

Family Letter (11)

A Lenten Reflection for Educators

Our lives are awfully busy. Most of us find it difficult to squeeze a little time for quietness, including time for self-reflection and time for Jesus.

In the Gospel of John, the accounts of the Samaritan woman (John 4: 4-42) and the man born blind (John 9:1-38) tell us the way how Jesus reaches out to people. He doesn't wait for people to come to Him, but He takes the initiative.

Jesus reaches out to people who feel rejected and lonely. He shows compassion for those who are in need, since nobody is a complete failure or a hopeless case in His eyes. He sees all of them as beloved children of His Father, and a brother or sister whom He cherishes. He wants to share His love with them and let them know how much He values them. This is a most encouraging message for us all.

The above-mentioned accounts also reveal Jesus' desire to fill us with His blessing. He wants to give all of us a share in His grace, His love, and His power. The blind man regained his sight and was filled with increasing faith and courage. The jug of the Samaritan woman was filled and she gradually came to believe in Jesus.

Let us review our own situations. To be educators is our vocation. We are called to teach, to care for and to love those simple souls God has placed in our schools. They are just like the rich diversity of blossoming flowers that enhances the beauty of nature, especially in springtime. In response to our call, we cherish them all, including those slow learners, those in need of special care, the unmotivated, the bright but troublesome ones, etc.

We patiently make good attempts to help them develop and flourish, as we desperately wish to see improvements in their performance. In most cases, however, their performance is still far from satisfactory. Somehow deep inside us, a voice full of helplessness and discouragement seems to be groaning, "Why bother? Why not just give up". Are we to succumb to such temptation?



Let us pray for fortitude, and recall the hope, aspiration, yearning and passion when we first decided to embrace this mission. Let us learn to see beyond our present constraints and frustrations. With prayers and deeper reflection, we are then able to understand that it is Jesus who hides under the likeness of all those who are seemingly unpleasant, annoying and uncooperative.

When we listen to the rejected and give them a hand or a smile, we are empowered by Jesus to do so, because we see the suffering Christ in them too. Jesus is overseeing us, responding to our needs, and imparting His grace to us. With His help, we are able to let all those who come to us feel that they are being loved and cared for, thus recognizing their own self-worth and the many gifts from God. Just like the Samaritan woman and the blind man, they will be filled with Jesus' blessing through the work of ours, as we have again become His agents.

Let us have a good examination of our conscience and our vocation during this Season of Lent. Be ready to undergo a true conversion and turn towards God, so that He will work through us and impart His grace to all those whom we encounter at our workplace.

With prayerful wishes in this season of grace,
Sr. Cecilia Wong
March 12, 2017



家書（十一）

四旬期一教育工作者的反思

我們的生活實在異常繁忙，大多數人都無法抽出片刻，讓自己在寧靜中反思，與主相偕。

若望福音中有關撒瑪黎雅婦人（若 4:4-42）和胎生瞎子（若 9:1-38）的兩個故事，讓我們看到耶穌如何主動去接觸人，祂不等待人們來找祂，卻常採取主動。

耶穌經常主動接觸被離棄和孤獨的人，向有待援助的人顯出惻隱之心，因為在祂眼中，沒有人是徹底失敗，或讓人感到絕望的。祂視各人都是天父所鍾愛的子女，也是祂所珍惜的兄弟姊妹。祂很想給他們分施祂的愛，讓他們知道祂是如何珍視他們。這給了我們極具鼓舞的信息。

以上兩個故事亦顯示耶穌渴望我們常能接受祂的祝福，祂很想將祂的恩寵、愛和權能賞賜我們。那瞎子重見光明，並日漸充滿信德和勇氣。那撒瑪黎雅婦人的水瓶滿溢，而她更逐漸接受並相信了基督。

讓我們檢討一下個人的現況。我們的召叫是要成為教育工作者，我們回應召喚而教學、照顧並關愛那些由上主交託我們的幼小心靈。他們好像爭妍獻媚的百花綻放，尤其在春日給大自然增添姿色。不論他們是學習遲緩的、需要特別照顧的，失去學習動機的，聰敏過人卻帶給人煩惱的，我們同樣珍惜他們，以回應我們的使命。

我們竭盡所能，耐心地設法讓他們成長，發展才華，期望他們進步。但很可惜，許多時他們的表現仍無法令人滿意。我們內心深處總會充滿無助和氣餒，好像在哀吟著：「何必費神呢？為何不就此放棄吧！」我們會向這種誘惑屈服嗎？

讓我們向上主祈求勇毅，並重溫昔日懷抱這教育使命的初始，心中洋溢著的希望，志氣、嚮往和熱愛。讓我們學習跨越眼前局限和沮喪，能眺望未來。藉著祈禱和深刻反思，我們便能理解到：基督其實隱藏在表面上看似令人煩厭，惹氣而不合作的那群學生面容上。

當我們願意聆聽遭受離棄的人，給他們援手或微笑，我們正是由基督的恩寵所推動，因為我們在他們身上看到受苦的基督。祂一直看顧我們，按我們的需要而給予恩寵。憑祂的助佑，我們可讓每一個接觸我們的人，都感受愛和關懷，並能重新認清自己的價值，以及主賜的才能。透過我們的付出，他們都如聖經中的撒瑪黎雅婦人和胎生的瞎子一般，充滿了基督的祝福。我們因而一再充當基督的使者。

在四旬期內，讓我們重新省察我們的良知和教育使命，並誠心皈依，投靠天主，讓祂透過我們工作，並藉著我們所服務的崗位，將恩寵施予所有與我們相遇的人。

我謹懷著祈禱之心，祝福大家四旬期內主寵日隆！

黃若嫻修女

二零一七年三月十七日

