

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.

CATHOLYST

BEING FORGED IN THE FIRE OF FAITH



“Be strong and courageous, and do the work. Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the Lord God, my God, is with you. He will not fail you or forsake you until all the work for the service of the temple of the Lord is finished.”

1 Chr 28:20

In his closing remarks, Fr Terence challenges us to be ready all the time. And that in order to do that, we have to be hungry. To be curious. He reminds us that **what little we have is enough to become a phenomenon**. All we need to do is to say ‘Yes’. This is a good reminder for me, after my first real encounter with Christ some 10 years ago. I came away from the conference realising that no matter what the world throws at us – at work, at home, in ministry – as long as we remain faithful to our heavenly Father, HE is the one who will answer all our questions and quell all doubts we have about our abilities to be His instruments on this earth.

And because He has created us in His image, each of us unique in our own way, there is no point comparing myself to others because that is not God's plan for me. To be an effective Catholyst, I have to learn how to discern what God wants for me to do in His vineyard, and to then focus my energies there. Granted, it may take a bit of trial and error, stumbling along from one situation to another; but **He will always send people my way** to guide, correct, cajole, encourage and affirm. So being a Catholyst requires a period of **discernment and acceptance**, then a time of **action and realisation**.

**Are we all ready to go out,
be curious and help others
satisfy their curiosity about
our religion? Or are we
still asking ourselves,
“Huh? Sure or not?”**