

O What A Night!

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The roadmap comprises monthly 'steps' leading up to St Mary's Feast Day 2010, in view of the parish's 40th birthday.

While it might take a while for the roadmap to sink in with the parishioners, the response in numbers (more than 500 were present) was overwhelming. The sheer numbers and the vibrancy of the discussions were what impressed many first-timers to the PA.

As Jennifer, parishioner for 30 years and participating in her first PA, remarked, "The people that were there, the ones who have been quietly contributing year after year... wow, that blew my mind!".

The extensive publicity for the PA was a major factor in pulling in the crowd, just as it was for second-time attendee Sarbjit Nehal, a parishioner since 2004. However, Fr John-Paul's push from the pulpit encouraged many others to come forward and take ownership of their own parish.

Lukas Upadhya, a Catholic convert who moved to St Mary's after his wife was baptised here last year, wanted to contribute his thoughts for the parish, whereas Jennifer thought it was "about time to see [what] and who makes the church tick".

Sarbjit, on the other hand, wanted "to know for [herself] the challenges facing the parish, its priorities and vision." It is for, and through, all these individuals that the parish seeks to move forward.

Immediately following Fr John-Paul's address, the participants were asked to reflect in groups on four different topics - namely SCCs; pastoral care for the elderly and needy; lay leadership and liturgy. Two main questions permeated the four topics: "How are we to improve?" and "How can you help to get there?"

Responses were overflowing. Groups of people of all ages could be seen joking, sharing, and proposing ways to improve upon what the parish currently offers.

Once all feedback were gathered, Benedict Cheong and Kwek Mean Luck, who did explain his peculiar name to an amused audience, asked for individual feedback from the audience while the responses were being collated.

At times comical, at others very perceptive, the session allowed for some individuals who had a "burning desire to speak", as aptly put by Jennifer. To the amazement of many in the church, the responses to the respective topics were also being shown in real-time on the projector screens.



Photo: Tomorrow

Parishioners, young and old, contributed to make St Mary's PA 2009 a vibrant success.

Many notable points were raised, such as having a day care centre in the church for the elderly and needy, and the need to identify future leaders and integrate succession planning within ministries.

One particular response from a participant drew laughter and applause from the attendees: the need to smile at each other in church.

After the overwhelming response to PA

2009, the parish's task is now to act upon all the suggestions given.

And to those who missed the occasion, Sarbjit nicely summed it up, "Look at your parish as your extended family. Healthy families come together to discuss issues and talk about their plans... If you continue to be a pew warmer, you are losing out on experiences that can make your journey richer."

We Found Paul(s)!



lilyanne seah

official writer for paul the musical

PAUL
THE MUSICAL

AFTER 112 auditionees, five days of auditions

and two callbacks, we found two mighty pairs of lungs to call our very own Pauls of Tarsus.

Outsung and outshone they have, both will take turns commanding the University Cultural Centre stage from 26 - 28 June.

We certainly won't spoil the fun trying to squeeze their impressive profiles in this little nook - watch out for a full-blown feature on the "Master Emoter" and the "Tenor Wonder" in the next issue of *Tomorrow*!

Sale of Tickets

The first weekend of ticket sales in the west district parishes of St Mary of the Angels, St Joseph and St Francis of Assisi fetched 300, thanks to the exuberant promos team who sweated and salivated buckets.

To save you the trouble from trying to catch them at the different district churches (we know you want it so bad!), email paulthemusical@stmary.sg or call 6567 3866 for ticket purchases. You can also visit the Paul the Musical website at www.stmary.sg/paulthemusical

Tickets are priced at \$30, \$25 and \$20. One ticket

to Cats or four tickets for your family to catch Paul the Musical... you choose!

"It looks really interesting! It's the first time my family will be watching a musical too. And I'm very happy that I can take my wife out (laughs shyly)."

- Jovan Medrano, who bought four tickets

"I think it's a great excuse to introduce my non-Catholic friends to our faith and community."

- Nicholas Gian, who bought four tickets



Photos: Tomorrow



Sale of Merchandise

From the guy who gave St Mary's her design edge, Paul the Musical t-shirts are most certainly not meant for pyjamas wear. Available in two designs, the cooler-than-thou t-shirts are designed by Nicholas Pang and priced at \$10 each.