

## 2019 Rector's Thanksgiving Penning

Is thanksgiving a function of, or related to, our being followers of Christ? Surely it is. Yet it is also a function of being human, for thanksgiving is a natural outflow from our hearts and from the core of us as human beings, provided we do not let other concerns block or smother it.

Earlier in May Jean Vanier (founder of world-wide L'Arche communities serving and learning from people with intellectual and developmental disabilities) died at age 91. That was deeply felt worldwide in all the 29 L'Arche communities, as people with and without disabilities from the communities found it hard to articulate their gratitude for Jean Vanier's devotion of his entire life in entering into relationship, and sharing life, with those deemed to be broken, different, and marginalized. And they are grateful to God for the gift of Jean Vanier. Some of them may not know, Jean Vanier was equally grateful to God for being able to so spend his life.

This inspired me to let you know that, as I write this Thanksgiving musing, I am thankful to God, and to you all in this Christian community of St. Chad's. For over 17 years God has given me the gift of being able to enter into relationship, and sharing life, with numerous parishioners, neighbors and friends, just as who they are, and some of them are even no longer here with us. Such gift allows me to learn (through sharing life) God's wonderful gifts to different people as God's beloved, irrespective of differences in race, cultural background, intelligence level and social status. I smile all the time as I see such gifts - much more than we can ask or imagine. I share with you this thanksgiving of mine, first and foremost as your Rector, but also as a fellow human being who happen to be able to walk with you to share life together. This thanksgiving will always remain with me, no matter where and how I fare as I walk on. I wish you too will also lead a thankful life in gratitude to God all the time, now and forever. Happy Thanksgiving!

In Christ,

*Paula Lee*



## 2019 年感恩節牧者隨筆

「感恩的心」是否跟我們作為信徒的行動和思維有關？答案肯定是「對的 – 正是如此」。然而，感恩的心，事實上跟所有人都掛鉤，因為只要人的心不被其他的思慮所阻擋，每個人都會很自然的讓感恩的心態從心底裏冒出來。

今年五月中著名加拿大人 Jean Vanier 以 91 高齡去世。他在世界各地一共設立了二十九個 L'Arche communities 以專門照顧有智障及發展障礙的人士，助其在群體中過獨立的生活。當他逝世的消息傳出後，所有受惠於或參與 L'Arche 事工的人，普遍的反應就是為 Jean 的一生向上主獻上感謝。而也許他們不曉得，Jean 在生之時也常常感謝上主給他能如此服務，也能從這些他所服侍的有智障或發展障礙的人身上看到並認識他們心靈的美麗。

在我想及這事之時，我也盼望在今次的牧者隨筆中告訴大家，我實在為能在這教會服務而十分感恩。在過去十七年有多的日子裏，上帝給予我機會和能力在這裏跟眾人共渡和共享群體的生活，包括所有新知舊雨，也包括已經走在我們前面並已抵達天家的教友。這份從上而來的禮物讓我認識更深於上主對每一個人的深愛 – 不分種族、言語、文化、背景，只因每個人都是上帝眼中的寶貝。每次有此體會時，我都會笑容綻開，感謝上主給我們的多過我們所想所求。我如此的分享，固然是以本堂牧師的身份，但更以大家都在這天路歷程上相遇並同行而作出。這份感恩的心會永不離我。我也祝願大家一生都活出「感恩的心」，從今時直至永遠。啊們。

主內，

*李志敏*

