

# Messenger



**DAY OF PEACE**  
September 21

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**ST. MATTHEW**  
September 21

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## Presidential Secretary briefs Council of Priests of the Archdiocese



# LLRC: Government to consult religious groups

**Presidential Secretary Lalith Weeratunga, who heads the Presidential Task Force in charge of the National Action Plan for the Implementation of LLRC Recommendations, briefed the Council of Priests of the Archdiocese of Colombo on Monday, September 10, 2012 on the invitation of the**

**Archbishop of Colombo, His Eminence, Malcolm Cardinal Ranjith.**

Mr. Weeratunga while giving an overall view of the LLRC and the responsibility that lay before the Presidential Task Force in implementing the recommendations of the LLRC, stated that the Government was open to any form of criticism and

that was why the Presidential Task Force was meeting religious and other groups to get a better and speedy implementation of the action plan.

He also made it known to the the Council of Priests that whatever was missing in the LLRC Report is not the responsibility of the Government. It is a

sacrosanct document which has been handed to the Government by the Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission and which the Government wants to implement with the help of religious groups.

In the course of the discussions held later, several members of the Council of Priests expressed their views on

the Government's failure in not revealing to the people most of the reports of the various commissions of the LLRC, and the people's right to know about these reports.

Another important matter taken up by the members of the Council of Priests, was the militarization going on in the North and

whether the Government was seriously considering demilitarization so as to restore a more civil form of administration in the North.

In answering some of the questions, Mr. Weeratunga said that one of the main issues in the North is the problem of re-allocation of land to the people which was

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## PROCLAMATION OF THE YEAR OF FAITH

**We treasure the great God-given gift of faith to us. Our Universal Shepherd, His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI, declared a Special Year of Faith beginning from October 2012 - November 2013.**

His Eminence, Malcolm Cardinal Ranjith will preside over the Archdiocesan Opening Ceremony of the Year of Faith on Sunday, October 7, at 6.00 p.m. at St. Lucia's Cathedral, Kotahena.

His Eminence invites the faithful particularly from the deaneries of Colombo North, Colombo Central, Colombo South and Kotte to participate in large numbers from the parish associations, children and teachers of Sunday Schools and Christian Communities in this Universal Archdiocesan event.

**Very Rev. Fr. Anthony Fernandopulle**  
Episcopal Vicar for Southern Region

## Catholic group helps obtain birth certificates for Estate Workers

**About 137 tea estate workers of the Southern Province whose births were unfortunately not registered in the Government Offices for four to six decades were issued with Birth Certificates, on August 25, 2012 at a ceremony graced by the Bishop of Galle, His Lordship Rt. Rev. Dr. Raymond Wickremasinghe.**

**CODESEP**  
(Community Development Services for Plantation) - an Organization of the

Catholic Church in the Diocese of Galle has been instrumental for the last six years, in negotiating with government officials on this matter.

CODESEP along with Caritas SED-Galle organized the session in which those who did not possess birth certificates, received them for the first time.

Hundreds of estate workers in and around Deniyaya area had faced this problem for decades. As a result they

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**His Lordship, Rt. Rev. Dr. Raymond Wickremasinghe handing over a birth certificate to a recipient.**

## Crowds brave the weather for blessing of 'Matara Meniyo'

**His Lordship, Rt. Rev. Dr. J. Vianney Fernando, Bishop of Kandy, presiding at the Vespers Service at the Shrine of Our Lady of Matara, last Saturday, said that abortion is a grievous sin which amounts to murder, and it is sad that abortion has escalated to giddy heights even in our country.**

"The unborn child has equal rights as the born, to live. To preserve and protect this



cause is our obligation," His Lordship said, addressing the vast crowds that attended the Vespers

braving the heavy rains that Matara experienced at that time.

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## Fun-filled Evening with the Award-Winning SL Youth Choir

**They call themselves "Choro Calibre" and the boys and girls of the Sri Lanka Youth Choir sang their hearts out in the Grand Ballroom of the Hilton on Tuesday, September 11, 2012.**

They were celebrating their "Road to Victory" where they won Silver and Bronze Awards for the motherland, at the 2012 Asia Cantate, the International Choral Festival held in Phuket, Thailand in July, this year.

Combining from



leading school choirs, under the leadership of Shamal de Silva, they sang, "We are the Champions" while the

wide screens on the sides depicted the group receiving the Silver Award in the Folklore Category

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## NEW IN BRIEF

## 108th Annual Feast of St. Louis' Church



Rev. Fr. Chaminda Wanigasena, the Principal of St. Peter's College, Udugampola presided at the 108th annual Church Feast of St. Louis Church, Kotarupe in the Raddolugama Parish. Vespers was sung with the participation of Rev. Fr. Ivan Pieterz, Parish Priest Uswetakeiyawa as the chief celebrant.

*Ranjith Lokupothagama*

## Silver Jubilee of Rev. Fr. Tensin Perera

The Silver Jubilee of Rev. Fr. Tensin Perera, the Parish Priest of St. Mary's Church, Belihuloya was celebrated with a Thanksgiving Eucharist officiated by His Lordship Rt. Rev. Dr. Cletus Chandrasiri Perera OSB.



*J. Anthony*

## Enhancement of Pro Life Committee Members

A meeting was held on August 28, 2012 under the leadership of His Eminence, Malcolm Cardinal Ranjith, the Archbishop of Colombo to enhance a committee for Pro Life program in the Archdiocese of Colombo. The main topic which was discussed at the meeting was how to deliver the message of pro life at grass root level. His Eminence blessed the selected couples who were to deliver the message. His Lordship, Rt. Rev. Dr. Emmanuel Fernando, His Lordship Rt. Rev. Dr. Maxwell Silva, Very Rev. Frs. Cyril Gamini, Patrick Perera, Shanthi Kumar Welivita, Anton Fernandopulle and the National Director of Family Apostolate, Rev. Fr. Julian Patrick were also present. The names of the select couples are as follows:

1. <b>Negombo:</b>	9. <b>Colombo-North:</b>
1. Rienzie-Nirmalee	17. Rukmal-Dilrukshi
2. Ajith-Madona	18. Norbet-Anesline
2. <b>Bolawalana:</b>	10. <b>Colombo-South:</b>
3. Paul-Ranga	19. Asiri-Dimali
4. Sisira-Pushpa	20. Sisiran-Dinali
3. <b>Katana:</b>	11. <b>Colombo-Central</b>
5. Roshan-Shanthi	<b>Dehiwala:</b>
6. Ivan-Subadra	21. Francis-Carmel
4. <b>Tudella:</b>	22. Shalani-Dhammika
7. Priti J.-Priyanthi	12. <b>Moratuwa:</b>
8. Mcmillan-Polita	23. Dinush-Malkanathi
5. <b>Gampaha:</b>	24. Silas-Krismalee
9. Kapila-Iresha	13. <b>Kalutara:</b>
10. Dilip-Darshani	25. Nirmal-Rupa
6. <b>Wattata:</b>	26. Mercellus-Marie
11. Marius-Chithra	14. <b>Kotte:</b>
12. Mervyn-Burie	27. Sanjeewa-Nirmala
7. <b>Ragama:</b>	28. Dr. Nilal-Thushara
13. Prashantha-June	15. <b>Gurubawila:</b>
14. Kumara-Priyani	29. Nihal-Shamalee
8. <b>Kandana:</b>	30. Shehan-Shanika
15. Preethi-Remona	16. <b>Ex Couples:</b>
16. Brian-Nimalka	31. Channa-Malee
	32. Anura-Nimali

## St. Jude's College, Kurana, Negombo

Nearing completion of fifty years of apostolic services in his priestly life and holding various responsible posts in the Archdiocese of Colombo Rev. Fr. Cyril Leslie Fernando with his involvement at Cardinal Cooray's Centre and his establishment of the Kitunana Centre, affiliated to St. Mary's Church Negombo is now devoting his time and energy for the education of children. With his energy, sweat and labour he was instrumental in building the St. Jude's Branch School at Kurana, Negombo, affiliated to St. Peter's College, Bambalapitiya.

In 2002, with the patronage of Most Rev. Dr. Nicholas Marcus Fernando, the then Archbishop of Colombo, he filled up about three acres of bare land close to the Negombo lagoon and built a three storey building with a play ground, for a school. This school commenced with only 40 students but today it caters to more than 1000 students of both sexes. To provide knowledge of the English language, which is a necessity today, classes are conducted in English language from Grade 1 to Grade 5. From Grade 6 upwards education is provided in English and Sinhala medium. There is a staff of about forty five graduates and trained teachers. Rev. Sister Mercy Fernando, who served at St. Joseph's College, Colombo, is functioning as the principal of the College from its inception.

In the admission of students, firstly children from the nursery of the Kitunana Institute are admitted to Grade 1 and then children from various parts of the island are also admitted. This college is open to the children of the middle class and the lower middle class.

The school building is also constructed in such way to make it possible to proceed from the first class room to the last classroom at a stretch. The class rooms and the verandas are spacious



September 12, this year by his Eminence, Malcolm Cardinal Ranjith, the Archbishop of Colombo.

The parent-teacher association extends a great service to the college. The church, playground and the college, forms one continuous passage to the lagoon



and built for the convenience of the children. The Rev. Director and the principal visit the class rooms daily and meet the students and interact with them personally. Holy Mass is celebrated daily in a class room converted to a make shift chapel.

Education should be imparted to the children within a religious environment. To create this religious environment. Rev. Fr. Leslie Fernando is building a spacious church with an artistic design, to accommodate all the children for their religious activities. It is also to commemorate ten years of the commencement of this college. The new church is due to be blessed on

and it is a wonder of nature to observe them together. This college which was built in 2002 on a small scale has developed during the last 10 years with the spacious church and fitting playground, encompassing the natural setting of the Negombo lagoon. It is obvious that all these have been achieved with the help of St. Jude's, the Patron saint of impossible cases

We congratulate Rev. Fr. Cyril Leslie on his great achievements and we wish him good health and long life to continue his excellent work.

*Benjamin Kirihetti*

## LLRC: Government...

**Contd. from Pg. 1**

also prolonging the resettlement process. Out of the nearly 300,000 detainees in the North more than two-thirds have been resettled but the vast majority do not possess proper documents or papers, including deeds to their property. This has posed a problem for the Government in deciding on the authenticity of the case.

Hence with a motive to help these people the Government has requested them to get some form of certification from their respective religious organizations regarding the loss of documents.

According to the activity report of the National Plan of Action for the Implementation of LLRC Recommendations, steps will be taken "to relocate or to pay compensation acting under applicable statutes like the Land Acquisition Act." There is also a plan to provide the Ministry of Lands "with resources to prepare the Land Use Plan for the North and East."

Touching on the implementations coming under the Ministry of Education, Mr. Weeratunga said that the Government is promoting the trilingual process of education and the possibility of "mobilizing a group of experts to consider the present system and recommend any changes," beneficial to the system.

Mr. Weeratunga also spoke about the Multi-Dialing System, and said that information about Government ministries and departments can be accessed in English, Tamil and Sinhala by dialing the number 1919. He also said that the Colombo-Jaffna and the Talaimannar Railway lines will be completed by the year 2013.

## Crowds brave...

**Contd. from Pg. 1**

Prior to the Vespers Service, President Mahinda Rajapaksa visited the Shrine. The President was welcomed by the His Lordship, J. Vianney Fernando. The President left after greeting the crowd.

The Festive High Mass was celebrated on Sunday, September 9, 2012 presided by His Lordship, Rt. Rev. Dr. J. Vianney Fernando.

## A Fun filled...

**Contd. from Pg. 1**

and the two Bronze Awards for the Chamber Category.

While the male voices harmonized, "Tribute to Mother Mary, the giant screen portrayed scenes from the Passion of Christ, with Jesus meeting His mother on the Road to Calvary. The girls vocalising songs from the "Abba" drew great applause specially for classic like "Thank You for the Music".

After the interlude the choir appeared in traditional costumes, performing their award-winning song in Sinhala while the audience clapped to the beat.

The show ended after the popular baila session with a Song of Thanksgiving to the Lord.

*By Sirohmi Gunesequera*

## Catholic group...

**Contd. from Pg. 1**

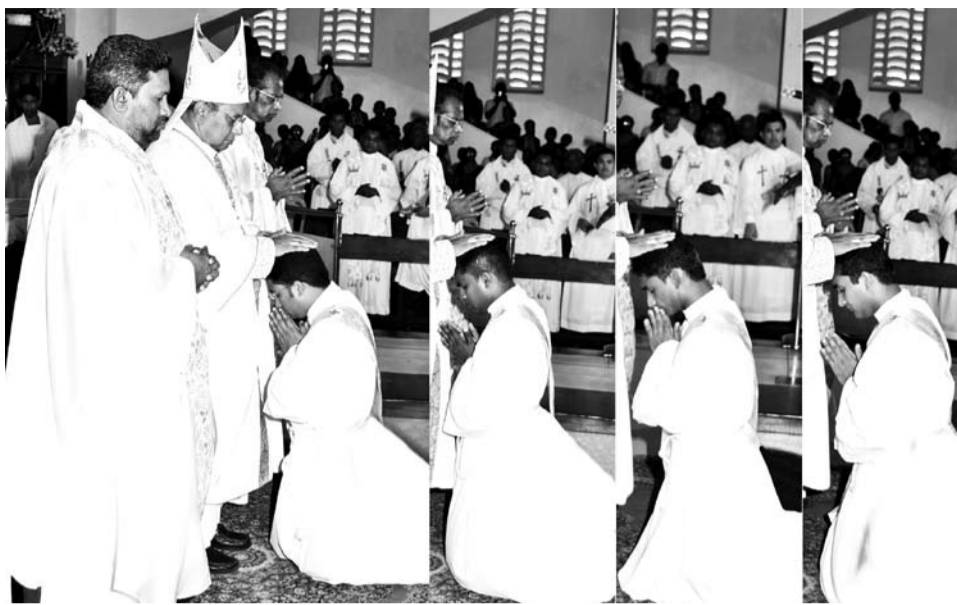
were not in a position to withdraw their EPF or ETF payments on retirement. The parents not having their birth certificates found it difficult to get admission for their children to schools, or to apply for a driving license. Both young and old had thus been deprived of their voting rights previously.

In order to find a solution to this problem, CODESEP has had several discussions with the Estate Management, the Divisional Secretary, and the Registrar of Births of Kotapola, and three mobile services were sponsored by CODESEP at various locations, where more than 500 applicants were interviewed and their documents collected.

Present on the occasion were Buddhist and Hindu Religious dignitaries, the District Secretary of Matara (GA), the Divisional Secretary of Kotapola (AGA)

*CODESEP*

## Four new Priests for the Oblates



His Eminence, Malcolm Cardinal Ranjith presided at the Sacerdotal Ordination of New Priests of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate. Rev. Bros. Roshan Janapriya Wassa OMI, Sameera Damith Fonseka OMI, Shane Winston De Rosayiro OMI and Shivantha Wassa OMI were ordained last Saturday at the Church of Our Lady of Fatima Maradana, Colombo 10.

*Pix by T. Sunil Fernando*

## New Computers for John Paul Centre, Ma-eliya



Five new computers were donated to Rev. Fr. Cyril S. Perera, Director, John Paul II Centre, Ma-eliya, Ja-Ela, for the IT programmes conducted together with the AELT English programme. The Manager Ja-Ela Commercial Bank, Bhathiya Wickramasinghe, Executive Officers Jeewan Perera and Mr. Prasanna Welangoda, from the Head Office, were present on the occasion.

## Getambe Parish Welcomes new VC of Peradeniya



The parishioners of St. Mary's Church, Getambe, Kandy welcomed the new Vice Chancellor of University of Peradeniya, Professor Athula Senaratne,

recently.

Professor Senaratne was Head of the Department of Geology, Faculty of Science. The welcome address was delivered by Rev. Fr. Sudath Perera, Parish Priest, Getambe and Diocesan Director for Mass Media Apostolate.

*M. Emil P. Perera*

## New Regional Superior for Rosarians - Sri Lankan Region



Very Rev. Fr. Godwin Niles CR, has been appointed, the New Rosarian Regional Superior for the Sri Lankan Region.

Fr. Godwin is one of the senior priests in the Congregation of the Rosarians. He had been serving as Vicar General, Prior, Director of the Rosarian Scholasticate, Kandy and has been Spiritual Director to many at different times.

During his 28 years priestly ministry he mostly served at Jepamala Rajini Sevana, Kochchikade, the Minor Seminary and Rosarian Scholasticate, the Major Formation House, Kandy. He assumed office on August 8, 2012.

We, the members of the Congregation of the Rosarians, entrust him to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, the Queen of the Holy Rosary and continue to offer him our prayers.

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## Catholic Teacher's Union Teacher Transfer Board Representatives

Western Province Additional	Mr. P.C. Richard Perera Mr. D.J.M.N. Antony Jayamaha
Colombo Zone Additional	Mr. Titus Mallawarachchi Rev. Sr. Sonali AC
Jayawardenapura Zone Additional	Mrs. D.A.S. Colombage Mrs. R.P.D.L. Srimathi
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Homagama Zone Additional	Mrs. D. N. Malkanthi Gamage Mr. S.G.K.D.L.C. Prasad
Kalutara Zone Additional	Mr. W.A.D. Ajantha Chanaka Mrs. Renuka Silva
Mathugama Zone	Mrs. Jenita Silva
Kelaniya Zone Additional	Mr. P.C. Richard Perera Mr. M.D.U.J. Srilal Fernando
Gampaha Zone Additional	Mrs. M.M.I.J. Perera Mr. W.W.J.S. Fernando
Minuwangoda Zone Additional	Rev. Fr. Bernard Neville Perera Mrs. K. Janaki Liyanawatta
Negombo Zone Additional	Mr. D.J.M.N. Antony Jayamaha Mr. J.M. Rodrigopulle

The Catholic Education Office requests the teachers to inform the relevant transfer Board members and the Catholic Education Office, if you are liable to be transferred under the ten year transfer scheme, and also that representatives to transfer boards of other provinces can be appointed once the teachers of those provinces obtain membership.

*Rev. Fr. Ranjith Madurawala,  
General Manager,  
Catholic Private Schools W. P*

## Blood and Eye Donation Camp



A blood and eye donation camp organised by Deepaloka Welfare Association, Balagala, Hendala was held at the Daham School Hall of the Church of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Balagala.

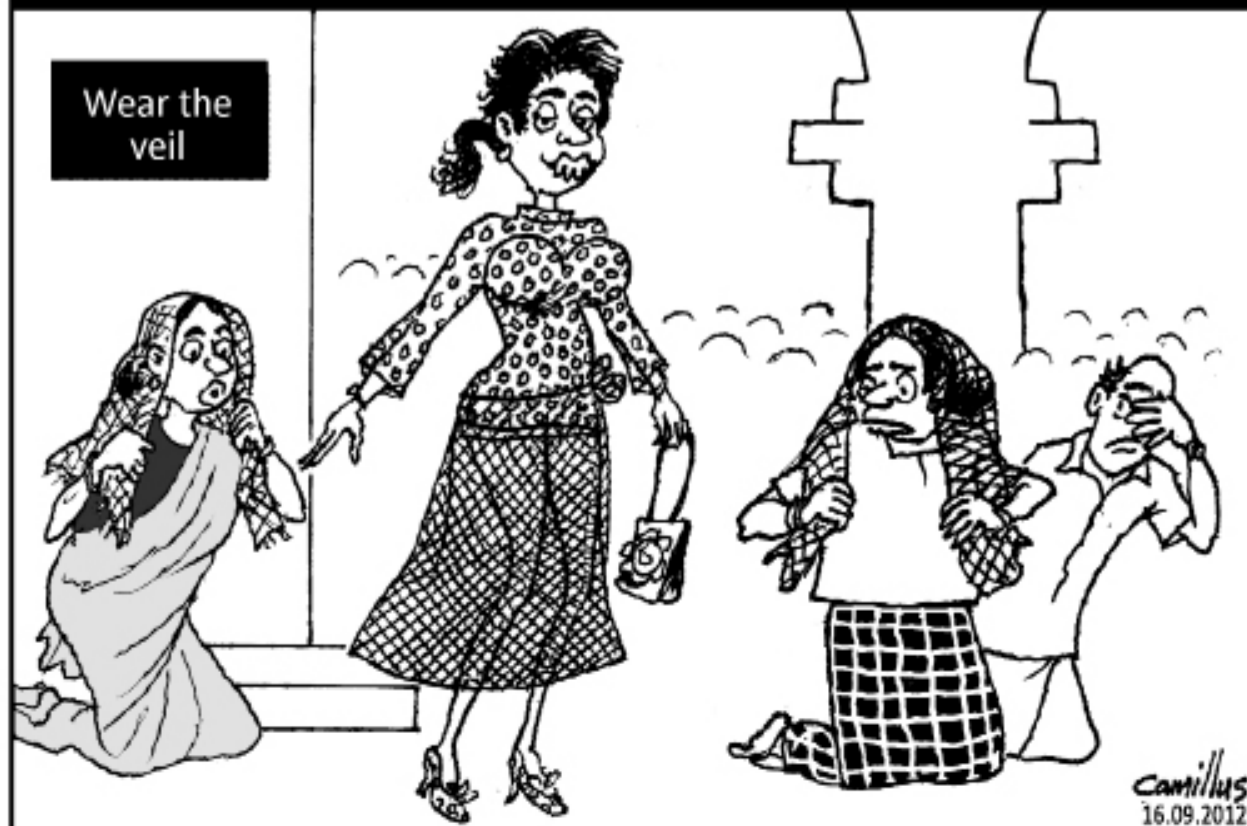
Around 110 people donated blood and 230 people signed documents to donate their eyes.

The camp was held under the patronage of Rev. Fr. Jude Raj Fernando, the parish priest of the Church and Ven. Batagalle Panyakithi Thero, the chief incumbent of Ashokarama Temple, Balagala.

*Nimal Perera*

## SUNDAY PUNCH

by Camillus



THE CATHOLIC WEEKLY OF SRI LANKA  
**Messenger**  
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EDITORIAL

September 16, 2012

## Our lifestyles of sin must be given up for salvation

What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? It is a perfectly logical question. It is a question that ought to be asked by all of us. Paul gave his answer "Certainly not" We have died to sin - how then can we go on living in it?" (Rom 6:1:2) But this does not mean that we cannot sin. It doesn't mean that, as a Christian, I have reached the place where I cannot sin, although some non-Catholic Christians take it to mean that.

Sin, basically, is fun, isn't it? We like to do it. Otherwise we wouldn't keep on doing it, we would not get involved in it. We know sins are bad for us. Our mind tells us, our logic tells us, our experience tells us they are bad for us. But, nevertheless, we like to do them. Therefore, any suggestion that tells us we can escape the penalty for our sin and still enjoy the action arouses a considerable degree of interest in us. So it is quite natural that this question would come up. Perhaps Paul is talking about a lifestyle of sin, not just a single act or two of failure. There are persons today who not only practice homosexuality but openly profess same sex marriage and want the State to legalize them. Paul is talking

about Christians who go on absolutely unchanged in their lifestyle from what they were before they were Christians. The word for "go on sinning" is in the present continuous tense. It means the action keeps on happening. The question is, "Can we go on sinning?" Here Paul is talking about a habitual practice, or something that frequently occurs in a believer's experience, something that was there before he became a Christian. Can we go on living this way? Certainly not.

Some people have an assurance of salvation based on faulty thinking. They believe that church attendance, baptism, or just being good will gain them approval from God. But our thinking is faulty if it isn't based on what God says in His Word. God says that "all have sinned" and that we are His enemies. But through the death and resurrection of His Son, we can be made right with God (Rom. 3:23; 5:8-10). By faith in what Christ has done, we can have peace with God (5:1) and the assurance of eternal life in heaven. Do you believe it? Your eternity is at stake. Don't trust faulty thinking but put your faith in Christ.

There is a story which was on the Internet. Four people—a pilot, a professor, a pastor, and a hiker—were flying in a small plane when the engines failed. The pilot said, "There are only three parachutes. Since this is my plane, I'm taking one of them." He put it on and jumped out. The professor said, "I'm brilliant and the world needs me, so I'm taking a parachute," and he jumped out. Then the pastor told the hiker, "I don't want to be selfish, so you take the last parachute." The hiker replied, "There are still two left, so we can each have one.

The professor jumped out with my backpack instead of the parachute!" Though the professor thought he would land safely, his assurance was based on faulty thinking.

What then is faith? Its defined in dictionaries as

1. Confident belief in the truth, value, or trustworthiness of a person, idea, or thing.
2. Belief that does not rest on logical proof or material evidence..
3. Loyalty to a person or thing; allegiance: Keeping faith with one's supporters.
4. Faith in Christianity - defined as secure belief in God and a trusting acceptance of God's will.

The Biblical definition of faith is: To have faith is to be sure of the things we hope for, to be certain of the things we cannot see. Heb. 11: 1

We know that God loves us despite our being sinners. THIS LOVE IS NOT BECAUSE OF WHO WE ARE, BUT WHO GOD IS... God did not love us because we were lovable, but because God is loving! As John wrote in an effort to inspire his brethren to love one another, God is love, and that moved Him to offer His Son - "Dear Friends Let us love one another, because love comes from God. Whoever loves is a child of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. And God showed his love for us by sending his only Son into the world so that we might have life through him" (the new life we are all baptized into). 1 Jn. 4:7



## God's Covenant With Abraham

Chapter 10 of the Book of Genesis is what the scholars call "The Table of Nations." It tells which nations came from each of the sons of Noah after the great floods. The sons who went forth from the 'ark', were Shem, Ham and Japheth. Egypt, Canaan, Philistia, Assyria and Babylon all came from Ham's line. All the nations that were enemies of Israel are descendants of Ham. The descendants of Shem are the People of God, who went on worshipping God properly. The Jews are the Shemites, and the Israelites the children of Abraham.

The descendants of Ham (Hamites) decided to make a name for themselves. "Come, let us build for ourselves a city, and a tower (The Tower of Babel) with its top in the heavens, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole world." The builders think they can reach heaven by themselves, without following God's way. It seemed to be a repeat of the story of Adam and Eve. Sin reared it's ugly head once again; and sin complicated things. God intervened to put a stop to their

scheme.

God had sworn a covenant oath with Noah never to destroy the world by flood. God chose a descendant of Shem's great, great, great, great, great grandson, Abram who came from Ur a city in Mesopotamia, now known as Iraq. Abram was seventy five-years-old when he heard a call from God: "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. And, I will make you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who curses you, I will curse: And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed" (Gen:12:1- 3).

A look at the three promises that God makes with Abram includes covenant oaths.

1. *Land and Nation*: Without a land there can be no nation; and the Land that God shows Abram is Canaan.

2. *Kingship and a Name*: Founding a dynasty means giving Abram political authority and power. God throws down the proud tyrants of Babel, and now he intends to build a kingdom

on humble and faithful Abram.

3. *Blessing for all Nations*: God will use Abram to bring salvation to the whole world. The whole human family torn apart by sin once again will be brought back together through the line of Abram.

Abram, was a rich man, and at the age of seventy five, he had no children; as his wife, Sarai had never been able to conceive. The question on his mind, how could he have a dynasty with no descendants. The word of the Lord came to him in a vision: "Fear not, Abram, I am your shield: Your reward shall be very great" (Gen:15:1-3). After nearly ten years of waiting, and still having no children, eager to get things rolling, on Sarai's suggestion, Abram took an Egyptian concubine.

The Egyptian maid immediately conceived, and a son was born to her, and they named him Ishmael according to an angel's/command. When Abram was ninety nine years old, the Lord came to him and renewed his promise: "The word of the Lord came to him, this man Ishmael shall not be you heir: Your own son (through Sarai) shall

be your heir. And He brought Abram out and said: "Look towards heaven, and number the stars, if you are able, so shall your descendants be." Behold, my covenant is with you, and you shall no longer be called Abram, (Exalted Father) but your name shall be 'Abraham' which means "Father of a multitude."

As a sign of this covenant, God commanded Abraham to circumcise every male in his household: "So shall my covenant be in your flesh an everlasting covenant" (Gen:17:13). God had a surprising promise for Sarai God said to Abraham: "As for your wife, Sarai, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah. That is "Princess or Queen."

In other words she becomes Queen Mother. At this point, Abraham fell on his face and laughed. A man who is a hundred years old, bear a child?. Shall, Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child? God said to Abraham, your wife, Sarah shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac. Sarah, laughed as well, when she heard it. Isaac, means 'laugh'. And so the name 'Isaac' would always

be a reminder to Abraham and Sarah, that they had laughed.

The most notable event in Isaac's life was the incident of his sacrifice by Abraham. (Gen:22). At the last moment God intervened and explained that he was merely testing Abraham's faith. It is said, that the Hebrew text can be interpreted to mean that Isaac was already a full grown youth. That being so, we can only admire Isaac's courage and obedience.

In the chapters to come, as we go on reading the Holy Scriptures, we will see how God actually fulfilled the three promises made to Abraham.

1. The Promise of Land and Nation is fulfilled in the covenant with Moses.

2. The promise of Kingship and Name is fulfilled with the covenant with King David.

3. The Promise of blessings for all Nations is fulfilled through Jesus Christ.

And so, Abraham is Father to the Israelite people, spiritual Father of all Christians (Rom:4:17) and Abraham is honoured by Islam El-Khalit. (the Friend of God).

Bryan Landsberger

# “DAHAM PASALA”

## Is it an organised Catholic School or a well-known Tutition Class?

Sometimes it is quiet natural for our minds to be envisaged with such questions. It is to be accepted that even the main purpose of the Sunday School System is to some extent misunderstood and misinterpreted. Such tendencies may create unnecessary problematic situations among our Children, Catechists and Parents themselves. Sunday School (Daham Pasala) of any diocese in Sri Lanka consists of children, catechists and parents. These three categories are to be related at different levels in the process of contributing to build up the Kingdom Values.

The purpose of this article is to enlighten our faithful so that it will be helpful for them to clarify if there are ambiguities and unclear concepts in this regard. *Children* are the Centre in this whole process; they are been fed and strengthened. *Catechists* are their spiritual leaders; their role as such should undoubtedly affect the lives of the children in an effective way. As spiritual guides, their responsibility is to give the children a very good example. They have got to live in what they teach, if not the witnessing aspect of their role will be in vain. *Parents* are supposed to help the catechists to fulfill their duty and responsibility as spiritual guides. Weaknesses and shortcomings of the catechists must not be created as big issues. Parents have to understand that even catechists are human beings, liable to mistakes and weaknesses. The purpose of mentioning this matter at this juncture, is to make parents aware of these factual situations. Sometimes parents can become the main threat and obstacle to the catechists, whereas their responsibility should be very constructive and contributive. A connective link between catechists and parents I would personally feel is a must. Definitely, parents have got to support the catechists as the catechists engage in teaching their children.

The foremost purpose of the whole Sunday School System is to strengthen the spiritual life of children. Spiritual values are to be incarnated; hence the Sunday School in a way could be interpreted as a cradle of Christian spirituality. Religious education in accordance with a systematic syllabus, embraces the second priority. There will be unnecessary conclusions when the fact is not correctly understood. Some may also ponder a systematic syllabus as in schools, is necessary for Sunday school. Is it a must to be followed by children once again in spite of it being a government or Catholic school?

Spiritual nourishment which should be the goal of the Sunday School System, could be forgotten or neglected when other elements do appear constantly. Also the tendency is there for some others to believe that the Sunday School is the only place available for the spiritual upbringing of the children. In this perspective they demand a lot from the Sunday School without being

factually strengthened. Let me attempt to deal with these issues very practically. There are Catholic students, who study in non-Catholic schools, yet they are not taught Catholicism as a religion, such children do benefit a lot from the syllabus followed in the Sunday School. As an academic qualification it will be a great help for such children.

Child born into the society which all of are living, is of empty capacity, he/she has to depend on others totally, the same thing can be applied to the life of Faith in the Lord. The child begins a new life with the sacrament of Baptism and there by he/she embraces a new identity, rather a Vocation as a follower of Christ Jesus, thus he/she becomes a member of the Divine Family. In this perspective, parents become their First Teachers of Faith. They are the guides par excellence. Hence, the family necessarily and undoubtedly becomes the main and sole Cradle of the Spiritual Journey. Responsible parenthood is worthy to be mentioned at this juncture. Vocation derived from the Sacrament of Baptism is to be constantly nurtured and matured at home. “Family being the true domestic church ... for the transmission of the faith...” (Recommendation for the Year of Faith by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith). Unfortunately at present, the expected role of the family (role of parents) is not played in our society, its overwhelmed by various other alternatives and options. For instance, they do not have a time for a prayer as a family, they can be caught up in so many complex social structures. Even the participation of the Sunday Eucharist is tended to be neglected by parents due to various reasons. Thereby the Catholic family being the cradle of spirituality, is governed with worldly tendencies such as craving for wealth, power and prestige, attempting to be self-centered... in a context like this, its very difficult to think of even a clue for a religious atmosphere. Human Values, Christ-like attitudes and good customs are to be initially derived and promoted at home. This is an axiom forever.

“The ‘Year of Faith’ can be an opportunity to pay greater attention to Catholic schools, which are a perfect place to offer students a living witness to the Lord and to nurture their faith...” (Recommendations for the Year of Faith by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith). It is apt I would feel, to focus our attention on the role played by the Catholic School. Any Student stays about (minimum) 1080 hours in a Catholic School per year, whereas 65 hours (maximum) is at Sunday School. The spiritual heritage received at home has to be gradually nurtured during the time at the Catholic School. Isn't it clear about the responsibility of the Catholic school and that of the Sunday school respectively. Any balanced and practical-minded person will accurately comprehend what is involved here.

What would be the difference



between the Catholic School and the non-Catholic School? The difference will lead the faithful further to ponder over the Identity of a Catholic School. Unfortunately, the reputation of a Catholic school is threatened today. Accusations both valid and invalid, to some extent do open the way for one to have a better grasp of this whole issue.

In a situation of this sort, is it just to demand anything and everything from the Sunday School? Duration of Sunday School is to a greater extent restricted and limited. What was received at home can be made whole with the helping-hand of the Catholic School. Even if the child gets the best results from the Catholic School, it is not sufficient at all as far as his/her spiritual life is concerned. There has to be considerable discipline of a student who continues to study in a Catholic School over that of student who is in a non-Catholic School. This “noted discipline” is rare even in Catholic Schools. This is a fact. We have got to accept this bitter fact humbly and then a sincere effort has to be made to eradicate this type of nature in coordination with different unions which are responsible for the welfare of the school. Welfare does not necessarily mean the finance only. “... Always consider the other person to be better than yourself. In your minds you must be the same as Christ Jesus” (Phili. 2: 3-11).

“Survival of the fittest” is known as the law of the forest. When this law is applied, then the opportunity to think of others, is very rare feel for others, be with them when it is needed, help them to be independent..etc. “You must therefore be perfect just as your heavenly Father is perfect” (Mt. 5:48). Religious exercises especially during the seasons of Lent and Advent are to be promoted both in Catholic School and Sunday School, a time for children to pray is to be allocated. Leadership qualities based upon Christian attitudes have to be more and more shaped.

### Year of Faith:

As it was been already communicated to the faithful, that the ‘Year of Faith’ will be declared by the Holy

Father, Pope Benedict XVI on October 11, 2012, and will conclude on November 24, 2013. (On October 7, 2012, Year of Faith will be officially declared in the Archdiocese of Colombo by His Eminence, Malcolm Cardinal Ranjith, the Archbishop of Colombo). Indeed, this year will be a very good opportunity to ponder over the Christian identity, and vocations derived from the Sacrament of Baptism.

An Apostolic letter in this regard was published on October 11, 2011. “*Porta Fidei*,” the Door of Faith (Acts 14/27) is an invitation basically ‘to rediscover Faith so that the faithful will be joy-filled witnesses to the Risen Lord in the World today’... ‘Year of Faith’ through *Porta Fidel* also reminds us about the anniversaries of two great events of the Church;

50th Anniversary of the opening of the Vatican Council II (October 11, 1962).

20th Anniversary of the promulgation of the Catechism of the Catholic Church (October 11, 1992)

### OBJECTIVES:

- Reaffirm the foundation of Christian life.
- Renew the conversion to the Lord Jesus Christ.
- Enable the faithful to rediscover their Faith, and thereby to be joy-filled witnesses to the Risen Lord in the World today.
- 12 verses of the Creed were proposed (at the moment) as the Foundation of the whole process of launching the Year of Faith in the Archdiocese of Colombo.

Parish, being the initial unit in the society has been focused in a special way. In this way the Parish could be thought of as the milestone of this whole process of re-affirmation of the foundation of Christian existence.

**Rev. Fr. Indra Fernando**  
Director - Archdiocesan Apostolate for Catechetics

More pilgrims heading to South India have been attacked again. This is not the first time such incidents have happened. In August of last year such an incident happened in Velankanni, but during that incident the Tamil Nadu police escorted the pilgrims to Pondicherry, out of the danger zone. They had no other recourse but to fly back home. About the same time, some Buddhist pilgrims were assaulted in a park in Chennai.

Sri Lankans have become scapegoats to the Tamil Nadu politicians. They have too many problems in their hands to solve, but they are over-anxious to solve our problems. We are being made scapegoats. They want to divert the attention of their electorate from their own problems, to Sri Lankan problems. This is a historical phenomenon that has happened in so many countries and so many

times.

Hitler chose the German Jewish population as scapegoats and massacred



them by the millions. The Turkish government made Armenians their scapegoats and murdered tens of thousands of them. In the Soviet Union Stalin named some people as anti-Marxist bourgeoisie and massacred them without any justice or trial. Sinhala national extremists, instigated by political demagogues,

# Scapegoats

branded the Sri Lankan Tamil community as a privileged class trampling on their rights and killed many of them. They set fire to their homes and did irreparable damage to their psyche.

We are just coming out of a thirty-year-war created and managed by our political demagogues. This war killed and maimed tens of thousands of young people. Acts of terrorism killed thousands of men and women of all ages and from all ethnic groups. The root causes of the racial problem that led to war are still unresolved. Poverty, hunger, unemployment

and indebtedness are still prevalent among our citizens. Politicians are very slow in finding ways to solve these problems.

Psychologists like Carl Jung and Rene Girard talk about "Scapegoatism." "When there is a sick society, people will look for scapegoats in the social structure to blame for their miseries. Psychologists use Freudian terms such as projection and displacement for this type of "Scapegoatism." Rene Girard says, "This is where one person (one group) is singled out as the cause of the trouble. When the scapegoat is killed or exiled, the social order is restored. The people are contented that they have solved the cause of their problems by removing the scapegoat-

People are psychologically relieved."

But the root causes of the problems are not eradicated. The basic problems of poverty, hunger, unemployment, indebtedness, etc. still remain. The cycle begins again. Tamil scapegoats are defeated and their war leaders are killed. Now the sick society is looking for another scapegoat. Unfortunately in this multicultural and-multi-religious society we can find lots of them. Muslims have built a mosque in the holy city. We got the impression that the Muslims built a new mosque close to Buddhist shrines, but later we came to know that this mosque has been in existence on the same premises for more than sixty years.

"Hindus are killing animals as sacrifice. It is

cruel. Let us stop animal sacrifices." What about the tens of thousands of chicken, thousands of cattle, goats, pigs and fish killed for human consumption? That is ignored. "Let us concentrate on the cruelty of the Hindu priests. A few weeks ago in Deniyaya two Christian pastors were waylaid and assaulted till one was only semi-conscious. They were aiming at converting all the Buddhists in Deniyaya to their type of Christianity." They were threatened to get out of the town. The minority Muslims, Hindus and Christians are the current scapegoats. Who are the next?

Till the elected leaders of this country solve the basic problems of the people, this type of "scapegoatism" which leads to violence, death and destruction will never end.

## TAKE TIME FOR A MINUTE OF HUMOUR - SMILE!



A good friend of mine bought a new TV and he placed his used (almost new) set in the verandah with a tag "you can take it free." After three days it was still there, so he changed the tag to "TV for sale. Rs. 5000." The next day someone had stolen it.

Rev. Fr. Fracoid Anthony Fernando OMI

## Prayer: Its efficacy and its meaning

Prayer: It is said that prayer can move mountains. It means that prayer can do what seems to be impossible. For people to believe in something, they should see, feel or experience its

efficacy. Being a person who has experienced the efficacy of prayer the author firmly believes in prayer. Prayer has more chances to be answered when one is desperate when one feels that there is no one left in the world who can help him or her. The author believes that for prayer to function successfully four major items have to be satisfied as follows.

Have firm faith in God and a firm belief that God can grant you the favour.

Praise and thank God for all the past favours granted through prayer.

Make an earnest effort to work towards achieving the favour requested through prayer.

Have patience and be prepared to wait short, long or may be a very long time (perhaps several years) until God grants you the favour or the prayer is answered.

It is always the last item that most people overlook and forget. Hence they feel that their prayer has not been answered.

**Efficacy of Prayer:** Many good things have been written about prayer. I wish to share one regarding the efficacy of prayer, which I have personally experienced. If one prays with an ardent faith in God there is no doubt that such a prayer will be answered positively. But WHEN and HOW it is answered is interesting to know. According to my experience on many occasions prayer



was answered at a time when I least expected it. Also my prayer was answered on many occasions not exactly the way I expected it to be answered, e.g. I prayed to obtain qualifications to select my career as an accountant. But I became a senior lecturer in completely another discipline in a foreign university. These two concepts WHEN (at a time that I least expected it) and HOW (I was granted the favour not exactly what I requested but a favour equally advantageous). WHEN and HOW concepts should not be forgotten when one prays

**Meaningful Prayer:** It is strange to see some people who possess diehard religious practices e.g. special devotion to a Saint, go to a particular church or join a special religious movement, generously donate or give alms, etc., but unfortunately are not prepared to correct their own evil or bad habits, e.g. not going for Sunday Mass, dishonesty, charging unfair professional fees, tell lies habitually, are cruel, not prepared to pardon a member of their own family, a relative, a friend or the neighbor, are alcoholics, steal or rob, are jealous, etc. Are they trying to compensate or cover up their evil habits with a so-called good deed or special devotion? For our prayers or a religious practice to be meaningful, should not one correct ones evil deeds prior to asking favours from God? Correct oneself before praying for favours.

Damascene Abeysekera

## The Last Post

I started to drive away mom,  
but as I pulled out into the road  
The other car didn't see me  
Mom, and hit me like a load.  
As I lay there on the pavement  
Mom, I hear the policeman say,  
The other guy is drunk Mom,  
and now I'm the one who will  
pay  
I'm lying here dying, Mom, I  
wish you'd get here soon.  
How could this happen to me  
Mom? My life just burst like a  
balloon  
There is blood all around me,  
Mom, and most of it is mine  
I hear the medic say, Mom, I'll  
die in a short time.  
I just wanted to tell you, Mom,  
I swear I didn't drink  
It was the others, Mom, The  
others didn't think  
He was probably at the same  
party as I  
The only difference is, he drank  
and I will die.  
Why do people drink Mom? It  
can ruin your whole life  
I'm feeling sharp, pains now.  
Pains just like a knife  
The guy who hit me is walking,  
Mom, and I don't think it's fair  
I'm lying here dying and all he  
can do is stare  
Tell my brother not to cry,  
Mom. Tell daddy to be brave  
And when I go to heaven, Mom  
put "Daddy Girl" on my grave.  
(Quote: Bottle take effect -  
Jim Reeves)

Ralph Alles



## A CROSS The Way '93

By Sirohmi Gunasekera

### Having Faith

"I am overwhelmed by problems and worries. I wish I was dead," moaned Jilka.

"Why are you talking like that? Don't you believe in God?" asked Marina.

"I don't know if God is watching over me. Why does He give me so many trials?" asked Jilka.

"You must be patient like Job. You must continue to pray through your troubles and pray to God to give you strength to cope. God is not just the God of Good Times. He will carry you and be with you through the hard times if you will just put your trust in Him!" advised Marina.

"I suppose I am being immature in asking for Instant Gratification and Quick Fixes! You see, I am an only child and I guess I was spoiled by my parents. But now my father is dead and my mother is bedridden and I have to care for her! also I have a teenaged son who is demanding. I think that I have spoiled him in turn. I also have financial problems," confessed Jilka.

"Well, that's a lot you have on your plate. But I know of others who have had even worse problems and they have coped because they had faith. I know of those afflicted with cancer who did not want to die (unlike you) and who survived and lived for many years!" shared Marina.

"Maybe I shouldn't have said that I want to die. After all, God makes the sun rise each day and we should consider it a blessing. Besides, I must tell you honestly that God has helped me in the past, especially during my divorce. I prayed to Him and it was He who gave me the courage to re-build my life. So I must stop moaning and be thankful for what I have," said Jilka.

"That is right. Just have Faith and live for the day," advised Marina.

# Pieta Lanka never to be forgotten

This week marks the feast of Our Lady of Sorrows. The great artistic work of Michelangelo - the Pieta is closely associated with the depiction of this feast. Ever since the first Pieta was conceived, the Pieta has been reproduced all over the world in the same form and sometimes composed differently to fit socio political scenarios.

Here we show the sculpture that gained popularity as the "Pieta Lanka." It is one of a several sculptures and paintings found at Thulana Research Centre for Encounter and Dialogue in Kelaniya. Fr. Aloysius Pieris SJ. explains that these are sculptures and paintings of Buddhists interpreting Christianity based on a missiological principle, which is the contrary of the traditional missiology. In the traditional missiology, the Church tells the Buddhist who Christ is. Here it is the opposite; the Buddhists are asked who Christ is. The Buddhist tell us who Christ is, and in that dialogue they tell us not only who Christ is for them, but also who Christ is for us, in Asia. This is a kind of dialogue with artists who believe in another religion but find Christ as an excellent subject of artistic appreciation and of religious devotion.

The Pieta Lanka was composed in 1989 - one of the saddest years in the history of Sri Lanka. The Indian army was fighting the Tamil rebels in the North, rather Tamil revolutionaries, and the Sinhalese army was fighting the Sinhalese revolutionaries in the South. The conflict was

between the army and the youth revolutionaries.

The conflict is shown in the background. There is a military tank and a lamp-post. The military tank represents the army, and the lamp-post represents the youth militants. because when they killed someone, they tied that person to a lamp-post and tagged the crime: Who did it; why. They put a label. So the lamp-post became the symbol of the insurrection, both in the North by the Tamils and by the Sinhalese youth in the South.



This is the background, the conflict which he presents in the shape of Mother Lanka, the youth dying in her arms, and sees in them Jesus in the arms of Mary. It's again a Christian interpretation of that event. He doesn't care who killed whom; they are dead. They are



victims of something, and they are in the arms of Mary, Mother Lanka.

But there is a little punch to this. This lamp-post is in the form of a cobra. You see here the cobra joins the statue from below. The reason is in Buddhist tradition, the cobra is an evil force, no doubt about it; but the Buddha tamed the evil force, so much that during his meditation when it began to rain and there was mud all over, the cobra raised him up from the mud by coiling beneath him, protecting him from the rain with its hood. Which means, this evil force, if it is tamed, can serve us.

So here the artist is trying to give a deep message. If you fulfill the just demands of these youth, north and south, instead of killing them, you tame them, and this force can become a help to Sri Lanka.

But a military government can never be tamed. It will always be like that.

A student from one of these areas of conflict observed that it was very significant that this military tank was pointed toward the chapel.

Artist: P.D. Ranjith. Medium: Cement.

## The Making of the Pieta - the story behind the sculpture

Michelangelo Buonarroti was born at Caprese, Italy, on March 6, 1475 to a noble Florentine family of small means.

Michelangelo completed the Pieta when he was only 24 years-old. Though he lived to be almost 90, and carved sculptures of staggering force and beauty, many feel that he never again achieved such beauty or depth of compassion.



The story behind the carving of the Pieta is filled with improbabilities. It started with a forgery. The penniless young Michelangelo had one of his statues, a small Cupid, buried, then "discovered" and sold in Rome as a classical antiquity. The purchaser of the marble, astute

Cardinal Riario, detected the fraud, and had Michelangelo brought to Rome - not to punish him but to employ him, since the statue had shown promise. However this union did not create any sculptures.

While in Rome Jacopo Galli, a banker whose family had been collecting ancient sculptures for generations, commissioned him to carve a Bacchus (god of wine in Roman mythology). In his first life-size sculpture, Michelangelo carved with staggering boldness, the soft, sensual flesh, the high polish of the skin covering the most authentic anatomical structure ever seen in Europe (he had spent months illegally dissecting corpses in a hospital), made the figure more forthrightly pagan than any of the Greek antiquities so prized in Rome. It was a brilliant pyrotechnical performance, and caused an enormous stir.

His next commission was to come from Galli's friend, the French ambassador to the Pope, Cardinal Groslye, an aged, intensely spiritual Benedictine, who had secured permission from the Pope to leave behind something of beauty in Rome. He wanted a sculpture carved for the Chapel of the Kings of France in the Basilica of St. Peter. The concept of the Pieta appears to have originated in Michelangelo's mind, and it was enthusiastically approved by the Cardinal. For his work, he was to receive 450 gold ducats. Just how the Pieta, Michelangelo's most sacred work, arose out of Bacchus, his most profane, is a mystery.

To begin his next task Michelangelo moved into two cold stone rooms overlooking the Tiber. From the onset he broke most of the accepted rules of sculpture, and practically all concepts of the Pieta. He broke away from the earlier dark, heavy, tragic Pietas, their message of love blotted out by blood. He eliminated all sense of violence, the nail holes in Christ's hands and feet barely discernible dots. The dead Jesus was to sleep peacefully on his controversially young Mother's lap.

What he hoped to convey in the Pieta was what the term really meant: Pity, Sorrow. This he determined

to capture by the a sublime beauty which would awaken sympathy, not only for the dead Christ but for his Mother gazing down at her Son, and with one hand outstretched, seeming to say, "Why, dear God, why?"

The deeper he cut into the marble block, the more he isolated himself from Rome, seeing only a few friends in the Florentine quarter, and even these on increasingly rare occasions. Totally immersed in his carving, he slept only when he was exhausted, throwing himself over the bed fully clothed for three or four hours' rest before picking up hammer and chisel again.

Cardinal Groslye never saw the completed sculpture, but shortly before his death, studying the rough-blocked figures, he signified to Galli that the basic stipulation of the contract had been fulfilled: that it was more beautiful than any work in marble to be seen in Rome.

The strangest part of the Pieta story is that the increasingly controversial five-foot, nine-inch marble Pieta had to be installed in the Chapel of the Kings of France almost furtively. With Cardinal Groslye dead, Galli feared that the Pope might refuse permission to install it at St. Peter's. The Pieta was never formally installed or blessed. Unlike the Bacchus, it aroused no interest.

The Pieta was moved to its niche in St. Peter's in 1500, a jubilee year. Crowds from all over Europe visited the Basilica. Yet few of the visitors bothered to enter the dark chapel.

It took a crowing indignity to show Michelangelo how badly he had failed. He was standing in the Chapel when a Lombard family stood before his Pieta, arguing about it. He heard the mother say, "I tell you I recognize the work. It is by that fellow from Osteno, who makes all the tombstones." "No, no," cried her husband, "it is one of our countrymen, Cristoforo Solari, called the Hunchback from Milan. He has done many of them." Outraged, Michelangelo returned to St. Peter's that night with hammer and chisel, and a candle wired into a loop on his hat. Into the band across the Virgin's bosom, he imprinted, "Michelangelo Buonarroti of Florence made this." It was the only time in his life that he carved his signature into a sculpture.

In 1506, Pope Julius II decided to take down the ancient basilica begun in 324 by Constantine, and build a new basilica. However, it was not until 1537 that the Pieta was removed to a safe niche in the Chapel of the Virgin Mary of the Fever, inside the new Basilica. It appears to have remained there until after Michelangelo's death, and after a considerable part of the new St. Peter's was completed. Pope Gregory XIII moved it again sometime between 1572 and 1585, to the choir of Sixtus IV. Here it remained for about 170 years, when it was moved for a third time, to its own Chapel of the Pieta.

The above account of the Pieta was taken from an article by Irving Stone the author of the best-selling "The Agony and the Ecstasy," a novel about Michelangelo, which was made into a full-length feature film in 1965. Stone was also the editor for the publication of Michelangelo's letters.

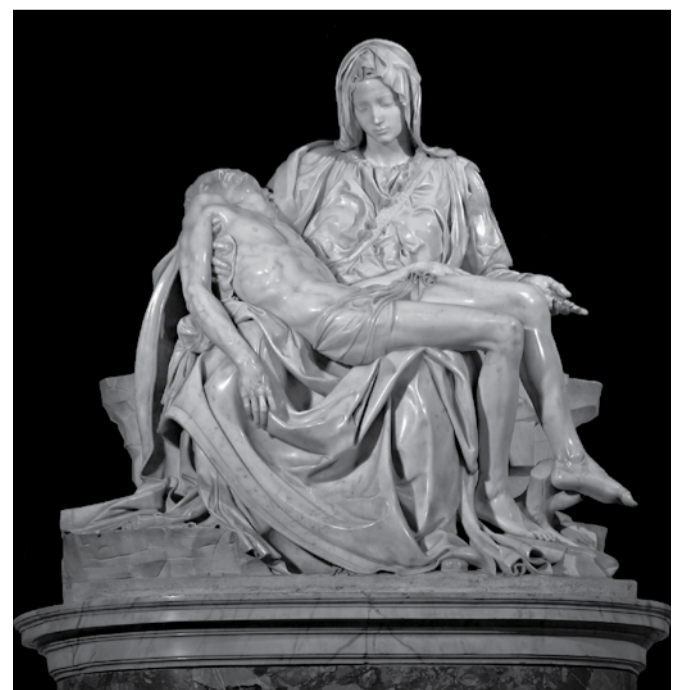
### The Pieta in the subsequent years

The Pieta sustained damage, when four fingers on Mary's left hand were broken during a move. This was restored in 1736.



The most substantial damage occurred on May 21, 1972 (Pentecost Sunday) when a mentally disturbed geologist named Laszlo Toth, walked into the chapel and attacked the sculpture with a geologist's hammer while shouting "I am Jesus Christ." The left arm of the Virgin was shattered and the nose, left eye and veil were chipped. Onlookers took many of the pieces of marble that flew off. Later, some pieces were returned, but many were not, including Mary's nose, which had to be reconstructed from a block cut out of her back. After the attack, the work was painstakingly restored and is now protected by a bullet-proof acrylic glass panel.

In 1964, the sculpture was shipped to New York in order to become the main attraction for the Vatican pavilion, at the 1964 New York World's Fair, where it was viewed by millions. This temporary removal of the Pieta from the Vatican was nevertheless controversial. In September, 1965, Pope Paul issued a decree banning any further loans of art works from the Vatican.



# 36th SIGNIS Salutation Awards 2012



*His Eminence delivering the address at the 36th SIGNIS Salutation Awards*



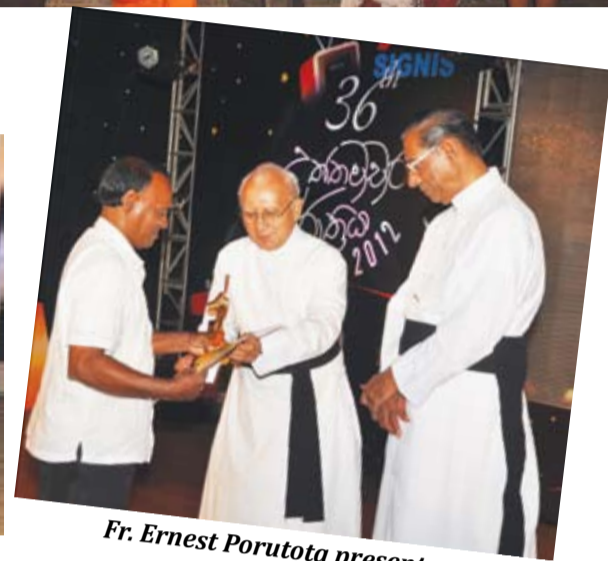
*Bimal Jayakody, receives the Best Actor Award from His Eminence, for the film "Gamani"*



*Children of late actor Asela Jayakody receive a certificate on behalf of their father from Very Rev. Fr. Cyril Gamini Fernando*



*His Eminence, Malcolm Cardinal Ranjith, Rev. Fr. Cyril Gamini Fernando, Rev. Fr. Ernest Porutota being welcomed at the 36th SIGNIS Salutation Awards 2012. Also in the picture are Rev. Fr. Benedict Joseph, National Director, Social Communications, film actresses Malani and Damayanthi Fonseka*



*Fr. Ernest Porutota presents an Award*



*Saman Kumara Liyanage receives the award for the Best, One-Episode, Tele drama*



*Buddhika Kulasekera of 'Swarna Vahini' receives the Award for the Best Tele drama, "Sandagiri Pawwa."*



*Sangeetha Weeraratne receives Silver for her performance in the film "Dihiwari"*



*A section of the glittering stars*



*A group photograph of the SIGNIS Award winners*



# Cardinal Carlo Maria Martini Obituary

By Peter Stanford

Carlo Maria Martini, priest and biblical scholar, was born on February 15, 1927 and died on August 31, 2012 at the age of 85. He was a divisive figure within Roman Catholicism. For those many Catholics who wished to see thoroughgoing reform, especially in their church's stance on gender and sexuality, he was the best Pope they never had.

Throughout the 1990s, Martini, as Archbishop of Milan, offered a nuanced, progressive and high-profile counter-balance to the moral conservatism of Pope John Paul II. To traditional Catholics, however, he was an extremist, willing to sacrifice the church's distinctive and time-honoured teaching in order to cosy-up to contemporary social attitudes in the secular world.

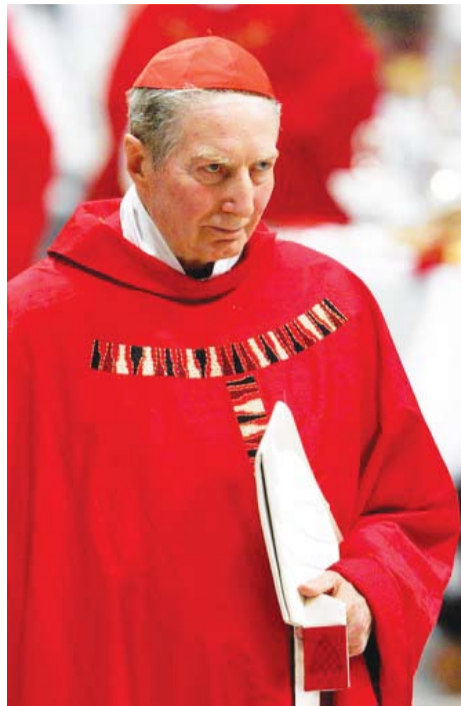
## Caricature

There was an element of caricature in both views. Though he believed that rules themselves could get in the way of faith, in 2007, he remarked: "The Church does not give orders. It is necessary to listen to others, and when speaking, to use terms that they understand."

Martini never advocated the throwing out of Catholicism's entire elaborate rulebook. So when he spoke in support of the use of condoms, for instance, as the "lesser evil" in preventing the spread of HIV/Aids, he was not, as sometimes portrayed, suggesting that the Church's continuing (though widely ignored) prohibition on "artificial contraception" be abandoned completely by everybody.

He was a strong supporter of the rights of women, including their ordination to the diaconate (one step short of the priesthood), but he did not demand that seminaries open their doors to all regardless of gender.

And however much his chances of being John Paul II's successor were talked up – by both admirers and detractors – in the real world it was never



Cardinal Carlo Maria Martini attending a Mass in the Vatican in 2005. Photograph: Thomas Coex (AFP/Getty Images)

going to happen. Those who openly and prophetically position themselves well beyond the mainstream of Catholicism are hardly likely to win the support, in a papal conclave, of the necessary two-thirds of cardinal electors, especially when John Paul II, since arriving in the Vatican in 1978, had made a point of appointing mainly like-minded traditionalists to this upper echelon of the hierarchy.

## Subtle

To many Catholics just dreaming of the prospect of Martini as pope heartened them. John Paul's long papacy became ever more conservative as the Polish Pontiff's health declined in the 1990s and into the first years of the new millennium. While the Vatican spent its time announcing what could

not be tolerated – women priests, homosexuality, liberation theology – there was the Archbishop of Milan, travelling the world, talking in positive terms of supporting families rather than banging on about abortion, and addressing the challenge of welcoming all into churches rather than barring from the sacraments those whose lives did not conform to official rules.

Martini never directly criticised John Paul – or the inner circle that eventually ran the papacy for him (including Joseph Ratzinger, now Pope Benedict XVI). He was too subtle for that. But his disapproval was clear. He sometimes managed to couch it as a joke. So while Rome was working itself up into a lather to celebrate the millennium in 2000 as an opportunity for the world to return to the pews en masse, Martini gently pointed out (with his biblical scholar's hat on) that Jesus was in all probability born in 6BC, so we had already missed his anniversary. On another occasion, when John Paul in 1994 had forbidden Catholics even to discuss the question of female ordination in a new encyclical, Martini mischievously suggested that the prohibition only lasted for the current millennium – i.e. six years.

## Milan

Born near Turin, Martini joined the Jesuits at the age of 17 and was ordained to the priesthood in 1952. He spent the next three decades as an academic, becoming Rector of the Pontifical Biblical Institute in Rome in 1969, and of the whole Gregorian University that houses it in 1978. But the following year, in the first flush of his papacy, when his own opinions did not seem so fixed (at least not in public), John Paul appointed Martini to head Europe's largest archdiocese, Milan.

He remained in that role for 22 years and was widely admired within the Archdiocese. He was made a cardinal in 1983. A natural leader among the Italian bishops, he served for six years

(between 1987 and 1993) as President of the European Bishops' Conference. He also found time to produce a series of books, some academic but many more for a wider readership. He also wrote a monthly agony column for the Italian newspaper *Corriere della Sera*.

Martini was not an ivory-tower academic and, while he never served as a parish priest, he had the popular touch. Indeed, it was his overriding concern that the Church should be speaking to and supporting the everyday lives and dilemmas of Catholics that shaped so much of his work and thinking. To that end, he was never keen on the dressing up that goes with being a cardinal, labelling clerics in their cassocks as "pompous."

## Diagnosis

It is perhaps now easily forgotten that John Paul's health was always in question after the assassination attempt on him in 1981, which left him permanently debilitated, but while he soldiered on until 2005 despite the limitations placed on him by Parkinson's disease, Martini retired in 2002, after receiving the same diagnosis.

He lived out his final years first in Jerusalem at the Biblical Institute, returning to his studies, and latterly in Milan. It has been reported that, despite his ill-health, in the first round of voting for a successor to John Paul, Martini received more support than the eventual victor, Benedict XVI. He remained outspoken until the very end in the hope that the Church to which he gave his life would realise the urgency of reform.

In an interview published after his death, he spoke more emphatically than was his habit in life of an institution of "empty churches" that is "200 years out of date" and in need of "transformation." It was one last try to get the message heard.

*guardian.co.uk*

## Holy Family Sisters on accomplishing 156 years in Sri Lanka open their hearts .....

*150 years ago, the Holy Family Sisters imprinted their footprints on Jaffna soil with grateful hearts. In gratitude the Holy Family Sisters wish to share the 'good news' of the Holy Family Association and its growth in Sri Lanka from 1862 to 2012 with the readers of the Catholic Messenger.*

Many years ago Christianity had bloomed on Jaffna soil. The pride of having spread Christianity goes to the Missionary priests and nuns from Europe. They were sent from different Congregations and also from different countries in Europe. "How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring Good News" (Is.52:7). The missionaries, who were sent, worked zealously to spread the Kingdom of God.

Among those sent to evangelize, the first Congregation of women religious who came to Sri Lanka were the Sisters of the Holy Family of Bordeaux. From 1862 - 1985 these foreign missionaries worked in the Jaffna Peninsula and in the other parts of the country. Through their presence and loving service they won the hearts of many, who later joined the Catholic Church, this

is evident in available historical records. Many from other faiths too, joined the Catholic Church. To achieve the Sisters lived a vowed life, united with the Lord, a simple, and happy life, loved their Congregation and lived the Spirit of God Alone while rendering loving service to all.

The Congregation of the Holy Family established on Jaffna soil, worked closely in the Bishop's Administrative area and later launched - out to Kurunegala, Kurunegala was the capital of the Southern region, where there were many Catholics in Wennappuwa and Chilaw and spread to the other places. Many who were attracted by their consecrated life opted to join the Holy Family way of life.

As we celebrate the Triple Golden Jubilee of the arrival of the Holy Family Sisters in Jaffna in 2012, we wish to share with you all our history and about the five vocations in the Family of Pierre Bienvenu Noailles in a very simple way.

It was during the French revolution which shook the western world that

our Founder Fr. Pierre Bienvenu Noailles experienced the effects and consequences of the revolution. It affected him and spoke strongly to him about the needs of the time. French society was devastated socially, religiously, politically and economically and this sudden change in society made him act. In 1820, he established the Association of the Holy Family with many branches to respond to the signs of the time and to build a new Christian society. Through the vows of poverty, obedience and chastity the first Sisters totally committed themselves to community living in the seven branches living their specific religious life to respond to the different needs in society.

The changing era had its influence on the Association of the Holy Family too. In 1903, some changes took place in its structures; the 7 branches became 3 main vocations. The way man thinks and lives are never the same. When the thoughts of man changes, it has its effect on the world, society and country. This happens everyday.

Whether we like it or not we are influenced by these movements. In 1957, there was a change in the administrative

structures of the Association. It was decentralized. At present in this Association there are Apostolic and Contemplative religious, consecrated Seculars who live a hidden life, like a leaven in the world. Like in our Founder's time, today, together with the consecrated life, there are men and women Lay Associates, Priest Associates, Youth and Children of the Holy Family

Dear Readers, the members of the Family of Pierre Bienvenu Noailles mentioned above wish to share with you all, their life history and experiences. "The great expansion of the Holy Family comes to you from the Jaffna Province, as we revisit the past, share the present and in this way want to reach out to you all in love, share the joy of our commitment and responsibility, explain and clarify the mission of the men and women who have committed themselves to spreading God's Kingdom in our country. If you wish, you too, could commit yourselves and respond to God's voice, that is the aim of our sharing.

*Jubilee Committee, Holy Family Provincialate, Jaffna. (Contd. next week)*

# 96TH BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF REV. DR. W.L.A. DON PETER

On September 25, 2012 the 96th birth anniversary of Rt. Rev. Dr. W. L. A. Don Peter, the well known Catholic priest, educationist, writer, author, journalist and patriot will be celebrated.

Welgama Lekam Appuhamilage Don Peter was born on September 25, 1916 in Kondagammulla a hamlet five miles inland from Negombo. After his elementary education at

the village school, he had his secondary education at Maris Stella College, Negombo, the cradle of many a Catholic priest. In 1935 Fr. Don Peter entered St. Aloysius Seminary and attended St. Joseph's College, Colombo.

Fr. W. L. A. Don Peter had his priestly formation at St. Bernard's Seminary and was ordained a priest on March 25, 1941 by Dr. J. M. Masson, the



Rev. Dr. Don Peter

then Archbishop of Colombo.

From 1941 to 1946 he served as an assistant parish priest at St. Mary's Church, Grand Street, Negombo and then at St. Thomas Church, Kotte. In 1946, he was appointed to the staff of St. Joseph's College, Colombo and also served as the prefect of boarders, prefect of discipline and prefect of studies.

In 1947, Dr. Thomas Benjamin Cooray became the Archbishop of Colombo. He had been the teacher of Fr. Don Peter both at St. Joseph's and St. Bernard's Seminary and knew the talents of Fr. Don Peter. In 1950 Archbishop Thomas Cooray sent him abroad for further studies. Fr. Don Peter studied missiology for one year at the Urbanian University taking up his residence at the College of St. Peter the Apostle in Rome. From there he proceeded to England and joined the School of Oriental and African Studies in the University of London.

The Vatican Council II (1962-65) revolutionised the attitude of the Catholic Church towards other religions. It directed that the Catholics should

acknowledge, preserve and promote the spiritual and moral good found in other religions and values in their society and culture. In the 1950's long before the Vatican Council II, Fr. Don Peter made a parallel study of Buddhism and Christianity in Sri Lanka and appreciated their impact on the spiritual, moral and social life in the country.

For his PhD at the University of London, Fr. Don Peter presented the thesis "A Comparative Study of the influence of Buddhism and Christianity in Ceylon Education." Fr. Don Peter in his books like "Buddhist and Benedictine Monastic Education," and research papers like "St. Francis and the Buddha," "Religious Life, Buddhist and Christian," brings forth the spirituality in the two religions, the austere discipline of some Catholic orders and their similarity to the Vinaya rules of the Buddhist Sangha.

It is as an educationist that Fr. Don Peter shined most. In 1961 he was appointed the Rector of St. Joseph's College, Colombo — the leading Catholic school in Sri Lanka. He was the first Old Josephian, the first Sinhalese and the first Diocesan priest to hold the post.

It was soon after the Schools take over that Fr. Don Peter had to face hard times. However Fr. Don Peter steered St. Joseph's as a non-fee levying private school without resorting to fat donations for admissions. He also gave oriental studies a special place at St. Joseph's, and brought it to the mainstream of national life.

**W.T.A Leslie Fernando**  
The writer is a former High Court Judge and a Vice-President of the Newman Society Alumni Association

Most of the research work of Fr. Don Peter is on Christian education in Sri Lanka, the major work being "Education in Sri Lanka under the Portuguese."

In 1967 Fr. Don Peter was appointed the domestic prelate to the Papal Throne by Pope Paul VI with the title Rt. Rev. Monsignor in recognition of his services to Catholic education.

Fr. Don Peter had made deep insights to the Church history in Sri Lanka. In 1963, he presented the work "Studies in Ceylon Church History" embodying his historical research. Fr. Don Peter was elected a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society of Great Britain in 1965. Both Prof. George D. Winius of Holland and Prof. C. R. de Silva, renowned historians have expressed the view that Fr. Don Peter is the worthy successor to Fr. S. G. Perera the great historian in Sri Lanka.

Fr. Don Peter had rendered his services, both to the Church and the State in other spheres as well. He had served as the Vicar General of the Archdiocese of Colombo and a member of the Archdiocese Episcopal Council. He had served as a member of the Government Educational Publication Board and as President of the Headmasters Conference. He had the honour of serving in the national committee of the Sri Lank-

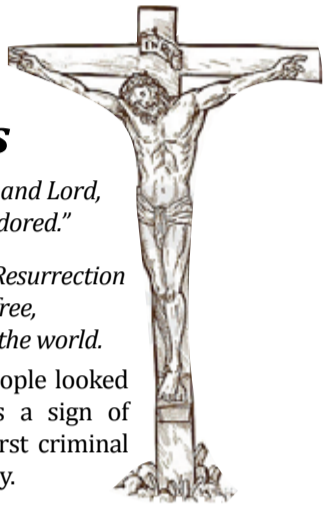
an section of the sources for the UNESCO History of Nations.

Fr. Don Peter had also written a series of novels for children and some of them have been re-printed several times. His novel "Vana Gatho Lamo" a story of jungle adventure had gone through six editions. His novel for children "Tekkawatte Kathawa" won the Presidential Award for the best children's novel in 1998.

Fr. Don Peter as a journalist has been a fearless defender of the Catholic doctrine. The renowned writer and author Martin Wickremasinghe had been a close friend of Fr. Don Peter because of their common interest on indigenous culture. In a series of articles in "Dinamina" Fr. Don Peter crossed swords with him on the Catholic Church and democracy. Likewise Fr. Don Peter had entered into controversies with many, on the role of the Catholic Church.

Fr. Don Peter as a man of God always projected a spiritual aspect of religion. His every endeavour as a scholar, educationist, administrator and social reformer was in harmony with his priesthood. He never transgressed on things where angels feared to tread. He practices what he preached and led a simple, disciplined and exemplary life in accordance with Gospel values.

## The Exaltation of the Cross



"We hail Thee Saviour and Lord,  
Thy Cross ever be adored."

Lord by your Cross and Resurrection  
You have set us free,  
You are the Saviour of the world.

I learnt that people looked down on the Cross as a sign of shame, because the worst criminal was given a cross to carry.

Today we look up at the Cross and see Jesus Christ hanging there as a sign of victory, as a sign of triumph.

Jesus Christ obtained our Salvation on the Cross. He took away our shame and all our sins on the Cross.

This feast of the Exaltation of the Cross falls half way between Easter and End of Church year to remind us that the Church must live on the paschal mystery and continue to save the world by prolonging in herself the Passion of the Saviour.

*Prayer:* God our Father in obedience to you, your only Son accepted death on the cross for the salvation of mankind. We acknowledge the mystery of the cross on earth. May we receive the gift of redemption in heaven.

"We hail Thee Saviour and Lord,  
Thy Cross ever be adored."

Cross of Christ deserve veneration  
Redeemer we glorify your resurrection  
On the cross you bought our salvation,  
Saviour of the world we bow  
Solemnly in adoration.

Emilda S. Douglas

## Staunch CFM'er stilled

M. Bernard Fernando, the Archdiocesan Secretary of the Christian Family Movement (CFM) went to his eternal reward on August 6, 2012 at the age of 66 years, leaving his beloved wife Chandrika. His mortal remains were laid to rest at the Cemetery of St. Anthony's Church, Kerimetiyyagara, on August 11, 2012.

He was formerly a resident of Lunupokuna, attached to St. Andrew's Church, Lunupokuna. As a Young Worker, he was employed at the Ceylon Transport Board (CTB). He joined the Young Christian Workers (YCW) Cell at Lunupokuna Parish in the year 1970, when Fr. Diva Sandrasegara was the Parish Priest. He was in the YCW National Executive, Committee for some time and served in the capacity of the National Treasurer. As a genuine disciple of late

Joseph Cardinal Cardijn, Bernard actively committed himself in the development and the extension of the Movement amongst the working youth, the National Chaplaincy of Rev. Fr. Xystus Kurukulasuriya and for a short spell of time of Rev. Fr. Stanislaus M. Fernando, OMI, former YCW, Asian Chaplain.

From July 23 to August 5, 1978, Bernard with his YCW colleague Francis Jayasundera, represented the Sri Lankn YCW at the XIth World Festival of Youth and Students held in Havana in the Capital of the Republic of Cuba, which is a very strong arm of the World Federation of Democratic Youth (WFDY) representing the youth in the Socialist and Communist Block. Despite the anti religious and anti-Christian Vision, action and mentality of the Left-Wing youth groups assembled there, the Sri Lank-

an YCW Delegates Bernard and Francis participated as Catholic working youth, representing the Christian tendencies.

Bernard and Chandrika served as Lecturers in the CFM Preparation for Marriage Conferences for prospective couples. Bernard was also instrumental in establishing the CFM Pre-cana Centre at St. James Church, Mutwal. As a CFM Pre-Cana Lecturer, Bernard has given his time, talents and experiences without counting the cost, without seeking rest and without expecting anything in return due to the strong awareness that he was giving himself in totality to please his Divine Lord and Master.

Having shifted from Lunupokuna to Dalupitiya, Bernard's services and experiences were enlisted by the organizers of the Pre-Cana Centre al-

ready existing at Kirimetiyyagara Parish during the time of Rev. Fr. Ernest Porthota.

At the funeral service held at St. Anthony's Church, Kirimetiyyagara, the Parish Priest Rev. Fr. Rohan Fernando officiating at the obsequies, paid his grateful thanks to the deceased Bernard Fernando for his generosity and service to his village community, to the faithful in his Parish.

Considering the total life commitment and involvement of Bernard in the re-christization of the working youth through a New Youth, a New Couple to build a New World for Christ, may the Good Lord in His Graciousness grant him eternal rest.

Bernard, my friend, may you rest in peace in the fullness of Christ.

Vivian Silva

## IT'S YOUR 25TH BIRTHDAY 19TH SEPTEMBER 1987



### SADEERA KURUKULASURIYA

Seven years have just gone by  
Many more years have to pass away  
Sighs and tears still linger within us  
Know you will never come to visit us

Within our hearts you are still alive  
With those sweet memories yet you remain  
'The favourite' of father, 'Precious one' of mother  
'Best friend' of brother 'Malli Baba' of sister and the  
'loved one' of all dear ones.

Fondly remembered on your 25th birthday our Darling Chooti Putha, and best brother in this world.

Happy Birthday

With lots of love and thousand kisses.

Thaththa (Eustace) Amma (Lucida), Ayya (Sameera) Akka (Sudeera) Priyoni Akka, Chandana Ayya, Enosh Baby, Kusal and all the dear ones.

(N3082)

# Unplugged - disaster

An intensive care unit is one special unit, which administers intensified medical care, towards critical patients. This vigilant care takes place around the clock. Every minute of the day. In one such unit, the mortality rate kept increasing day by day and no one knew why it was so. Every day, either a patient became critical or succumbed to aggravated complications. Analytical observation revealed that, it was always the patient on bed number one, who suffered this fate. Every morning the patient on bed number one, took a turn for the worse and all were curious to find out why.

The team of doctors closely monitored the situation, and soon the reason was discovered.

Each day, early in the morning around 6.00 a.m. a cleaner from the maintenance unit, comes to the ICU. He mops the floor clean, and then he plugs on the vacuum cleaner to complete his job. Unfortunately he unplugs a life supporting machine, to replace it with the plug of the vacuum cleaner. It always happened to be the plug at bed one. Thus the patient on bed number one, for that duration, suffers without the facility of the life supporting machine, aggravating his condition.

The cleaning job was always well done but it was unfortunately at the expense of some one's life. It had been so throughout, but the difference was that, the offender did it through ignorance, and not through indifference. Anyhow the offender can not relieve himself of the guilt of negligence, associated with his act.

Be cautious not only of the outcome of your action, but also of the after effects, which come forth subsequently. Your sensitivity secures you and others too.

Rev. Fr. Jude Roshan. OMI

## The Crow of a Cock


The crow of a cock at dawn, should remind you and warn, that you should not deny Jesus at all, as Peter did, which made him fall.



As the cock crows every day, announce the good news in every way, this is for what you should pray, let's live in faith, come what may.

The non-believers may frown, when the faithful adorn the crown, Jesus will never let you down, because you are His very own.

Shanti Perera, Moratuwa.



# L I F E

Is it fair being abandoned as a baby at the beginning of life ?  
Is it fair living as a cripple for the rest of your life?  
Is it fair being blind and not know what's around you all your life ?  
Think of what you have and make the best of life

Is it worth being abused and living in despair all your life?  
Is it worth being unhappy and miserable for the rest of your life ?  
Is it worth being dishonest, deceitful and shameful all your life?  
Is it worth living the rest of your life?

Make the best of what you have in life  
The best way you should lead your life  
A truthful, honest, sincere and God fearing life  
Would be the best way to lead your life,  
Making it the proper and honest decisions in life  
Makes it worth living for the rest of your life

Linda Philip, Ja-Ela

## Mind your language.

Tom a child of six, in grade one, who had a defect in hearing, had the habit of, reporting to his mother, what he learnt at school each day

**Mother :** Tom, what did you learn today?

**Tom :** Mum, what I learnt today was addition.

2 and 2, son of a bitch is 4

3 and 3, son of a bitch is 6

**Mother :** What did you say?

Tom repeated the same and said, I thought of my dad, when the teacher taught me so. The next day the mother confronted the teacher.

**Mother :** Teacher, why do you teach my son slang?"

**Teacher :** What do you mean?

**Mother :** 2 and 2, son of a bitch is 4

Is it not slang?

The teacher could not help, laughing.

**Teacher :** All I said was, 2 and 2, sum of which is 4.

It was only then that the mother realized that her husband always used those words on Tom.

**Mother :** Sorry teacher! My husband when in anger, used to call Tom a 'dog'

Every time he refers to Tom as a dog,

I say to myself in disgust, 'Oh' 'God!'

He even referred to Tom as, "you dog, son of a bitch."

Fortunately Tom did not hear it as "You God, son of a bitch"

**Never use slang on any one.  
Very specially on your children.  
It may boomerang on you.**

### DAVID the DARING

THE SHEPHERD BOY WHO BECAME A KING

ON THE WAY TO NABAL'S PLACE...

SO THIS IS HOW HE PAYS ME BACK? (FUMET) WHY DID I EVER PROTECT THAT FELLOW'S PROPERTY?

?? A WOMAN!

PLEASE, SIR, LISTEN TO ME! LET ME TAKE THE BLAME. PLEASE DON'T PAY ANY ATTENTION TO NABAL, THAT GOOD-FOR-NOTHING HUSBAND!

ARE YOU HIS WIFE?

THE LORD SENT YOU TO MEET ME! YOUR GOOD SENSE HAS KEPT ME FROM TAKING MY OWN REVENGE. PRAISE THE LORD!

I WAS GOING TO KILL HIM. NOW GO BACK HOME AND DON'T WORRY.

WHEN NABAL HEARD ABOUT THIS, HE HAD A STROKE, AND TEN DAYS LATER, HE DIED. THEN DAVID ASKED ABIGAIL TO MARRY HIM, AND SHE BECAME HIS WIFE.

YES, I'M ABIGAIL. I WASN'T THERE WHEN YOUR MEN ARRIVED. BUT NOW PLEASE ACCEPT THESE THINGS I HAVE BROUGHT YOU AND GIVE THEM TO YOUR MEN.



***It could deprive you and others in reaching the Lord, and gaining life eternal.***

When we harbour a grudge, we are prone to act revengefully. Our weak human tendency is to use words against the targeted person. Our anger infects others too. This infection is brought about by our words, in the form of negative comments and remarks.

The Lord warns us and brings to light the repercussion of brewing animosity within. Moreover when we infect others with animosity, we take upon ourselves the heavy responsibility of depriving others from reaching the Lord at the altar.

"If you are about to offer your gift to God at the

## Mind your words.....

### some could cost your life

altar, and there you remember that your brother has something against you, eave your gift there in front of the altar, go at once and make peace with your brother, and then come back and offer your gift to God."

**Mat 5: 23 & 24**

Thus the basic prerequisite and the disposition to walk up to the altar is a pure heart, free of hatred. If the Lord declines to accept a gift from a person who is charged with hatred, would such a person be obliged with the flesh of His body. Definitely not. Such a person who is corrupt with animosity, would starve of spiritual nourishment and this would deprive the person of being spiritually alive. Thus the denial of life eternal, would be the end result.

Analytically if we are to reason it out, the one who is infected with hatred and the other who injects hatred, both suffer the ineligibility of reaching the Lord. The latter should be responsible for the spiritual ruination of the former.

Vicious elements brainwash others and inflict hatred through slanderous comments and remarks. This was critically displayed by the chief priests, Scribes and the Pharisees against Jesus. When the Jews hailed and welcomed Jesus in to the holy city of Jerusalem, with shouts of Hosanna, revengeful thoughts entered the minds of the rivals. Those who opposed his popularity, soon campaigned to antagonize the crowd

who followed Him. Within three days, precisely seventy two hours, they injected into them the germ of hatred. Thus the ones who shouted Hosanna, in turn screamed and yelled, crucify Him. Every one of them who were involved in inflicting hatred, contributed to the murder of the Lord.

Many may accuse the soldiers who tortured the Lord, but the ones who instigated them should carry the blame and the weight of that sin.

How disastrous and vindictive a person could be, through the vicious words that one uses. It could deprive you and others in reaching the Lord and gaining life eternal.

**Words** that would not come easy, are words of thanks and praise

**Words** that would come through inspiration are words of wisdom

**Words** triggered by emotion are empty words which carry less meaning and value.

**Words** brewed with hatred and venom are harsh and derogatory.

So mind your **words**. Some could, cost your life and more so the life of others too.

RodeZo

## The Song of Salvation



### Last Supper and the Eucharist

Jesus knew that Judas' greed had sold Him out,  
A most despicable act, without any doubt,  
Betraying his Master, taking silver from chief priests,  
Pointing out Jesus, what an act of deceit!

Having loved His friends who were in the world,  
He loved them to the end, though the end would be cruel;  
Just before the Last Supper, this lesson He would show,  
The role of a servant, He wanted them to know.

He was teaching them to do what He had done,  
Never putting themselves ahead of anyone.  
"I have now washed your feet as your Lord and Teacher,  
Do this for each other so to be my preachers."

And knowing that He would soon be going away,  
He offered us a way that He could continue to stay,  
Looking to heaven, He took some wine and broke bread:  
"This is my body and blood", were the words He said.

So now when a priest does the very same thing,  
Jesus is right there, as our Lord and our King,  
Near and far wherever there are Sacred Hosts,  
Jesus will be present, and He loves us the most.

As the Last Supper came to its very sad end,  
Jesus spoke from the heart to His trusted friends.  
Despite evil plots, they should live without fear,  
And that promise was meant for all of us here.

Coutry of Canadian Messenger

## Game of Life



Life is a game,  
we all have to play,  
rarely in groups,  
some times in pairs,  
but mostly alone,

Some times we win,  
some times we lose,  
but always everyone,  
wants to reach the top,  
by hook or by crook,

The game may be fair,  
or may be unfair,  
but we have to confront,  
everything with care,  
always victory is rare,

We must obey the rule,  
better use every tool,  
make every move,  
to achieve the goal,

Have to use the heart and brain,  
victory is sure, no chance to fail.

Jean Philip, Ja-Ela

## To discover God.... the best experience ever.....



When I was a tiny tot,  
many spoke to me of God a lot,  
to ignore Him, I felt better not,  
seek Him, at every chance I got,

I wished to be at God's feet,  
I knew that He would lead,  
provide me with all what I need,  
all my efforts, I would succeed.

To love and trust God, I began,  
to honour and serve Him, the way I can,  
to seek Him, in all what I scan,  
to accept all, according to His plan.

Faith is a sign of ones loyalty,  
be it so for all, till eternity,  
if each proves one's integrity,  
life eternal, the reward from Almighty,

Francis Irrugalbandara  
Hunupitiya, Wattala

What it says ..... in  
the Readings

I am the Way, the Truth and the Life,  
says the Lord; no one can come to the  
Father except through me.

Jn. 14:5

LITURGICAL CALENDAR YEAR B  
16th Sept. - 23rd Sept. 2012

**SUN: 24<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY  
TIME**

Is. 50: 5-9; Jm. 2:14-18;  
Mk. 8:27-35

**Mon:** Memorial of St. Robert Bellarmine,  
Bishop & Doctor.

1 Cor. 11:17-26, 33; Lk.7:1-10



**Robert Bellarmine:** 1542-1621 was an Italian Jesuit and a Cardinal. He was one of the most important figures in the Counter-Reformation. He was canonized in 1930 and is a Doctor of the Church.

**Tue:** 1 Cor.12:12-14,27-31; Lk.7:11-17

**Wed:** Memorial of St. Januarius,  
Bishop & Martyr

1 Cor. 12:31,13; Lk.7:31-35

**Thu:** Memorials of SS. Andrew Kim  
Tae-gon, Priest, and Paul Chong Ha-Sang,  
1 Cor. 15: 1-11; Lk. 7: 36-50

**Fri:** Feast of St. Matthew, Apostle  
and Evangelist

Eph. 4:1-7, 11-13; Mt. 9: 9-13

**St. Matthew, the tax collector,** may also be identified with Levi, son of Alphaeus, in Mk. 2:13. He is said to have been a missionary in Persia and Ethiopia. Patron of accountants, bookkeepers, tax-collectors, customs officers and security guards.

**Sat:** 1 Cor. 15:35-37; 42-49;  
Lk 8: 4-15

**Sun: 25<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY  
TIME**

Wis 2:12; 17-20; Jm 3:16-43;  
Mk. 9:30-37



**First Reading:**  
Is. 50: 5-9

Prophet Isaiah expresses his deep faith and hope in the Lord. He is a prophet who suffered so much in the hands of his persecutors. But he was so sure that the Lord is with him.

**Second Reading:**  
James 2: 14-18

St. James stresses the importance of true faith in the life of the community members. But this faith he wants them to express in full. It is made clear when he said. "So faith by itself if it has no works is dead."

**Gospel: Mk.8: 27-35**

Jesus questions the understanding of Him. Many think that a dead prophet has come back to life. Peter out of faith professes that he is Jesus Christ. But fails to keep to that faith because Jesus speaks of the suffering and death that he has to undergo.

**Reflection**

Today's Readings call for a true and deeper faith in the life of a Christian. This faith is to be expressed and retained throughout our lives. This faith is to be expressed in word and in deeds, for faith without work is futile. This faith should go beyond petty personal benefits and interests in order to reach the divine. All three readings contribute a lot to this faith in order to help Christians to express a true and a total faith towards the good Lord. The expression of this

faith becomes important to touch the divine. This is made clear in today's readings.

In today's First Reading the prophet expresses his faith amidst suffering and persecution. His hope and faith are expressed and retained in a situation where no one could think of remaining faithful or retaining one's hope. The faith of the prophet is so deep that nothing in this world could stop it. No persecution, nor suffering, not even shame. His faith is true, full and deep.

Today's Second Reading stresses that the faith expressed should be complete and full, in order to be true. For this reason faith should not be expressed in parts. It may be better than nothing, but to gain the full benefits of faith it should be expressed in full. In other words when faith is expressed it should be backed by work. The reading itself says, "So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead." Therefore in order to make our faith alive it should always be accompanied by charitable works.

In today's Gospel we could see how differently the people could express their faith. Some people, although they have faith, think that the Lord is a prophet who has come back to life. It was because of the miracles that He performed. St. Peter professed his faith correctly but his idea of the Lord was wrong for one reason or another. Most probably because his idea of the Messiah

was different. He was thinking of a king who would come and destroy all kingdoms and would reign in justice and peace. But true faith was supposed to be expressed in a suffering Messiah.

It is clear in the Reading when it says, "And he began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes, and be killed and after three days rise again." This faith St. Peter could not express and Jesus called him Satan. This shows that our faith should be much deeper than just professing that Jesus Christ is the Lord.

About the state of our faith the Lord says in the Gospel. "If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up the cross and follow me, for whoever saved his life will lose it. And whoever loses his life for my sake and the Gospel will save it." So deep in the Christian faith that we have to express it in our day to day life.

**Aid Story**

The following happened in America. A man had organised a great event. At a given



moment, after having made an announcement to the thousands of persons gathered there, the lights went out. It was a very dark night. The man lit a match and shouted through the loud speaker, "Whoever sees this flame, say yes." A roar was heard saying, "Yes." Because everybody even those far away saw the flicker. The man again turned on the lights and said, "One good act of faith and charity shines like this in the darkness of the selfishness and sins of the world." He then performed another experiment. The lights went out again, and he asked, "whoever has a match light one." And the whole place was illuminated and the man ended with these words:

"If all men of faith and good will courageously plan to do their good works lighted by faith, all darkness of the world would be illuminated."

Rev Fr. Ciswan De Croos

## PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

*Response: Lord, graciously hear us.*

For all the baptized that they may strive to learn what is pleasing to God and to do it with all their strength. Lord, hear us.

*Response: Lord, graciously hear us.*

For all government leaders that they may strive to create such conditions of life as to enable all of God's children to live in freedom and dignity. Lord, hear us.

*Response: Lord, graciously hear us.*

For all those who have never found themselves, especially prisoners and down-and-outs that they may not lose respect for themselves. Lord, hear us.

*Response: Lord, graciously hear us.*

That each of us may be happy to be the unique people that God made us to be, and that we may never be content until we have realised the best that is in us. Lord hear us.

*Response: Lord, graciously hear us.*

## Sts Andrew Kim, Paul Chong and Companions - Feast September 20,

*Korean Martyrs (1839, 1846, 1862, 1867)*

The Christian Faith first sprouted in Korea when Yi Sung-hun started to study Christian doctrine by himself and was eventually baptized as Peter in 1784. In the beginning, because of their belief in God, the early Korean Christians were constantly persecuted, rejected by their own families, and subjected to loss of not only their social rank but even their fundamental human rights. Nevertheless, the Faith continued to spread.

The Christian community in Korea which had begun without any priestly ministers finally got the assistance of two Chinese priests. But their ministry was short-lived, and another forty years passed before the Paris Foreign Mission Society began its work in Korea with the arrival of Fr Maubant in 1836. Until then the Christian community consisted only of lay people.

In the meantime, moved by



an ardent desire for the graces of the sacraments, the Christian community of Korea appealed to the Bishop of Peking and to the Holy Father in Rome to send them bishops and priests. Serious dangers awaited those missionaries who dared enter Korea. In fact, until the granting of religious liberty in Korea in 1886, there was a multitude of "disciples who shed their blood in imitation of Christ Our Lord, who submitted to death joyfully, for the salvation of the world." More than 10,000 martyrs died in persecutions which extended over 100 years. They included 103 martyrs, consisting of 11 priests and 92 lay people, who

were canonized on 14 May 1984 by Pope John Paul II, foremost among these being Andrew Kim Tae-gon and Paul Chong Ha-Sang.

Andrew Kim Tae-gon, the first Korean priest, prompted by his faith in God and his love for the Christian people, found a new way to achieve the difficult task of making a missionary entry into Korea. However, within just 13 months of his priestly ordination, he was put to death by the sword, barely 26 years old and the oil of chrism still fresh on his hands.

Paul Chong Ha-Sang, Augustine Yu Chin-gil and Charles Cho Shin-Chol had made several visits to Peking seeking more effective ways of introducing missionaries into Korea. Since the persecution of 1801, there had been no priest to care for the Christian community. Finally, they succeeded in opening a new chapter in the history of the extension of the Church in Korea with the arrival of a bishop and some priests of the Paris Foreign Mission Society.