

## Accompanying Jesus: A future Jesuit

Sharing by Dennis Cho

Thanks for your prayer. Anthony Cho is my baby brother, the youngest of the 4 brothers. We call him baby (BB) in the family when he was little. This "BB" name calling got stuck in our mind that the family still call him "BB" at the age of 30. He is a gift to the family and to the church.

The youth group in the Transfiguration Church had an evening sharing/prayer. Over a hundred young people show up in the church sharing their special moments that were touched by Anthony. It was an eye opening event for me. I have heard a whole new chapter of Anthony that I don't know much about. This church is like his extended family. He tutored many young people in science, math and other subjects going way back when and even during the time when he was going through the chemo treatments. He is a dedicated altar boy. One of the girls thanked him for the altar service training. One time, after Anthony served two masses on a Sunday morning, this girl had an emergency and asked Anthony to replace her for the next mass. Anthony took a deep breath and picked up the cross serving the next mass just like that. The prayer, slide shows, singing and sharing started at 6pm and didn't finish until 9:30pm. Since Anthony is 30 year old by 12/8 this year, the youth group choose Palm 30 for Anthony. They call Palm 30 Anthony's Palm. There were too many stories that I wish I had recorded them. To these young people, Anthony is their hero, teacher, a smart person who can figure out anything (magnum cum laude at NYU), a basketball star, a person who can get a job well-done, a determined individual and a dedicated, responsible, and caring volunteer for the church.

He is a gift to the family. I would choose another word, obedience, to describe him. I don't remember an incidence when he objects to my request. During the time when his throat was damaged and couldn't swallow any food or liquid, Mom was sad that Anthony hasn't been eating for 2 weeks and asked him to drink an enriched drink. He hesitated but he did it anyway. It took him an enormous effort to swallow even the saliva. This one swallow took a toll on him. He knew the consequence but he obeyed.

During the past one and half year, he continues to spend lots of his time serving the church until he was readmitted to the hospital. When he stepped out of the apartment in June to be readmitted, he sighed for he knew that it was probably his last time stepping out this home. When I look at him at the hospital bed, the only other person that pops up in my mind who suffers so much is Christ. I checked the numerous needle holes in his arms. The nurses draw blood everyday making a new puncture and didn't use the pill line at Bellevue Hospital. After Anthony was transferred to SLOAN, the nurse continues to draw blood 4-5 times a day but luckily SLOAN knows how to use the pill line without making new needle holes on the arm. The purple blood stained in his arms and body as a result of pulling the pill line owing to infection

and reinstalling the pill line again and again at different location of the body. Three times Christ fell during the way to the mountain to die. Three times Anthony was sent to the ICU on the verge of death. He couldn't make it out after the 3rd ICU trauma. Despite the situation, Anthony didn't mention a word about pain. He tried to show no sign of suffering because he knew if he showed it, the family and friends will feel bad. He continued to cheer people up asking how others are doing, cracked a joke, wrote emails and smiled. When the doctor conducted the liver biopsy, he didn't even make a sound. When asked how he felt, he said casually, "It feels like Christ being pierced through the heart." When I look at the cross, it reminds me of my sins that cause Christ's pain. Now, I have another way to fight sin. I just need to remember Anthony.

I also found out that he plans to pursue Jesuit to become a priest. He thinks that Jesuit requires smart people with higher degree. His original plan was to pursue a doctor degree MD, spend a couple of years to work and buy an apartment for mom and dad before going to the Jesuit. He died on 7/31/08. Coincidentally, 7/31 is the day the church dedicated to Saint Ignatius of Loyola, the founder of Jesuit. I hope that Saint Ignatius of Loyola takes him on 7/31 to be a member of Jesuit in heaven completing Anthony's dream. The last writing he made on a piece of paper since he couldn't talk is on 7/28 4:45am " Thank you Mom, Dad, Bros, everyone. It's been a journey! God Bless!" Anthony believes that he has a blessed life. He has a good mom, dad, bros, friends and church. His life is blessed. If he is cured, he will continue to serve the church. Else, he is already very satisfied for what God has given him.

I am glad that he passed away peacefully. Every sacrament that could be provided in a Catholic way had been provided to Anthony. Numerous blessing was given to him. Many young people from the Transfiguration Church, 3 priests and 1 deacon and family were there at his last moment. The last heart beat happened when folks were singing a Hail Mary prayer in Latin ending with the word AMEN. The machine that kept track of the heart sounded the alarm at his last heart beat and ending the Hail Mary with AMEN. His impact to others goes beyond the family extending to many young people's life. The pastor had made a request to Anthony to look after the young people in the church. He will continue to make an impact until the day we re-unite. God bless, Dennis.

### Epilogue by Anthony Chan:

During a sharing on Eucharistic, a friend reminded me of the relationship between loving Jesus and loving other people in our daily life. Loving Jesus needs to bear fruit in loving our neighbors whereas loving neighbors enables us to better experience the love of Jesus as we come to adore Jesus in the Eucharist. It is therefore encouraging to have the above sharing of the life experience of one who so loves Jesus.

"Not only are we to receive and adore the Eucharist, we must live the Eucharist. We are to let the rays of mercy from the monstrance pass through us and go out through all the world." (Diary of St. Sister Faustina)

## 陪伴耶穌：一位天上的耶穌會會士

曹若舟

感謝你們的祈禱！若瀚是我家四兄弟中排行最小的弟弟。我們家裏從小都管叫他 BB（小寶寶）。因為叫慣了，即使他都已到了 30 歲，我們還是叫他 BB。

他是天主給予我們教堂的恩賜。紐約顯聖容堂的青年團在某傍晚為他舉行祈禱追悼會，過百位青少年到場分享了他們曾被若瀚感動過的時刻，這個祈禱分享開了我的眼界，讓我認識了若瀚我尚未認識的一面。這個教堂就像他的另一個家，他自多年前，甚至直到他在接受化療過程時，曾幫助過很多青少年，幫助他們溫習科學、數學等學科。他是個很認真盡責的輔祭，其中一位女孩感謝若瀚為輔祭提供的訓練，還有一次，當若瀚已經連續為兩台主日彌撒剛做完輔祭，這女孩因有急事，請若瀚幫忙代位，他也二話不說，做一個深呼吸便拿起十字架再進堂為下一台彌撒做輔祭了。這個祈禱會從六點開怡，會中大家分享了很多內心話，看了一些幻燈片，和唱了歌，到了九點半才結束，其中有太多動人故事，可惜我那時沒有記錄下來。這年的十二月八日聖母無染原罪瞻禮將會是他的三十歲生日，青年組選了聖詠第三十首病後感恩歌獻給他，的確，他已脫離病苦了。若瀚是那些年輕人的英雄、老師、和什麼事都能解決的智者，他是紐約大學的高材生，又是籃球健將，他有毅力決心、認真進取、凡事總能做到最好，他更滿懷愛心為教堂服務。

若瀚也是天主給我們家人的禮物。我用來形容他的一個詞就是服從。他從未拒絕過我的任何要求。記得有段時間，他的喉嚨因化療傷至無法吞食任何食物或飲料。這時若瀚已兩星期未進食了，母親很擔心難過，就要他喝杯營養飲品，他猶豫著，卻還是照做了。其實那時他連吞嚥口水也極其困難，更何況是一罐飲料；他明知會有多大痛苦，但還是照樣聽命。

他走前身患絕症的一年半，還是繼續為教堂服務，一直到他再次被送進醫院。當他踏出他的寓所要前往醫院時，嘆了口氣，知道那可能是最後一次踏出那寓所了。在 Bellevue 醫院住院期間，護士每天都來抽血，每天都在若瀚手上留下新針孔。後來我們轉到了 SLOAN 醫院，護士依舊每天抽四到五次血，但因為這家醫院使用了針管，若瀚不用每次抽血都多挨一針。然而因為針管引起了感染，護士必須不斷換地方插針管，使得若瀚身上到處是淤青。當我看到病床上的他時，我腦中閃過的是耶穌，只有祂，才受過更多的苦難吧。如同基督背十

架上山的途徑跌倒過三次，若瀚三次病危被送入加護病房，但在第三次他卻過不了。在整個艱難的過程中，若瀚沒說過一個苦字，他總是盡量不把自己的痛苦表現出來，因為他知道若表現出痛苦，家人和親友會難過。他繼續逗大家開心，慰問大家，講笑話，寫電子郵件給大家，而面上總是帶著笑容。當醫生為他進行肝臟切片檢查時，他一聲也沒吭。事後我們問他感到怎樣，他只是若無其事的說，「就像基督的心被刺了一般」。我每看到十字架上的耶穌，就想起我犯的罪過使耶穌受苦。而現在我多了一個抗拒罪過的方法，就是想起若瀚。

我知道他計劃要進入耶穌會當神父。他認為耶穌會需要聰明和有高等學位的人，所以他本來的計劃是等到醫學畢業，工作兩三年，省點錢為父母買間公寓後再進入耶穌會的。感謝主召叫了他要成為醫人靈魂的醫生，他於 2008 年 7 月 31 日去世，恰巧這天正是教會慶祝耶穌會會祖聖依納爵的紀念日。我祈求聖依納爵在當天來接受若瀚加入天上的耶穌會，完成他的志願。自從若瀚不能說話起，他最後的筆跡，是他在 7 月 28 日凌晨 4:45 在紙上寫下的話：「爸、媽、哥哥，謝謝你們！謝謝大家，陪我走了這段路程！願天主保佑你們！」若瀚感到他的生命很幸福，他有很好的爸、媽、兄長、朋友及教會，真是受祝福的生命。如果他能痊癒，他會繼續為教會服務；但若然世上的旅程不能延續，他對天主已給予了他的一切，亦已心滿意足了。

我很慶幸若瀚走的很安祥。他已領受了聖事和多次的降福，他在我們家人、三位神父及一位執事，還有很多顯聖容堂的年輕人的陪伴下渡過了在世上的最後一刻。當我們用拉丁文剛唱完聖母誦，正唱完亞孟，心電機便響起來，表示他的心臟已跌完最後一下。這個跟隨無染原罪聖母用愛主愛人的一生所湊的生命樂曲，就是這樣完成了，亞孟。他的影響已從家人延伸到許多年輕人的生命中，本堂神父曾請求他照顧教堂的青少年，他還是會繼續影響他人的，直到有天我們團聚。願主祝福你們！若舟

後記（陳慶鴻）

有一次與朋友分享耶穌聖體的愛，這位朋友提醒我熱愛耶穌聖體和在日常生活中愛近人的密切關係。愛主耶穌須結出愛我們近人的善果，而對身邊的人的愛，愈能讓我們在領聖體時更深刻體驗耶穌對我們的愛。謹以曹若瀚在生命中愛主及愛人的善表與大家共勉。

聖傳天娜修女在她的靈修日記中寫著：「我們不但領聖體和朝拜聖體，還必須生活出聖體，讓從耶穌聖體發出的慈悲光芒透過我們進入世界的每一角落。」