## **Background**

In 1987, several parents got together in the corridor of St. Rita's Church in Dallas, Texas and laid out the vision of Chinese education for their children. This vision became a reality with the establishment of the Sacred Heart Chinese Catholic church in 1993. The Sacred Heart Chinese classes became a part of the church organization in 1995. After more than 30 years of operation, we are reaping the fruits of our labor. Some of the first students of the school are now bringing in their children as students or some have returned as teachers teaching Chinese to the next generation. We never thought that such a simple wish of teaching Chinese culture and language to our children would blossom into a tradition that can be carried out generation after generation

We often ask ourselves, as a faith-based organization, why did we establish a Chinese language & cultural classes? As we watch our students, ages 3 and up, generation after generations, grow and develop in this community, the answer is clear. The existence of the Chinese program is an expression of God's love for the children, parents and teachers in an interactive, mutually supportive teaching environment.

We have also developed appropriate cultural activities for each level of students, including Confucius philosophy, ancient poems, stories of moral, ethics and saints. Other cultural themes include introduction of historical context of major festivals, such as Lunar Chinese New Year celebration, Lantern Festival, Dragon Boat and Mid-Autumn Festivals. For understanding the mystery of God's love, we strongly encourage the students and their families to integrate these cultural and historical practices in parallel with Christmas and Thanksgiving celebrations.

When the pandemic hit 2 years ago, we were able to move to virtual classes with minimal to no interruption. Thanks to technology and God's grace, with parental supervision, the students have continued to learn Chinese online and even held Chinese cultural related craft and cooking classes, where students have enjoyed the class very much!

Please see the link below for more detailed information and the registration form. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSda2MRzvk2OnTze\_YvW0HSMziHgS2IK60GVLRGjy0wDtZP52w/viewform

