

SETTING AFLAME OUR FAITH

*"...that all of them
may be one, Father,
just as You are in Me
and I am in You.
May they also be in us
so that the world may believe
that You have sent Me."
- Jn 17:21*

By Desmond Soon, 55, a cradle Catholic who is serving in the Catholic Spirituality Centre as a member of St Jude's Music Ministry. He is also co-editor for OXYGEN (godismyoxygen.com), an online Catholic writing ministry.

Lawrence Chong is a truly gifted speaker who is a member of Focolare and in 2020, was appointed by Pope Francis to serve as Consultor on the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue.

He opens his session, 'A Lone Catholic or a Universal Catholic', with what being Catholic means to him; how his 'lightbulb moment' happened in 1992 when he was sent to Rome as a 14- years old, and was blown away at a press conference run completely by young people (14 to 15 years of age), holding court amongst seasoned reporters and speaking about how they were going to change the world through the Gospel. That was when he realised that "the Catholic faith goes beyond the walls of the church" (he was serving in St. Anthony, then a 'small community church in Mandai'), that Catholicism is an interdependent religion and how **being an active, life-giving community is an immutable law of being a Catholic**. As 'catholysts', we are called to shape humanity wherever we exist – in our families, our workplaces, in our ministries; because our religion is a universal one, and our community actually goes beyond our borders. Listening to this anointed brother, I can't help but chuckle as the phrase **"Go big or go home!"** pops into my head.



Behind the scenes at Catholyst Conference: Lawrence delivering his session

**ARE WE
BOLD ENOUGH
TO REACH OUT
BEYOND OUR
COMFORT ZONES
TO SET OTHERS
AFLAME?**