

# My Naju Experience

Sharing from a Singapore pilgrim



What post-Naju journey means to me  
from now

Tommy Tong  
26 December 2013

## Precious Friends that inspire



**The joy and warmth despite the cold weather,** were most memorable for my spouse Agnes and I during our trip to Naju last November. We are indeed blessed with so many new found friends and spiritual director, Father Francis Su, who are instrumental to Mother Mary and Christ's prompting to God. I have not experienced so much love and blessed feeling of Christ and Mother Mary's presence among us before. Naju has obviously opened my soul to God's love and forgiveness which is pioneered by none other than our beloved Julia Kim, and the spiritual guidance of Father Su who led us to God at Our Lady's blessed house and at her Holy Mountain. The Holy Mountain is a stark reminder of Mount Sinai where Moses' first encountered God. It certainly affirms

that fact for me who instead of seeing God on a burning bush as in the case of Moses, I saw so many other evidences of God and Mother Mary's presence through the walk at the stations of the cross, the miraculous sight of the flow of Mother Mary's milk and flow of holy water at the Mountain. The celebration of the Mass there for this year's anniversary of Mother Mary's fragrance oil was the most miraculous so much so it still lingers with me up to now. We are grateful to Christ, Mother Mary, Julia Kim and Father Su, and the company of all of our fellow pilgrims who were there to enhance these heavenly blessings. You are indeed, endowed.

## The doubting Thomas that I was



This is the famous icon for the year of Faith 2012 - 2013 proclaimed by Pope Benedict. As Thomas is my baptismal name, I was exactly like him before I set foot in Naju.

**“Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hands into into his side, I refuse to believe.” (John20:25)**

I did not think much of Naju. It was Agnes who nudged me whether we should join her sister Dorothy and friend Juliana who initiated the trip. I had just a rudimentary idea what Naju was and what that place represented. I was imbued with nothing but more doubts of the benefits that may accrue.

## Thomas' (that's me) doubt list:

1. Treat this as a holiday, not a serious pilgrimage
2. Agnes warned me I may be agitated, impatient as I am, I may not be able to undergo monastic type of retreat. I agreed in silence, albeit reluctantly, and I proceeded arming myself to the teeth by bringing electronic readers, tablet PCs, MP3 players as alternates to my likely boredom and even prepared a mental shopping list of what I may buy while in Seoul. Religion without temporal indulgence makes life incomplete and unrealistic. It is more of the latter that pre-occupied me with excitement prior to the trip
3. Sinful as I am, I don't think Christ nor Mother Mary is interested in me by showing signs nor take-away miracles for my keeping while I am there
4. Imbued with the idea that the group members traveling with me are likely to be zealously religious and therefore, not interesting to talk with
5. I think I am already a "good" practicing Catholic, and Christ is already well-pleased with what I already am. That's nothing else I need to do to please God. Helping fellow Catholics? Am I their keeper? (Cain's answer to God regarding Abel's whereabouts)
6. I read the bible regularly and think I understood quite a bit of God's word. What else do I need to discover more?
7. Unless I experience or see something differently from what I already know, Naju is just like another religious site; similar to those that I have been for the past years
8. Priests are overwhelmingly boring, what comes out from their mouths are repeated litanies. I would expect our spiritual director to be no different from my opinionated thought about priests

I was totally unprepared for what our Blessed Mother and her Son Jesus have in store for me.

## Naju transformed me from guilt , and that made me humbly exclaimed “My Lord and My God”

Endless miracles began to unravel during my sojourn at Our Blessed Mother’s House and at the Holy Mountain of Our Lady. I was spiritually blind. My eyes were open by the Lord and made me realize that:

1. Events that happened in my life did not arose out of happenstance
2. My spiritual blindness had seriously missed so many promptings from Mother Mary to come back to Jesus, her Son by deflating my over-blown ego
3. My spiritual blindness was healed by Mother Mary and Christ at Naju. Scripture readings are now revealed more clearly to me as I continue reading the Bible
4. That I need to change
5. What I need to do and go from here; Christ’s call to do a long overdue mission for Him

## Near-fatal events in my life

I encountered 2 near-fatal experiences, one in 1989 when I was diagnosed with 3rd stage malignant nose cancer. I was 39 years old at the time. I was spared. I knew it was Christ who spared my life. Though I was grateful, I continued taking his mercy for granted. The second near-fatal incident was just last year in 2012 when I had multiple heart attacks, with the most dangerous one while in Hong Kong for a supposedly short break with Agnes. The doctor in Hong Kong warned me it was a life and death situation, and I should quickly either award myself into a local hospital or return to Singapore and admit into hospital immediately. As for latter, I was warned by the doctor that I may not even make it back home in the event of an attack while on transit. I fainted within the hour after landing at Changi airport. It

happened at home and I had to be rushed by ambulance to the hospital. It could have triggered into an imminent stroke, but I was spared. The senior surgeon refused to perform an urgent surgery due to the fact that two-thirds of my heart muscles were already damaged and I was living on one-third of my heart muscles. Through prayers and Christ's mercy,



the senior surgeon finally decided to perform a full by-pass surgery after 2 weeks in the hospital. During the 7-hour surgery, my heart was taken out of my body, and I depended on a machine to hang on for dear life. Through God's miracle, I was discharged after another week's stay in the ICU unit. And wearing a pacer for good measure.

God spared my life twice. He did not take me away. There must be something that he wants me to do while still on earth. I kept praying for a vision of what is expected of me. But I continued taking him for granted and indulged myself in more

sinful ways.

Then in July this year, I was suddenly interested in St Francis of Assisi and started reading up whatever books of his life and work. I bought a statue of St Francis and started to pray for enlightenment. All I knew was he gave up his materialistic life and riches by offering them to the poor and lived among them, serving their needs. I did not understand his real mission from Christ. I thought this is simply what I need doing since I am already semi-retired and I should just do something for the church. I wanted to be a lay deacon, but lack confidence. I only found out the truth of my overdue mission for Christ when I was at Naju. Everything was unraveled to me by Our Lady of Naju and Jesus the very day I stepped foot into her chapel following my trip to her Holy Mountain.

## Coherent sights and revelations at Naju

1. Our Lady statue and what she represents
2. Why did I wept like a child at the Holy Mountain
3. The presence of Our Lady's milk
4. Father Francis Su's homilies that struck me
5. Julia Kim's sufferings and humility that brings love into my life
6. The call by the Lord to start my lay vocation to help re-build his Church ( remembering the Lord's call to St Francis of Assisi)

### Statue of Our Lady Of Naju

The first miracle I saw at Naju was the revelation of Mary in her appearance as Our Lady of Immaculate Conception which is depicted by her crushing the head of the serpent which is Satan himself. It immediately tells me that she is perpetually helping us fight against Satan whose victory is frustrated because she protects us from Satan's perpetual temptation of mankind. She is the new Eve that brings us to life as the original Eve led us to sin, deserving death. We must not stray from her motherly protection against eternal damnation.



In spite of this perpetual battle that our blessed Mother fights at every moment to protect us as her beloved children, we continue to sin against her Son, Jesus. This is very evident to me when I saw with my own eyes the tears that flowed from her statue at her Blessed House at Naju.



This was the photograph that I took with my camera that shows her tears. I felt numbed with this revelation on how unworthy I am kneeling before her at her chapel. Even as a Catholic who go frequently to Mass, I did not realize how much I have taken her and Jesus for granted with empty prayers tainted with half-truths and sinfulness. Mass attendance was perfunctory then. Until my pilgrimage at Naju, I did not realize that receiving the body of Christ in this euphemistic condition not only lead me to further sin, but I am crucifying him every time when I receive his body and blood as holy communion in an unclean state. And through this, I continue to torture our Blessed Mother with the pains and sufferings of her beloved Son who continues to suffer now because of me, not 2000 years ago. How can I claim kinship with Mary as my Mother when I am privy to all these pain and tears that she cries daily? How dare I partake of Christ's body when I am the one who continue hammering those nails into my own God because of my constant state of spiritual uncleanness when I approach him? Her tears even turn into blood as revealed by Mama Julia as long as we continue to sadden her through our disobedience to her only Son. Why am I reviving satan when she is crushing his head in order that I can be saved through her



protection and intercession? I have been sinful in many ways. The main one being my pride and ego which affect my spouse as she has been the constant victim of my unrestrained insults and hurtful words in our daily arguments. Call that communication if you will. Even my children who are already adults constantly avoided me. I chose to be a hermit living in my own egoistic and materialistic world. My temporal carvings were never satiated and I craved for more.



Even so  
husbands should love their  
wives as their own bodies. He who  
loves his wife loves himself. For no man  
ever hates his own flesh, but nourishes  
and cherish it, as Christ does the  
Church .

- Eph 5:28-29

My immediate priority is **CHANGE**. On my knees I implored for Mother Mary's mercy at her chapel. This, our dear Mother mercifully granted me on the night of Friday 22 November 2013. All these years, my attempts to change for God was met with reluctance and resistance. But that transformation happened on that miraculous night. My mind became clearer which developed into joy peace that cannot be described. This is evinced in my spouse Agnes, who is happy to see that great transformation in me. I won her trust through Mother Mary's miracle. Not a physical miracle, but a deeply impressed touch by Mother Mary of Naju.

# Naju Sights that struck me



*Presence of Our Lady's Milk.*

*He asked water and she gave him milk*

- Judges 5:25



*Behold, I will extend prosperity to her like a river, and the wealth of all nations like an overflowing stream; and you shall suck, you shall be carried upon her hip, and dandled upon her knees. As one whom his mother comforts, so I will comfort you*

- Isaiah 66: 12-13



*My dear children, why do you continue to sin. Look at what you are doing to my beloved Son, your God*



*Mama Julia Kim's  
warmth, through whom  
we feel Mother Mary's  
Love and Forgiveness  
that we are healed*



*Father Su's charismatic  
leadership as our earthly  
shepherd guiding us to  
Mother Mary and Jesus:  
"Come to Mother Mary as a  
little child. Do not come as an  
adult."*



*The ray that shines from above  
that focus on my head as I wept  
like a child during the walk to  
Calvary; a sign that I have a  
mission that I must do for Christ*



*In that day the deaf shall hear the words of a book, and out of their gloom and darkness the eyes of the blind shall see. The meek shall obtain fresh joy in the Lord, and the poor among men shall exult in the Holy One of Israel.*

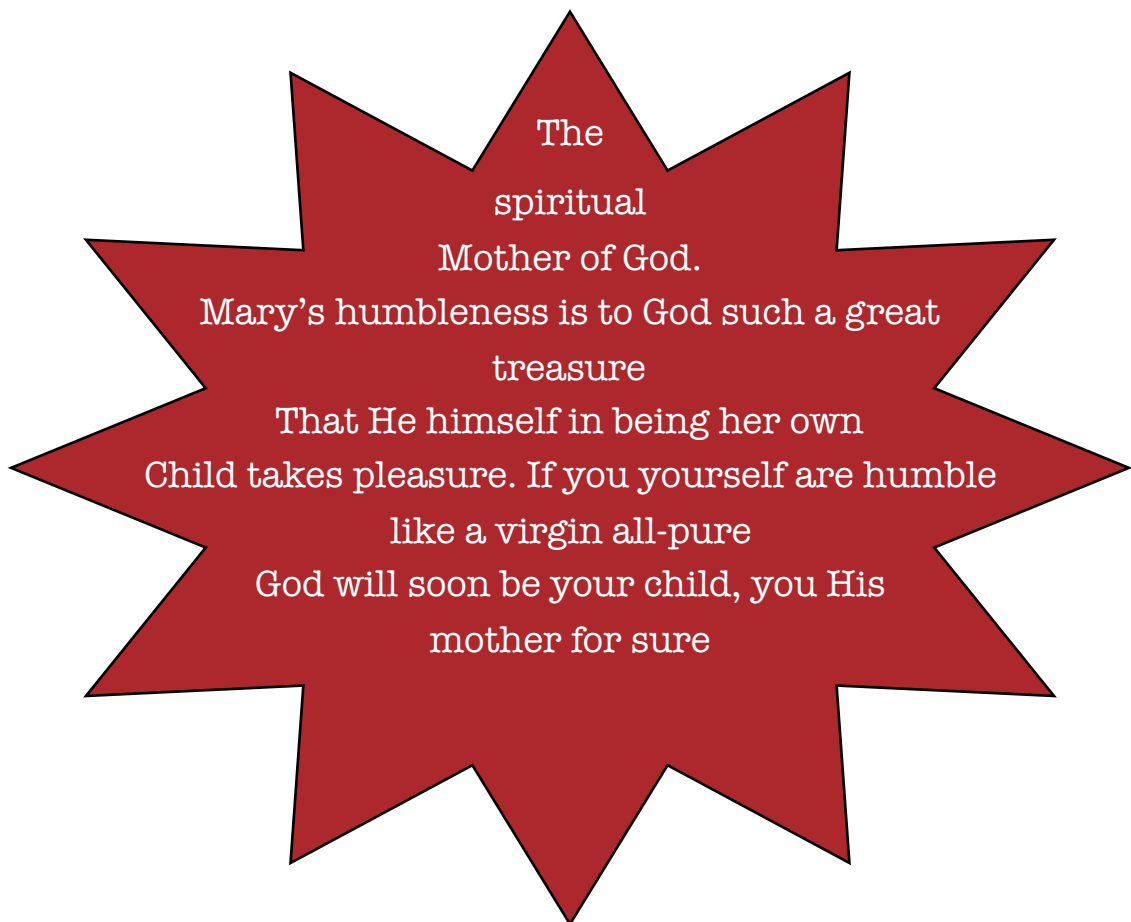
- Isaiah 29:18-19

I only achieved this enlightenment in Naju when I transformed like a little child weeping at the feet of Mother Mary, who cured my spiritual blindness. From that moment, my CHANGE became REAL.

# What Our Lady of Naju taught me

## **To Jesus through Mary**

Our Lady of Naju is an image of her Annunciation. This means that God, in his majesty, even humbled himself by coming into the world as a little child. Every moment of our Christian life is a reprise of the annunciation, which is the moment when Angel Gabriel announced to Mary that God is coming to earth through her, to be born as a child.

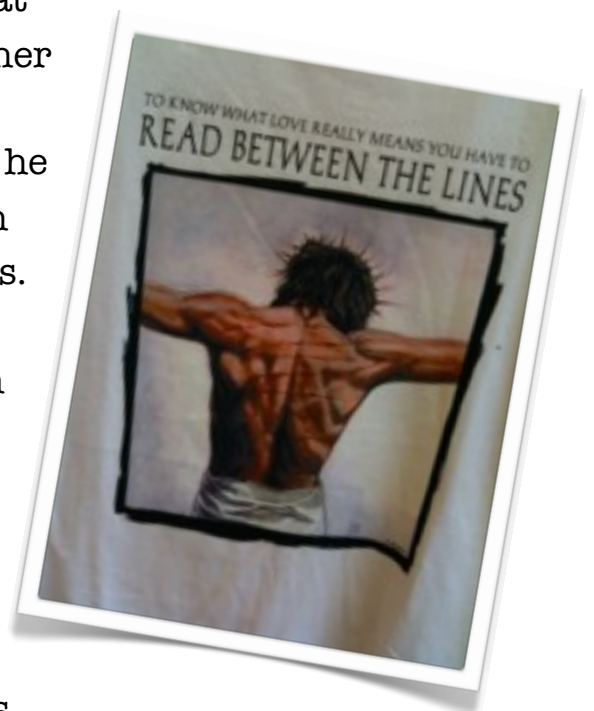


This means that God takes great pleasure if I am humble like Mother Mary, so much so that he even turn himself as a little child, and I being her mother. Conversely, if I am humbled myself to go to Mother Mary as a little child, innocent and open to her motherly love, in the same way even God comes to her at Christmas born as a child, I am in union

with Christ, the Emmanuel; which is “Christ among us.” At Naju, Mother Mary wants me to come to her as her little child, so that I can feel the Emmanuel. This means praying humble prayers at every moment of my life, with honesty to God devoid of spiritual hypocrisy and meaningless recitation of words as prayers. Mother Mary and Jesus will be happy with my humbleness and in turn, both of them will reveal themselves to me leading me to Heaven through my sinless nature as an innocent child. I now realize that my past insincere prayers were not only unheard, but sadden Mother Mary because I am nailing Christ to the cross as a direct result of my dishonesty and perpetual sinfulness. Perfunctory mass attendance and receiving the body of Christ when I am unclean led to Mother Mary shedding blood instead of tears.



Before my trip to Naju, I put myself on a self-made pedestal claiming I am a favoured child of God because I felt that Mother Mary always treats me as one and her Son our Lord Jesus Christ is similarly well-pleased with me as a “devoted” Catholic for he spared my life twice. I was opinionated with this illusion. I did not read between the lines. Those were the lines inflicted by me that caused His sufferings whenever I indulge in egoistic thinking and feel a world about me. I felt I was next to God. This even expanded to blaming God for any displeasure or earthly failure that I encountered. I even questioned his reality and got angry with Him when things or events turned against me. In other words, I was cherry picking my God. I even challenged my Catholic faith on why must I confess my sins through a priest. As long as I challenge Church’s teachings that interfered with my convenience, I did not realize that I



was tearing Christ's Sacred Heart to pieces. I did not realize that I was destroying the foundation of the Church that he founded 2000 years ago. I was indeed, the devil's advocate. My wife saw the devil in me instead of a God's child. I lived in a brazen world of conceit and deceit.

## Learning from Mama Julia on how to please God



When we come to Mother Mary as little children, she will lead us to her Son, Jesus. He will take each of us onto his lap, bless and teach us how to please God so that we can share His joy whenever we pray to Him. He is very pleased when he hears children's lispings prayers because they are truthful and sincere

*"Yes, Father, such was your good pleasure - that a Little One should be given to little ones, and he has now been born to us. This Little One is truly understood only by other little ones. He finds repose only in the humble and the serene."*

- **Guerric of Igny, twelfth-century Cistercian monk**

## Daily application of “Because of me, you sinned”

I now reflect daily how I caused others to sin because of my sinfulness. I must confess that I have been causing the sin of others from time immemorial!

Starting from my formative years fresh out of national service, I developed a strong crave for music and reading. There are many warnings from our Church and even the media that there are certain kind of music that apparently promote anti-religious affiliations. The causal life-style and flower power days of the 1970s still lingered in me and I thought the song “Imagine” was marvelous, composed and sang by an unique talent. I helped promote that song first within my family, and told my friends how good it was. Indeed it remained a classic ballad to this day. Consider a gist of the following lyrics of that song:

Imagine there is no heaven  
It's easy if you try  
No hell below us  
Above us only sky

Imagine all the people  
Living for today

Imagine there's no countries  
It isn't hard to do  
Nothing to kill or die for  
And no religion, too

Nice sounding, soothing and simple. But the revelation I received while at Naju tells me that though inadvertently, I dwelled in the beauty of this song, I am prompted to read between the lines. Am I privy to destroying Christ's very foundation, His Church? No heaven, no hell, no



religion too? We don't need a God who came down to earth for our sake, went through pains and sufferings exonerating us from eternal sufferings in hell? Then why did He come for? And when I continuously make renditions to that song to my family and friends, influencing them to sin when they really believe in the meaning of the lyrics, I perpetuate Christ's broken heart and pain on the cross; I am perpetuating Mother Mary's sorrow witnessing her Son's unending sufferings. Am I proud to be that kind of Catholic? Lustful and care-free days pervaded me all those years. Look what I have done! Appears harmless, but deadly. Thanks to Naju, this awareness would never been realized if I have not been there listening to Mama Julia, Father Su, Mother Mary herself, and her Son, Jesus at what I have been doing all these years.

The above simple reflection makes me more careful everyday from now, on unknowing ways that I may cause others to sin, the greatest sacrilege of my life. Blaming others for things turned awry should be reflected on me first, being the spark of that hell-fire. How do I refrain from this wavering danger? Through my sincere and humble prayer at every available moment begging to return to Mother Mary as a little child for her daily guidance and fight against evil. This is the assurance of my fear from an inadvertent perdition, as I do not know the day nor the hour when the Lord calls me. It need not be the end of the world when this happens; God may call me alone without a physical end of the world for the rest of mankind. Will I be ready, or am I still sleeping?

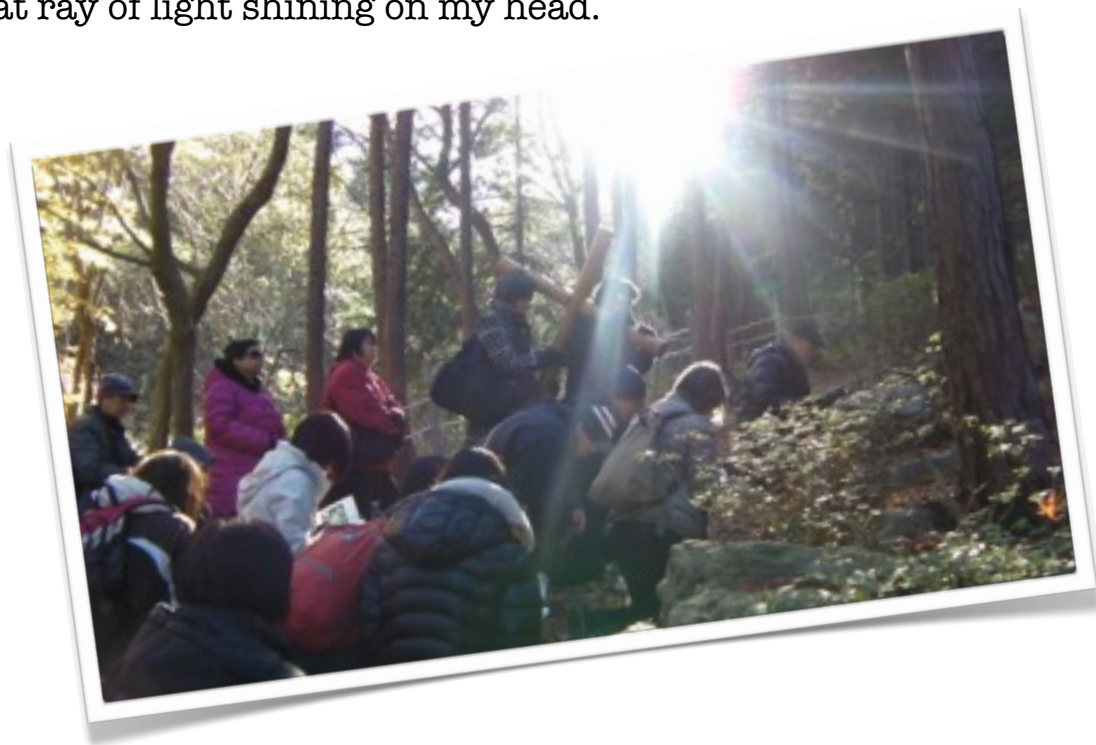
# Where do I go from here



**As each of us takes along with the miracles we have seen and experienced at Naju,** we reluctantly separate from each other while heading for home. As for me, I am mindful of what is revealed to me on the Holy Mountain of Our Lady. My puzzle over my affiliation with St Francis of Assisi is clearly explained by Father Su on what the saint's mission was while still on earth. He was asked by Christ to repair his Church. Christ is not asking me to physically repair His Church. He is asking me



to lead his strayed Catholic children back to Him. This reflection is deeply felt through a photograph taken by one of Our Lady of Naju's chapel's host, that apparently captured that miraculous moment by that ray of light shining on my head.



I am still thinking on how to answer that call. My secret wish is to become a lay deacon, just like St Francis. What does it takes to do that? Am I fit to be one? At the same time, I am reflecting on the visit of the three wise kings when they worship the child Jesus with gifts in Bethlehem. They came to Him in their majestic status as kings. They worshipped and presented Him with gifts of gold, myrrh, and frankincense. In their humbleness before God, they went home in a different way

*And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way. - Mat 2:12*

The challenge to me is despite Christ's calling, do I want to come back home to "my old ways" or "by another way" as what the wise kings done. The other way for me, is to tread on the unknown, but guided by the Spirit of Christ to do His Will.

In my humble start of this mission, I plan to organize a home devotion of Our Lady of Naju, with the blessed help of Our Mother's statue that I bought at her Holy Chapel in Naju. Her statue is now placed in my bedroom in a "cove" where I am praying my daily prayers with Agnes.



Our family members will be invited to a family devotion for Our Lady of Naju, where I will relate my transformation and to urge them to experience for themselves, the loving call of Our Lady and Jesus. This humble brochure will be part of this mission.

# Continuous persecutions

As warned by Father Su, we are subject to satan's attacks and persecutions despite our blessings we received at Naju. The very day when I brought Our Blessed Mother's home, I faced that persecution when in the middle of the night, satan came to me in a dream demanding harshly to destroy Our Blessed Mother's statue. A hammer was given to me and I was told that the statue was ugly and I should hammer it to pieces immediately. I shouted in my dream. Agnes woke and blessed me with the holy water from Naju. An immediate calm was restored and satan fled away. That dream is still vivid in my mind. Please pray for me for the mission that I wish to start, as I am still deluged with many doubts on the fruition of my endeavor. This again, is my taste of daily persecutions that is imminent during my journey. I am just like St Joseph at this stage when after the annunciation of our Lady when he found out that she was with child, he decided to call off the betrothal because of his fear of what his friends, relatives and the clergy thought of him. Do I disregard what people think by laughing their heads off when they savor my ineptness as a lay deacon, or should I be led by the hand of our Blessed Mother towards this graceful path? Only my humble prayers and faith in God will tell.

# Our gratitude to Julia of Naju, Fr Su and friends from Our Blessed Mother's Chapel



Mama Julia is the one who brought the urgent message of Mother Mary's call to return to her Son, our Lord Jesus Christ through over conversion, sacrifice, sincere and humble prayers glorifying Him and to stop nailing Him to the cross through our sinful ways. Through her unselfishness and humbleness, we came to see and feel for ourselves, the presence and urgency of Mother Mary's call to change ourselves and be mindful to stop breaking the institution that her Son founded in the Catholic Church. Even if there are people who doubt Julia's

prophetic call, we must at least believe in the urgent message that she brings on behalf of Mother Mary and Jesus Christ. This brings to mind Christ's message when he said:

*“behold,  
I send you prophets.....  
(whom) you will kill and crucify,.....  
scourge.....persecute;  
you (who) murdered”*

Matt 23:34-35

There is also a poem written by Czeslaw Milosz that proclaim the second coming of Christ, offering a fruitful interpretation of Jesus' words:

*On the day the world ends  
Woman walk through fields under their umbrellas,  
A drunkard grows sleepy at the edge of a lawn,  
Vegetable peddlers shout in the street  
And a yellow-sailed boat comes nearer the island,  
The voice of a violin lasts in the air,  
And leads into starry night.*

*And those who expected lightning and thunder  
Are disappointed.  
And those who expected signs and archangels' trumps  
Do not believe it is happening now.  
As long as the sun and moon are above,  
As long as the bumblebee visits a rose,  
As long as rosy infants are born  
No one believes it is happening now.*

