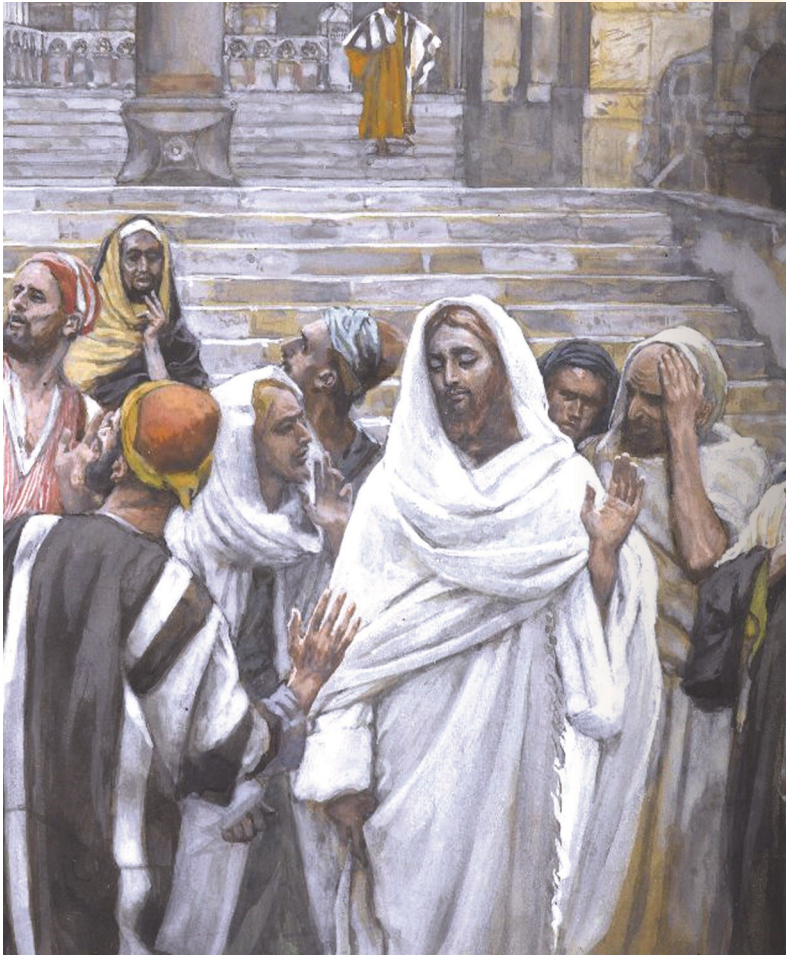




# St. Mark Parish

St. Mark is a Catholic parish committed to fostering discipleship through the Word of God and the Sacraments. We are dedicated to providing Catholic education to our youth, to bringing a deeper relationship with Christ to our adults, and to supporting those in need through the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy. We encourage all of our parishioners to participate in the shared responsibility of worship, prayer, study and service.



September 29, 2024

## 26<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



At that time, John said to Jesus, "Teacher, we saw someone driving out demons in your name, and we tried to prevent him because he does not follow us." Jesus replied, "Do not prevent him. There is no one who performs a mighty deed in my name who can at the same time speak ill of me." - Mk 9:38-39

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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### PASTORAL STAFF

**Rev. Adam Zajac**  
Pastor

**Mrs. Karen Cocita**  
Principal

**Mrs. Meaghan McCarthy-Silver**  
Pastoral Minister

**Mrs. Julia Wallace**  
Music Ministry Director

**Mr. Michael Kay**  
Youth Ministry Director

**Mrs. Jeannette Puckett**  
Parish School of Religion  
(PSR) Director

### COMMUNITY & SACRAMENTS

**New Parishioners:** All are welcome to join the parish! Visit the website or call the parish office to arrange to meet a pastoral staff member.

**Become Catholic:** Interested in becoming Catholic? Call the parish office for an appointment with a pastoral staff member to learn more.

**Infant Baptism:** As you celebrate a new birth, make sure to arrange for the child's baptism. The third Sunday of the month is our regular schedule.

**Reconciliation:** Mercy and peace are here for you. Confession is available on Saturdays from 3:00pm to 3:45pm, or by appointment.

**Marriage:** Over six months we will prepare you to exchange vows before the altar. Whether engaged or civilly married, contact us to get started.

**Anointing of the Sick:** If you or a loved one is seriously sick, please call the parish office to arrange for a priest to visit and anoint.

**Homebound:** We are happy to bring Communion to you if you are unable to participate in the celebration of Mass.

# LITURGY AND PRAYER INTENTIONS

## Papal Intention

**September:** For the cry of the Earth. We pray that each one of us will hear and take to heart the cry of the Earth and of victims of natural disasters and climactic change, and that all will undertake to personally care for the world in which we live.

**October:** For a shared mission. We pray that the church continue to sustain in all ways a Synodal lifestyle, as a sign of co-responsibility, promoting the participation, the communion and the mission shared among priests, religious and lay people.

## Liturgy Schedule

Scripture readings can be found online at:  
[bible.usccb.org](http://bible.usccb.org)

### Monday, September 30-St. Jerome

8:30am Mass .....Rita Szy

### Tuesday, October 1-St. Therese of the Child Jesus

6:45am Mass @ St. Mel

8:30am Mass ..... Mary Davis

### Wednesday, October 2-The Holy Guardian Angels

### Thursday, October 3

8:30am Mass ..... Michael Verlie

### Friday, October 4-St. Francis of Assisi

6:45am Mass @ St. Mel

### Saturday, October 5

3:00pm Confessions

3:00pm Confessions @ St. Mel

4:00pm Mass .....John Gallagher

4:30pm Mass @ St. Mel

### Sunday, October 6-27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:00am Mass @ St. Mel

8:30am Mass For the Parishioners of St. Mark Parish and the Parishioners of St. Mel Parish

10:00am Mass @ St. Mel

11:30am Mass .....John & Sharon Vertal

## Pray for the Sick

We commend to your personal prayers parishioners who have asked to be prayed for:

|                    |                        |                      |
|--------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| William Adams      | Irene Gurchensky       | Nora Sudetic         |
| Gianna Andolina    | David Kurth            | Lena Sunyak          |
| Carol Behnke       | Catherine Kutsick      | George Surovec       |
| Jack Behnke        | Pat McAndrew           | Herb Tippie          |
| Katy Brent         | Jim McIlwee            | Georgieann Treible   |
| Henry Buehner      | Mary Miller            | Joe Wantz            |
| James Coyne        | Maisie Nowlin          | Charlotte Whiting    |
| Matthew Craven     | Bill Retzer            | Lillian Zahara       |
| Margaret Fadrowski | Mary Stark             | Lew Zahara Jr.       |
| Nicole Foerstner   | Sr. Josette Obodzinski | Joseph Zavatchen Jr. |
| Mary Frantz        |                        |                      |
| Theresa Fridrich   |                        |                      |

## Other Intentions

### Weekly Luke McGraw Memorial Candles Intention

Dan Sunyak

| Liturgical Ministers                | emHCs  | Lectors                    | Servers  |
|-------------------------------------|--|----------------------------|--|
| <b>Saturday, October 5 @ 4:00pm</b> | Lou Toth<br>Marian Lundeen<br>Bridget Blayney      | Lisa Braun                 | Charlotte Greulich<br>Lucas Sambrook<br>Dominic Sutcliff |
| <b>Sunday, October 6 @ 8:30am</b>   | Kathy O'Malley<br>Jessica Hanes<br>Deirdre Mueller | Agnes Butler<br>Mary Lewis | London Dinya<br>Gabriela Santos<br>Jacob Spolarich       |
| <b>Sunday, October 6 @ 11:30am</b>  | Michelle Biggins<br>Deirdre Mueller<br>Lisa Ditzel | Cari Foster<br>Tim Mohr    | Michael Doyle<br>Kiera Laurent<br>Rowan Schleter         |

## Offertory Collections

In-Pew Collection (past Sunday).....\$ 2,324.00  
 Faith Direct (past month total) .....\$ 5,387.00

Thank you for your generosity!

## Parish News

### Eucharistic Adoration

Prayer and Thanksgiving before the Lord

Join us for Eucharistic Adoration on Friday, October 4th from 3:30pm - 7:00pm.

### Family Holy Hour

Friday, October 4th from 4-5pm

Children of all ages are invited with their families to come adore Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament! The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available. There will be coloring, reading, and age appropriate contemplation.

### Arts & Environment

The Arts & Environment committee is looking for volunteers to help with decorating and maintaining the Liturgical settings of the church. If you are able to volunteer beginning with Thanksgiving and Advent please contact Kate MacBride at 216-225-9391.

### Necrology Book

Book of the Deceased

The Necrology Book (or the Book of the Deceased) will be placed in the Church. Please feel free to add the names of your loved ones who have died. The Book will be left out for the entire month of October. We will pray for those who have died at the All Souls Mass on Saturday, November 2nd at 10am. The Necrology Book will remain in the Sanctuary during the month of November.

### Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors and Altar Servers

The new Minister schedule for October 2024 - January 2025 is now available on the church website and those that receive a hard copy, for pick-up in the Sacristy. Copies of rosters can be found in the Sacristy if a substitute is needed.

If you have any questions please call Cheryl in the Parish Office at 216-226-7577.



Dean's Greenhouse In-Store Fall Fundraiser

September 1 through October 15

Looking for autumn floral and gardening supplies? Visit Dean's Greenhouse starting September 1 through October 15 and mention St. Mark/ St. Mel when you shop, and Dean's will donate 20% of the sales to the St. Mark/St. Mel Faith Build.

Dean's Greenhouse is located at 3984 Porter Road, Westlake, 44145.

[www.deansgreenhouse.com](http://www.deansgreenhouse.com); 440-871-2050

Questions? Email Amy Asseff at [aasseff@aol.com](mailto:aasseff@aol.com).

## Reminders and Regular Events

### Young Family Gatherings

Connect with other young parents

Once a month after the 8:30am mass, young families are welcome to gather in the Social Hall (or Pavilion) for bagels, coffee, and community. Dates vary each month. For questions contact Briana Dave at:

[bciancibello@gmail.com](mailto:bciancibello@gmail.com)

Upcoming Dates: September 22, October 20,

### Donut & Coffee Social

Once a month after all masses in the Social Hall. Gather with fellow parishioners. For questions contact Michael Kay at [mkay@stmarkcleveland.com](mailto:mkay@stmarkcleveland.com)



# NEWS AND EVENTS

## Reminders and Regular Events

### St. Mark Prayer Group

Relax, pray and grow in faith

The parishioner-led prayer group will meet on Thursday, October 3rd at 7pm in the Servers Sacristy. There is a book available near the Sacred Heart Statue in the Church for prayer requests. These will receive prayers by this group. Feel free to share answered prayers here also. Please join us!. There is no need to sign up.

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### Holy Name Society Meetings

Fellowship, prayer, and service for all parishioners

All men and women of the parish ages 18 and older are welcome to join the St. Mark Holy Name Society. Meetings are the second Tuesday of the month at 6:00pm in either the Picnic Pavilion or Social Hall. If you would like to know more, contact Jim Cocita at:

[jimcocita@gmail.com](mailto:jimcocita@gmail.com)

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### HNS FOOTBALL CRAZR FUNDRAISER

Sponsored by the Cleveland Diocese-HNS

Annual Cleveland Diocese - HNS Fundraiser. One ticket donation is \$10.00 for ten weeks of football games. There are three different teams each week printed on the ticket. Ten chances to win each week. Top eight highest scores win anywhere from \$15 to \$30. Two lowest scores win \$40 to \$30. The ten weeks of games are November 3rd - January 5th.

Contact Jim Cocita at [jimcocita@gmail.com](mailto:jimcocita@gmail.com) for more information and tickets.

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### Sunday Rosary

A devotion to enrich your prayer life

Please come to pray with Mary, Our Blessed Mother, in this beautiful devotion. Parishioners gather in the church to pray the rosary after the 8:30am mass every Sunday. Contemplating the mysteries of the life of Christ, we pray for peace and grace in the world.

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### St. Mark Youth Group Fall Cookout

Sunday, September 29 | 6:30-8:30pm | St. Mark Pavilion

Join St. Mark Youth Group on Sunday, September 29th from 6:30-8:30pm for a welcome back Fall Kickoff and Cookout at the St. Mark Pavilion and Social Hall!

Come share in some burgers, hot dogs, snacks, yard games, board games, community, and faith! All high school aged students are welcome to this event whether you've come to youth group for over three years or less than three times. And bringing a friend is encouraged, we'll have plenty of food! We'll have some time to enjoy some crisp fall weather and to share in our lives of faith as well.

Contact Michael Kay at [mkay@stmarkcleveland.com](mailto:mkay@stmarkcleveland.com) or 216-904-4774 with any questions and to RSVP! See you then, peace!

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### VIRTUS Program Compliancy

Check that you are up-to-date before Fall programs start

All staff and all volunteers who work with children (such as coaches, catechists, scout leaders, parent volunteers, etc.) are required to stay compliant with the VIRTUS program. No exceptions are made. This program is required by the Diocese of Cleveland, and we are audited annually.

For existing volunteers:

- Stay current with the online bulletins
- Renew your BCI Fingerprint and Background check every five years through [virtusonline.org](http://virtusonline.org) (see the Toolbox tab for [selection.com](http://selection.com) background check).

New and interested volunteers working with children:

- Attend a VIRTUS training. Registration is through [virtusonline.org](http://virtusonline.org).
- Read and sign the 2016 Policy for Protecting Children.
- Read and sign the 2016 Standards of Conduct.
- Complete a background check through [virtusonline.org](http://virtusonline.org) (see the Toolbox tab for [selection.com](http://selection.com) background check).
- Complete the St. Mark Volunteer Application

Full information can be found on our parish website. To verify that you are in compliance call the parish office.

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## Regional and Diocesan News and Events

### Men's Sock & Underwear Drive

Sponsored by the Cleveland Diocesan Holy Name Society

This years recipient of the proceeds of the drive will be the Cleveland Police Foundation and will be distributed to various charities

When: October 5th-13th

What: New men's socks, underwear in any size for the homeless and the needy. Or if you prefer, cash donations to be used to purchase socks and underwear.

Collection boxes can be found at all Church entrances.

See flyers on the bulletins boards!

### General Parish Calendar

|                   |                                      |       |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------|-------|
| <b>Saturday,</b>  | <b>September 28</b>                  |       |
| 10:00 am          | Family Faith Team Mtg.               | CC    |
| 10:00am-2:00 pm   | CYO Volleyball Games                 | G/FR  |
| 3:00 pm           | Confessions                          |       |
| 4:00 pm           | Mass                                 |       |
| <b>Sunday,</b>    | <b>September 29</b>                  |       |
| 8:30 am           | Mass                                 |       |
| 8:30 am           | Sunday PreSchool                     | CR    |
| 9:30 am           | Rosary                               |       |
| 11:30 am          | Mass LS                              |       |
| 1:30pm-6:30 pm    | CYO Volleyball Game                  | G/FR  |
| 6:00 pm           | Youth Group Mtg.                     | SH/PP |
| <b>Monday,</b>    | <b>September 30</b>                  |       |
| 8:30 am           | Mass                                 |       |
| 4:00-9:00 pm      | Volleyball Prac.                     | G     |
| 5:00 pm           | Athletic Assoc. Mtg.                 | SH    |
| 6:30 pm           | PSR Class Gr. 1-8                    | CR    |
| <b>Tuesday,</b>   | <b>October 1</b>                     |       |
| 8:30 am           | Mass w/All School                    |       |
| 4:00-9:00 pm      | Volleyball Prac.                     | G     |
| 6:00 pm           | Cheerleading Prac.                   | PP    |
| 7:00 pm           | Confirmation Parent Ldr. Mtg.        | CH    |
| <b>Wednesday,</b> | <b>October 2</b>                     |       |
| 4:00-9:00 pm      | Volleyball Prac.                     | G     |
| <b>Thursday,</b>  | <b>October 3</b>                     |       |
| 8:30 am           | Mass                                 |       |
| 4:00-9:00 pm      | Volleyball Prac.                     | G     |
| 7:00 pm           | 1st Reconciliation Parent/Child Mtg. | CH    |
| 7:00 pm           | Troop #293                           | SH    |
| 7:00 pm           | Prayer Group                         |       |
| <b>Friday,</b>    | <b>October 4</b>                     |       |
| 9:00 am           | School Adoration                     | CH    |
| 3:30 pm           | Eucharistic Adoration                | CH    |
| 4:00-9:00 pm      | Volleyball Prac.                     | G     |
| 5:00 pm           | Family Friendly Adoration            | SH    |
| <b>Saturday,</b>  | <b>October 5</b>                     |       |
| 10:00am-2:00 pm   | CYO Volleyball Games                 | G/FR  |
| 3:00 pm           | Confessions                          |       |
| 4:00 pm           | Mass                                 |       |
| <b>Sunday,</b>    | <b>October 6</b>                     |       |
| 8:30 am           | Mass w/HNS Corporate Communion       |       |
| 8:30 am           | Sunday PreSchool                     | CR    |
| 9:30 am           | Rosary                               |       |
| 9:45 am           | Confirmation Service Mtg.            | SH    |
| 11:30 am          | Mass LS                              |       |
| 1:30pm-6:30 pm    | CYO Volleyball Game                  | G/FR  |

**Note: (LS)=Livestreamed**

As promised, here is a little history about St. Mark parish...

Bishop Edward Hoban chartered St. Mark Parish on June 14, 1945, appointing Reverend James Downie as founding pastor. Sunday masses were originally said in the Hayes School gym - fondly known as "St. Hayes". The first "St. Hayes" mass was celebrated on August 12, 1945. The diocese wanted to place the church on the corner of Warren and Montrose, but Fr. Downie insisted it be located at its present site. Three years later on July 25, 1948, ground was broken for a church/school building and completed in the summer of 1949. Masses were held at "St. Hayes" until the new school/church was opened in 1949. This building would serve as the church and school. Approximately \$300,000 to \$375,000 was spent to complete the new building.

Each week, I will continue to share some fun facts about our history. I invite you to share with me some of your memories as well. I have already received a few which I will incorporate into future articles. Email me at [cocita@stmarkwestpark.com](mailto:cocita@stmarkwestpark.com) with your memories.

Our STREAM Lab in the Innovation and Early Learning Center (formerly known as the convent) continues to do some great things. This past week, our Kindergarten students worked hand in hand with our 7<sup>th</sup> Graders to create 3D printed name tags. They took their creations home with them and were very proud to show them off. This was their introduction to the world of 3D printing. Enjoy some of the photos below.

"Children are the Hands by which we take hold of Heaven." This is such a powerfully beautiful statement which resonates so well with what we witness every day. To leave our handprint upon others, we need to speak peacefully and reach out in kindness, Live truthfully and spread hope, Build bridges with compassion, Champion respect, and do what is right. Make a difference. These are just a few of the positive thoughts being shared with our children every day as we share our theme for the year of "Shine Bright" with others.

It is absolutely wonderful to witness the many different ways our children are able to live out this message here at school. It begins every morning with the biggest of smiles at morning drop off. Our school has many children who go about doing the simplest of things everyday that enable the school to run smoothly, yet they ask for nothing in return. We have students who hold doors open for others, students who skip down the hallway to class in the morning (Oh, to be young again!), students who share their love and talent for music by singing in the children's choir, and children who just make it easy for me to smile every single day. Our WSMS morning broadcast has some very talented students who willingly arrive at school earlier than usual, so they are well practiced to broadcast the news for the school. These student newscasters remind us daily at the end of their broadcasts, "Shine Bright." It is in the silence of these words that as a school, we spread out our hands to embrace all that God has given us, including his Son.

This is a powerful message for young and old. When we are able to put aside the outer noises of our surroundings as well as the inner noise of fear, it's then that we learn to trust in our God. Author Henry J. Nouwen writes, "God will become known to us in the nature around us, in people we meet, in situations we run into. God wants to be admitted into the human heart, received with open hands, and loved with the same love with which we have been created." I believe that children bring out the best in all of us. They help us recognize what is really important. One life lesson for all of us is that when we try to give everything we can, we may discover in the giving that we have much more than we thought. As adults, if we want to be proud of the handprints we have left behind throughout our lives, we have to learn how to skip through the hallways, pray, and have Hope- or just take the time to observe our children at work and play. Yes, children are the Hands by which we take hold of Heaven. I am so proud of them.

I look forward to sharing your stories and memories from years past....

Have a great week!

Mrs. Cocita



## General Audience of Pope Francis, on 18 September 2024

### Cycle of Catechesis. The Apostolic Journey to Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Timor-Leste and Singapore

And today I will talk about the Apostolic Journey I made in Asia and Oceania: it is called an Apostolic Journey because it is not a tourist trip, it is a journey to bring the Word of the Lord, to make the Lord known, and also to get to know the souls of the peoples. And this is very good.

Paul VI, in 1970, was the first Pope to fly towards the rising sun, with long visits to the Philippines and Australia, but pausing also in various Asian countries and in the Samoan Islands. And that was a memorable journey, wasn't it? Because the first to leave the Vatican was Saint John XXIII, who went to Assisi by train; then, Saint Paul VI did that: a memorable journey! In this one too I tried to follow his example but, being a few years older than he was, I limited myself to four countries: Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Timor-Leste and Singapore. I thank the Lord who allowed me to do as an elderly Pope what I would have liked to do as a young Jesuit, because I wanted to go there as a missionary!

A first reflection that comes naturally after this journey is that in thinking of the Church, we are still too Eurocentric, or as they say, "western". But in reality, *the Church is much bigger*, much bigger than Rome and Europe, much bigger! And also, if I may say so, much *more alive*, in those countries. I experienced this in an exciting way by meeting those communities, listening to the testimonies of priests, religious sisters, laypeople, and especially catechists – catechists are those who drive evangelization. Churches that do not proselytize, but grow "by attraction", as Benedict XVI wisely said.

In *Indonesia*, about ten per cent of people are Christians, and three per cent Catholics – a minority. But what I encountered was a lively, dynamic Church, capable of living and transmitting the Gospel in a country which has a very noble culture, inclined to harmonize diversity, and at the same time has the largest Muslim presence in the world. In that context, I received confirmation that *compassion* is the path that Christians can and must walk to bear witness to Christ the Saviour, and at the same time to encounter the great religious and cultural traditions. On the subject of compassion, let us not forget the three characteristics of the Lord: closeness, mercy and compassion. God is close, God is merciful and God is compassionate. If a Christian does not have compassion, he is of no use. "Faith, fraternity, compassion" was the motto of the visit to Indonesia: on the basis of these words, the Gospel enters every day into the life of the people in a concrete way, welcoming it and giving it the grace of Jesus who died and rose again. These words are like a bridge, like the underpass that connects the Cathedral of Jakarta to the largest Mosque in Asia. There, I saw that fraternity is the future, it is the answer to anti-civilization, to the diabolical plots of hatred and war – also sectarianism. There is brotherhood, fraternity.

I rediscovered the beauty of an outbound missionary Church in Papua New Guinea, an archipelago stretching out towards the immensity of the Pacific Ocean. There, the diverse ethnic groups speak over eight hundred languages – eight hundred languages are spoken there – an ideal environment for the Holy Spirit, who loves to make the message of love resonate in the symphony of languages. What the Holy Spirit makes is not uniformity, it is symphony, harmony; He is the patron, He is the master of harmony. There, in a particular way, the protagonists have been and still are the missionaries and catechists. I rejoiced to be able to stay a while with

the missionaries and catechists of today; and I was moved to listen to the young people's songs and music: in them, I saw a new future, without tribal violence, without dependency, without ideological and economic colonialism; a future of fraternity and care for the wondrous natural environment. Papua New Guinea can be a "laboratory" for this model of integral development, inspired by the "leaven" of the Gospel. Because there is no new humanity without new men and new women, and only the Lord makes these. And I would also like to mention the visit to Vanimo, where the missionaries are between the forest and the sea. They enter the forest in search of the most hidden tribes, there... that is a beautiful memory.

The power of the Christian message of human and social promotion is particularly evident in the history of Timor-Leste. There, the Church has shared the independence process with the entire population, always guiding it towards peace and reconciliation. It is not a matter of the ideologization of faith, no; it is faith that becomes culture and at the same time enlightens it, purifies it, elevates it. This is why I relaunched the fruitful relationship between faith and culture, to which Saint John Paul II had pointed in his visit. Faith must be inculturated and cultures must be evangelized. Faith and culture. But above all, I was struck by the beauty of the people: a people who have endured much but are joyful, a people wise in suffering. A population that not only bears a lot of children – there was a sea of children, so many, eh? – but also teaches them how to smile. I will never forget the smile of the children of that land, of that region. The children there smile all the time, and there are many of them. That faith teaches them to smile, and this is a guarantee for the future. In short, in Timor-Leste I saw the youthfulness of the Church: families, children, young people, many seminarians and aspirants to consecrated life. I would like to say, without exaggeration, that I breathed the "air of springtime" there!

The last stop on this journey was *Singapore*. A country very different to the other three: a city-State, ultra-modern, an economic and financial hub for Asia and beyond. There, Christians are a minority, but they nonetheless form a lively Church, engaged in fostering harmony and fraternity between the various ethnicities, cultures and religions. Even in wealthy Singapore there are the "little ones", who follow the Gospel and become salt and light, witnesses to a *hope greater* than what economic gains can guarantee.

I would like to thank these peoples who listened to me with such warmth, with such love, and to thank their governors who helped a great deal with this visit, so that it could be conducted in an orderly manner, without problems. I thank all those who also collaborated in this, and I give thanks to God for the gift of this journey! And I reiterate my gratitude to everyone, to all of them. May God bless the peoples I encountered, and guide them on the way to peace and fraternity! Greetings to all!