

# ST. IGNATIUS CATHOLIC CHURCH

October - November 2022

**BI-MONTHLY ENGLISH BULLETIN**



Pope Francis declared September 1 to October 4, 2022 “Laudato Si’” month. The theme was “Listen to the Voice of Creation.” He said it is a time of grace that the Church offers to humanity to renew its relation with the Creator and with creation through celebration, conversion, and commitment together.

We share with you this article as our youth echoes the Church’s call and as a way of concretizing the Jesuit Universal Apostolic Preference (UAP) no.4 “to collaborate in the Care of our Common Home.”

## Caring for our Common Home

By Camille Cheang, Mariel Rubio, Kotoe Kuroda (SIIYM)

This summer, surrounded by the lush greenery of Shinjuku Gyoen Park, youths exclaimed “Hello brother ant!” and “There is beauty from God all around us!”.

After a month of learning and preparation under the Laudato Si’

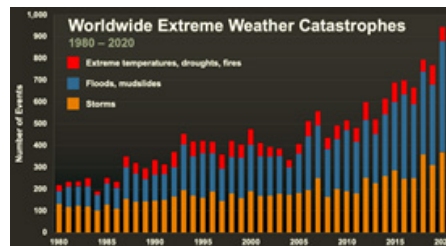


Animators Program, we were filled with joy as we held the “Care for our Common Home” event, where we welcomed 23 SIIYM members (St. Ignatius International Youth Ministry) to ecological conversion.

### What is ecological conversion?

Ecological conversion is a transformation of hearts and minds toward greater love of God, one another and creation, while acknowledging our human contribution to the social and ecological crisis of Earth - our common home.

Following the Opening Prayer of “The Canticle of Creatures” (a song that praises God’s creation) from St. Francis of Assisi (Patron Saint of the Environment) and the “Noah’s Ark” game, Kotoe explained how human-related activities such as burning



fossil fuels for electricity/transportation, and manufacturing goods/food emit greenhouse gases (CO<sub>2</sub>, methane etc.) and can cause climate change, leading to an increasing amount of extreme weather catastrophes and climate migrants all over the world.

Next, Camille introduced Laudato Si’ and summarized the main takeaways of each chapter.

### What is Laudato Si’?

Laudato Si’ is the second encyclical (document with highest level of authority written by a pope) written by Pope Francis. There are 6 Chapters:

1. What is Happening to Our Common Home
2. The Gospel of Creation
3. The Human Roots of the Ecological Crisis
4. Integral Ecology
5. Lines of Approach and Action
6. Ecological Education and spirituality

In **Chapter 1**, Pope Francis begins by discussing how recent scientific research has focused on environmental problems. He also discusses other environmental problems in addition to climate change. The Pope makes it clear that the damage on the environment affects the poor the most.

**Chapter 2** then calls people to recall the Story of Creation and the Fall of Adam and Eve, and how many misinterpret humans being created in God’s image as “humans being able to do whatever they want with the earth.” The Pope reminds everyone that while we reap the fruits of the earth, we must also take very good care of the earth.

**Chapter 3** focuses on the gravity of the effects of man’s actions on the environment. The Pope calls to attention the selfishness and greed of man, and the obsession of man with power that has led to the abuse as well of children, the elderly, and animals.

*Continued in page 6*



**that the Jesuits have two newly ordained priests?** They are Fr. Joachim Nguyen Minh Toan, SJ (Vietnamese) and Fr. Peter Canisius Ochi Naoki, SJ (Japanese). They were ordained Sept. 17, 2022 in St. Ignatius Church, by His Excellency Tarcisio Isao Kikuchi, SVD, Archbishop of Tokyo. In the picture is Fr. Renzo de Luca, SJ, Provincial of the Society of Jesus. What a gift to the Congregation at the Closing of the Ignatian Year!



**Sr. Abby, former Coordinator of the John de Britto English Center?** Sr. Aurea "Abby" Avelino of the Maryknoll Sisters of St. Dominic has been appointed recently as the new International Coordinator of TALITHA KUM.

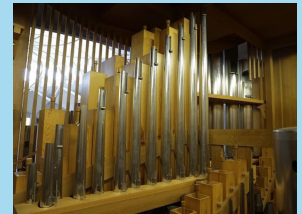
Established by the International Union of Superiors General in 2009, Talitha Kum is a network of more than 2,000 Catholic nuns across 77 countries working on the front lines to end human trafficking.

Sr. Abby became involved with the Talitha Kum Japan in 2016. In 2021, she became the Regional Representative of Asia. Now based in Rome, her role includes empowering and nurturing the growth networks and strengthening collaboration with Vatican organizations and other key partners. Let us accompany Sr. Abby with our prayers!

**that the Church Festival this year will be held on October 9?** The theme is, "To Connect." An International Mass (Indonesian, English, Spanish, Japanese, Vietnamese) will be held at 11:00 a.m. in the Main Church. Limited to 200 attendees because we are still in pandemic times, each community is limited to forty-five representatives.

An Event follows: **"From the Consecration of the Main Church to the Future"** with a Pipe Organ Program:

- "Thoughts on the Organ," Talk by the Pastor, Fr. Saturnino Ochoa, SJ and Organist Hiroko Asai
- Organ performance
- "Singing with the organ" Chant: choir, youths from 5 countries, etc.



On that Sunday, Mass in Japanese will be at 7:00 and 18:00, in English at 16:30, Vietnamese on Saturday at 19:30. There will be no 12:00 p.m. English Mass.



**Last July 31st, on the feast day of St. Ignatius of Loyola and celebration of the Ignatian Youth Day, there was supposed to be a youth gathering on Synodality in St. Joseph's Hall.** Unfortunately, due to the fluctuating number of cases of Corona in Tokyo, it was postponed to a later date. The gathering will now be held as part of the celebration of the St. Ignatius' Church Festival on October 9th.

The event is organized by the MAGIS program of Jesuits Japan. It will be a time of sharing to learn about Synodality (the church walking together). It is open to all youth (18-35 years old), whether one is from Japan, Asia, Europe, Africa, the Americas or wherever you are from! The event will also be held in different languages.

We look forward to this gathering, to learn more about the Church's vision of a Synodal Church. We would like to hear about how the Church listens and responds to the youth of today. We hope to see you there!



**that last Sunday, September 25, was the 108th World Day of Migrants and Refugees 2022?** The theme was "Building the future with migrants and refugees." In his message, Pope Francis said the presence of migrants and refugees represents a great challenge, but at the same time an immense opportunity for cultural and spiritual growth. To read more, click "<https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/migration/documents/20220509-world-migrants-day-2022.html>"

# Rosary - The Spiritual Weapon of our Time

by Kay Tabata

**“There’s no problem, no matter how difficult, that cannot be solved by the Rosary.” (Sr. Lucia, Our Lady of Fatima)**

**D**o we realize the true power of the Rosary behind those beads? Why is it important that we should have such a devotion to this Marian prayer? What makes the Rosary so powerful and effective, that it can convert even the most hardened hearts, and thus Satan loathes it? In fact, since the Rosary’s emergence, the evil one incessantly seeks for every opportunity to destroy it.

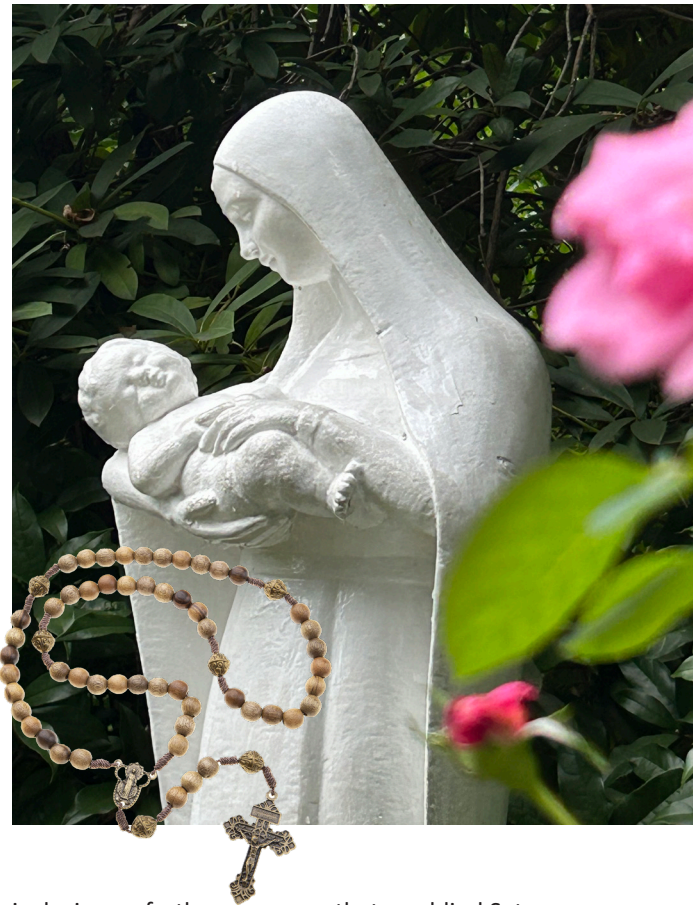
First, let us look at the origin of the Rosary and how it developed into being the most efficacious of all Catholic devotions.

The word **Rosary** comes from the Latin word Rosarium, which means rose garden. Originally, it was referred to as the Marian Psalter. Pious tradition tells us that in the year 1208 in France, Our Lady appeared to St. Dominic, founder of the Order of Preachers (the Dominicans). It would be the pivotal moment of his life, as he was entrusted by the Queen Mother with an apostolic mission, telling him to “Preach my Psalter” by meditating on the sacred mysteries of Jesus: His Incarnation, Passion, and Resurrection. It came to light in response to a heretical group known as Albigensians, who were stirring up people into heresy and violent opposition to the Church doctrines. This group was viciously attacking the very concept of human salvation, the Paschal mystery of Jesus. As St. Dominic began to preach the Psalter of Mary, he won many souls back to Christ and the Church. The Rosary proved to be a powerful way of evangelizing, as it brought the Albigensians to conversion. Later in 1422, following a Marian apparition to a Franciscan novice, the Marian Psalter would take on a new name. Attributed to this new type of rosary, known as the Franciscan Crown Rosary, all Marian Psalters would be ascribed as the “Rosary,” which means, Crown of Roses or Corona, to affirm that praying the Rosary is a way of crowning Mary with spiritual roses. And the rest is history.

The Rosary is not just a rhetorical prayer we utter monotonously in line with our Christian tradition. It is a gift from heaven, a spiritual weapon expressed in four dimensions: first, it is an intercessory prayer addressed to Our Blessed Mother; second, it is a meditation centered on the life-saving mysteries of Christ; third, it is a contemplation on the Divinity of the Holy Trinity; and fourth, it is evangelical in nature, as it has the power to convert and save souls.

What happens when we pray the rosary saying “Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners” is that the Blessed Mother comes instantly to our side to pray with us. And she does not come alone. She brings Saints and Angels with her. And she and Jesus are joined at the heart and cannot be separated so she brings Jesus with her. And Jesus cannot be separated from the Holy Trinity, so he brings the Father and the Holy Spirit with him.

“Realize the power in your hand with the Rosary, for in your hands you hold the power of God.” - Our Lady of the Roses, 1970. It has become more powerful and effectual, due to the



inclusion of the prayer that can blind Satan.

It is true that we are living in the most uncertain times, but it is also during this time that God is offering us his Infinite Mercy. As we deal with the current situation on COVID or Coronavirus, do we really see it for what it is? What is God’s message to us? I believe God wants us to see the real Corona, not as a pandemic, not as a virus that is contagious, but the real corona is God himself.

As we crown Jesus and Mary with our prayers, through the Rosary, the Flame of Love, unparalleled signal graces will come upon the world! Why? The Rosary is one of the most powerful weapons against future errors and difficulties. Pope Leo XIII said, “The Rosary is the solution for the evils of our age.” “One day through the Rosary and the Scapular, I will save the world.” - Our Lady to St. Simon Stock, 1251

October is believed to be a good month for harvest. As we dedicate this month to the Rosary, let us “harvest souls” and deepen our devotion to this preeminent prayer by gathering together on this beautiful Marian occasion for the **Living Rosary Prayer Gathering on October 23rd**, Sunday, from 5:30pm at St. Ignatius church. For the Rosary leads us to Mary, Mary leads us to Jesus, and Jesus leads us to heaven!

# ST. IGNATIUS NEWS AND CHURCH EVENTS

## The Summer that Was

### July 23, Altar Server's Formation

Again because of the pandemic, the formation of this group has somehow been neglected. Happily, on this day, sixteen Candidates (ages 8-21), mostly coming from the English Sunday School, had their Orientation from Fr. Bony James, SJ and Sr. Flor Florece, F.I. Since then, they have been taking "Hand-On" classes from Maria Koreti and Grace Tanaka, the duo in-charge of this Ministry. In the middle of October, they will begin their "theoretical classes" with Isabelle Bonasse, Ndv to deepen further what they have learned on the practical side. Topics such as The MASS, the meaning of SERVICE, DISCIPLESHIP, Liturgical Seasons, etc. will be taken up. After completing the formation program, they will have their investiture, hopefully, before the end of the fiscal year.



### July 31, Closing of The Ignatian Year

The Ignatian International Youth Mass was a combined effort of the Japanese, English, Indonesian, and Vietnamese communities. Wearing traditional attire, the congregation became, "one body partaking of the one loaf" (1 Col 10:17), led by Fr. Renzo De Luca SJ, the Jesuit Provincial of Japan and eight concelebrants. Fr. De Luca in his homily viewed the simplicity of the celebration in these pandemic times as a sign of God's call for conversion and discernment. Just as St. Ignatius was converted by the power of God, we are called to be "pilgrims" in our "journey of the heart." He called us to redefine our new way of prayer, reach out to more believers (through online programs, "Spiritual Exercises in Daily Life" and "Bible Lectures") and continue our

lifetime pilgrimage with grateful hearts. The youth in turn prayed for unity in purpose, true freedom in God, and courage to answer the call of the Lord to work for his vineyard (Lk 10:2).

The celebration ended with the beautiful Ignatian song "Amare et Servire," affirming youth's ever-living desire to love and serve the Lord. Taking a hint from St. Ignatius, in "that which make you feel the most alive is where God is!" **(John Mark Galang)**



### August 27, Ever Heard of "Holympics"?

It was the first ever HOLYMPICS - a sports event held at the Salesian Formation House in Chofu, Tokyo along with the St. Ignatius International Youth Ministry and friends! The participants were divided into teams where creativity was challenged. Different traditional games from the Philippines, Indonesia, Vietnam, and Japan were played. Mental and physical skills were put to the test. Other games were really exhausting but amazingly funny. Surprisingly, the team that was losing at the start, ended up winning! We ended the day with the celebration of the Mass.

Holympics? We did not gather just to play games. It was a chance to be TOGETHER, learn to BECOME A COMMUNITY, A FAMILY, BECOME ONE WITH GOD and UNDERSTAND HIS CALL. The goal was not to become the best team but to grow and understand one's heart. That is the best trophy one can ask for! Of course, if your team won, then the prize is double!! **(Fernando Giordani)**



# ST. IGNATIUS NEWS AND CHURCH EVENTS

## September 4, Opening of Sunday School

“Let the children come to me...” (Mt. 19:14)

It was a joy to witness a church which even at this time of the pandemic was full of parents and little children celebrating Mass together and afterwards gathering for the Opening of the International Sunday School. The vibrancy of their faith and the gift of joy were evident. Thirty-six children (ages 4 to 16), their parents, catechists, and volunteers gathered in the open space in the 1st floor of Kibe Hall.



Opening Sunday School

As everyone assembled, I was riveted to the little faces of the newcomers. I could almost feel their excitement, but at the same time their anxiety behind their patient demeanor, as they looked back and forth toward their parents and toward the goings on in the new surroundings.

The Opening Prayer was led by Ronelle Endaya, the leader of the parents, followed by Fr. Ochoa greeting the children with his lively voice, showing them how to say his name, “o-cho-wa!” For sure, it will make them less shy to call out to him from now on whenever they see him around the church premises. Then came an action song prepared by our catechist Jessie Buendia, Ndv which was a big hit not just for the children but for everyone. “I love you, Jesus deep down in my heart! Deep, deep, deep down in my heart!”

As one of the volunteer catechists, for me the highlight of the Opening was for me meeting the children for the first time in our small group. My group is composed of children of mixed cultural background who are comfortable neither in English nor in Japanese but have some level of competency in both, which means that our lessons would shift between languages every now and then. This was very interesting indeed as the children, my partner catechist, Izumi-sensei and I found ourselves shifting languages and enjoying the experience as if it was the most natural thing to do.

Many of the children’s groups sat in small circles on the grassy green area in front of the church. I saw the youngest group dancing and singing, another group enjoying a story-telling time, the teen group disappearing somewhere in one of the rooms, and our group of “little ones” getting to know each other and we, asking the kids how their summer vacation was in their motherland. And while we were meeting our “little ones” Sr. Flor and Ronelle, met with the mothers for an orientation, emphasizing the important role of the parents in the formation of their children. The final blessing was given by Fr. Bony James.

Indeed, the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these. It was indeed an afternoon of exchanging of stories, exchanging of smiles, and exchanging of gifts as persons created by One Divine (**Mae Grace J. Harashima, Catechist**)



Orientation of Parents



## September 18, Celebration of a Sacrament

Two Infant Baptisms were held in St. Mary’s Chapel. Welcome to the Christian world Xavier(Filipino-Japanese-Indian-English) and Chirazam (Nigeria-Cameroon)!

# Continuation, Laudato Si

*Continued from page 1,* The Pope reminds everyone to recall their interconnectedness with nature in **Chapter 4**. He says that social and environmental problems are connected, and the solutions for environmental problems must also affect social problems. Everyone, especially leaders and governments around the world, must work together and the Pope calls on them to take action in **Chapter 5**. Pope Francis recognizes that there is some action taking place, but it is not enough. Leaders are asked to think about the social and environmental impact of their decisions. Finally, in **Chapter 6**, the Pope calls everyone to also change their lifestyle. Environmental education has played a role in informing many about environmental problems, but more has to be done aside from sharing information—there is also a need to teach values. The Pope discusses how teaching values helps motivates others to change their habits. Pope Francis says “.. the gravest effects of all attacks on the environment are suffered by the poorest.”



*Noah's Ark Game - Giraffe finding its pear*

After learning about these things, we went to find and observe God's creation with the "Camera Game."

### Camera Game Instructions

Aim: Experience nature

1. Make pairs and let them choose who will be the "camera" and who will be the "photographer" first.
2. The "photographer" will bring the "camera" (lens (eyes) must be closed) to somewhere with nature.
3. Ask the "camera" to make a frame with their hands and when they get the right angle, the camera can open their eyes to see the "photo".
4. Tip: Take a close up photo e.g. Tree bark, small patch of soil, inside a flower. You will be surprised by how life is in many forms around us, and how intricate nature is!
5. Swap roles and play again

Reference: "Sharing Nature" Joseph Cornell

saved over 1000 yen per month by doing this!), praying and doing the Ecological Examen (<http://www.ecologicalexamen.org/>). There are more resources on what we can do on websites such as this: <https://www.trocaire.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/parishes/100-ways-to-implement-laudato-si.pdf>

We thank the Laudato Si' Movement (<https://laudatosimovement.org/>) who provided us training and guidance for this event. We hope that we can care more for our Common Home individually, in our own communities and also as a Parish.

**"We're all strengthened when we pray and act together." -Laudato Si'71**



*Noah's Ark Game - The elephant pair!*

### Noah's Ark Game

Aim: Awaken enthusiasm for nature

Noah was one of the world's first conservationists. We are told that before the big flood, he gathered two of every creature and put them into his ark. It's because of Noah that we have wildlife today.

The participants are assigned an animal each. There are 2 participants with the same animal. Participants must find the same animal using animal sounds, movements etc. but CANNOT TALK.



*All the participants came back with big smiles as they enjoyed finding God everywhere!*

For the final part, Mariel shared how other parishes are working on caring for our common home, such as putting solar panels on the church roof, doing a "Give Up Plastics for Lent" challenge, and organizing "Creation Care team network Walks," and suggested that we "start a Care for Creation Team to discuss environmental issues of our church."

Participants shared individual actions such as making days when you do not eat meat (especially beef has a high environmental impact), unplugging electronics when not in use (a participant

# Here I am, Take My Hand

By Damian Adorable



I woke up with Monday blues, feeling drained from the weekend, wishing for more rest. Once again, I find myself drowning in the fast and bustling streets of the city. Somehow losing track of the days, somehow getting lost on my way back home.

This was not how I envisioned my life to be. I was hoping for better days, dreaming of peaceful nights. As I tucked myself to sleep, and stared at the empty ceiling, I prayed and yearned for something more. I couldn't remember the last time I looked forward to something. I forgot the "me" there was before I braved this so-called greener pasture.

As I grumbled and mumbled, and struggled with each word of prayer, I recalled what my friend used to say. He said, "When your days are empty and your life is dull, ask yourself, 'When was the last time I had a conversation with God?'"

And in the silence, there I found Jesus, with arms extended, patiently waiting for me to reach out saying, "You are not alone. Here I am, take my hand."

**SACRAMENTS:  
SCHEDULE AND CLASSES**

<b>INFANT / ADULT BAPTISM</b>	Schedule: 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of February, April, June, September, and November, Xavier Chapel, 10:00 AM Classes: To be arranged with the Coordinator in-charge
<b>MARRIAGE PREPARATION</b>	Inquire at least 4 months before the wedding day.
<b>OTHERS</b>	<b>English Sunday School for Children</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month, 1:30-2:30 PM, Main Building, Rm. 302 <b>Sunday Japanese Language Classes (Presently suspended)</b> Schedule: Please contact English Center. Time & Venue: 1:45 - 2:45 PM, Kibe Hall, Rm. 304, 305, 306, 307 Newcomers visit Rm. 305

*Volunteers are most welcome!* 🙌

**JOHN DE BRITTO ENGLISH CENTER**

Office Address: 6-5-1 Kojimachi, Chiyoda-Ku, Tokyo 102-0083, Telephone No: 03-3263-4576

Office Hours: Weekdays (10:00 - 12:00, 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM), By Appointment Only

**For information regarding the regular John de Britto English Center MINISTRIES and GROUPS, please refer to PAGE 7 of back issues of the Bulletin or access the the Parish English website**

# IMPORTANT NOTICES

## Schedule of Masses, etc.

**WEEKDAYS:** All in Japanese, Main Church

7:00 AM	Eucharistic Adoration
12:00 NN / 6:00 PM*	Mass or Eucharistic 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	1:30 PM Spanish Mass
3:00 PM Vietnamese Mass	4:30 PM English Mass

**Masses at Our Lady's Chapel**

1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday: 12:30 PM (Portuguese)	4:00 PM (Polish)
2 <sup>nd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday: 4:30 PM (Indonesian)	

English Website:  
<http://stignatius.jp/en/>

### Important Liturgical Dates to Remember

October	
4	St. Francis of Assisi (Memorial)
7	Our Lady of the Rosary
November	
1	All Saints' Day
2	All Souls' Day
20	Christ the King of the Universe (Solemnity)
21	Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
27	1st Sunday of Advent

## 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.	Coordinator

### Important Church Events

October	
9	11:00 Church Festival International Mass 14:00 Church Festival Event: "A Journey with the Church Pipe Organ" <b>No 12:00 Mass;</b> there is 4:30 Mass only
November	
24	Start of 9-day Novena in honor of Sr. Francis Xavier
27	Christmas Bazaar

## Pope's Prayer Intentions

### October: A Church Open to Everyone

We pray for the Church; ever faithful to, and courageous in preaching the Gospel, may the Church be a community of solidarity, fraternity and welcome, always living in an atmosphere of synodality.

### November: Children Who Suffer

We pray for children who are suffering, especially those who are homeless, orphans, and victims of war; may they be guaranteed access to education and the opportunity to experience family affection.

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

ENGLISH MASS  
REGISTRATION LINKS

### Sunday Masses Online Registration

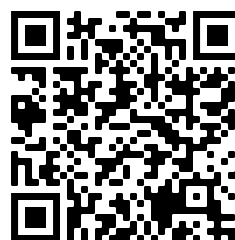
12 Noon



4:30 PM



### 12 PM English Mass Livestreaming



CHURCH WEBSITE &  
FACEBOOK PAGE

