

Feast of
St. Joseph Vaz

January 16

MESSENGER

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WE HAVE A SAINT

Biggest turnout in Sri Lanka's history for Pope Francis



light of the beloved Pope Francis' pilgrimage – the Canonization Holy Mass at the Galle Face Green on Wednesday, January 14.

In the Hallowed Shrine of Our Lady of the Rosary in Madhu, about 300,000 people reportedly turned out for the prayer service when the Holy Father visited the Shrine in the Diocese of Mannar, while the turnout to greet the Holy Father on the route from Kattunayake to Colombo was estimated at more than two lakhs. This means that more than 13 lakhs or 1.3 million people turned up for the main events – making them the biggest turnout of people in Sri Lanka's history.

At the Hallowed Shrine of Madhu, the Holy Father told the massive crowd consisting of a large gathering of school children in uniforms as well, that "We are in our Mother's house. Here she welcomes us into her home... for here Mary brings us into the presence of her Son Jesus. Here Sri Lankans, Tamil and Sinhalese alike, come as members of one family... Here, in her home, they feel safe."

The Administrator of the Madhu Shrine Rev. Fr. S. Emilianuspillai presented a replica of the miraculous statue of Our Lady of Madhu to Pope Francis. Pope Francis who received the statue with great appreciation was seen to hold on to the

statue until he left the hallowed premises of the Madhu Shrine. (Picture on left)

The canonization Holy Mass at Galle Face Green was perfect as a picture post card. It began with His Lordship

Rt. Rev. Dr. Vianney Fernando, Bishop of Kandy, formerly requesting the Pope to enroll the Blessed Joseph Vaz in the

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Pope Francis reading out the Rite of Canonization of the Blessed Joseph Vaz.

The ringing of Church bells and the applause of the biggest ever gathering on the sun-kissed greenery of Galle Face, heralded to Sri Lanka and to the world that we have a Saint - the Apostle of Sri Lanka, Joseph Vaz – who was beatified by Saint John Paul II in 1995, on visit to Sri Lanka and now, Canonized by Pope Francis and witnessed by millions of others on TV in Sri Lanka and abroad.

Analysts say that the biggest ever crowds witnessed at any public event in Sri Lanka's history turned up for the main ceremonies during the historical visit of His Holiness Pope Francis, where the highlight was the gift of the Saint of Sri Lanka. According to ground planning committee estimates about 800,000 people turned up for the high-

NATIONAL UNITY GOVERNMENT FORMED

Country does not need a king, it needs a Servant Leader: President Maitripala Sirisena



President Maitripala Sirisena

Sri Lanka's newly Selected Executive President, Maitripala Sirisena has pledged he will be the 'chief servant leader' of the people. Speaking at the oath-taking ceremony at the Presidential Secretariat, President Sirisena said that what the country needed was not a king but a real human person to lead. The election that concluded was one to elect the 'chief servant' of the country, the new President observed.

President Sirisena repeatedly emphasised this 'servant leadership' nature of a country's leader in his first message to the nation on Friday, January 10, at the Sri Dalada Maligawa in Kandy and at the Swearing-in ceremony, of the new Cabinet of Ministers at the Presi-

dential Secretariat on Monday, January 12. The President made it clear that he would set the example for servant leadership through a simple and humble lifestyle.

Pope meets Mahinda

In an unannounced move Pope Francis on Wednesday night met former President Mahinda Rajapaksa at the Papal Nunciature in Colombo. The Pope reportedly thanked the former President for his warm invitation and all the arrangements, he and the former government had made for the Papal Visit.

Prisoners released

On Wednesday, to mark the visit of Pope Francis to Sri Lanka, President Maitripala Sirisena ordered the release of 692 prisoners, mainly those who were jailed for minor offences and those over the age of 75.

Political analysts said that President Sirisena's commitment to servant leadership was similar to the commitment of Pope Francis who also is giving servant

leadership through a simple and humble lifestyle.

The new President of Sri Lanka, who received more than 6.2 million votes and had a majority of around 450,000 votes at the recently concluded Presidential Election held on January 8, said he expected all Cabinet ministers and the top public officials also, to lead by example by cutting down on expenditures and avoiding luxuries or extravagance.

In a practical first step, the number of Cabinet ministers was reduced from more than 60 to 27.

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Prime Minister
Ranil Wickremesinghe



Former President
Mahinda Rajapaksa

See inside for addresses and speeches of events on Papal Visit.

Pope Francis' Address at the Interreligious meeting at the BMICH on January 13

Dear Friends,

I am grateful for the opportunity to take part in this meeting which brings together, among others, the four largest religious communities integral to the life of Sri Lanka: Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam and Christianity. I thank you for your presence and for your warm welcome. I also thank those who have offered prayers and blessings, and in a particular way I express my gratitude to Bishop Cletus Chandrasiri Perera and to the Venerable Niyangoda Vijithasiri Thero for their kind words.

I have come to Sri Lanka in the footsteps of my predecessors Popes Paul VI and John Paul II to demonstrate the great love and concern which the Catholic Church has for Sri Lanka. It is a particular grace for me to visit the Catholic community here, to confirm them in their Christian faith, to pray with them and to share their joys and sufferings. It is equally a grace to be with all of you, men and women of these great religious traditions, who share with us a desire for wisdom, truth and holiness.

At the Second Vatican Council, the Catholic Church declared her deep and abiding respect for other religions. She stated that she "rejects nothing of what is true and holy in these religions. She has a high regard for their manner of life and conduct, their precepts and doctrines" (Nostra Aetate, 2). For my part, I wish to reaffirm the Church's sincere respect for you, your traditions and beliefs.

It is in this spirit of respect that the Catholic Church desires to cooperate with you, and with all people of good will, in seeking the welfare of all Sri Lankans. I hope that my visit will help to encourage and deepen the various forms of interreligious and ecumenical co-operation which have been undertaken in recent years.

These praiseworthy initiatives have provided opportunities for dialogue, which is essential if we are to know, understand and respect one another. But, as experience has shown, for such dialogue and encounter to be effective, it must be grounded in a full and forthright presentation of our respective convictions. Certainly, such dialogue will accentuate how varied our beliefs, traditions and practices are.

But if we are honest in presenting our convictions, we will be able to see more clearly what we hold in common. New avenues will be opened for mutual esteem, co-operation and indeed friendship.

Such positive developments in interreligious and ecumenical relations take on a particular significance and urgency in Sri Lanka. For too many years the men and women of this country have been victims of civil strife and violence. What is needed now is healing and unity, not further conflict and division. Surely the fostering of healing and unity is a noble task which is incumbent upon all who have at heart the good of the nation, and indeed the whole human family. It is my hope that interreligious and ecumenical co-operation will demonstrate that men and women do not have to forsake their identity, whether ethnic or religious, in order to live in harmony with their brothers and sisters.

How many ways there are for the followers of the different religions to carry out this service! How many are the needs that must be tended to with the healing balm of fraternal solidarity! I think in particular of the material and spiritual needs of the poor, the destitute, those who yearn for a word of consolation and hope. Here I think too, of the many families who continue to mourn the loss of their loved ones.

Above all, at this moment of your nation's history, how many people of good will are seeking to rebuild the moral foundations of society as a whole? May the growing spirit of co-operation between the leaders of the various religious communities find expression in a commitment to put reconciliation among all Sri Lankans at the heart of every effort to renew society and its institutions. For the sake of peace, religious beliefs must never be allowed to be abused in the cause of violence and war. We must be clear and unequivocal in challenging our communities to live fully the tenets of peace and coexistence found in each religion, and to denounce acts of violence when they are committed.

Dear friends, I thank you once again for your generous welcome and your attention. May this fraternal encounter confirm all of us in our efforts to

live in harmony and to spread the blessings of peace.

Pope visits Sri Maha Bodhi Temple

Pope Francis on his way to Colombo from the Bandaranaike International Airport on January 13, made a surprise stop at the Sri Maha Bodhi Temple in Maradana on the invitation of the Chief Prelate, Most Ven. Banagala Upatissa Nayake Thera who had met the Pope at the Airport. Removing his shoes, the Pope went barefoot to the Temple where he listened to Pirith by the Chief Prelate and other monks.

In one of the honours paid to Pope Francis the Chief Prelates had a special exposition of the special relics of the Lord Buddha's Chief disciples. This exposition is normally held only once a year.

The Pope was accompanied by the Archbishop of Colombo His Eminence, Malcolm Cardinal Ranjith

Welcome Speech by His Lordship Rt. Rev. Dr. Cletus C. Perera OSB, at the Interreligious Meeting at the BMICH

In all humility, and in deepest respect for each and every one of you, I stand before you as the Chairperson of the Organizing Committee of this event to extend a very warm and cordial welcome to all those who are present, in response to our invitation, at this Interreligious and Ecumenical Gathering, held in the context of the pilgrimage of our Holy Father Pope Francis to Sri Lanka.

On behalf of all present here, it is my greatest honour and privilege to welcome Your Holiness, the Universal Shepherd of the Roman Catholic Church into this distinguished gathering, organized in your honour.

Most Holy Father, in reality, Sri Lanka is a multi-religious society, the vast majority of the people being the adherents of Buddhism. It is a singular honour and a joy, granted to all of us to welcome Your Holiness into this Interreligious and Ecumenical Gathering this evening, to greet Your Holiness and to be greeted and blessed by Your Holiness. It is no doubt a sacred and unique event which goes down in the history of Sri Lanka, and particularly in the history of the Catholic Church.

Most Holy Father, all right-thinking people clearly observe that, within the short period of your Pontificate, you have impressed the world society and have captured the hearts of many millions of people of various religious and ethnic denominations. I dare say, you have challenged us by your unassuming non-triumphalistic, simple and humble life style, emulating the example of Jesus Christ, our loving Saviour, who "did not cling to His equality with God, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness" (Letter of St Paul to Philippians 2,6 and 7), and of many saints, particularly of your own patron saint, St. Francis of Assisi. It is indeed a singular grace and an enriching experience to have Your Holiness, present with us on this historical occasion.

Secondly, I wish to extend a very respectful, and warm welcome to Their Eminences the Cardinals, present here, His Excellency the Apostolic Nuncio of Sri Lanka, Their Excellencies the Archbishops and the Bishops of the Catholic and Anglican Churches, the



Most Reverend Heads of the Churches of the National Christian Council of Sri Lanka, and all the Clergy, Religious and the laity, present here on this occasion.

Next I wish to extend a very respectful and warm welcome to the Most Venerable Mahanayake Theras of various Nikayas, the Very Reverend Anunayake Theras, the Very Reverend Sanganayake Theros, the Very Reverend Lekakaadhikaari Theros, the Reverend members of the Maha Sangha, the Most Rev. Nallur Adhinam, the Rev. Gurukkals the Honoured Leadership of the All Ceylon Hindu Congress and the other representatives of the Hindu Religion, the Honoured Leadership of All Ceylon Jamiyathul Ulama and the other representatives of Islam Religion and all the other friends and well-wishers of ours, who are present here on this occasion,

We all are indeed honoured and edified by your graceful presence in response to our invitation. We thank you very sincerely for your positive response and participation in this historical and unique gathering, held in honour of our Holy Father Pope Francis in the context of his pilgrimage to Sri Lanka. May God bless you all.

**Bishop Cletus Chandrasiri Perera OSB,
Chairperson, Organizing Committee, BMICH**

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National Unity...

Their allowances have been sharply reduced as has the number of security personnel assigned to them. President Sirisena and the new Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe pledged that in line with the manifesto of the newly formed National Unity Government, the main pledges would be fulfilled within the first 100 days.

The President said that foremost priority would be given to poverty alleviation through social justice and a more equitable distribution of wealth and resources. A mini budget would be presented in Parliament on January 29 to substantially reduce the prices of about 10 essential items, including fuel. The government has said that fuel prices will be reduced in line with world market prices which plunged this week to less than 50 US dollars a barrel of crude oil compared to 100 US dollar a barrel, last year.

This new interim budget is also expected to provide substantial salary increases to all workers along with other facilities and subsidies. Significantly Pope Francis too has also given top priority to worldwide poverty alleviation.

Important measures during the first 100 days:

- Vital constitutional amendment to substantially reduce the absolute powers of the Executive Presidency.
- Power will be devolved to the Cabinet of Ministers and Parliament and, to Independent Commissions for the Public Service, the Police and the Elections Department.
- Code of Conduct for Members of Parliament; any members found guilty will be sacked from Parliament.
- Introduction of the Right to Information Bill; giving the media and the people easy access to any information or official documents except in cases where national security is involved.

On Monday, January 13, the first international leader to be greeted by President Maitripala Sirisena was His Holiness Pope Francis. The Pope also met the President at the Presidential Secretariat where two special stamps and a silver coin were issued to mark the visit of Pope Francis to the island.

By our special correspondent

Homily of Pope Francis at the Holy Mass at Galle Face Green on January 14

"All the ends of the earth will see the salvation of our God" (Is 52:10)

This is the magnificent prophecy which we heard in today's first reading. Isaiah foretells the preaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all the ends of the earth. This prophecy has a special meaning for us, as we celebrate the canonization of a great missionary of the Gospel, Saint Joseph Vaz. Like countless other missionaries in the history of the Church, he responded to the Risen Lord's command to make disciples of every nation (cf. Mt 28:19). By his words, but more importantly, by the example of his life, he led the people of this country to the faith which gives us "an inheritance among all God's holy ones" (cf. Acts 20:32).

In Saint Joseph we see a powerful sign of God's goodness and love for the people of Sri Lanka. But we also see in him a challenge to persevere in the paths of the Gospel, to grow in holiness ourselves and to testify to the Gospel message of reconciliation to which he dedicated his life.

A priest of the Oratory in his native Goa, Saint Joseph Vaz came to this country inspired by missionary zeal and a great love of its people. Because of religious persecution, he dressed as a beggar, performing his priestly duties in secret meetings of the faithful, often at night. His efforts provided spiritual and moral strength to the beleaguered Catholic population. He had a particular desire

to serve the ill and suffering. His ministry to the sick was so appreciated by the king during a smallpox epidemic in Kandy that he was allowed greater freedom to minister. From Kandy, he could reach out to other parts of the island. He spent himself in missionary work and died, exhausted, at the age of fifty-nine, revered for his holiness.

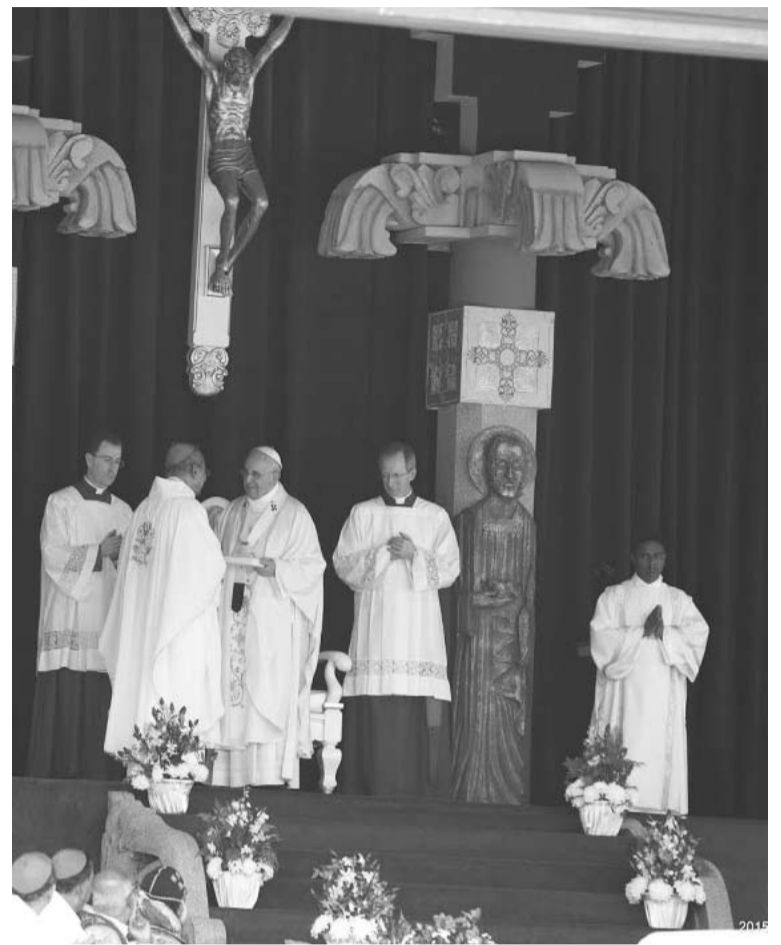
Saint Joseph Vaz continues to be an example and a teacher for many reasons, but I would like to focus on three.

First, he was an exemplary priest. Here today with us are many priests and religious, both men and women, who, like Joseph Vaz, are consecrated to the service of God and neighbour. I encourage each of you to look to Saint Joseph as a sure guide. He teaches us how to go out to the peripheries, to make Jesus Christ everywhere known and loved. He is also an example of patient suffering in the cause of the Gospel, of obedience to our superiors, of loving care for the Church of God (cf. Acts 20:28). Like ourselves, Saint Joseph Vaz lived in a period of rapid and profound transformation; Catholics were a minority, and often divided within; there was occasional hostility, even persecution, from without. And yet, because he was constantly united with the crucified Lord in prayer, he could become for all people a living icon of God's mercy and reconciling love.

Second, Saint Joseph shows us the importance of transcending religious divi-

sions in the service of peace. His undivided love for God opened him to love for his neighbour; he ministered to those in need, whoever and wherever they were. His example continues to inspire the Church in Sri Lanka today. She gladly and generously serves all members of society. She makes no distinction of race, creed, tribe, status or religion in the service she provides through her schools, hospitals, clinics, and many other charitable works. All she asks in return is the freedom to carry out this mission. Religious freedom is a fundamental human right. Each individual must be free, alone or in association with others, to seek the truth, and to openly express his or her religious convictions, free from intimidation and external compulsion. As the life of Saint Joseph Vaz teaches us, genuine worship of God bears fruit not in discrimination, hatred and violence, but in respect for the sacredness of life, respect for the dignity and freedom of others, and loving commitment to the welfare of all.

Finally, Saint Joseph gives us an example of missionary zeal. Though he came to Ceylon to minister to the Catholic community, in his evangelical charity he reached out to everyone. Leaving behind his home, his family, the comfort of his familiar surroundings, he responded to the call to go forth, to speak of Christ wherever he was led. Saint Joseph knew how to offer the truth and the beauty of the Gospel in a multi-



religious context, with respect, dedication, perseverance and humility. This is also the way for the followers of Jesus today. We are called to go forth with the same zeal, the same courage, of Saint Joseph, but also with his sensitivity, his reverence for others, his desire to share with them that word of grace (cf. Acts 20:32) which has the power to build them up. We are called to be missionary disciples.

Dear brothers and sisters, I pray that, following the example of Saint Joseph Vaz, the Christians of this country may

be confirmed in faith and make an ever greater contribution to peace, justice and reconciliation in Sri Lankan society. This is what Christ asks of you. This is what Saint Joseph teaches you. This is what the Church needs of you. I commend all of you to the prayers of our new saint, so that, in union with the Church throughout the world, you may sing a new song to the Lord and declare His glory to all the ends of the earth. For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised (cf. Ps 96: 1-4)! Amen.

Pope Francis at the Welcome ceremony at the Katunayake Airport

Mr President,
Honourable Government Authorities,
Your Eminence, Your Excellencies,
Dear Friends,

I thank you for your warm welcome. I have looked forward to this visit to Sri Lanka and these days which we will spend together. Sri Lanka is known as the Pearl of the Indian Ocean for its natural beauty. Even more importantly, this island is known for the warmth of its people and the rich diversity of their cultural and religious traditions.

Mr President, I extend to you my best wishes for your new responsibilities. I greet the distinguished members of the government and civil authorities who honour us by their presence. I am especially grateful for the presence of the eminent religious leaders who play so important a role in the life of this country. And of course, I would like to express my appreciation to the faithful, the members of the choir, and the many people who helped make this visit possible. I thank you all, from the heart, for your kindness and hospitality.

My visit to Sri Lanka is primarily pastoral. As the universal pastor of the Catholic Church, I have come to meet, encourage and pray with the Catholic people of this island. A highlight of this

visit will be the canonization of Blessed Joseph Vaz, whose example of Christian charity and respect for all people, regardless of ethnicity or religion, continues to inspire and teach us today. But my visit is also meant to express the Church's love and concern for all Sri Lankans, and to confirm the desire of the Catholic community to be an active participant in the life of this society.

It is a continuing tragedy in our world that so many communities are at war with themselves. The inability to reconcile differences and disagreements, whether old or new, has given rise to ethnic and religious tensions, frequently accompanied by outbreaks of violence. Sri Lanka for many years knew the horrors of civil strife, and is now seeking to consolidate peace and to heal the scars of those years. It is no easy task to overcome the bitter legacy of injustices, hostility and mistrust left by the conflict. It can only be done by overcoming evil with good (cf. Rom 12:21) and by cultivating those virtues which foster reconciliation, solidarity and peace. The process of healing also needs to include the pursuit of truth, not for the sake of opening old wounds, but rather as a necessary means of promoting justice, healing and unity.

Dear friends, I am convinced



that the followers of the various religious traditions have an essential role to play in the delicate process of reconciliation and rebuilding which is taking place in this country.

For that process to succeed, all members of society must work together; all must have a voice. All must be free to express their concerns, their needs, their aspirations and their fears. Most importantly, they must be prepared to accept

one another, to respect legitimate diversities, and learn to live as one family.

Whenever people listen to one another humbly and openly, their shared values and aspirations become all the more apparent. Diversity is no longer seen as a threat, but as a source of enrichment. The path to justice, reconciliation and social harmony becomes all the more clearly seen.

In this sense, the great work of rebuilding must embrace improving infrastructures and meeting material needs, but also, and even more importantly, promoting human dignity, respect for human rights, and the full inclusion of each member of society. It is my hope that Sri Lanka's political, religious and cultural leaders, by measuring their every word and action by the good and the healing it will bring, will make a lasting contribution to the material and spiritual progress of the Sri Lankan people.

Mr President, dear friends, I thank you once again for your welcome. May these days we spend together be days of friendship, dialogue and solidarity. I invoke an abundance of God's blessings upon Sri Lanka, the Pearl of the Indian Ocean, and I pray that its beauty may shine forth in the prosperity and peace of all its people.

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EDITORIAL

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The Era of Servant Leader

In the afterglow of the visit of Pope Francis, which drew more international attention than any other event in Sri Lanka with about thousand world media personnel coming here, the country needs to reflect on the most important message brought by the world's most loved and most respected leader - the principle of feet-washing, servant leadership. Happily, Sri Lanka's new Executive President Maithripala Sirisena has also pledged in his first message to the nation and in other messages, that the country did not need a king but servant leaders and he would be the chief servant leader of the people.

The Polonnaruwa farmer's son, whose first lady drew much admiration at the Pope's arrival ceremony for her plain and simple dress without makeup or hairdo, said in other speeches also that he expected the ministers and leading public servants also to be exemplary servant leaders of the people.

President Sirisena addressing the nation from Sri Lanka's most hallowed Buddhist Shrine, the Dalada Maligawa also pledged he had no intention of seeking even a second term, let alone the notorious third term and would gracefully bow out after one term. As Pope Francis is doing, leading by example through a simple and humble lifestyle, President Sirisena said he also was committed to such a simple lifestyle and he expected other political leaders and top officials also to do so. We hope that not only political or administrative leaders, but also religious social and other leaders would commit themselves to a simple lifestyle and the scriptural precept to act justly, be merciful and walk humbly with God.

Feet-washing servant leadership was one of the main virtues in the life of Jesus Christ who told His apostles that anyone who wished to be a leader must be the servant of all. Jesus Christ did not merely preach it, but also practised it, the most memorable event being the washing of the feet of His apostles at the Last Supper. It is inspiring to see Pope Francis following closely in the footsteps of his Lord and Master and equally inspiring to hear Sri Lanka's sixth and probably the last all-powerful Executive President repeatedly pledging he would be the chief servant leader.

As Jesus said, the last shall be the first and the best. The Lord is not just a promise-giver, but a promise-keeper. We are proud that President Sirisena also has pledged he would fulfill the promises he made, especially during the first 100 days of the new administration which many analysts hope would be a new era, with good governance and democracy, accountability and transparency, freedom and human rights and a just society through a more equitable distribution of wealth and resources.

Pope Francis has said that top priority in his vision and mission would be effective steps to bring about worldwide poverty alleviation. Significantly, President Sirisena also pledged that his foremost priority would be poverty alleviation. To turn words into deeds, an interim budget will be presented in Parliament on January 29 to slash the prices of fuel and at least ten other essential items and to provide salary increments and other facilities to all workers. The new National Unity Government has said fuel prices would be reduced in line with the world market price which at present is less than US\$ 50 a barrel this week, while it was more than US\$100 a barrel last year. That means fuel prices may be slashed by more than half by the end of this month and this will lead to a substantial reduction in transport and production costs - meaning the prices of hundreds of items will also go down.

To restore democracy, the Sirisena administration with Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe playing a key role also hopes to move a vital constitutional amendment by obtaining a two-thirds majority in Parliament. Through this, the powers of the Executive Presidency will be devolved to Parliament, the Cabinet of Ministers, and the independent commissions for the public service, the judicial service, the police and elections. Sweeping powers would also be given to the Commission appointed to probe allegations of bribery and corruption, so that anyone found guilty would be severely punished with jail terms, heavy fines and the confiscation of assets.

The new Government also hopes to introduce a Right to Information Bill to restore media freedom and implement legislation for the long-delayed National Medicinal Drugs Policy through which quality medicinal drugs would be available to the people at affordable prices. After implementing these and other pledges before April 30, the President says there will be general elections after that.

With the visit of Pope Francis, the canonization of Sri Lanka's first Saint, Joseph Vaz and the dramatic reforms of the National Unity Government, we hope Sri Lanka would become a real role model for the world instead of the rolling muddle we saw in the past few years.

We have come to the Home of Our Mother: Pope Francis at the Madhu Shrine on January 14

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We are in our Mother's house. Here she welcomes us into her home. At this shrine of Our Lady of Madhu, every pilgrim can feel at home, for here Mary brings us into the presence of her Son Jesus. Here Sri Lankans, Tamil and Sinhalese alike, come as members of one family. To

Mary they commend their joys and sorrows, their hopes and needs. Here, in her home, they feel safe. They know that God is very near; they feel his love; they know his tender mercy.

There are families here today which suffered greatly in the long conflict which tore open the heart of Sri Lanka. Many people, from north and south alike, were killed in the terrible violence and bloodshed of those years.

No Sri Lankan can forget the tragic events associated with this very place, or the sad day when the venerable statue of Mary, dating to the arrival of the earliest Christians in Sri Lanka, was taken away from her shrine.

But Our Lady remained always with you. She is the mother of every home, of every wounded family, of all who are seeking to return to a peaceful existence. Today we thank her for protecting the people of Sri Lanka from so many dangers, past and present. Mary never forgot her children on this resplendent island. Just as she never left the side of her Son on the Cross, so she never left the side of her suffering Sri Lankan children.

Today we want to thank Our Lady for that presence. In the wake of so much hatred, violence and destruction, we want to thank her for continuing to bring us Jesus, who alone has the power to heal open wounds and to restore peace to broken hearts. But we also want to ask her to implore for us the grace of God's mercy. We ask also for the grace to make reparation for our sins and for all the evil



which this land has known.

It is not easy to do this. Yet only when we come to understand, in the light of the Cross, the evil we are capable of, and have even been a part of, can we experience true remorse and true repentance. Only then can we receive the grace to approach one another in true contrition, offering and seeking true forgiveness. In this difficult effort to forgive and find peace, Mary is always here to encourage us, to guide us, to lead us. Just as she forgave her Son's killers at the foot of his Cross, then held his lifeless body in her hands, so now she wants to guide Sri Lankans to greater reconciliation, so that the balm of God's pardon and mercy may bring true healing to all.

Finally, we want to ask Mother Mary to accompany with her prayers the efforts of Sri Lankans from both Tamil and Sinhalese speaking communities to rebuild the unity which was lost. Just as her statue came back to her shrine of Madhu after the war, so we pray that all her Sri Lankan sons and daughters may come home to God in a renewed spirit of reconciliation and fellowship.

Dear brothers and sisters, I am happy to be with you in Mary's house. Let us pray for one another. Above all, let us ask that this shrine may always be a house of prayer and a haven of peace. Through the intercession of Our Lady of Madhu, may all people find here inspiration and strength to build a future of reconciliation, justice and peace for all the children of this beloved land. Amen.

Words of welcome to His Holiness at Madhu by His Lordship Rt. Rev. Dr. Rayappu Joseph, Bishop of Mannar, on January 14

Most Holy Father

We the Bishops, priests, religious and the faithful gathered here today welcome you with filial greetings. You are visiting our Country - Sri Lanka as a messenger of Peace based on Truth, Justice and Reconciliation. Thank you for your admirable love for the poor and the suffering in the footsteps of our Lord and of St. Francis of Assisi.

Mannar had been blessed by God as the place of first Martyrdom in Asia at the very beginning of Christianity here in 1544 in our country when more than six hundred Neophytes gave up their life for the sake of their newly received faith due to Odium Fidei of the then king of Jaffna in the North of the country. The blood

of the Martyrs of Mannar had become the seed of the faith in the entire North and eventually in the whole Country.

This Shrine itself in the thick jungle has 400 years of rich history and had been relocated here from its original abode in Manthai during the persecution in the Dutch Colonizers in our regions. This shrine of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary had played a very significant role in fostering the faith and the devotion of all our dear people from all over the country regardless of all differences of race, religion or language for the last four centuries.

It still remains the privileged Marian Shrine of promoting priestly and religious vocations in our Dio-

ceses. Over 600,000 devotees from all over gather here for the Major Festival of the Assumption on the 15th of August each year and a large number for the other monthly Festivals and at weekends.

Your Holiness' presence here is an exceptional blessing to this Shrine and to all its devotees. May Your Holiness' visit and your prayers bring to our Motherland Peace and Prosperity. We all with great devotion pray daily for Your Holiness and take this opportunity to offer you our deep sense of filial obedience, respect and love. May God bless you and May our Lady keep close to you in all your pastoral undertakings to inspire and lead the Church and the World at large.

Speech by the President Maithripala Sirisena, at the Arrival Ceremony for the State Visit of His Holiness Pope Francis at the Bandaranaike International Airport - on 13 January 2015

Your Holiness
Secretary of State and Members
of the Holy See Delegation
Hon. Prime Minister
Hon. Cabinet Ministers & Mem-
bers of Parliament
Excellencies
Ladies and Gentlemen

It is a joyous and momentous occasion to welcome Your Holiness to Sri Lanka, on behalf of my Government and people. It is indeed an honour that Your Holiness has commenced this apostolic journey to Asia with a visit to Sri Lanka.

Your visit is also particularly significant to me personally, as I have been elected to the office of President only a few days ago and the visit of Your Holiness gives me an opportunity to receive your blessings as I commence my term of office.

It is exactly 20 years ago that Pope John Paul II was welcomed to this very soil. At that juncture Sri Lanka was embroiled in annihilating terrorism, following the mayhem caused by the terrorists in the daily lives of the people. Your Holiness comes today to a renewed Sri Lanka, where peace and prosperity prevail in all regions of the Island, with the people enjoying its dividends, while living with dignity. Undoubtedly the initiatives have helped to address the challenge of poverty. The special priority Your Holiness attaches to the eradication of poverty, and global efforts to reduce the economic disparity between the rich



and poor, are noteworthy.

Your Holiness, this visit to Sri Lanka is of special significance, as my government is progressing on promoting dialogue and reconciliation amongst the people, as a means of consolidating the peace dividend. We are a people who believe in religious tolerance and co-existence based on our centuries old spiritual heritage. The significant contribution that Your Holiness is making to bring about peace and reconciliation

among nations and communities is gratifying, and this visit will contribute to Sri Lanka's domestic efforts.

Your Holiness, I am extremely pleased that during this visit you will canonize Sri Lanka's first Saint, Blessed Joseph Vaz, a Catholic missionary from Goa in India, who made a significant contribution to the growth of the Catholic faith in this country. This canonization is indeed an honour for the people of Sri Lanka, and those of the region, particu-

larly of the Catholic faith.

Your Holiness, our two countries have played a significant role in fostering two of the world's major religious faiths Christianity and Buddhism. In the Holy Gospel the Lord Jesus Christ preached to his followers "Love your enemies, bless them that curse you and persecute you" (Matthew 5:44). Likewise Lord Buddha preached that "Hatred is not appeased in this world by hatred, but by loving kindness. Evil must be conquered by goodness" (Dhammapada). These eternal teachings embody the shared values in Christianity and Buddhism which the people of my country profess. They remind us that a significant contribution can be made through interreligious dialogue to social harmony and solidarity, which was also the message of Your Holiness for the "World Day of Peace", last week.

On behalf of the Government and people of Sri Lanka I wish you a most fruitful and memorable visit. I look forward to our discussions with a view to further consolidating and strengthening the relations between Sri Lanka and the Holy See.

I seek the blessings of Your Holiness on the people of Sri Lanka, both in the country and those living abroad, and request your prayers for the country's peace, progress, and prosperity.

I thank you.

Speech of His Eminence Malcolm Cardinal Ranjith at the Canonization at Galle Face Green

Most Holy Father,

It is with great joy and feelings of filial affection that we, the citizens of Sri Lanka and members of the Catholic Church welcome you today into our midst. I am sure that by now you have had the opportunity to experience the simple and genuine faith of our people and the loving sense of loyalty and respect with which they have surrounded you from the moment Your Holiness touched our soil. In this I must say that joining the millions of your admirers in the world, our own people, Sri Lankans of every religion, race and social colour have welcomed this pastoral visit of yours to our beautiful little island home with deep respect and love. What is more, over and above the gift of your presence on this soil, you have given us the gift of a Saint: Saint Joseph Vaz. That gift makes us truly happy, for Sri Lanka has now its own saint, the pride of Goa and God's precious gem for Sri Lanka. We thank you for this most precious gift whose life and service here in his adoptive land, saved the faith of the Catholics during a difficult and painful period of their history and left a lasting legacy to the unending love of God for us. God truly inspired this holy man to give up his own beloved homeland and people and to launch

out into the unknown, like Abraham, and to single handedly revive the faith of our ancestors. We thank the Church in Goa for this precious gift of their son to us. There are in fact many who have come to join us today from this lively Church along with their patriarch and we welcome them too with grateful hearts.

Your Holiness, Sri Lanka as you mentioned in your speech to us on the 8th February last year at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome, is called "the pearl of the Indian ocean on account of its natural beauty and its shape, the pearl being the shape of a tear". And pearls are indeed formed as you mentioned on a tear of an oyster. In the recent past we have shed many tears on account of the internal conflict that caused so many victims and drained away our resources. We are still struggling to rise up from that sad past and to usher in a time of true reconciliation,

peace and progress for our people. The journey is difficult. We need your prayers and blessings as well as your paternal guidance. Indeed on that occasion you did promise us your prayers and we thank you for that. We call upon you to kindly help us in that search - for a true healing of hearts, the strength to ask pardon from each other for the senseless violence unleashed then, to forgive and forget that sad past and to arrive at a process of a give and take that will build bridges of understanding between the parties hurt in the conflict. We are still far away from reaching that goal. We hope and pray that your august figure which teaches us the sublime ways of religion to overcome such hurdles, will help us to reach out to one another. We call upon our beloved Saint Joseph Vaz to intercede for us in heaven so that Sri Lanka may be able to achieve the miracle

of peace soon and may be able to reach out to the goal of true progress and happiness for all its people irrespective of all our differences.

Holy Father, our nation blessed by the teachings of the great world religions, Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam and Christianity does possess the moral and spiritual strength and nobility needed to generate such peace,

but we will all need to make that leap towards each other with a genuine spirit of reconciliation, trust and a sense of reciprocity. Holy Father do bless us in this resolve. We thank you for your presence among us and call upon you to impart your paternal and apostolic blessing on Sri Lanka, our beloved and beautiful home and on all its people.

Thank you.



Summary of the Felicitation speech of Most Ven. Itthapane Dhammalankara Mahanayake Thero at the Interreligious meeting

Your Holiness

It is with great joy that I make this felicitation speech in your honour.

Sri Lanka is a country with a long standing and proud history and culture. It is a country which can make a valuable contribution towards world peace and religious and ethnic co-existence, through its own multi-religious and multi-ethnic nature.

I wish to mention here an exhortation of the Lord Buddha who says "The holy author shows you the way. You have to do your part of the task."

The love of the mother towards her child is neither Buddhist nor Christian. It is maternal. In the same way, the values such as love, self-sacrifice, kindness, peace and friendship, or the evils such as hatred, anger, jealousy and pride, do not belong to a special religion. They are values and evils which belong to humanity.

Your Holiness, on behalf of the Buddhists in Sri Lanka, I wish you a happy and fruitful visit to Sri Lanka, even though it happens to be a very short one.

Most Venerable Itthapane Dhammalankara Thero Mahanayake, Siyam Nikaye Kotte Chapter.

Children's Rights

A retrospective glance at the year 2014 highlights two people who worked for children's rights. They came into focus because both of them shared the year's Nobel Peace Prize. Malala Yousafzai Pakistani teenager from the Swat Valley; she used her knowledge about computers to blog actively to advocate the rights of Muslim girls for education. She was shot thrice by Taliban activists and left unconscious. But because she got immediate medical treatment, she gradually recovered from a coma. After a few days, she was well enough to be flown to Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham, England, to be treated and rehabilitated.

Within a few years the 17-year old Islamic girl became the youngest person to receive a Nobel Prize and she offered all the prize money for the cause of educating girls in the world. She vowed to build a school for girls in the

Swat Valley where she was born and grew up.

Kailash Satyarthi was a child activist from Malala's neighbouring country, India, who shared the Nobel Peace Prize with her. He brought to the focus the loss of childhood, education and knowledge of tens of thousands of children in India and the world who are forced to work for a meagre remuneration. As a children's rights advocate, he fought violence and discrimination against children. His "Save the Childhood Movement" which was started in 1980, acted to protect the rights of more than 83,000 children from many countries in the world. It is his work and activism that led the International Labour Organization to pass a convention banning child labour. He made the central, state and local governments aware of the plight of these children and their destitute families.

The child advo-



cacy of these two Nobel Prize winners is extremely important in the background of current media reports. It was on December 16th in Peshawar, Pakistan, Malala's country of birth, where almost 150 school children and teachers were killed by the Taliban extremists. On September 26th of last year 43 students of a teacher's college were kidnapped by the police in Mexico and subsequently

executed. In Northern Nigeria 276 female school children were kidnapped from a girls' school by Boko Haram terrorists in the village of Chibok. The Nigerian government still could not trace them.

In Sri Lanka both boys and girls enjoy the privilege of free education. As reported, it is not so in many parts of the world. People have to even go to the extent of sacrificing their lives to

educate themselves. We hear about child labour in our country too, especially in some villages dominated by farming, agriculture and fishing industries. Some children are made to "work" in the

of becoming a physician. She was forced to marry at the age of twelve. She became a mother at the age of fourteen. Malala mentioned that about 66 million girls are deprived of basic education in the world just because they were born as females.

Both Malala and Kailash brought to the attention of world leaders the deprivation of education for children because of their religion, poverty and sex. They criticized the world powers for making it easier for poor countries to purchase guns than to buy books. Malala was critical of the world leaders for building tanks than schools. She appealed to the world leaders to make education of children a priority in their political manifestos.

"Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me. But whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone to be fastened round his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea." (Mathew 18: 5-6).

The Church and Society depends on mothers, says Pope

Mothers are indispensable to society and the Church, showing the world what it means to generously give oneself for others, to respect life and to display tenderness and moral strength even in times of trouble, Pope Francis said.

Speaking to some 4,000 people gathered indoors for his general audience the Pope continued his series of talks about the family, but also gave a second talk about beauty and harmony when he thanked a group of circus performers at the end of the audience.

Tying the theme of the family to the Church's celebration of the feast of Mary, Mother of God, on New Year's Day and the Epiphany on January 6, the Pope looked specifically at Mary's role in the Gospel accounts of Christmas.

"She gives us Jesus, she shows us Jesus, she lets us see Jesus," the Pope said.

Even though mothers are often exalted with praise and poetry, he said, they often get very little concrete help and appreciation. In fact, he said, "the willingness of mothers to sacrifice themselves for their children is often taken advantage of in order to 'save' on social spending."

"One should better understand their daily struggle to be efficient at work and attentive and loving in their family; it is necessary to better understand what they are striving for in order to express the best and most authentic fruits of their liberation," he said.

Pope Francis recalled his own upbringing as one of five children, and spoke of how much work and how many problems, but also how much happiness, come with motherhood.

"Mothers are the strongest antidote to the spread of selfish individualism," he said.

A world without mothers would

be "inhumane," he said, "because mothers always know how to give witness — even in the worst of times — to tender-



ness, dedication and moral strength."

"Being a mother does not mean just bringing a child into the world, but it is also a life choice. What does a mother choose?" he asked. "It is the choice to give life and this is great, this is beautiful."

If societies do not do justice to the contributions and sacrifices of mothers, the church is not always better, he said. "Perhaps mothers, who are ready to make many sacrifices for their children and often also for others" should find greater reception and attention in the church, he said.

It is often the mother who passes on the deepest sense of religious prac-

tice as she plants and cultivates the seed of faith in a child by sharing prayers and devotional practices, he said. "Without

mothers, not only would there be no new people of faith, but the faith would lose a good portion of its simple and profound warmth."

Mothers are the biggest enemies of war, which kills their children, he said, admitting he has thought many times of those women who receive the dreaded letter notifying them of the loss of their children in their defense of the nation. "Poor women. How much a mother suffers," he said solemnly.

Mothers are martyrs, the Pope said quoting a homily by Salvadoran Archbishop Oscar Romero, who was shot and killed in 1980 as he celebrated Mass.

Presiding over the funeral Mass of a priest who had been assassinated by the country's death squads, the late archbishop had said that giving one's life does not just mean being killed for the faith, it is also offering oneself "in that silence of daily life", bit by bit, "like a mother, who, without fear and with the simplicity of maternal martyrdom, conceives a child in her womb, brings it into the world, nurses it, raises it and lovingly cares" for the child.

At the end of his audience talk, the Pope was treated to a short circus show as acrobats and jugglers performed in front of him on stage while a jazz band played "All of Me."

The Pope thanked the men, women and children taking part in an international festival in Rome for circus performers and praised them for being "creators of harmony, creators of beauty, who teach the high road of beauty," which is "good for the soul."

But while people today are well-practiced in "the language of the mind, thinking" and "the language of the hands, doing," they need to remember to use "the language of the heart, loving," he said.

"These three languages come together to make up the harmony of the person and there is the beauty," he said.

God is not only truth, goodness and the master of creation, He is also beauty and "so many times we forget about beauty," the Pope said. "Humanity thinks, hears, does, but today it is in such need of beauty."

In a brief address to German and Polish-speaking groups attending the audience, the Pope also greeted a delegation of people who survived the Auschwitz concentration camp and were freed 70 years ago in January.

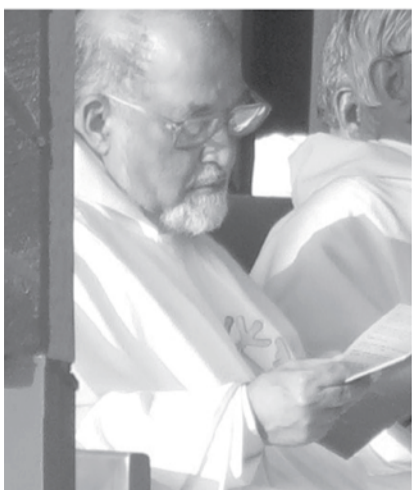
(Courtesy: Catholic News Service)

Art
**& Architecture
 in Liturgy**

Compiled by: Kishani S. Fernando

Let the pictures talk

bo. Pix include the night vigil of the thousands that flocked to the Galle Face Green, Preparation for the Holy Mass (confessions at the 28 stations of the mobile Eucharistic Chapels), last minute cleaning of the stage and final preparations, preparations in the Sacristies, Rev. Fr. Cosme Jose Costa S.F.X. who presented the first miracle for the beatification of Fr. Joseph Vaz, Surani and Sanjay Fernando who presented the second miracle for the canonization of Bl. Joseph Vaz, the relic of the cross brought from Galgamuwa for the Holy Mass.



MEMORABLE MOMENTS OF THE VISIT OF POPE FRANCIS TO SRI LANKA

January 13, His Holiness Pope Francis arrives in Sri Lanka



Reception at the Airport

On the Way to Colombo



MEMORABLE MOMENTS OF THE VISIT OF POPE FRANCIS TO SRI LANKA



At the Presidential Secretariat



At the BMICH - Interreligious Encounter

Galle Face Green



■ Pope Francis as a Young Man

Fountain of Youth as the Mountain of Achievements

-Professor Anton Meemana.

"Jesus said, "Young man, I say to you, arise"(Luke 7:14).

Greatness and Graciousness

Youthful enthusiasms and aspirations are the ever-flowing fountain and permanent foundation of future achievements. All great undertakings stem from humble beginnings. Greatness in one's old age comes out of graciousness in one's young age.

Clarity about one's future orientation is always a strength. A confused person can hardly become a blessing unto other people. Outer glory stems from inner clarity and interior strength.

Every difficulty, every hardship, every painful experience and sorrowful memory contributes to and strengthens the life-Journey. No experience is uninteresting in life; nothing is infinitely insignificant in life.

Every turning point in life has an intrinsic purpose, inner meaning, and a future orientation. Every crisis in life offers a grand opportunity. Crisis is a genesis. In this light, the early life of our Pope Francis can guide us to find our own meaning in our life-journey.

As a teenager, Jorge Mario Bergoglio started pursuing a study course in chemistry at "Escuela Nacional de Educacion Tecnica"(National School of Technical Education) and he tried to strike a balance between his studies and work.

After earning a college diploma in chemistry, he had a plan to become a technical engineer. But human fate and future is mysterious and unpredictable. Nothing could be planned and organized in a neat manner. Even without his full awareness, his life was taking a different direction.

The Turning Point in Life

In 1953, barely 17 years old, he underwent a profound and shattering spiritual turning point in life. He, together with some of his close friends, planned to go on a picnic. On his way, he decided to go to Confession. The priest there at the church of San Jose de Flores was Fr. Duarte.

As he was able to reflect on this incident fifty years later;

"During that confession, something strange happened to me. I cannot say what it was, but it was something that changed my life. I could say that it was as if I had been caught off guard.... From that moment onwards, God became for me the one who goes ahead. You do not seek him, He seeks you first."

As Blasé Pascal says; "we do not seek God had we not found Him." God-experience in one's life is the most crucial turning point. Once God becomes everything to us and in us, everything else becomes secondary and tertiary. God-centeredness is the real centre and anchor in life.

As a result of this unplanned encounter, he drastically changed his mind and thought of entering the priesthood by giving up his desire for marriage. The irony is that the same day he also had a plan to propose to a girl whom he had met at a wedding celebration at his uncle's house. He chose God instead of a girl. Indeed God works in mysterious ways. Loving God is the greatest love affair one can have and being loved by God is the greatest love one

can possess.

Choosing God is to be chosen by God and chosen by God concretely means choosing God. This is a difficult task which can only be sustained by the torrents of divine grace.

Social Involvement and Lasting Friendships

He had always been interested in social work. There was a social outreach programme called, "Catholic Action" and he tried to be of help to others through its local branch.

He also made a lot of friends during his spare time and developed a special love for tango dance. Although he was introverted, reticent, reflective and reserved, he could easily establish rapport with his fellow youth. He was shy, low-profile, unassuming but friendly and sympathetic.

For his work ethics and studiousness, his father's style, attitude and guidance had the deepest impact. This decisive experience made him appreciate the hard work one has to do in order to earn some money and avoid impulsive expenditures.

It also helped him understand the heart-wrenching suffering and humiliation of unemployed people. Not only we are obliged to work but also we have a right to find a meaningful work. Unemployment leads to dehumanization and damages human creativity and dignity. No one can be deprived of meaningful work. Work adds meaning to life. To work is to live. No work means no life. These are some of the hard lessons the young Jorge learnt and cherished for the rest of his life. All those tough experiences had contributed to his personal synthesis.

In his younger days, he became a voracious reader of Dante Alighieri, Alessandro Manzoni, Friedrich Holderlin and also communist literature. But he never embraced communist ideology, since it was atheistic in its philosophical orientation. 1950s were very turbulent years in the Argentinean political landscape. And the political unrest and social chaos were increasing. So he decided to enter by the narrow gate and trod the difficult path. When God calls us, we cannot help but respond. Our real ability lies in responsibility.

Although he had made a firm decision to pursue priesthood, he was not very sure about the religious congregation or diocese he was going to choose. With this intention in his heart, he continued to pray and discern for about four years. There was a life-and-death situation that happened in the midst of all these discernments.

Sickness as an Opportunity for Deeper Awareness

As Michael Collins elaborates what really happened;

"When he was 21, Jorge nearly lost his life. For several days he had felt unwell, with a rising temperature. His mother called a doctor to visit him at home. The doctor advised that he be admitted to hospital. Each day the doctors administered drugs and tried to discover the cause of an infection which caused him shortness of breath. He grasped his mother's arm.

"Tell me, what is happening?" Finally the diagnosis was made. He was suffering with a severe form of pneumonia. Three cysts had appeared on the upper part of his lung. Not respond-

ing to conventional medication, the decision was made to operate. The right lung was severely affected and the surgeon removed the upper part of the organ. For three days the young man hung between life and death. Each day the lungs were drained and fresh bandages applied. The procedure to drain the lungs caused immense distress and pain.

One day, Jorge received a visit from Sr Dolores, the nun who had prepared him for his First Communion. She was deeply upset to see him in agony and explained to him that he was suffering like Jesus on the cross. These words proved an unexpected help to the young man on the verge of his maturity. While others wished him a speedy recovery, her words made sense.

Jorge continues his recuperation, even undertaking a journey to the plains of Tandil. His parents were relieved with their son's progress and went on a pilgrimage of thanksgiving to the shrine of Our Lady of Lujan. They also presumed that he would continue with further studies in chemistry which would advance his career. When he returned home, Regina Maria [his mother] cleared out a small area in the upper storey of the house, overlooking a small terrace. Here Jorge would be able to study in peace. As the eldest, Jorge was looked up to by his siblings. They were told to be quiet while he was studying and sent to play outside.

One day, while dusting the area, Jorge's mother looked at the books her son was studying. She was surprised to find several books of theology. She had to wait until evening when he returned to confront him on his choice of reading material. When he returned that evening, she asked why he had lied to her.

'I did not lie, Mama,' replied Jorge. 'I am studying medicine, but medicine of the soul.'

To his surprise, Regina Maria reacted badly to the news of her son's vocation, realizing that soon he would leave home to study at a seminary. She continuously pleaded with him to delay his decision. He was, she insisted, still young and immature. Jorge's father was pleaded with the news, as was his grandmother Rosa. According to Maria Elena [his sister], 'Papa would have been pleased if we all had become nuns and priests!'

Finality and Irreversibility of a Decisive Decision

And finally he decided to enter the archdiocesan seminary Immaculada Concepcion. Although he spent some years there, his heart continuously longed for greater missionary adventures far and wide. Since he enjoyed working with young people, he also entertained becoming a Salesian missionary.

There was another reason for this desire. Young Jorge grew up with Salesian priests who were specially trained to work with young people. Fr. Lorenzo Massa, a Salesian priest, had a decisive influence on young Jorge. Fr. Massa also founded San Lorenzo de Almagro football club of which Pope Francis has been a lifelong fan.

He also learnt to play football and basketball and developed a lifelong passion for sports. After spending three years at the diocesan seminary,



'I did not lie, Mama,' replied Jorge. 'I am studying medicine, but medicine of the soul.'

he finally and firmly decided to become a Jesuit priest. The main reason for this was the enduring inspiration and influence he received from the Jesuit priests who assisted at the Immaculada Concepcion seminary.

As he revealed later, he was very much impressed by and attracted to the intellectual formation, sense of order, discipline and spiritual formation and dedication, of the Society of Jesus. By following the footsteps of great Jesuit missionary pioneers, he now dreamt of becoming a foreign missionary, perhaps being able to go to Japan where Jesuits had done pioneering missions.

At the age of 22, he became a novice of the Jesuit seminary in Santiago, Chile. In 1959, he underwent his first shattering experience in life, when his father, all of a sudden, died of a heart attack. After this very painful experience in life, he thought of leaving the seminary in order to help financially his mother and siblings.

But going against this initial hesitation, he was determined to continue his seminary studies and pursue priesthood and finally his iron will won the day. He was ordained to priesthood on 13 December, 1969, at the age of 33, by Archbishop Ramon Jose Castellano.

Reference

Michael Collins, *Francis, Bishop Of Rome A Short Biography*; (The Columba Press, Dublin, 2013).

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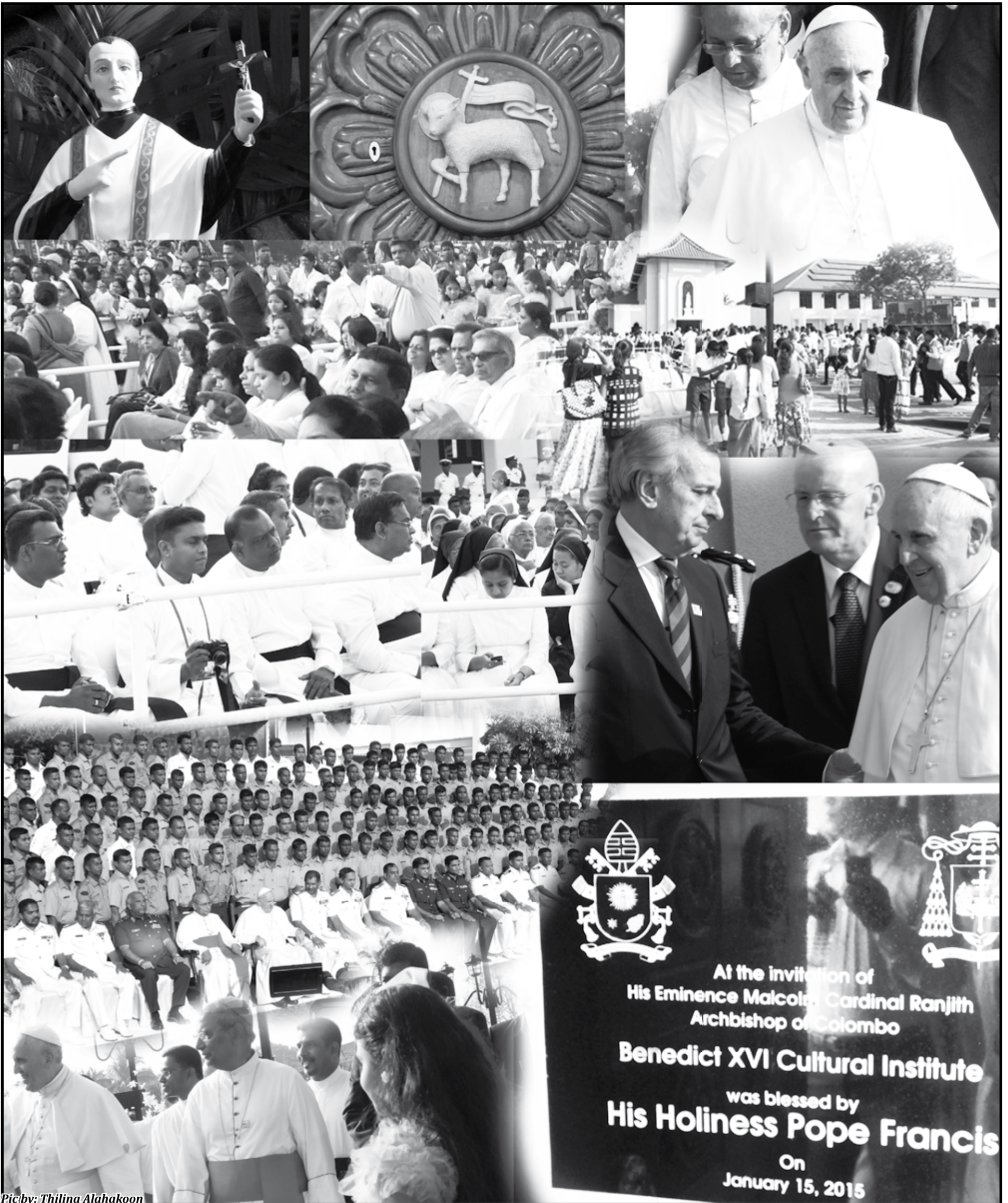
We have a...

Heavenly Communion of Saints and to proceed with the canonization rite. This was done by the Bishop of Kandy, Rev. Dr. Vianney Fernando as the Chairman of the Committee for the cause of the canonization of the Blessed Joseph Vaz.

This was followed by the Bishop of Goa, reading out a brief biography of the newly canonized saint, who's birthplace was Goa. The faithful then sang the Litany of the Saints after which Pope Francis read out in Latin the Rite of Canonization of the Apostle of Sri Lanka - the Blessed Joseph Vaz - to the cheers of the crowds and the ringing of ceremonial bells and the beating of drums. The crowd then sang the hymn in honour of St. Joseph Vaz.

The formula of canonization declared and defined Blessed Joseph Vaz to be a Saint while enrolling him among the Saints and decreeing that he is to be venerated as such by the whole Church.

Pope Francis arrived on Tuesday on January 13 and was welcomed at the Airport by President Maitripala Sirisena, His Eminence Malcolm Cardinal Ranjith, together with government and Church officials.



Pic by: Thilina Alahakoon

Pope Francis bids adieu to Sri Lanka



DM-11/18/15 © 2015

Speak, Lord, your servant is listening; you have the message of eternal life.
(1 Sam 3:9)

LITURGICAL CALENDAR YEAR B
18th Jan. - 25th Jan. 2015

Sun: SECOND SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

1 Sam. 3:3b-10,19; 1 Cor. 6:13-15,17-20
Jn. 1:35-42

Mon: Heb. 5:1-10; Mk. 2:18-22

Tue: Memorial of St. Fabian, Pope & Martyr
and St. Sebastian, Martyr

Heb. 6: 10-20; Mk. 2:23-28

Wed: Memorial of St. Agnes, Virgin & Martyr
Heb. 7:1-3,15-17; Mk. 3:1-6

Thu: Memorial of St. Vincent, Deacon & Martyr
Heb. 7:25-8: 6; Mk. 3:13-19

Fri: Heb. 8:6-13; Mk. 3:13-19

Sat: Memorial of St. Francis de Sales
Bishop & Doctor
Heb. 9:2,3,11-14; Mk. 3:20-21

Sun: THIRD SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

Jona 3:1-5,10; 1 Cor. 7:29-31;
Mk. 1:14-20

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Response: Lord, graciously hear us.

For the Church; that it may help people to encounter Christ as the one who will answer all their longing. Lord, hear us.

Response: Lord, graciously hear us.

For our civil leaders; that they may experience the presence of Christ with them in the midst of all their worldly concerns. Lord hear us.

Response: Lord, graciously hear us.

For those to whom Christ is only a name; that they may get to know and encounter him and follow him as true disciples. Lord, hear us.

Response: Lord, graciously hear us.

That we may deepen our own relationship with Christ through daily prayer and the living out of his commandment of love. Lord, hear us.

Response: Lord, graciously hear us.

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading:

1 Sam. 3: 3-10, 19.

Samuel is called by the Lord. He thinks it is the prophet who is calling but the prophet directs him to the Lord. Samuel gave himself to the Lord totally and fully, and the Lord was with him from then onwards.

Second Reading:

1 Cor. 6: 13-15, 17-20.

We all are bought at a price, as a result we all belong to the Lord. Our bodies are temples of the Lord. Therefore we all ought to live for the Lord. Not only our hearts and soul our bodies too should be dedicated to the Lord.

Gospel. Jn. 1: 35-42.

When, Jesus appears John the Baptist without any hesitation points to Him as the one who is to come, the Lamb of God. His followers followed Jesus and left everything and became Jesus' followers. Simon Peter too joined them and was called the Rock by the Lord.

Reflection.

The Lord wants us to dedicate our lives totally and fully to Him. In the process we ought to forget ourselves and point to the others who see the Lord in and through us.

For this reason we all must not only dedicate our hearts and souls but even our bodies too should be preserved and dedicated to the Lord. We ought to do this at any cost for this is the only way through which we could totally and fully be dedicated to the Lord. We see in the first reading how Samuel is called. At the beginning he thought it was the prophet who was calling him, so thought the prophet. But later the prophet knew the Lord who was calling.

Once it was known Samuel was made to answer the Lord and the Lord spoke to him. And from the moment Samuel answered the Lord; the Lord was with him till the end. It was so important for Samuel to recognize the Lord and answer Him and there by dedicate his life for the Lord, for the Lord to come and be with him. And the moment Samuel answered the Lord He came to be with him.

In the second reading we all are supposed to be belonging to the Lord for we are bought by the Lord at a price. As we all belong to the Lord our bodies too belong to the Lord. Therefore our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit. In that case if we belong to the Lord we not only should dedicate our hearts and souls to the Lord, we ought to dedicate our bodies too. For this reason we all ought to keep away from fornication. For it says, "Keep away from fornication. All other sins are committed outside the body, but to fornicate is to sin against you own body. Your body, you know is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you since you received Him from God.

In the Gospel we see how John the Baptist with all humility points to the Lord the moment he appears before him. He even tells his disciples to follow Him. At the moment John the Baptist was well established, was popular and had a huge crowd around him. But he did not forget his mission, for he came to prepare the way for the Lord. He was supposed to introduce the Lord, the Saviour to the people. The moment he saw the Lord he did not hesitate to point to Him as the Lamb of God. It is so dedicated of him to forget himself and introduce the Lord to his followers. And not only introduce but also ask his followers to follow the Lord.

This is what we all must do in our day to day life. We all ought to dedicate our lives totally and fully to the Lord. Not only our hearts and souls even our bodies too should be dedicated to the Lord.

For this reason we should in no way attract the people to ourselves but we should live for the Lord and in and through us we should attract people for the Lord. We should do this with humility and dedication.

Aid Story 1.

At the palace of Versailles Charles IX of France is taken to the Italian poet Torquato Tasso. "Tell me Torquaso who is the happiest person? "God! Your Majesty." "Naturally, but I mean among men." "The one who most resembles God." "Perhaps among us mortals I am the one who most resembles God because of my power, my riches and my fame. Yet I am not happy." "Your majesty you fail to resemble God by being the most virtuous of men."

Aid Story 2.

A salt doll journeyed for thousands of miles and stopped on the edge of the sea. It was fascinated by this moving liquid mass, so unlike anything it had seen before. "What are you?" said the salt doll to the sea. "Come and see," said the sea with a smile.

So the doll wadded in. The further it went the more it dissolved till there was only a pinch of it left. Before that last bit dissolved, the doll exclaimed in wonder, "Now I know what I am!"

Rev. Fr. Ciswan De Croos

"We have found the Messiah" (John 1,35-42)

1. John the Baptist testifies to Jesus before his disciples, "Behold, the Lamb of God." Jesus is the Lamb of God. What does it mean?

i. Jesus is the victorious apocalyptic lamb who would destroy evil in the world (Revelation 5 - 7; 17,14).

ii. Jesus is the paschal lamb, whose blood saved Israel (Exodus 12).

iii. Jesus is the suffering servant who is led like a lamb to the slaughter as a sin offering (Isaiah 53,7.10).

2. This testimony of John bears fruits. Accepting this testimony of their master, Andrew and another disciple of John now follow Jesus. He inquires them, "What are you looking for?" This is a major question. But at this moment, the disciples, still only with initial faith, are not able to comprehend just who Jesus is and what it is He has to offer. They address Him as "Rabbi" (teacher) and they want to know where He lives, "where are you staying?" Usually a rabbi sits in his house, gathers disciples around him and teaches them the Law of Moses. They think they have found such an ordinary rabbi. Now they wish to be His new disciples. But Jesus is much more than a rabbi!

The disciples stay with Jesus and begin to experience Him. Then their initial faith deepens. Now they realize that He is more than a rabbi.

3. Andrew does not wish to keep his experience to himself. In turn, he shares his faith experience with Peter his brother "We have found the Messiah" - the Anointed One and leads him to Him. He makes him a new person with a unique identity and mission, "You are Simon the son of John; you will be called Kephas" - Peter or Rock.

4. Today we all are disciples of Jesus. The more we stay with Him, the more we experience Him. The more we experience Him, the more we have got to share this faith experience with others. The more we share this Jesus experience, the more will become His followers. John the Baptist and Andrew did it and why not we today?

5. Today we are engaged in interreligious dialogue. It is true we do appreciate the noble values of each religion. We accept that some seeds of the Gospel are sown in them and hence, these world religions are preparations for the Gospel of Jesus - God's Final Word to humanity. There are points of convergence between Christianity and other world religions. We do also respect person's fundamental human right to believe in a religion or philosophy or ideology of his free choice.

But this interfaith dialogue is not a substitute or replacement to the sharing of our faith experience with the rest of humanity. We need to stand by what we believe, experience and celebrate. We must also accept that there are points of divergence between Christianity and other world religions. We should not try to compromise our faith with other faiths. Jesus is the Lamb of



God, Rabbi and Messiah of our lives. The sacrifice of Jesus is unique and salvific. Let us share this faith conviction of Apostles and ours by creative means and our life witness and lead others to Christ in this multi-religious and pluralistic context.

Rev. Fr. Don Anton Saman Hettiarachchi

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Developing the Spirituality of the Young



This year has been named as the *year of family and consecrated life* and it may be a suitable time for us to think of ways to bring up our children to enable them to be God-loving citizens with a good religious background. I wish to offer some suggestions as to how this could be done effectively through reflections on my life as a hosteller in the Sixties at St. Anthony's College, Katugastota, which was under the Benedictine priests.

A week-day usually commenced in the hostel with a study period followed by Holy Mass, before breakfast. The opportunity of following the daily Mass shaped our lives to give a prominent place to be with God at the beginning of the day and it became part and parcel of our lives. The hostel was divided into three major sections called 'Rainbow', 'Mansion' and 'Villa'. The senior students, specifically those studying in the advanced level classes were in the 'Villa' and they were given the option of choosing whether to attend Holy Mass or continue studying in the weekday mornings. It was so pleasing to note that over 80% of the students chose to go to church. On Sundays, the day started with Holy Mass and we had to wear white clothes with tie. It taught us about the proper preparations that we need to take, to be worthy partakers of the sacred banquet.

The religious knowledge classes were conducted by priests and they always tried to make it interesting with appropriate stories and anecdotes. The lessons went beyond the required syllabus and we had a very good knowledge of both New and Old Testament. After dinner and some recreational time, we had daily recitation of the rosary. It was an appropriate day-ending prayer time, where we also learnt all types of hymns, many of which we knew the lyrics by heart. On Sunday evenings, we also had the benediction service, again for which we wore white clothes and tie. Every one of us knew how to knot the tie even as little children.

In the refectory where we had our meals, it was customary to recite the grace before meals and thanksgiving after meals. Gradually, we came to realize that we have to be thankful to all the gifts that God has granted us and that we will not be able to survive without His graces. The angelus in the morning, evening and at noon reminded us to spend a few moments in silent prayer amidst all other businesses. It was a wonderful sight when the bells rang at noon, how everyone stood still meditating, whichever religion they belonged to. Even the cricket matches came to a standstill until the bells stopped chiming.

We also had our annual retreat at the 'Adisham' in Haputale. The three days of retreat helped us to discover ourselves and our role in this world and how it synchronizes with God's plan. The month of May was special due to the May Novenas in honour of Mother Mary. Each day was allocated to a sub-section of the three hostels and all of us, whether Catholics or not, did our best to decorate Our Lady's statue in the most innovative way and painstakingly practiced the latest of hymns to be sung at the novena. These helped us to be aware of the powerful mediation role of Mother Mary and to be devoted to her knowing that she will be always with us. We also had a very active altar-servers association with a large number of acolytes, which also handled the scripture readings. I have had to make numerous presentations for different types of audiences later in life and I personally feel that the grounding was provided through the reading of the epistle on Sundays in front of all the hostellers and on first Friday of each month in front of all catholic students in the school.

How can we use some of these ideas and adapt them to suit the conditions of the modern world? I hope that the following ideas may help families to create better conditions for our youth in their spiritual development.

Give prominence to Holy Mass on Sundays and make that the priority in your discussions about the programme on Sundays. Make sure that you are there in Church on time. Show them the importance of being there for the whole service through your own example. Further, train your children to dress well but modestly as this is a meeting with God almighty.

Due to the many activities that we try to fit in during the 24 hours of the day in the modern era, it may be difficult for some families to get together to recite the daily rosary. If so, train your children to spend a few minutes each day in silent prayer, thanking God for all the graces received during the day and for seeking con-

tinued blessings to get through the following day.

The recitation of grace before and after meals is a powerful mode of providing an example to the children as they will gradually make a habit of thanking the Lord for the many gifts that we receive sometimes without our knowledge. It may not be an elaborate prayer but a simple request such as "Lord Jesus, please bless the food that we are about to consume."

Try to find time and avenues for your children to get involved in church activities relevant to the talents of each child. It will not only help with religious enhancement but also in the developing of the whole personality.

Place a picture or a statue of Jesus or Mary in every room (specially the rooms that the children occupy) to symbolize the presence of God wherever we are and thereby create an atmosphere of religiousness. With very young children, spend some time on bible stories and the message that it tries to convey. Ask them about the lessons on religious knowledge and discuss them at home to create an interest in the Old and the New Testament.

R.N.A. de Silva

THE PEARL



The oyster swimming silent and free
In the deep mysterious sea
Opened wide its two-shelled doors
But before the two doors closed
A minute grain of gritty sand
On its soft oyster flesh did land.
Now when the oyster closed its doors
That grain of sand it nestled close.

It pushed itself into the oyster flesh
The oyster gasped "O what a mess."
This way, that way, it turned to ease
The irritation of this tease
The more it strove, the harder that grain
Wriggled and wriggled "O what a pain"
The oyster that irritating grain did cover
With a stricken web like a caring lover.

Each day the oyster a new cover added.
soon the grain was silken padded
The oyster gave it never a thought
Cause now the pain it felt nought
Days and months and years went by
That grain in the oyster bed did tie
The Oyster floated in the deep blue sea
It felt so happy, it felt so free

Came a diver - dived he right down
That gentle oyster the diver found
He brought it up and prized it open
O what a treasure, O what a token
This pearl I'll give to someone special
It will be love's priceless Pearl
I hope I'll be that lucky girl
Cause I was called 'Pearly Girl'

Pearline L. Withana

Prayers for Life

"Our prayers should be for blessings in general, for God knows best what is good for us." These are the words of an eminent person regarding our prayers. He gained lot of things through daily prayers and always thanked the Good Lord for the success of his family life.


Christian life is prayer. Jesus showed us

the way how we should we pray. As another person says, prayer and faith have awesome powers to calm the mind, heal the body and bring peace to the soul.

Prayers can be said anywhere. At home, in church, on the road and every possible place people can pray, for life, for peace in the world, which is a great need today.



Prayer is invoking God in our heart and thanking Him for His many blessings. May we be blessed with the art and the grace of true prayer.
Christopher Runasinghe



**Our life is like the wind.
We face many obstacles
Which makes us weak and discouraged
But if we face those troublesome times,
courageously,
I am very sure
We can overcome life and win**

**Madhawa Dissanayake
St. Anne's Parish, Palanathurai**

Young World

Moments of La-Kri-Vi Aesthetic Year



The year 2014-2015 was declared as the Aesthetic Year. The primary aim of this year was to develop the aesthetic talents and skills of the children. Accordingly the La-Kri-Vi Movement successfully held the national competitions on January 3, 2015 at St. Joseph's College auditorium having finished competitions on district and diocesan levels. Approximately 400 children participated in competitions such as singing, music, dancing, drama and arts.

Christmas get together in Diyalagoda Parish



The Christmas get together of the Diyalagoda Parish was held in the open-air stage at St. Sebastian's Church premises. The chief celebrant on the occasion was Rev. Fr. Sudam Perera, Director, Holy Cross College (Paiyagala Branch) and Rev. Fr. Dinesh Taranga Keerthisinghe



Parish Priest Diyalagoda. Here the students are seen performing the nativity play.

D. Anselm Fernando

Prize-giving at Dalugama Sunday School



The Sunday School of St. Francis de Sales held its annual prize-giving recently at Dalugama St. Francis de Sales, College. The Chief Guest was Rev. Fr. Pradeep Kumar Fernando, Archdiocesan Chaplain for Young Christian Students.

Dinesh Perera

Celebration at Dankotuwa Sunday School



The annual prize-giving of the Sunday School of the Risen Lord Church, Dankotuwa was held recently. The Christmas celebration was also held on the same day.

Teckla Caldera

Beautiful Crib by Madampella Youth



This beautiful crib was constructed at Katulanda Madhu Matha Mawatha at Pahala Madampella by the youth of the village.

H. A. Caldera

Nattandiya Pradesheya Sabha Carols



The Carol Service of the Nattandiya Pradeshiya Sabha was held recently at the Nattandiya Parish grounds. Picture shows children of the Choir leading Santa Claus to the venue.

Shriyangani Felicia

Prize-giving of Delatura Sunday School



The Prize-giving of Delatura St. Rogus Church, Sunday School, was held with the Parish Priest Rev. Fr. Sampath Thushara as the chief guest. Various performances by children were also displayed on this day.

"The call for peace must be shouted. Peace sometimes gives the impression of being quiet, but it is never quiet, peace is always proactive and dynamic"
- Pope Francis

English with Fun and Entertainment

Dear Readers,

In our 58th lesson we read the *Landmarks of the illustrious career of Pope Francis*.

In this lesson you will learn proverbs, inspirational quotes, cohesive devices and vocabulary items with prefixes and suffixes

Comments made by our readers are very encouraging. Thanks for your efforts to make 'English with Fun and Entertainment' an interactive process.

(Answers for vocabulary items will appear in the next lesson)

God Bless You!

NJ

Activity 1 Inspirational quotes – Warm up : Read aloud and prioritize them

- (1) For every minute you are angry with someone, you lose 60 seconds of happiness that you can never get back. — Napoleon Hill
- (2) Mankind must put an end to war or war will put an end to mankind. - John F. Kennedy
- (3) It is true that you may fool all the people some of the time; you can even fool some of the people all the time; but you can't fool all of the people all the time. Abraham Lincoln
- (4) A friend is someone who knows the song in your heart, and can sing it back to you when you have forgotten the words – unknown
- (5) Charm is a woman's strength just as strength is a man's charm. -Havelock Ellis:
- (6) You don't have to be great to start, but you have to start to be great. -ZigZiglar:
- (7) Try to learn something about everything and everything about something. -Thomas Huxley
- (8) You don't write because you want to say something; you write because you've got something to say. - Scott Fitzgerald:
- (9) It's not the hours you put in your work that count, its work you put in the hours. -Sam Ewing
- (10) It is better to deserve honors and not have them than to have them and not deserve them. -Mark Twain:

Activity 2 – Match the proverbs with their meanings

1. "There's no place like home."	(a) Don't whine and complain if you don't get what you wanted.
2. "You can't always get what you want."	(b) Don't do mean things to people.
3. "Don't bite the hand that feeds you."	(c) Different people have different ideas about what's valuable
4. "One man's trash is another man's treasure."	(d) If someone is paying you or helping you out, you have to be careful not to make them angry or say bad things about them
5. "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."	(e) Your own home is the most comfortable place to be.

Activity 3: Cohesion

Cohesion refers to the unity of the text. A text is hung together through cohesive devices. They create coherence in texts. They are Reference, Ellipsis, Substitution, Lexical cohesion and Conjunction.

Cohesive Devices – Underline the correct word.

01. The umbrella you gave me is a good one is an example for (ellipsis, substitution, conjunction)
02. Do you understand what I say / **Yes I do.** is an example for (reference / ellipsis / conjunction)

03. Sunil is a good boy. **He** is very popular. ("He" is used as anaphoric /catephoric / telephoric) reference in the text.

04. I asked her to be careful **but** she did not listen to me. ('but' is used as anaphoric /catephoric / conjunctive) in the text.

05. I bought my brother a pen yesterday. He used **that pen** to answer the questions. (pen is used as a substitution / ellipsis / lexical relationship)

Activity 4 – What is Vocabulary ? (v..k..bj..l..ri ;AmE –leri /noun (pl.-ies) 1.all the words that a person knows or uses : to have a wide or limited vocabulary , your active vocabulary the words that you use., your passive vocabulary (= the words that you understand but don't use)

Reading will increase your vocabulary, the word' failure' is not in his vocabulary(= for him failure does not exist) 2. All the words in a particular language.

Lexis /'leksis/ noun linguistics all the words and phrases of a particular language

Vocabulary Items; Language register and Jargons - (a)Collocations (b) synonyms and antonyms (c) hyponyms and homonyms (d)lexical words and structural words (e) homophones and homographs (f) affixes (g) phrasal verbs (g) denotation and connotation (h)idioms

Synonyms are words that have a similar, but not exactly the same meaning.

e.g. difficult – hard, pretty – beautiful. The English language is very rich in synonyms and so it is capable of expressing the most delicate shades of meaning.

Activity 5: Examine the following list of similar words

- i. Famous, notorious, noted, illustrious, notable, renowned
- ii. Abandon, desert, forsake, relinquish, renounce, abdicate, resign
- iii. Large, enormous. Vast, huge, big, immense,
- iv. Perform, fulfil, execute, effect, accomplish
- v. Beautiful, handsome, charming, comely, pretty

Antonyms are words opposite in meaning

e.g. good – bad, right –wrong, right – left

Antonyms are formed in three ways

- i. By different words e.g. accept – reject big – small
- ii. By prefixes e.g. believe – disbelieve, credible – incredible
- iii. By prefixes or suffixes of opposite meaning :
benevolence – malevolence sensible –senseless

Activity 6: Study the following words with suffixes – nouns are formed

Suffix	Example	Suffix	Example
-dom	kingdom, wisdom, freedom	-hood	childhood, brotherhood
-ness	kindness, neatness	-ing	tubing, matting
-ship	kingship, hardship, friendship	-th	health, depth
-ment	punishment, improvement	-age	baggage, mileage, wastage
-ry	slavery, delivery	-ful	spoonful, mouthful
ism	racism, socialism	-oracy	democracy, aristocracy
-ess	actress, hostess	-let	booklet, piglet
-ant	inhabitant, contestant	-ee	employee, appointee
-al	refusal, arrival	-ation	starvation, plantation
-ity	falsity, elasticity	-ion	invention, dictation

Activity 7: Form adjectives using the following suffixes

Suffix	Example	Suffix	Example
-ed		-en	
-ish		-less	
-ly		-some	
-ward		-y	
-like		-al	
-able		-sive	

Do the following activities and suggest a suitable grade for your students

Answers –

Activity 1 (1')- e (2) –a (3) d (4) - c (5) – b

Activity 3. Answers 1.Substitution 2. Ellipsis 3. Anaphoric 4.Conjunctive 5. Lexical relationship

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Compiled by Noel Jayamane

Pope Francis reveals Top 10 Secrets to Happiness

In an interview published in part in the Argentine weekly "Viva," Pope Francis listed his Top 10 tips for bringing greater joy to one's life:



Pope Francis greets the crowd as he arrives to lead a general audience in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican last month. (CNS/Paul Haring)

1. "Live and let live." Everyone should be guided by this principle, which has a similar expression in Rome with the saying, "Move forward and let others do the same."

2. "Be giving of yourself to others." People need to be open and generous toward others, because if you withdraw into yourself, you run the risk of becoming egocentric. And stagnant water becomes putrid.

3. Proceed calmly in life. The Pope, who used to teach high school literature, used an image from

an Argentine novel by Ricardo Güiraldes, in which the protagonist, gaucho Don Segundo Sombra looks back on how he lived his life. Sombra says that in his youth he was a stream full of rocks, as an adult, a rushing river and, in old age, he was still

moving, but slowly, like a pool of water. Pope Francis said he likes this latter image of a pool of water to have the ability to move with kindness and humility, a calmness in life.

4. "A healthy sense of leisure." The pleasures of

art, literature and playing together with children have been lost. Consumerism has brought us anxiety and stress, causing people to lose a healthy culture of leisure. Their time is swallowed up so people cannot share it with anyone. Even though

many parents work long hours, they must set aside time to play with their children.

Families must also turn off the TV when they sit down to eat because, even though television is useful for keeping up with the news, having it on during mealtime doesn't let you communicate with each other.

5. "Sundays should be holidays." Workers should have Sundays off because "Sunday is for family."

6. "Find innovative ways to create dignified jobs for young people." We need to be creative with young people. If they have no opportunities they will get into drugs and be more vulnerable to suicide. It's not enough to give them food. Dignity is given to you when you can bring food home from one's own labour.

7. "Respect and take care of nature." Environmental degradation is one of the biggest challenges we have. I think a question

that we are not asking ourselves is: "Isn't humanity committing suicide with this indiscriminate and tyrannical use of nature?"

8. "Stop being negative." Needing to talk badly about others indicates a low self-esteem. That means, I feel so low that instead of picking myself up I have to cut others down. Letting go of negative things quickly is healthy.

9. "Don't proselytize; respect others' beliefs." We can inspire others through witness so that one grows together in communicating. But the worst thing of all is religious proselytism, which paralyzes: The Church grows by attraction, not proselytizing.

10. "Work for peace." We are living in a time of many wars. and the call for peace must be shouted. Peace sometimes gives the impression of being quiet, but it is never quiet, peace is always proactive and dynamic.

Sanctuary of Blessed Joseph Vaz, Sancoale, Goa



The Sanctuary of Blessed Joseph Vaz was built on the initiative of late Fr. Isidoro Francisco da Cunha and his nephew, late Fr. Telesforo da Purificacao Saldanha, with their own substantial monetary help and donation from devotees in Goa, India and abroad. It was built to commemorate the second death centenary of Saint Joseph Vaz in 1911.

The foundation stone was laid

on April 21, 1909. It could not be inaugurated on January 16, 1911 (as initially planned and due to paucity of funds). The Sanctuary was solemnly blessed and opened on July 10, 1922. It was dedicated to Saint Joseph Vaz on January 16, 1966.

The main purpose of the Sanctuary now was to promote the devotion for the advancement of the Canonization of Blessed Joseph Vaz.

Quiz

(Answers next week)
Know your Bible

- | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Ancient ritual instrument | A. Sabbath rest |
| 2. Place of Peter's denial | B. God is with us |
| 3. Abraham pleaded for them | C. Messiah |
| 4. His words had authority | D. Just man |
| 5. Baptist's call | E. Lot |
| 6. Only in God | F. Hymn of praise |
| 7. Christian virtue | G. Trumpet |
| 8. Unacceptable sacrifices | H. Jesus |
| 9. To come from Bethlehem | I. courtyard |
| 10. Seas and rivers | J. Herald's voice |
| 11. Fails seven times and rises | K. Genuine piety |
| 12. Moses foresaw it | L. Bless the Lord |
| 13. Asked Christ for signs | M. Is my soul at rest |
| 14. Set apart by God | N. Sodom and Gomorrah |
| 15. Proclaimed by Baptist | O. Blemished animals |
| 16. Meaning of Emmanuel | P. Thirty pieces of silver |
| 17. Owed to God | Q. Baptism of repentance |
| 18. Given Christ's betrayer | R. Prophet like himself |
| 19. Protected two angels | S. Scribes and Pharisees |
| 20. Still remains for us | T. Israelite nation. |

Courtesy: Liguorian

"Be giving of yourself to others. People need to be open and generous toward others"

- Pope Francis