



E info@cfjakarta.com
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 f facebook.com/cfjakarta
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Catholic Fellowship Jakarta

MESSENGER

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Church Update : Redefining Miracles

Bible Quote of the Month:

"Even to your old age and gray hairs I am He, I am He who will sustain you. I have made you and I will carry you; I will sustain you and I will rescue you."

Isaiah 46:4 NIV

Upcoming Events

Weekly Confessions

In anticipation of the Advent Season, CFJ will be providing the opportunity to attend Confessions at Gereja Kristus Raja starting an hour before our weekly Mass (10.00 am). The Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation is a great opportunity for us to reflect on our sins and ask for forgiveness in time to enter the Christmas season with an renewed heart.

This month, we at the Catholic Fellowship Jakarta have been blessed with the opportunity to celebrate an adoration and healing mass with Father Kevin Scallon and Sister Briege McKenna, who exemplify the meaning of true Christian role models. Though blessed with miraculous healing powers, Sister Briege is the first to remind us all that all honor and praise goes back to the Lord. She may intercede for people through prayer, but all the miraculous healings are ultimately the works of the Almighty Father.

Our encounter led us to reflect on a trend that many Christians today have: focusing on miraculous events instead of their relationship with God. It seems that when strong faith and prayer meet, many Christians expect that our acts of faith will move God into making the impossible possible. And in many cases, it is only because we have experienced such miraculous events that our faith becomes strengthened.

However, Sister Briege reminded us that while God is indeed capable of miraculous acts, His message is not one that should be linked primarily to these acts. When we truly believe in God and foster a close intimate relationship with Him, we will start to realize that everything that God has provided for us is a miracle in its own right.

Let us then not have faith in God because of His miracles. Instead, let us realize God's miracles by having faith in Him. It is only through the Eucharist, where we share a space with God through Jesus, that miracles can happen. Remember, "Happy are those who do not see but believe!"

Love,
CFJ



A Chat with Fr. Kevin Scallon and Sr. Briege McKenna

Father Kevin Scallon and Sister Briege McKenna have been traveling the world for over four decades, spreading God's word and performing miraculous acts of healing. This month, CFJ had the opportunity to sit down with the two to speak about their most recent visit to Indonesia, and what they hope for the youth here.

CFJ: Good evening, Father Kevin and Sister Briege, welcome back to Indonesia! It has been four years since your last visit to here. In your opinion, how has it changed so far?

Fr. Kevin: I sense a great deepening of faith here. We met a lot of people here the last time, and we gave retreats to them and now, their faith, their joy, their singing...well, everything really, is more fervent. I just sense a great growth within the Church, and I hope that's true.

Sr. Briege: And I would say since the last time we were here, now we see a lot of beautiful young people, who are very touched by the faith. Coming back to Jakarta and meeting all of you, especially now that you are discovering the treasures of your faith - this is very beautiful.

CFJ: What has kept you coming back to Indonesia again and again?

Fr. Kevin: We like Indonesia, we like the people, and we think it's best to come back as often as possible while we can still do it.

CFJ: During this visit to Indonesia, were there any special occurrences that stood out to you?

Sr. Briege: Well, I think it is very difficult to talk about miracles, because miracles happen internally as well. Last night, one woman came all excited to tell us that her mother had come out of a coma after we prayed for her. Many things happen where Jesus is present, and there is a great openness of the faith. And that, in itself, is a real blessing.

I also see a growing participation of the laity. We see a great desire, especially amongst the women, in renewing the Church and helping the priests. That priest retreat where we had 98 priests - that was really all organized by women. If it weren't for them, it wouldn't have happened. It wouldn't have happened if we waited for the men to do it (laughs).

CFJ: After celebrating a mass and bible fellowship with us, what do you think of CFJ?

Sr. Briege: Well, I spoke about CFJ at a Church event, and I told them all to look you up on your website! We were very touched and deeply impressed by you; we think you have great potential, as you commit your life to the Lord and spreading the Gospel, there is going to be great graces flowing to you.

Fr. Kevin: It's just interesting how the Church works in different places. Your part now, your group of young people, there is a great consciousness of faith in yourselves and not only faith, but also an urgency to hand it on and do something about it.

CFJ: Do you have any message for the Catholic youth in Indonesia?

Fr. Kevin: First and most important, especially for young people, is to focus your life on Jesus Christ, on his Gospel and his teachings. It is important to cultivate a personal relationship with Him, especially through the Eucharist and through the Sacrament. As young people, you need all the graces you can get as the world is going against you very powerfully. You need to focus very much on the Lord Jesus Christ. AND, Jesus, is pointing young people in the direction of His mother in a way that He has never been done before. A practical way of doing this is through the daily Rosary.



Sr. Briege: The young people need to not be apologetic about their faith. Sometimes we want to be polite and we don't want to offend people, so what we do is we compromise the very treasure that could be a message for all young Christians. You are not the same as every Christian - you are Catholic Christian. Every other church has widened the goalpost to suit the society, but Jesus didn't say when he founded the Church, "Go into the world and make people happy." He said, "Preach the Gospel," and He gave us the Ten Commandments, the Beatitudes, and the teachings of the Church. The Catholic Church has always been vigilant in the teachings you cannot compromise, and that's hard for us in our modern society, but in the end, it's the best, and it's the Truth.



"The young people need to not be apologetic about their faith."
-Sr. Briege

A Night for the Youth

On October 31st, close to one hundred young adults attended a bible fellowship co-hosted by Catholic Fellowship Jakarta and John Paul II Youth Foundation. The hour-long gathering was led by two very special guests: Father Kevin Scallon and Sister Briege McKenna.

At the start of the bible fellowship, Father Kevin emphasized the importance of the teachings of the Church by quoting Pope John Paul II's address at the Eucharistic Congress in 1976 regarding the confrontation between Christ, the Gospel, the Church, and those who are against them; how it is part of God's plan and thus, we should face it courageously.

The words of Pope John Paul II remind us that the Church is on a collision course with a secularized society that does not listen to the word of God. Therefore, we, as Catholics, have the obligation to equip ourselves with Church teachings as a shield against this final confrontation.

"The truth is, God has revealed himself to human beings through the divine revelations, and most particularly through his son Jesus Christ. At such a critical time in the history of mankind, it is therefore necessary for Catholics to be aware of the teachings of the Church." Father Kevin said, referring to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, which he described as "the only book you need" to be informed about Church beliefs.

A MASS TO REMEMBER

A middle-aged, pagan man who had suffered a debilitating stroke came to Gereja Kristus Raja on October 20th expecting healing for his health. Little did he know, God's healing hands would work in a most unexpected way: he experienced spiritual healing through an encounter with the Holy Spirit, and requested to be baptized that very afternoon.

This man was only one of many who travelled far and wide to attend the healing mass at Gereja Kristus Raja with Father Kevin Scallon and Sister Briege McKenna, and co-celebrated by Father Rochadi. While the mass was slated to begin at 11 am, there were people from various parts of Indonesia who arrived at the church as early as 8:30 am.

"I was astonished at the number of people who attended the mass! We even needed to roll out carpets because there weren't enough seats for everyone," said CFJ member Gisella Budiono.

Catholic Fellowship Jakarta had a record-breaking turnout amounting to approximately 1500 people on that Sunday morning. Not only was the main hall packed, with people standing as well as sitting on the floor, the third floor and basement were also filled to capacity.

Despite the challenges of accommodating such an overwhelming number of people, the mass itself unfolded as a blessed and beautiful event. In his homily, Father Kevin encouraged the congregation to avoid worldly teachings that have been embedded as a part of today's society, in favor of the teachings of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Father Kevin's homily was followed by a message from Sister Briege and an adoration service, in which Father Kevin carried the monstrance throughout all three levels of the church.

With healings, blessings, and miracles abound, the love and grace of God was felt by not only those who attended the healing service, but also those who had put in time and effort to ensure the event ran smoothly.

POINTERS For the Youth



Some take-away points from the session with Father Kevin and Sister Briege about the teachings of the Catholic Church are as follows:

1. **The dignity of the human life.** The Church does not acknowledge the creation of life through scientific, unnatural means, or in abolishing life through human action. Such things concern immutable moral ethics; therefore, the Catholic Church cannot yield on that.
2. **The authority of the Priests.** One thing Catholics do is confessing our sins to a priest (the sacrament of reconciliation). "It is the best therapy there is, there is nothing that even comes close to confessing your sins," Father Kevin advised.
3. **The Seven Sacraments.** Christians are people who believe that Jesus is the way, the truth and the life, and the only way to salvation. But there is a difference between Catholic Christians and other Christians - we believe that as Catholics, we encounter the living Jesus at the seven sacraments of the Church. We believe that He is alive, body and soul and plenty.
4. **The Holy Mass.** Many Catholics say: "I don't get a thing out of the mass, it's boring." The reason why people say that is because they're ignorant about what the mass actually is. We go to mass on Sunday because Jesus Christ invites us there. He is there to speak the word to us through the liturgy, and He is there to come to us through the Holy Sacrament.
5. **The Eucharist (Celebrated every Sunday at Mass).** The greatest victory for humankind is the victory of the passion of the death of Jesus Christ. It affects everybody because it opened salvation and paradise for all of us. The Eucharist is the victory of salvation which feeds our spiritual life and protects us against evil.
6. **The virtue of sexual purity.** Sexuality has become a recreational thing for most people, and the consequences of this are especially detrimental for young adults. "As Pope John Paul II said, your sexuality is a precious gift and a jewel of great price. Treat it accordingly," Father Kevin said.
7. **The sanctity of marriage.** When Catholics decide to get married, they enter into a sacrament that is a lifetime covenant of holiness and grace. This is important to remember as modern marriages are often taken lightly.
8. **The importance of prayer.** Pray that God protects His perfect plan for your life and that He would not let anything interfere with it, especially not yourself. Bear witness to Christ by what you do and what you are, and most of all, by what you say.

Voices of Congregation

What does the Rosary mean to you?



Celine Alan Delima

CFJ Crew Member

"By praying Holy Rosary, Mother Mary leads us closer to her Son, Jesus, and presents our needs before Him. And it's through this powerful prayer that many intentions have been answered and hearts been converted."



Michelle Salim

CFJ Rosary Prayer Leader

"Devotion to the Holy Rosary to me is about finding solace and the comfort of a mother through prayer. Praying the Rosary leads me to be more in love with Jesus."



Sandra Widjojo

CFJ Congregation Member

"I pray the Rosary prayer because it lays out meaningful prayers. I'm not the best at praying verbose, wordy prayers, so I rely on the Rosary because then I can rely on the quality of my prayer."

Ask Romo Sulis

Dear Romo Sulis,



As a busy high school student I'm finding it hard to set aside time to pray daily - let alone pray the rosary. Being a Catholic, is it important to pray the rosary? What's the difference between praying the rosary and the usual before-bed type of prayers?

When we wake up in the morning, we say "Good morning Mum, Dad" - a simple greeting, but with deep meaning. Likewise, a prayer can be a simple "Good morning God" without lessening its meaning.

A routine, simple, daily prayer to open and close your day is very important in building a strong, loving relationship. A relationship is developed through communication: the deeper the love, the stronger the longing to meet and interact. Praying means meeting and communicating with God, who is love.

The Rosary is a form of prayer. We don't have to pray the Rosary for us to be heard; but how often we pray the Rosary indicates how strong our love and devotion is to Mother Mary as the closest person to Jesus.

Get to know your CFJ : Sabrina Joseph, Co-Founder

1. What is your daily routine?

I think I'm a spontaneous person... I don't really have routines unless it's scheduled meetings that involve many others.

2. Describe yourself in less than 10 words.

Sociable, laidback, go-getter - I always know what I want and don't want, but I have horrible time management

3. What's the best gift you've ever received?

God's mercy

4. The best gift you've ever given?

Time

5. Favorite Bible Quote

"I alone know the plans I have for you, plans to bring you prosperity and not disaster, plans to bring about the future you hope for" Jeremiah 29:11 (GNT). It reminds me that God will always take care of me, in this life that is so full of uncertainties.

6. First memory of an encounter with God
2002 Easter I had a dream about Jesus and Mother Mary.



7. Who is your hero in life?

This will sound so cliché, but Jesus is, because He always comes through for me in difficult times.

8. What do you love the most about CFJ?

I love that CFJ has grown so much over such a short period of time because of the many committed individuals in it. I love the support and encouragement this community provides one another. Most importantly, I love how CFJ has made me feel so much closer to God's help.

9. In your opinion, what's the biggest problem facing the world today?

Ignorance

10. Where do you see yourself in 10 years' time?

I guess I will be married with a few children by then. CFJ would have grown much bigger, and hopefully we will be nationwide. It would be great if by that time, I have made many positive changes in society. Then again, I leave it all to God. He knows what's best.