

Homily of Fr. Stephen Lee on January 5, 2020 (Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord) Anniversary of the ordination of Fr. Kim Laurentius & Fr. Kim Daegun Andrea

Today is the anniversary of the ordination of Father Kim Jin-su and Father Kim Young-jung of Daegeon Andrea, both of whom are priests of our congregation.

The liturgy of today is called Epiphany. It is called Epiphany because it is the first day that Jesus, the baby, publicly revealed himself to the church after Christmas. In other words, three wise men from the east followed the guide of the stars to the manger of Bethlehem, and they worshiped the baby Jesus, and offered the gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh to the baby Jesus, and returned to their nations, which means that Jesus the baby is revealed to the whole world.

Today is also a very meaningful day, as it is also a memorial day for the ordination of the two priests, Laurence Kim and Andrew Kim.

The ten-year period of formation as a seminarian before becoming a priest proves that human beings have many shortcomings. Therefore they must be purified and sanctified in order to perform Christ's full priesthood. But it's a little short compared to 30 years of life in Nazareth before Jesus began his public life at the age of 30 years.

A priest is a man of Jesus who shows Jesus to his faithful. Now Jesus is not visible, but he reveals himself through a priest. Therefore a priest should smell the Fragrance of Jesus and he bears Jesus' heart, and looks at the world with Jesus' eyes and a priest should do what Jesus wants to do. Do you find Jesus in these two priests?

What was the most important thing that Jesus did in the world? It was to choose his disciples and train them to be apostles. Jesus stayed up all night praying when He selected His disciples. That's how important it was to select 12 apostles.

On the day of the ordination, the priests lay face down in front of the altar. The priest expresses in action the decision to abandon himself entirely and follow only the way of Jesus Christ.

The name of our congregation is **the society of the Most Holy Trinity of Mirinae**, which is held in honour of the Holy Trinity and we the members of our congregation gathered **to honour Holy Trinity through the immaculate heart of Mary.**

There is no bigger name than the Holy Trinity. With this great mission, God is sending the missionaries to many countries around the world and continue to do what the Lord wants to do.

We are also planning to recruit candidates for religious life in Malaysia, Indonesia and south East Asia and to train them as priests and brothers and to send them as missionaries to areas where there is a lack of priests.

There are more than 50 priests in Korea, and among them some priests and monks are working in Canada, Israel, Indonesia, etc., and there are many places in Southeast Asia waiting for us such as Vietnam, Myanmar, and Cambodia.

Wherever we go, we realize sincerely the word of the Lord: "There are many harvests, but there are not enough workers. Ask the owner of the harvest to send many of them."

I realize that every parish in the Archdiocese of Kota Kinabalu has almost 20 chapels scattered in the mountains and the fields and not enough priests and each priest is very busy for his ministry. I think we should help your archdiocese as much as we can.

I am so grateful to see you both working hard and doing your best for the children in Woorijib. I believe that God will pay you back in the heavenly kingdom.

Today is the anniversary of the ordination of the two priests. Let's pray to God that if their ardent hearts when they were ordained have cooled, He may rekindle the fire of love in their hearts.

The date of a priests' ordination means the birthday of the priest. Let us pray for these two priests so that they recall when they laid down and surrendered in front of the altar at the time of ordination.

Life is a long journey from this world to go to the heavenly kingdom. Let us walk together with the LORD all the time so that we will not be disappointed and we should not be distracted by world affairs, but only look at the almighty Lord. When we are looking at the world, we can be disappointed.

Peter was walking on the water and fell into the water when he looked at the wave and lost faith and become afraid. We should be able to go straight on this path without fear, if we only look at Jesus Christ. Let us all devote ourselves to the Lord.

Let me summarize what a priest will look like.

A priest is not a man who only lives for his own salvation. He lives for the salvation of others. So the priest is said to be bread that is eaten. How happy is life for others?

Let me relate to you the example of Fr. Maximilian Kolbe in the prison camp Auschwitz during World War II. One prisoner was sentenced to death. He cried, "I can't die because of my wife and sons."

Father Kolbe heard this voice and told the jailor, "I will die for him. Please save him." The jailor accepted the suggestion of Fr. Kolbe and moved Fr. Kolbe to the death row's room where all who received death sentences were crying with hatred. But Fr. Kolbe persuaded them to turn to praise God, and were executed praising God.

What is surprising is that the son of the man who saved by Fr. Kolbe would be ordained a priest and he is still a Polish priest.

People who live for others produce new hope for others. Father Kolbe died, but through a priest who inherited his spirit, Christ's love lives forever.

There was a mother of 4 priests and one nun and one grandson priest in Chuncheon Diocese of Korea. Her name is Lee Choon Sun Maria. She had 11 children, but three of them were lost when they were children and 4 sons became priests and one married and his son was also ordained. The youngest son (Father Oh Se-min) was ordained as priest in 1996. She became the first mother in the history of Korean Church to dedicate four sons as priests.

Lee Choon-sun Mary was preparing to die by offering a silent prayer every day for spiritual salvation, and she asked her youngest son priest to become the celebrant at her funeral mass and singing a happy song with her children, and she died at the age of 94 in 2015.

I have no doubt that God accepted Mary, who sacrificed her 4 sons and grandson as priests and 1 daughter as nun, to heaven as a great mother. How wonderful is the life given for others!

Behold Young people; don't you need to think seriously? **Life is not a recorded broadcast, but a once in a lifetime live broadcast that cannot be repeated again.**

One Korean old priest has said, "I will become a priest again even if I will be born again."

We need to choose one among the many possibilities in every moment in our life. But I think the choice of the vocation of priesthood is the best choice.

My loving young people, think about sincerely your course of life.

May God bless you all.

Thank you.

Holy Mary pray for the priests in the Church.