

Be Grateful for the Past March Towards the Future

*This is the day the Lord has made;
let us rejoice in it and be glad!*

(Psalms 118:24)

Looking back on the developmental history of our parish, we can divide it into three stages:

1. The Initial Stage (1992-2002)

Under the leadership of Fr. Nicola Ruggiero, the Parish celebrated her first mass in Christ the King Catholic Elementary School in 1992. Those who attended mass every Sunday had to set up tables and chairs before mass started and to put them back in their original place afterwards. The Parish Office was accommodated in the rectory located at 183 Valleymede Drive where weekday masses were celebrated, and where meetings as well as other parish activities were held. With the effort and hard work of the parishioners for ten long years, the present beautiful church came into existence and was officially opened in 2002.

2. The Developmental Stage (2002-2012)

The Parish steadily developed after having our own home—the church, though we still had to strive to repay our building costs. With the hard work of several pastors, not only had the hardware of the Parish been increasingly improved, but parish groups had also grown towards maturity. Meanwhile, the Parish responded positively and participated in the activities and training programs organized by the Archdiocese and targeted at synchronizing with the Archdiocese. A typical example was the parish's enthusiastic support of ShareLife. For the need of the universal church, we also respond positively to the calls of the Mission Co-op every year to help out our brothers and sisters who are persecuted and oppressed in the underprivileged parishes in developing countries.

3. Maturity Stage (2012-2017)

A healthy and mature parish should develop towards two different directions: spiritual formation and evangelization. In the former, we aim at caring for baptized faithful, and in the latter, we target at spreading the gospel to those who still do not know Christ. Fr. Francis Chong, our former pastor, emphasized very much on these two aspects of his mission. He introduced and established the Catechism Revisit Program, Little Rock Bible Study Society, the Chinese Cursillo, Friends of the Sick and the Cantonese and Mandarin groups for Marriage Life. Besides, he regularly reminded us of the importance of our evangelization work, especially for the new immigrants from Mainland China and help them to grow in faith.

While looking back into the history of our Parish in the past 25 years, we need to thank God in particular for His mercy and care, and thank all the brothers and sisters for their active contribution to the Parish along the way. As for the future, we pray that God will continue to lead us to serve Him with loyalty, and to engage in evangelization with enthusiasm and persistence.

Fr. Thomas Loh
Pastor