為了我，也是為了我的孫子及下一代。✠



Confirmation