

## 18<sup>th</sup> General Meeting, March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2019

The Guest Speaker Rev. Fr. Edward Chau King Fun was briefly introduced by our Second V.P. Elizabeth Cheng. Fr. Chau received his PhD from Fu Ren University and was appointed by the Propaganda Fidei University (傳信大學) in Rome to teach at the Holy Spirit Seminary and is the Director of the Philosophy Division. He is also the Chairperson of the Diocesan Commission for Interreligious Dialogue. The title of his talk was “眾裏尋他千百度” i.e. “finding God in hundreds of ways”. Fr. Chau spiced his talk with quotations from many famous Chinese poets and philosophers.

[Download] for a summary of the talk]

### (A) Taking God from own Inner Self

Human nature is basically good (人之初，性本善) according to Confucius (孔子). This is in same teaching with Christianity (Gen. 1:31) – “And God saw everything that he had made and behold it was very good”. So to seek goodness, all that a person has to do is to seek his inner self. In our modern world, a person often loses his bearing because of the distraction surrounding him. He needs quietness, solitude and peace with prayer leads to understanding and forgiveness. Every person must make use of the right time to grasp to opportunity to do good (夫子時也，夫子去也).

In life, there is a cycle, e.g. night time and day time; darkness (sleeping time) follows by light (waking time). In the same way, man's sin (with repentance) is followed by God's forgiveness.

### (B) Cycle of Life

In nature, a plant grows then the flowers bloom, then it wilts and seeds are formed. Thus “麥子死，百年教”. Our society often muddles up this natural cycle, but one must go deep into heart to find God. To seek truth and goodness, all a person needs to do is to seek one's inner self – that is where God is.

### (C) Looking Ahead

The past is gone and buried and should be forgotten. One cannot change what is past. As the famous poet Longfellow wrote “Let the dead Past bury its dead!” One must look forward and forget the sad past and look towards the “third cycle” – the future. Seeks help and

forgiveness for misdeeds and finds satisfaction, joy and forgiveness. Thus in solitude search one's inner-self to find God. This is the Chinese philosophy of life.