

**PROFESSION OF PERPETUAL VOWS**  
**in the**  
**CONGREGATION OF THE RESURRECTION**  
**by**  
**RAPHAEL MA, C.R.**

On Wednesday, November 21, 2018, at 7:00 p.m., here at Saint Francis Church, Raphael Ma, C.R., will profess perpetual vows in the Congregation of the Resurrection.

*“By our vows of poverty, chastity and obedience, we dedicate and consecrate ourselves totally to the Risen Christ in the religious life. This dedication entails an act of faith whereby we respond to God's call to give ourselves completely with all our talents, abilities, and powers to him, to the church, and to the Congregation.”* (Constitutions of the Congregation of the Resurrection, # 13)

How do we know Raphael is ready to profess perpetual vows? Here are some of criteria for perpetual vows:

- ✧ Has Raphael displayed the ability to set and achieve goals; has he internalized prayer into his daily life; is he open to feedback regarding his ministry and common life?
- ✧ Has Raphael demonstrated an ability to live in community, sharing the responsibilities of common life?
- ✧ Is Raphael free to make a choice for perpetual vows? In other words there is no compulsion or an inability to do anything else in his life.
- ✧ Does Raphael clearly understand the meaning of the vows and Constitutions of the Congregation, and is he willing to consecrate his life to Christ within the Congregation?
- ✧ Does Raphael show a desire to deepen his Christian life through personal prayer, scriptural prayer, communal prayer, celebration of the Eucharist, and to view his life in the light of the Gospel?
- ✧ Has Raphael demonstrated an ability and willingness to minister in the church?

- ✧ Has Raphael demonstrated an ability to live the vowed life?
- ✧ Does Raphael have the necessary emotional maturity?

**What will the ceremony look like?**

The ritual for perpetual vows begins at the doors of the church in the same fashion that baptism begins at the doors of the church – perpetual vows are an expression of one's baptismal mandate.

While at the doors, Raphael will be asked a series of questions as to his readiness to profess perpetual vows and his resolve to do so with the help of God. Raphael, and the community assembled, will then renew our baptismal promises together. Using the blessed baptismal waters the Provincial Superior will mark Raphael with a cross on his forehead, and Raphael's father, Paul, will also mark Raphael with a cross. There is then the procession to the front with the singing of the Gloria.

After the homily the formal ritual for vows begins with the calling upon the Saints of God to watch over Raphael (the singing of the Litany of Saints). Raphael then publicly professes his vows, which will be signed and witnessed by the Provincial and Vicar Provincial. Following the signing Raphael will receive a special blessing of the church. He will then be introduced to the assembly as a perpetually professed member of the Congregation of the Resurrection.

The mass continues as usual, followed by food and festivities in the parish hall.

