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FEATURES INTERVIEWS,  
ARTICLES & NEWS OF INTEREST  
TWICE PER SEMESTER. TO  
CONTRIBUTE ARTICLES, EMAIL

[info@ctis.sg](mailto:info@ctis.sg)



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# CTIS NEWSLETTER



## Graduation 2015

It was a joyful ceremony for the first batch of 35 graduates for the Certificate in Theology (Mandarin) conducted by Catholic Theological Institute of Singapore. In the presence of family, friends and more than a hundred guests, they received their Certificates from His Grace Archbishop William Goh at the graduation ceremony on July 28.

Addressing the graduates and those present, Archbishop Goh said since Singapore is a multi-racial country with multiple cultures, religions and many immigrant groups, we as messengers of the Gospel must strive hard to suit the needs of the public; if the target audience is mandarin-speaking, we have to equip ourselves to evangelise in Mandarin.

CTIS Rector Fr. James Yeo mentioned 3 reasons for studying at CTIS – to become a better person so that what is learnt is not just head knowledge but leads to a change in heart; to be able to evangelise more confidently and to better serve the Church with humility and commitment.

Graduating student Justin Lim commented, “For the Chinese community, this type of course is long overdue. In Hong Kong, such courses have long existed and the people there are more knowledgeable, spiritually advanced and more confident in evangelising. So having this course here is very timely.”

The graduates had completed units like Introduction to Christian Philosophy, Overview of Catholic Theology, Introduction to the Old Testament, Fundamental Moral Theology, Overview to Liturgy, and Academic Writing.

**“The course is very good, very informative, and raises the level of knowledge in Catholic Theology for the laity”**

**Cert-in-Theology graduate Anthony**

## Q&A with Sr Elaine Seow, FMVD

### When was the last time that you had fun?

With my community in Taipei, when we went to the beach after a hard day's work. We swam in the sea just when the sun was setting, and then had a simple picnic together. With my sister, Sr. Sandra Seow, also a Verbum Dei Missionary based in Singapore. We went out for a meal, and shared about what was going on in our lives, the good and the bad. It was good to catch up with each other again.

### Share a moment when you were embarrassed.

My Mandarin was not so good when I was sent to Taipei in 2001, so there were lots of embarrassing moments. One joke that friends still laugh at was when someone said in Mandarin, "Da huo ji", which actually meant a lighter. But I misunderstood and thought it meant to hit (da) at the turkey (huo ji), and I told them not to be so cruel.



### Share a time when you felt God very far away.

When I was studying theology in Fu Jen University in Taipei. Sitting in for hours, understanding little as the professors went on and on in Mandarin, having to read through stacks of notes and books in a language which I was not familiar and good at, I lost sight of my mission and reason of being a missionary in Taiwan, and I felt that God had abandoned me. It took me a long time before I learnt to pray and dialogue with God again.

### Why are you teaching theology in Mandarin when you are feel more comfortable in English?

For practical reasons, because I studied my Baccalaureate and Licentiate in Mandarin, so I was invited to help out with the Chinese section of CTIS. Also, I feel God calling me to a mission among the Chinese-speakers. I have been a missionary in Taiwan for 14 years, and had been occasionally invited to China for retreats and classes. There is a huge need to spread the Word of God in these areas. Also the Chinese-speakers do not have as much resources as the English-speakers, and I feel like a sort of bridge between the two worlds, reading and absorbing things in English, then sharing them to the Chinese-speakers.

### What is one thing about the founder of your congregation that inspires you?

Fr. Jaime Bonet's dream was that everyone can preach the Gospel; priests, religious, married couples, singles, and even children. Once we have the experience of encountering Jesus in prayer, we will naturally want to pass the Good News on to everyone. Most Catholics are shy of opening our mouths to share, not because we do not have the experience of God, but we simply cannot find the words, gestures, and the courage to do so. A huge part of my mission is to help people find suitable tools so that we can preach what we believe, and by doing so, help Jesus make disciples in the world of today.

### What are the things you miss most when you are out of Singapore?

My mom's food. We are Peranakans, and she can really whip up a great dish of buah keluak, rendang, sambal udang, you name it!

My family doing things together, like making popiah, watching movies or simply attending mass as a family. Also to chat with them without worrying about the overseas charges.

The Singapore way of doing things; fast, efficient and at the same time, very endearing and caring.

**(Continue on Page 3)**

# In and around CTIS - latest news & happenings

## New Students Briefing

A New Students Briefing was conducted for the Semester 2 intake was held on 24 July 2015. In line with CTIS tradition, Academic Director Arthur Goh welcomed the new students, introduced the staff and gave the new students an overview of the curriculum for Certificate in Theology and our Institute's Rules & Regulations.

Everyone adjourned upstairs to the CTIS Library where the new students were given a conducted tour and a short briefing about library opening hours and regulations. The students received their CTIS matriculation card after signing a copy of the CTIS Rules & Regulations.



## Fund Raising Carnival at St. Anne's Church

CTIS will hold a carnival to publicise our Certificate and Diploma courses and to raise funds. This will be held at St Anne's Church in Sengkang on Sat 31 October from 9:30am - 3:30pm.

There will be several food stalls, water slides, kiddie rides, and other fun games stalls. Coupons will be sold in sets of \$10 and can be obtained at CTIS Library, St. Anne & nearby parish churches and some nearby Catholic schools.

CTIS will setup an info booth to provide information, distribute promotional flyers and our new 2016 Prospectus.

Students, graduates and Friends of CTIS are strongly urged to support and come to the Carnival along with their family and friends. If you would like to help out at the Carnival or sell tickets, etc. kindly give your name and contact details to [johnseah@ctis.sg](mailto:johnseah@ctis.sg) or sms to 94871163.

(Q&A with Sr Elaine Seow, FMVD, continued from p 2)

### What do you normally do to relax?

I like jogging, cycling, cooking, watching movies with my community. Also, since I enjoy exploring, I would also check out nice and cheap places where the community can go to have a good and healthy time.

### Favourite bible passage?

"It is not enough for you to be my servant, to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back the survivors of Israel; I shall make you a light to the nations so that my salvation may reach the remotest parts of earth." (Isaiah 49:6)



## CTIS Student Body - Facts and Figures

### **From Lumen Gentium 14:**

*He is not saved, however, who, though part of the body of the Church, does not persevere in charity. He remains indeed in the bosom of the Church, but, as it were, only in a "bodily" manner and not "in his heart." All the Church's children should remember that their exalted status is to be attributed not to their own merits but to the special grace of Christ. If they fail moreover to respond to that grace in thought, word and deed, not only shall they not be saved but they will be the more severely judged.*



CTIS is launching an official Page on Facebook. At the moment, we have not yet been assigned a short, easy-to-remember URL. So we have to use a long cumbersome URL until the Facebook Page gets at least 100 'Likes'. This temporary link will be emailed to all CTIS students and graduates. If you are an existing Facebook user, kindly click the link and 'Like' our Page.

The new URL will be announced after the Page exceeds 100 'Likes'.

### **Your Alma Mater needs help!!**

**Volunteers needed as Carnival helpers on Sat 31-Oct 9am-2pm. Or help us sell carnival coupons at the following parishes on the days listed below. Please call or sms John at mobile 94871163 or send email to johnseah@ctis.sg**

CARNIVAL COUPON SALES DATES	
Parish	Date
St Vincent de Paul	Sep 12/13
Holy Trinity	Sep 19/20
IHM	Oct 10/11
Divine Mercy	Oct 17/18
St Anne's	TBA

#### Total number of current students:

197 from both English and Mandarin language streams.

#### Oldest & youngest students:

Our oldest student is a lawyer taking the Diploma at the age of 77. He is by no means the oldest as someone recently graduated with the Cert-in-Theology (Mandarin) at the age of 83. Our youngest student is a NSF serviceman who will celebrate his 21st birthday this year.

#### Parish with the most students:

The champion parish is Holy Spirit with 20 students, 2 of whom are currently taking the Dip course.

#### Mandarin-language courses:

So far, 75 persons have been enrolled. 53 have graduated or completed leaving a balance of 22 current students.

#### Audit students:

Only 23 out of the total of 197 are audit students.

