

I knew that deer-in-headlights feeling all too well, quickly remembering my first treatment day and all my fears about fitting in or standing out. How was it possible in just 15 weeks I was now someone others were looking to for guidance?

I shared with the woman all about my experience, what questions to ask, and what had been hard for me, but noted that everyone's experience is different---different cancers, different treatment plans, and different prognoses. I would need a transplant. Her mom would need radiation. But I could share one thing we might have in common. I told her one of the good parts of my experience was that my diagnosis had given me time to prepare for the end of life on my terms, I have been able to say everything that needed to be said to those I love, plan for my final arrangements, savour all the gifts of my life, and know that I will die with a sense of peace of being loved, whenever it happens. It was only in articulating it that even I realised how much I had been transformed over the last few months. The woman's eyes welled up with tears, and in less than ten minutes we had become companions on the road. And then my name was called to go back to the lab. I had no idea what she and her mom decided about treatment, but when I returned, she had left me a note scribbled on a piece of paper torn out of her notebook full of questions. It read, "Thank you so very much! You have a great light inside of you, and your smile lights up the room! Thank you for allowing me to speak with you."

Instantly I remembered that image of being called to carry my cancer with God, not completely sure if he was using me or her more at that moment.

Whatever crosses we carry in this life, others will follow behind us, carrying similar crosses. Facing any experience of suffering or human challenge with a sense of calling to use it for the greater glory of God doesn't mean God gave us the cross. Rather, God invites us to find him in it and be transformed by it in ways that only experience can teach; it took weeks of carrying cancer for me to recognise that how I carried it could be a calling to make a difference in the life of another carrying it as well. **With the grace of God, we carry on.**

Courtesy of Alice Puah

- ❖ Heavy rains remind of challenges in life. Never ask for a lighter rain, just pray to God for a better umbrella. That is the attitude.
- ❖ Often when we lose all hope and think it is the end, remember God and pray, It's just a bend, not the end.
- ❖ Have faith and have a successful life. One of the basic differences between God and humans is, God gives, gives and forgives. But the human gets, gets, gets and forgets. Be thankful in life

You might find Twilight a bit easier to read from now on, because we have increased the size of the typeface for you by just a little. After all, as we get older our sight doesn't usually improve, does it? Some of us even have to wear glasses! (Editor)



Lent 2022 will begin on Wednesday March 2 and ends on Thursday 14 April

Lent is the season when God calls his people to return to him with their whole heart. During the 40 days of Lent, we reflect on how we can fully turn our lives over to God so that we can celebrate Easter with joyful hearts. God says that when we return to him, we will find him gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and rich in kindness.

The Church has given us many tools to help our reflection and conversion. Among these are the following:

- ❖ Ash Wednesday
- ❖ Prayer
- ❖ Fasting
- ❖ Almsgiving
- ❖ Reconciliation
- ❖ Stations of the Cross
- ❖ Holy Week

7 Ways to Practice Lent eBook This eBook explores the seven ways to practice Lent by offering background on each tradition, an accompanying prayer, and activities to share the riches of Lenten practices. We will live Lent more fully and grow in relationship with God and one another. Discover inspiring ways to observe the season of Lent. This eBook is free and if you need one, request for a copy from the Editor of Twilight.

Staying Connected – the Fruit of our Bonding

by Teresa Koh

The years of bonding and fellowship at our weekly Seniors' gatherings before the Covid-19 have been keeping many Seniors connected through WhatsApp, occasional lunch outings and even home visits.

On 4 January, I was privileged to have Audrey Yip and Christine Wong visiting me and bringing me a sumptuous lunch.



What a plentiful spread of food for lunch.



The Trio (left to right)
Teresa Koh, Audrey Yip and Christine Wong.

Though there were only three of us, the spread was good enough for a dozen of us. How I missed our big group gatherings!

But with just the three of us, our catchup was more personal and intimate. We shared how we were getting on and making use of our time. We found that Audrey has been busy volunteering her service to help with the recently opened Redemptorist Heritage Centre at Novena Church. This eventually sparked us to organize a visit there on 21 February for our Seniors.

However, just two weeks before the visit, the cases of Covid-19 Omicron Variant surged rapidly. We decided that in the interests of the wellbeing of our Seniors, to postpone the visit till the situation improves. Our Seniors, though disappointed, as expected appreciate and understand the situation.

Thank you Seniors!



Carrying the Cancer Cross

By Lisa Kelly



We all have crosses to carry in this life, from disease, injury and heartbreak, to challenging the structural sin in the world around us. None of them are crosses anyone desires or requests. They are given to us not by God but by the reality of limited human bodies and broken human societies. The question becomes how do we carry those crosses that are a part of every human life? Do we carry them with anger, resentment, fear, self-loathing, or regret that ripples out into the world through unhealthy actions towards others? Or do we carry our all-too-human crosses with patience, self-worth, gratitude for the goodness that remains, and a trust that even in this unwanted cross God is at work? In the First Principle and Foundation, St Ignatius Loyola implores that all is for the greater glory of God and thus we should not seek sickness or health, long life or short. It seems a ridiculous standard of faith to reach. In that moment of imagining Jesus calling me to carry cancer, I tearfully said yes, with tears of consolation that even this cross could somehow be used for good. I just had no idea how.

Two weeks later, I walked into the cancer centre for my last scheduled chemo treatment with no idea if the chemo was winning and a very long transplant road still lying ahead. Just after I checked in and took a seat waiting to be called for the requisite pre-chemo tabs, a middle-aged woman with glassy eyes walked over and gently asked, "Do you mind if I ask you about your experience? My mom just got her diagnosis a few days ago, and we don't know if the chemo and radiation will be worth what it will do to her quality of life. This is our first visit, and we don't know what to do."

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