



Giáo Lý Ơi



Welcome to Issue #6 of GLO!
Happy New Year! We are still in the Christmas season!
Let us keep the mystery of baby Jesus in our hearts.

<http://groups.vmpwa.org/GiaoLy>



No Food in Classrooms!!

The classroom areas and hallways have a lot of trash lying around. In an effort to improve this problem, most of the large garbage cans have been relocated to the lunch area. Students, please eat in the lunch area and throw away your garbage there. Catechists, volunteers, and other staff, please encourage các em to eat in the lunch area to reduce trash and spoiled food odors. Thank you! =)

Mass (6PM) & Adoration - Friday, January 6th

It was wonderful seeing those who went to December's Adoration! Jesus is always wanting to see you during this special time. Cha Thành is reserving adoration on the first Friday of each month for the youth!

There are weekly themes (the upcoming theme is kindness), and an opportunity to write notes and prayer to offer to Jesus. Confession will also be offered during this time. Everyone is invited to come for the first youth adoration of 2017!



January Classes Schedule Reminder!

Saturday, Jan 7th – Normal Classes
Saturday, Jan 14th – Normal Classes
Saturday, Jan 21st – Normal Classes
Saturday, Jan 28th – No classes because of Hội Chợ Tết this weekend!

Thank you to Chị Hà and all the parent volunteers who come and provide us with delicious food! We cannot run without you! If you would like to help, please contact Chị Hà through email (hatran98012@yahoo.com).

Giáo Lý Booth for Hội Chợ Tết!

Hội Chợ Tết will be held the last weekend of January! Similar to Hội Chợ Hè, we will have a game booth, and will need volunteers to run the booth. Be sure to save the weekend (or even part of it) to come, donate a few hours, and celebrate the New Year! More information coming soon!



Prayers and Condolences

As the New Year comes, please continue to pray for all those who are ill, those who have recently passed away, and those who have gone before us. Please especially keep in your prayers the following:

Maria Nguyễn Mỹ Linh, mother of Âu Liêu Nguyễn (Thêm Sức 2 student)
Phêrô Nguyễn Thành, husband of Chị Diệu Hiền (Hội Đồng Mục Vụ)
Phaolô Bùi Đình Tâm, father of Thảo and Tricia (Thêm Sức 3 catechist)
Maria Nguyễn Thị Hữu, grandmother of Minh-Quân Triệu (Phụ Trách Chung)

May they have eternal rest in the Lord.



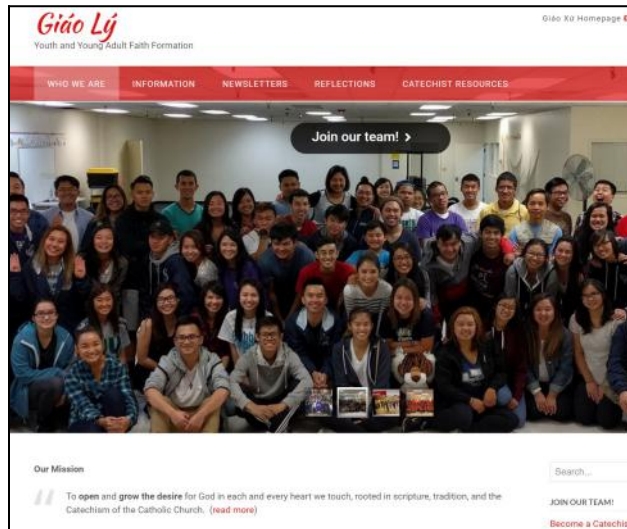


Giáo Lý Ơi Continued



Giáo Lý Website!!

Check out our new Giáo Lý website that shares our class calendar, and other important information for the year! You can find us at <http://groups.vmpwa.org>, or linked from the main parish website. Find information about our classes, the volunteers, and reflections and news about what is going on.



Don't Judge a Manger by its Appearance

A reflection from Quỳnh-Như Nguyễn, Phụ Trách Giáo Xứ (Parish Life Coordinator)

Even before the Christmas season began, there were many signs that made it obvious that it was coming. Christmas lights are hung, Christmas trees brought out and decorated, Christmas music playing on every radio station, and the list goes on. All the visuals made it blatantly clear that the special holiday season was upon us.



What isn't made clear is that the greatest gift everyone receives is a King, the King above all Kings. Why? It's simple. Jesus, the Son of God, was born as a baby boy in a lowly place, and laid in a manger, a feeding trough for cows and horses. Not the first image I would think of when I think of royalty, of a God. Where's the warrior? The great Messiah to deliver us all? If anything, being born in a feeding trough sounds unsanitary.



Yet, in the most unexpected of places, we find our *Savior* and our *friend*. Would we think to look in this sort of place for something so great? In this Sunday's Gospel, the shepherds were in such a hurry to go to find Jesus. They were tending their flock of sheep, going about their daily lives when they received news from the angel about the birth of Jesus. They came as they were, not worrying about looking physically presentable to Jesus because their hearts were open to Jesus. They willingly let Jesus into their lives, and as a result, they received so much joy and happiness. So much that they had to share this news to all they met!

In life, it's easy to overlook the difficult moments in our lives, questioning where God is. But in the coldest of nights, in the humblest of places, Jesus made himself accessible to us as a vulnerable baby. He didn't want to come to us as a great, untouchable person. In coming to us as a baby boy, Jesus signaled to everyone that he wanted to create a loving relationship with us. Not only did he come to redeem us, but he came to know us, to live among us, and to love us. As we all walk on our faith journey, this Gospel encourages us to seek for Christ in the mangers of our lives and to continue building a relationship with him. Sometimes in the darkest of times is when the pure light of Jesus shines through and transforms us anew.