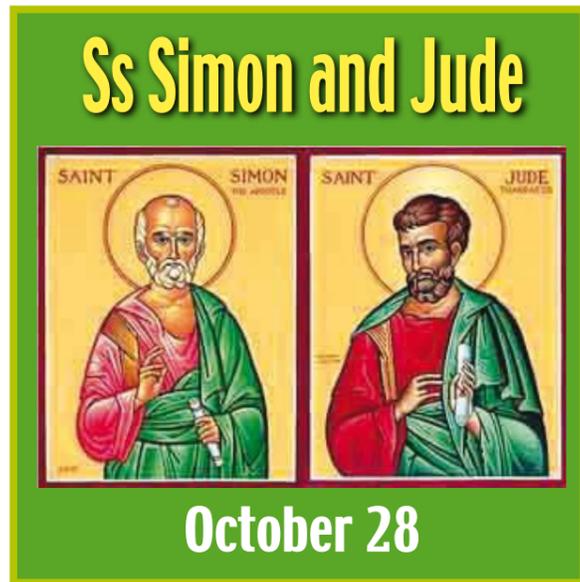


Next Inaugural address of Very Rev. Fr. Elmo Dias, National Seminary, Ampitiya

page 08 World Mission Sunday

Queen of the Holy Rosary

page 14 New Religious Movements



Messenger

SINCE FEB 11, 1869

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Miraculous Power of the Holy Beads

Pray the Rosary everyday - it will help you immensely along life's way
You'll experience for yourself Mary's motherly care

'The war is over, our woes are not over'

His Lordship Rt. Rev. Dr. Vianney Fernando

Chairman of Caritas Sri Lanka-SEDEC, His Lordship Rt. Rev. Dr. Joseph Vianney Fernando delivering the keynote address at the inauguration of the Sri Lanka Working Group Meeting of Caritas Sri Lanka held at the SEDEC Auditorium, said that the situation in the country is characterized by "lights" and "shadows."

"Even though the

War is over, our woes are not over yet," he observed. "The inner wounds inflicted by the cruel 30-year war are yet to be healed on both sides of the divide, especially among those who have lost their loved ones.

Speaking on the theme "Sri Lanka at its crossroads: State of the nation and role of the Church," His Lordship noted that there are obvious, unprecedented signs of infrastructure development taking place, including roads, bridges, highways and power projects, but then the "shadows" are also

Catholic Church's Stand

"Right from the beginning of racial tensions, the Church took a stand for one sovereign country with maximum devolution of power and with opportunities given to all communities to become participants in their own development. From way back in 1983, we stood up for justice and equality for all citizens and we condemned violence as a means of solving problems."

lengthening day by day. "Sadly a permanent solution to the ethnic crisis through devolution of power has not become a reality yet and the process of reconciliation is not being pursued with vigour," His Lordship told the gathering of Partners and Stakeholders of Caritas Sri Lanka. He also added that the Recommendations of

the Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission (LLRC) Report which generated much hope to bring about healing and reconciliation are not being implemented with a sense of commitment.

However His Lordship expressed satisfaction at the holding of the Northern Provincial Council elections and said it was a credit to the Government that the resettlement of displaced people is being rapidly done. "Yet, civilian administration has still to be restored in the war torn areas and problems of land occupied by the

security forces and their return to the rightful owners, still remain unsolved."

His Lordship observed that among the dark shadows prevailing in the country are the lack of a sense of Sri Lankan identity and the persistent refusal by extremist groups to accept Sri Lanka as a pluralistic society with diverse races, religion and languages. Rampant corruption, breakdown of law and

(Contd on Pg. 3) >>>

Church celebrates 25th Death Anniversary of first Sri Lankan Cardinal

The 25th anniversary of the death of Sri Lanka's first Cardinal, His Eminence Thomas Benjamin Cooray will be commemorated on Tuesday, October 29 at the Basilica of Our Lady of Lanka, Tewatte.

All are welcome for the Holy Mass which will be celebrated at 9.00 am by the Archbishop of

Colombo, His Eminence Malcolm Cardinal Ranjith. The commemoration ceremony has been organised by the Archdiocesan Liturgy Director, Rev. Fr. Indrajith Perera and the Administrator of the Basilica, Rev. Fr. Priya Jayamanna.

Meanwhile the Auxiliary Bishop of

Colombo, Rt. Rev. Dr. Emmanuel Fernando has

requested all priests who were ordained by the late Cardinal Cooray to be present at the ceremony.

A blood donation campaign organised jointly by the Committee for the Cause of Beatification and Canonization of Cardinal Cooray and the Thomas Cardinal Cooray Commemorative Committee will be held on Saturday October 26, from

9.00 am onwards at the Jubilee Hall of the Tewatte Basilica.

The presentation of prizes to the winners of the crossword puzzle on the life and times of the late Cardinal Cooray which was published in our sister papers the *Gnanarthapradeepaya* and *Gnana Oli* will also take place on this day.

Resting in the Lord

Former Provincial Superior of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate, Very Rev. Fr. Bernard Quintus passed away on Tuesday October 9 at Marian Grove, Kohuwela. He was 77 years-old.

Bible Quiz National Competition



Award Ceremony of the Bible Quiz National Competition was held last week at St. Joseph's College Bonjean Hall. The competition was organised by the Department of Christian Religious Affairs of the Ministry of Buddhasasana and Religious Affairs in

(Contd on Pg. 2) >>>

Archdiocesan Presbyteral Meeting

The Archdiocesan Presbyteral meeting will be held on Monday, October 21, and Tuesday, 22 at the Blessed Joseph Vaz Centre, Borella starting each day at 9.30 a.m.

The Pressbyteral meetings are very important moments in the reflection and planning of pastoral initiatives by the Presbyterium.

(Courtesy: Koinonia)

Funeral Mass was held at Fatima Church, Maradana presided by Very Rev. Fr. Rohan Silva OMI. The homily was delivered by His Lordship Rt. Rev. Dr. Norbert Andradi OMI, Bishop of Anuradhapura.

Fr. Bernard Quintus was born on February 2, 1936 and hailed from Bolawalana.

(Contd on Pg. 2)

FROM THE DIOCESES

Peaceful Protest against housing project in Wellapalliya, Wattala

A peaceful protest was held against the building of a housing project in three acres of cleared and filled marshy land, in Wattala.

According to residents the building of the project could cause environmental, health and social problems to 250 families living down Carmel Mawatha in the Wellapalliya Parish.

The protest was launched by the residents of Carmel Mawatha. They gathered at the Palliyawatte Church and then marched to Elakanda Junction where Very Rev. Fr. Shanthikumar Weliwita Episcopal Vicar (Jaela Region) addressed the gathering.



Rev. Frs. Mahendra Gunatillaka, Felix Mallwarachchi, Ven. Batagalle Panghakithi, Chief incumbent of Ashokaramaya, Balagala and several priests, nuns and the faithful were present. - *Abhishek Pius*

Church Feasts

The Annual Feast of the Church of St. Gerard Majella in Sapugahawatte (Nagoda Parish, Kalutara) will be celebrated on Sunday 20th October. Festive Mass at 8.15 am. Vespers Service on previous day at 6 pm.



The 27th Annual Feast of St. Jude's Church, Welisara will be celebrated on Sunday 20th October. Festive Mass at 8 a.m. Chief celebrant -Rev. Fr. Lester Nonis. Vespers Service on previous day at 7 pm presided over by Rev. Fr. Joseph Indika, Parish Priest of Kelaniya

The Annual Feast of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Church, Kudamaduwella (Thoduwawa Parish, Chilaw Diocese) will be celebrated on Sunday 20th October. Festive Mass at 7 am and solemn procession at 4pm. Vespers Service on previous day at 7 pm.

The 134th Annual Feast of St. Bruno's Church, Thambakanda (Kurunegala diocese) will be celebrated on Sunday 20th October. Festive Mass at 8 am. Chief Celebrant- Rt. Rev. Dr. Maxwell Silva, Auxiliary Bishop of Colombo. Vespers Service on previous day at 7 pm presided over by Very Rev. Fr. Piyal Janaka Fernando, Episcopal Vicar of Kurunegala diocese.

- *Ainslie Joseph*

Justice and Peace Workers (JPW) Asia-Pacific Forum 9th Networking Meeting



The Ninth Justice and Peace Workers (JPW) network meeting was held at Fatima Retreat house in Lewella, Kandy Sri Lanka from 3rd - 9th September 2013 organised by the ACPP in Hong Kong in collaboration with the

Human Rights office in Kandy Sri Lanka. It included an exposure program in the war affected and highly militarized Northern Province. The meeting was attended by 32 participants from 16 countries in Asia and Pacific.

The theme for the meeting was: "Church and Human Rights: Building Solidarity with the joys and Hopes, the Grief and Anguish of Asian Peoples."

Lucille Abeykoon

Donor needed for Kidney Patient



Mr. Denison Silva (29 years) is undergoing treatment for Kidney failure and has to undergo a transplant. He is urgently in need of a donor in the O+ (Positive) blood group. Financial assistance is also needed.

AC No. 003020617674
Hatton National Bank
Please contact:
0719766083/072 9413152

Nazareth Preaching Band, Wennappuwa is 65 years-old



Nazareth Preaching Band of the Colombo Province of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate situated in Wennappuwa marks 65 years of establishment this month.

In 1939, the Bishop of Chilaw, His Lordship, Rt. Rev. Dr. Edmund Peiris OMI resided at the Nazareth House which at that time belonged to the Holy Family Congregation. In 1947 when the Oblate Fathers celebrated their 100th year of arrival in Sri Lanka, His Lordship Edmond Peiris invited the Oblates to start their preaching mission centred in Wennappuwa.

The then Provincial of the Holy Family Congregation Very Rev. Sr. Sacred Heart HF, offered 'Nazareth' to the Oblates for their preaching and also to cater to the spiritual needs of the Sisters. This was the beginning of the Nazareth preaching team, the inauguration took place on October 16, 1948 under the leadership of Rev. Fr. Augustine OMI, the Superior. The preaching team comprised Rev. Frs. Nicholas Croos OMI, Vincent Weerakkoday OMI and Andrew Peter Fernando OMI.

SRF

Readjustment to family is vital for migrant returnee women, says Bishop Emmanuel Fernando

Caritas Sri Lanka SEDEC made several Submissions on Safe Migration of recent to the Government of Sri Lanka through the Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment (SLBFE). Speaking at the event held in this connection at the SEDEC Auditorium, His Lordship Rt. Rev. Dr. Emmanuel

Fernando, Auxiliary Bishop of Colombo and Vice Chairman of the Catholic National Commission for Migrants said that the work done by Caritas and the SLBFE towards reintegration of women migrant returnees is timely and commendable because although these women are the top foreign remittance

earners, there are many question marks in their families. Many of them are deeply in debt and most of their time and energy is invested in settling these debts. Often, their children are disturbed and not schooling regularly, and often too, the migrant women keep going back abroad because they do

not easily readjust to their families. Therefore, His Lordship said, a lot need to be done to ensure that these families are properly cared for when one of the family members goes abroad to earn for the family. "Otherwise, if the family is disturbed, the whole society is disturbed", Bishop Emmanuel Fernando said.

Walk for Unity

St. Sebastian's College, Moratuwa has organised a College Unity Walk - 2013 on Saturday, October 26 at 7.30 a.m to support its School Building Project.

The walk organised under the guidance of the Rector of the College, Rev. Fr. Bonnie Fernandopulle will have the participation of Students, Old Boys, Well-wishers and Parents. A musical show will be held after the walk.

Angel Silva - Vice President (OBA)

Notice of Meeting

The meeting of the Archdiocesan Commission of Peace, Justice and Integrity of Creation will be held on Thursday, October 24 at 4.00 p.m. in the Jubilee Hall at Archbishop's House, Borella and will be presided over by His Eminence Malcolm Cardinal Ranjith, the Archbishop of Colombo.

All members (priests and lay representatives) are kindly requested to attend the meeting.

Rev. Fr. Rohan de Alwis - Secretary

Bible Quiz...

Conted from Pg. 1

collaboration with St. Joseph College, Colombo and held under the distinguished patronage of Archbishop Emeritus His Grace, Most. Rev. Dr. Oswald Gomis, Chancellor of the University of Colombo.

Prime Minister Hon. D. M. Jayaratna, was the Chief Guest. The occasion was graced by the presence of the Apostolic Nuncio in Sri Lanka, His Excellency Most Rev. Dr. Joseph Spiteri.

Resting in the...

Conted from Pg. 1

He was ordained as an Oblate priest on June 29, 1961. As an Oblate Priest he rendered an enormous service and was Provincial Superior on four occasions. He was also Rector of the Oblate Juniorate in Kohuwela and the first Councillor in Sri Lanka.

His mortal remains were laid to rest at the General Cemetery, Borella.

Guild of St. Luke Saints Cosmas and Damian

The Gold Mass and AGM 2013

The Annual Gold Mass of the Guild of Saint Luke Saints Cosmas and Damian will be celebrated on Sunday the October 27, 2013, at St Peters Chapel, National Hospital Colombo. at 8.30 am .

The Chief celebrant will be His Lordship Rt. Rev. Dr. Cletus Chandrasiri Perera, OSB, Bishop of Ratnapura. The Dr. MPM Cooray Memorial Oration

will be delivered by Dr Nimal Lucas, Consultant Paediatrician on Saturday October 26, at 7.00 pm at SLMA Auditorium, No. 06, Wijerama Mw. Colombo 07. The Topic will be "Ethical issues in Children"

Mass for the departed members of the Guild will be held on November 17, 2013 at St. Peter's Chapel at 12.00 noon.

Dr. Carmel Fernandopulle Secretary



Church in the Modern World

Church joins Pope Francis in entrusting the World to Mary

VATICAN CITY - Tens of thousands of pilgrims from all over the world gathered under unseasonably warm and sunny weather in St. Peter's Square on Sunday to witness Pope Francis consecrate the world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. The Holy Father performed the consecration before the image of Our Lady of Fatima, asking Mary's help to "revive and grow faith."

October 13 marked the 96th anniversary since the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to shepherd children Jacinta Marto, her younger brother

Francisco and Lúcia dos Santos at Fatima. It also took place as the 'Year of Faith' draws to a close on the Feast of Christ the King, November 24.

In front of an estimated 150,000 pilgrims, the Pope asked Mary to welcome the consecration "with the benevolence of a mother."

"Guard our lives in your arms," he said. "Bless and strengthen every desire for goodness; revive and grow faith; sustain and illuminate hope; arouse and enliven charity; guide all of us on the path of holiness."

He also asked

Our Lady to teach mankind her "special love" for children and the poor, for the excluded and suffering and for sinners.

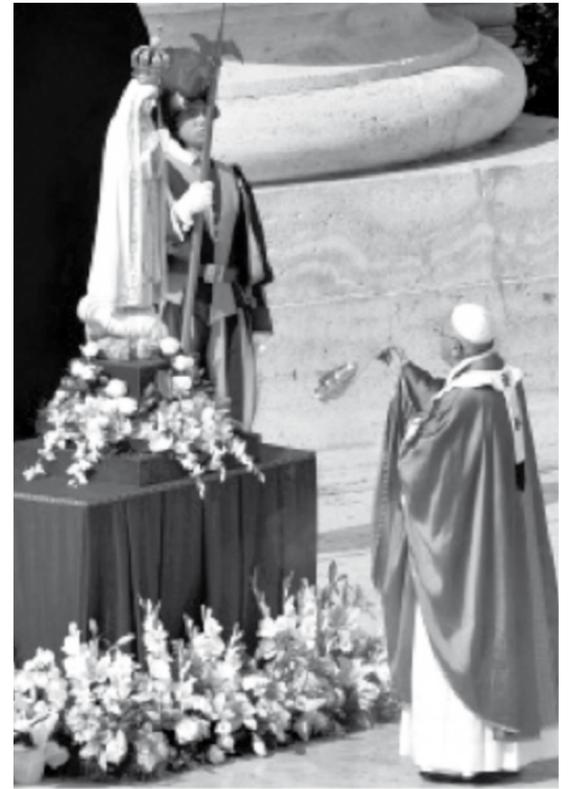
The original statue of Our Lady of Fatima had been transferred from its home at the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima in Portugal to St. Peter's Square especially for the consecration. The act marked the culmination of a weekend of Marian prayer and devotion.

The events began on October 12, when Pope Francis led a Marian prayer vigil in St. Peter's Square, followed by a worldwide televised vigil

at various Marian sites all over the world.

In the Philippines Catholic Church joined Pope Francis in solidarity as he entrusted the whole world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Earlier in a letter to the Holy Father, Archbishop Jose Palma, President of Catholic Bishops' Conference of Philippines, had expressed joy in the Pope's intention to "entrust the whole world to Our Lady of Fatima which is an Act of Filial Entrustment to the maternal care and protection of our Lady of Fatima, Queen of Peace."



Pope Francis incenses the official statue of Our Lady of Fatima during Mass in St. Peter's Square. (AP Photo)

Pope cautions against idolatry which punctures 'stifles' the faith



In his daily Mass homily, Pope Francis warned of the presence of idolatry in our lives, urging each person present to look to themselves in order to find the hidden idols which are present in our hearts.

"Even today, there are so many idols, and even today there are so many idolaters, so many who think they are wise," urged the Pontiff.

Echoing the words of St. Paul from the day's First Reading, the Holy Father condemned the sin of idolatry in those who - although they knew God, - did not accord Him glory as God or give Him thanks, preferring instead to worship the creature rather than the Creator.

"This sin," stressed the Pontiff, "stifles the truth of the Faith."

Highlighting how each person has the desire to worship due to the "imprint of God within us," he stated that "when we do not worship God, we worship creatures. And this is the passage from faith to idolatry."

Pope Francis went on to recall how those who criticized St. Paul during his life spoke of the people who prostrated in front of images

of animals, stressing that simply because this practice is not common today does not mean that the sin of idolatry has disappeared.

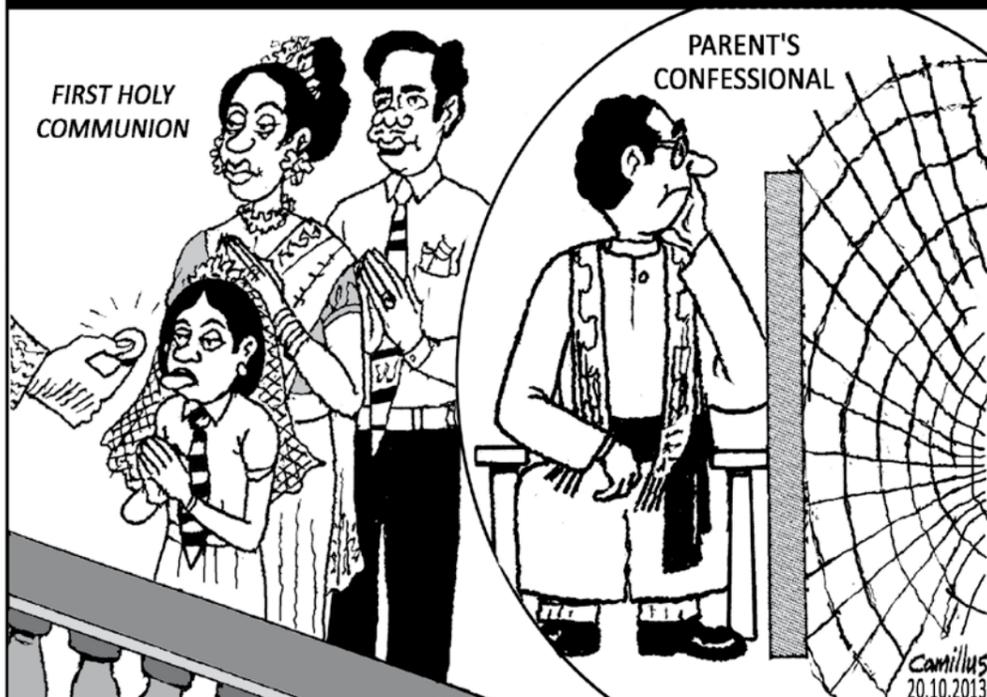
"Idolatry," noted the Holy Father, "has taken on new forms, and even today there are so many idolaters, so many who think they are wise."

"We can ask ourselves in the sight of God," encouraged the Pontiff, "what is my hidden idol? What takes the place of God?"

Pope Francis then recalled the words of Jesus to the Pharisees in the gospel, who were scandalized that he did not wash his hands before the meal, saying that if St. Paul refers to the idolaters as foolish, then Jesus says the same thing of the hypocrites.

SUNDAY PUNCH

by Camillus



Rosary a Powerful Weapon

I cannot from a pulpit preach!
Neither am I qualified to teach!
Neither can I write brilliantly!
But from my heart these words I pen sincerely:

Pray the Rosary every day - it will help you immensely along life's way,
You'll experience for yourself Mary's motherly care - if your Rosary offered is a sincere prayer;
On you her blessing she will shower - and protect you from danger every hour;
She'll counsel and guide you every day - so you can be assured of going the right way!
When in trouble - with faith - you call on Mary - she'll come to your aid immediately!
Mary prays along with each bead we say - and draws us closer to her Son each day,
Remember, there is power in the 'Hail Mary' - for Mary prays for us 'now' and at the end of life's journey;
The Rosary in times of suffering acts like a soothing balm - and Mary protects us from all evil and harm;
The Rosary is a powerful weapon which shields us from our enemy - Satan!
So carry your beads with you everywhere - and above all make the Rosary your daily prayer!
The family that gathers together and the Rosary prays - will experience God's blessing in countless ways;
And whatever problems there be - big or small
Mary has the power to solve them all!
So be it sunshine, rain or stormy weather - Mary's mantle will protect and keep them together;
So let us all hearken to Our Mother's plea - and offer our Rosaries - willingly!

Ralph Alles

The war is.....

contd. from Pg. 1

order, erosion of the independence of the judiciary, the absence of Independent Commissions and the scrutiny of the international community in matters of human rights and justice issues are increasing.

Enunciating the role of the Church in resolving the ethnic conflict, His Lordship said that right from the beginning of racial tensions, the Church took a stand for one sovereign country with maximum devolution of power and with opportunities given to all communities to become participants in their own development. From way back in 1983, we stood up for justice and equality for all citizens and we condemned violence as a means of solving problems. The Bishops from the North and the East, along with the Bishops from the rest of the country, consistently upheld the need to have a political solution with justice for all, without harming the unity and sovereignty of the country," His Lordship said.

EDITORIAL

October 20, 2013

On Giving thanks to God

The Gospel reading last week referred to the healing of the ten lepers by Jesus. The lepers pleaded with Him to be healed and Jesus told them to go to the priest and show themselves. The priest had to certify that a person was no longer a leper if he is to be allowed to normal society. So while they were going they were healed. One of the lepers who were healed came back to Jesus to thank Him. Jesus asks Him about the other nine and whether they were not healed too. Yes but they had no gratitude and neglected the need to give thanks to Jesus. So it is quite often with us too.

Are not all of us blessed in some way or other and some enjoying much more blessings than the generality of people? Should not those who have received more favour by way of material blessings offer greater thanks? Are there not many things for which all of us should give thanks to God- for life itself which is a free gift from God and for our talents and abilities, for good health, for our families, for our friends, for our jobs and for so many other things? Do we express our thanks? We should give thanks for every meal and for every gift from above.

We sometimes fall into the trap of pride and think all these things are our own private achievements. Pride stops from giving thanks, but a humble mind is the soil out of which thanks naturally grow. A proud man is seldom a grateful man, for he never thinks he gets as much as he deserves. Why should give us more than others? It is His will to do so and not any merit on our part. We are all sinners and deserve nothing but punishments for our numerous sins. We need to be both humble and grateful. "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble" (Peter 5:5).

So whenever we ask God for more favours we should first offer thanks to him for what He has done for us already. We must not only give thanks in private in our prayers but also in public before other people. Those who were healed miraculously by Jesus often gave public testimony even when they were sometimes enjoined to silence. But their sense of relief and joy was such that they could not help themselves in giving such public testimony.

We should thank God for His will in our lives. God has chosen us to be His children and to have fellowship with Him. We should be grateful for His will in every area of our lives. God has good plans for our lives. His will is for our highest usefulness and blessing. Ephesians 1:5 says "Let us give thanks to the God and Father of Our Lord Jesus Christ! For in our union with Christ he has blessed us by giving us every spiritual blessing in the heavenly world. Even before the world was made God had already chosen us to be his through our union with Christ, so that we would be holy and without fault before him"

We must also thank God for His guidance. We should thank God for His word and for the unseen ways in which He has directed our footsteps. As the poem about footprints says He has carried us when we felt too weak to walk. Of course we cannot expect to lead a trouble free life. We cannot avoid falling in our struggles through life. But Our Lord has said He will raise the fallen and give them strength to go in life's journey. He is shaping us and making us into useful vessels for His glory.

The Church cannot be an NGO

PRAYER

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Hail Mary...

Lord you left your Mother in our midst that she might accompany us.

May she take care of us and protect us on our journey, in our hearts, in our faith.

May she make us disciples like herself, missionaries like herself.

May she teach us to go out onto the streets.

May she teach us to step outside ourselves.

We bless this image, Lord, which will travel round the country.

May she, by her meekness, by her peace, show us the way.

Lord, you are a scandal. You are a scandal: The scandal of the Cross. A Cross which is humility, meekness; a Cross that speaks to us of God's closeness. We bless this image of the Cross that will travel round the country.

"The parishes, the schools, the institutions are made for going out... if they don't, they become an NGO, and the Church cannot be an NGO"

Pope Francis

Let me tell you what I hope will be the outcome of World Youth Day: I hope there will be noise. Here there will be noise, I'm quite sure. Here in Rio there will be plenty of noise, no doubt about that. But I want you to make yourselves heard in your dioceses, I want the noise to go out, I want the Church to go out onto the streets, I want us to resist everything worldly, everything static, everything comfortable, everything to do with clericalism, everything that might make us closed in on ourselves. The parishes, the schools, the institutions are made for going out... if they don't, they become an NGO, and the Church cannot be an NGO. May the bishops and priests forgive me if some of you create a bit of confusion afterwards. That's my advice. Thanks for whatever you can do.

Look, at this moment, I think our world civilization has gone beyond its limits, it has gone beyond its limits because it has made money into such a god that we are now faced with a philosophy and a practice which

exclude the two ends of life that are most full of promise for peoples. They exclude the elderly, obviously. You could easily think there is a kind of hidden euthanasia, that is, we don't take care of the elderly; but there is also a cultural euthanasia, because we don't allow them to speak, we don't allow them to act. And there is the exclusion of the young. The percentage of our young people without work, without employment, is very high and we have a generation with no experience of the dignity gained through work. This civilization, in other words, has led us to exclude the two peaks that make up our future. As for the young, they must emerge, they must assert themselves, the young must go out to fight for values, to fight for these values; and the elderly must open their mouths, the elderly must open their mouths and teach us. 'Pass on to us the wisdom of the peoples!

Among the Argentine people, I ask the elderly, from my heart: Do not cease to be the cultural storehouse of our people, a storehouse that hands on justice, hands on history, hands on values, hands on the memory of the people. And the rest of you, please, do not oppose the elderly: Let them speak, listen to them and go forward. But know this, know that at this moment, you young people and you elderly people are condemned to

the same destiny: exclusion. Don't allow yourselves to be excluded. It's obvious! That's why I think you must work. Faith in Jesus Christ is not a joke, it is something very serious. It is a scandal that God came to be one of us. It is a scandal that he died on a cross. It is a scandal: the scandal of the Cross. The Cross continues to provoke scandal. But it is the one sure path, the path of the Cross, the path of Jesus, the path of the Incarnation of Jesus. Please do not water down your faith in Jesus Christ. We dilute fruit drinks - orange, apple, or banana

juice, but please do not drink a diluted form of faith. Faith is whole and entire, not something that you water down. It is faith in Jesus. It is faith in the Son of God made man, who loved me and who died for me. So then: make yourselves heard; take care of the two ends of the population: the elderly and the young; do not allow yourselves to be excluded and do not allow the elderly to be excluded. Secondly: do not "water down" your faith in Jesus Christ. The Beatitudes: What must we do, Father? Look, read the Beatitudes: that will do you good. If you want to know what you actually have to do, read Matthew Chapter 25, which is the standard by which we will be judged.

With these two things you have the action plan: the Beatitudes and Matthew 25. You do not need to read anything else. I ask you this with all my heart. Very well, I thank you for coming so close. I am sorry that you are all penned in, but let me tell you something. I experience that myself now and then. What an awful thing it is to be penned in. I openly admit it, but we'll see. I understand you. I would have liked to come closer to you, but I understand that for security reasons, it just isn't possible. Thank you for coming, thank you for praying for me; I ask you from my heart, I need it. I need your prayers, I need them very much. Thank you for that. Well then, I want to give you my blessing, and afterwards, we will bless the image of the Virgin that is to travel all over the Republic. And also the Cross of Saint Francis, which will travel on that same missionary journey. But do not forget: make yourselves heard; take care of the two ends of life, the two ends of the history of peoples: the elderly and the young; and do not water down the faith. And now let us pray, so as to bless the image of the Virgin, and then I will give you the Blessing. Let us stand for the Blessing, but first I want to thank Archbishop Arancedo for what he said, because I haven't had the good manners to thank him before. So thank you for your words!

The Rosary

*October's dedication
 To the Holy Rosary
 That prayerful chaplet
 Embodying Mother Mary
 Her sorrows, her joys, her glorious hours
 All affiliated to her son
 A mother's griefs, a mother's joys
 In that circlet of prayer is found.
 Contemplative thought on the mysteries
 An efficacious prayer in any need
 Mother Mary favours this channel of prayer
 A fitting offering for her maternal love and care.*

Jeannette Cabraal

Share your Faith - During the 'Year of Faith'

Our Memorable Pilgrimage of Faith Part One: Fatima, Avila, Garabandal and Lourdes

"Along the road of pilgrimage, things astonish us, our eyes are opened to the miraculous and we are moved to wonder at the ordinary."

To visit the Holy Land, Fatima and Lourdes had always been the cherished dream of my husband and mine from the time we got married. We emigrated to Australia in 1993 and it was in the Great Jubilee Year 2000 that a package deal was offered - where we got to visit all the places we longed to see in one trip. So we made our wishful thinking a reality and commenced our pilgrimage on September 9, leaving Melbourne, confident in the words of the Psalmist:

"The Lord shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore."

- Psalm 121.

A pilgrimage is different from a holiday. It is not a pleasure trip nor just visiting various Holy places, but more importantly, what we gain from these visits and the impact it has on strengthening our faith - which we should share with others. A pilgrim should be prepared to face hardships, and we certainly had our share along the way!

As I stood in front of the Basilica of Our Lady of Fatima, I still wondered whether it was only a dream - but no, it was a reality! And when I knelt before the Statue of Our Lady of Fatima kept in a glass case at the Capelinha - the Chapel of the Apparitions, built on the

spot where Our Lady appeared to Lucia, Francisco and Jacinta - I cannot express on paper the immense happiness that flooded my whole being. My mind went back to the Pilgrim Statue of Our Lady when She came to India - I was then a young girl and that meeting holds special memories for me. Incidentally, it is Our Lady of Fatima who brought me into the Catholic Church - hence, my special love and devotion to Her. The bullet which nearly killed Pope John Paul II now rests in the crown worn by Our Lady. It was here, at the Capelinha, that we celebrated the first Holy Mass of our pilgrimage. After Mass we were taken to walk and pray the Way of the Cross. We then visited both sites of the Angel's apparitions, and the homes of Lucia, Jacinta and Francisco, also the original Parish Church where the children were baptized. Later, we viewed the tombs of the visionaries.

The thirteenth of every month is celebrated in a special way at Fatima being the Anniversary of the apparitions of Our Lady. Since we were there on September 13, we were fortunate to participate in the International Anniversary Holy Mass. The service began at 9a.m. with a Rosary followed by the procession of Our Lady's Statue taken to the Altar on the steps of the Basilica. The concelebrated Mass was followed by the Blessing of the Sick and Consecration, and as Our Lady returned in procession to the Capelinha, there was the touching 'Adios' spectacle (waving

of the white handkerchiefs in tribute to Our Lady), whilst banners were carried representing pilgrim groups of various countries. We also attended the beautiful candlelight processions on the two nights we were at Fatima. It was a glittering spectacle to witness the myriad candles flickering within the Square - which is the largest in Christendom - and was filled to capacity with pilgrims from all parts of the world. I can still hear the wondrous 'Aves' ringing in my ears, and see pious penitents walking on their knees in the Capelinha. This is undoubtedly a place of intense piety and penance - reminding us of Our Lady's request for Prayer and Penance.

At 9.30 p.m. we went for the Rosary and procession, and we took our souvenirs along hoping we could get them blessed, but alas! no sooner the service was over not a single priest was in sight, and soon we were all alone. This was our last night so we stayed back and prayed; it was past 12 midnight when we left for the hotel - very close by - with heavy hearts sad to leave Our Lady. Imagine our utter astonishment on turning around, to see a young priest coming straight towards us! He not only blessed our souvenirs, but gave us such a wonderful blessing - he prayed like I have never heard anyone pray before - placing his hands on our heads whilst looking up to Heaven. He told us his name was Gabriel and requested us to pray for

him as he had an important mission to accomplish. We then lost sight of him! Indeed, it was a moving experience. The last thing we did before leaving was to pray to Our Blessed Lord before the beautiful illuminated Statue of Jesus with His arms outstretched in blessing, in the huge Square of the Basilica.

Next morning we left Fatima with a deep sense of peace and indescribable happiness as we cast one last lingering look at the belltower of the Basilica visible from our coach. "If we really live our pilgrimage to Fatima, we will return home having rediscovered the meaning of prayer and penance, and with edifying conviction that Christ is Lord of the world and of all time."

We travelled by coach overland through Portugal and at Avila we visited the Church of St. John of the Cross - Spiritual guide to St. Teresa. From Avila we continued to Garabandal (in Northern Spain). I was happy to be able to attend Holy Mass at the little Parish Church of St. Sebastian, my Patron Saint, and we also made our confessions.

We left the mountain heights of Garabandal to Our Lady's valley in Lourdes - and I was impatient to get there! That evening we were able to participate in the candlelight procession and the next morning visited the Boly Mill where St. Bernadette was born in 1884, and the Cachot (prison) where Bernadette's family was forced to live due to misfortune. Besides the rainy

cold weather, my husband and I both had severe coughs - but we did not miss out on our baths! My husband went first and told me he experienced a wonderful glow as he came out of the bath absolutely dry! The baths close at 4p.m. and on the next day I too experienced the same. When they immersed me in the icy cold water, I gasped, and immediately the two helpers pulled me out. At that moment I felt some powerful light above my head and a warm glow enveloped my whole body. I looked up at once but there were no electrical appliances to be seen! It was truly an amazing experience, and I too was perfectly dry! And imagine my surprise and joy to find that a small, irritating wound in my leg I had for over five years had miraculously healed!

Heeding our Heavenly Mother's invitation: "Go drink at the spring and wash your face asking God to purify your heart," we drank and washed from the miraculous spring. We prayed ardently at the Grotto where Our Lady appeared to Bernadette, and also to Our Lord in the Tent where the Blessed Sacrament was exposed. We ended our visit to Lourdes by attending Holy Mass at the Basilica that afternoon. Holiness and sanctity pervade this miraculous Shrine and we will always carry in our hearts the precious memories of Lourdes, and Our Blessed Mother's request for 'Prayer and Penance.'

Lilian Ferdinands



Scandal mongering is indisputably one of the most treacherous snares that the devil lays. Pope Francis repeated this once again on Saturday morning, September 28, the

Feast of St. Michael, Patron of the Gendarmes Corps, at the Mass he celebrated for the occasion at the Lourdes Grotto in the Vatican Gardens. We must protect the Vatican from this

The Pope on the Feast of St Michael, Patron of the Gendarmes

Gossip divides

trap, because malicious gossip is the language of the devil and in the Vatican it is "a forbidden tongue." It "sows division, so that brothers become enemies." It is the language of gossip."

Pope Francis drew inspiration from the initial prayer in which the Archangel is invoked "against the snares of the devil," stressing that this is a plea for help, to shield people "from all that the devil sows in the night, for he loves the dark and flees the light." To protect people from what the Holy Father described as the "faun of darkness," namely, those who "profit from the shadows to deceive and set traps."

This danger also concerns those who are called to defend the security of this State not only from thieves and criminals, or from possible external enemies, but also because, he affirmed jokingly, Napoleon will never return, nor is it possible that an army come and take the city. Rather it is a matter of defending it from other, equally redoubtable enemies, for today war, at least

here, is waged in other ways. It is, he said, the war of darkness against light, of night against day." Indeed, the sons of darkness sow tares and their master, the devil, works with these insidious weeds," he added, recalling the well-known Gospel parable proclaimed in the Liturgy of the Word (Mt 13:24-30 37b-43a).

The Pontiff then thanked the Gendarmes for their commitment to "defending us in this war between night and day, between darkness and light." However a further effort is required: "To defend not only the doors and windows of the Vatican here, but also to protect people from the snares of the devil; as did St Michael the Archangel, your Patron. Imitate him."

Among the other temptations so pleasing to the devil the Pope included the temptation against unity; even for "those who live and work in the Vatican." Because the devil seeks to provoke internal war, a sort of civil and spiritual war; a war that is not fought

with the conventional weapons but with the tongue." And since "the weapons of this war consist of gossip," the Pope asked that they defend each other from scandal mongering, banning it from the territory of the tiny State.

"Let us implore St Michael to help us in this battle never to speak ill of each other; and never to listen to gossip." Indeed Pope Francis requested that anyone keen to gossip be prevented, enjoining: "Here gossip is not allowed," he said. "Over there is the Gate of Sant' Anna, go outside and gossip there." Hence the conclusion is that the good seed "speaking well of each other" - is well accepted, while the contrary the tares - is not.

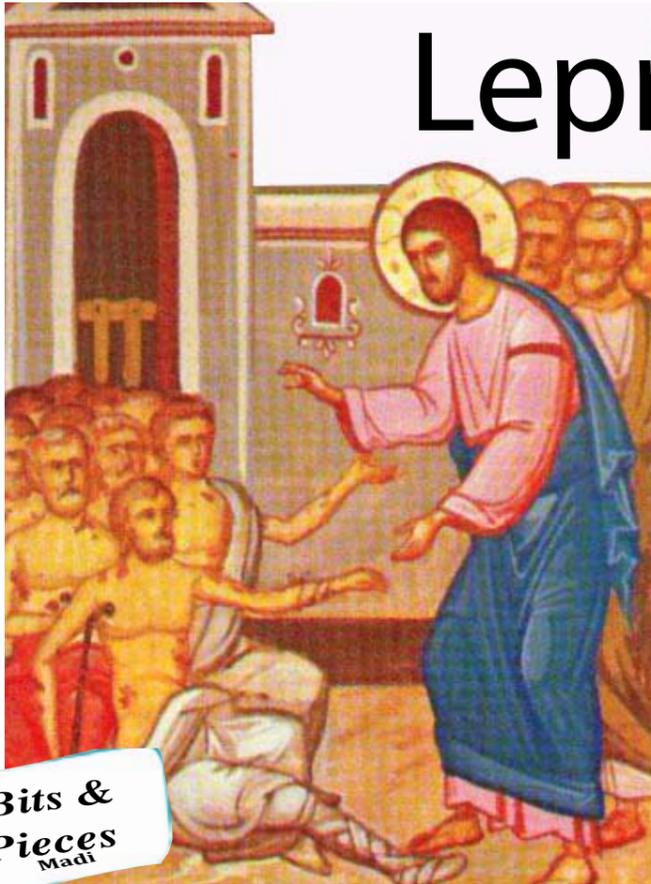
Taking part in the Holy Mass were: Officials an agents in full dress uniform, led by Commandant Domenico Giani, the firemen, the band, and retired Gendarmes. Lastly, after the Pope's blessing, came the recitation of the Gendarmes' prayer.

(L'Osservatore Romano)



According to the United Nations' Organization's health wing, the World Health Organization, leprosy has been eradicated from our planet, forty years ago. But there are sporadic cases of leprosy in countries like India and Sri Lanka. In the Gujarat State of India they have found that almost 7 out of 10,000 people are afflicted with this disease. The Society for Upliftment and Rehabilitation of Leprosy Patients (SUROL) has about 350 patients under its care in various parts of our island and there are others in the waiting list to get regular assistance.

Leprosy is a disease which has a recorded history of more than 8000 years. It is mentioned in the ancient Indian books and in the Bible. This disease causes chronic skin sores, nerve damage and muscle weakness. It is usually spread through close contact with the untreated cases via bacteria-laden respiratory secretions and through contaminated soil and utensils. In the past, patients afflicted with leprosy were segregated from society and restricted to



Bits & Pieces
Madi

"leper colonies"

Dr. G.A. Hansen, a Norwegian scientist discovered the bacteria that caused this dreadful disease and at the end of the last century antibiotic therapy was discovered to treat the disease successfully. Since his discoveries, the disease has been named after him and called Hansen's Disease. The treatment is the intake of triple antibacterial drugs for one year. But because of the non-compliance with the drug regime, some patients have developed resistance to the

triple therapy. People who have already been treated have come up with the disease. It can be diagnosed with a simple skin biopsy.

SUROL has been in operation for more than forty years. This organization was started by the Redemptorist priest, Rev. Fr. Glen Fernando, who has done immense service for the cure, rehabilitation and upliftment of these patients. Many of them live normal lives in the community. They are employed and married and are the breadwinners of their households. But

Leprosy

some need help to carry on a normal life in the community. It has become a social stigma to have a person suffering from or cured of leprosy in the family. This keeps them ostracized in the society.

The present director of SUROL Rev. Fr. Neil Karunaratne, CSsR, is continuing the good work with the help of a few volunteers. Their main aim is to make these patients self-sufficient and not dependant on charitable donations of others. They strive to make people aware of the disease and

that leprosy is not easily transmitted and could be detected early and treated. These are some of the concepts that they are trying to inculcate into the minds of the people. SUROL, as a charitable organization, manages to survive through donations of a few well-wishers. Their office at 54/14 Elvitigala Mawatha, Colombo 5, is receiving donations in kind and money and they look after about 350 patients who are living in all parts of the island.

People suffering from Hansen's Disease need not be segregated as in the past. The hospital devoted to these patients in Hendala is almost empty. This is supposed to be the oldest hospital for Hansen's Disease in South Asia. The few patients left behind have no family members or friends to go to. Records show that this hospital has existed for as far back as 1685. The building, with the emblem of the Dutch East India Company and the year 1708, is being threatened by erosion from the Kelani River. The entrance faces the Kelani River which shows that the patients were brought there from other parts of the country by boat and admitted to the hospital. There are no old records of discharge because leprosy was a death sentence at that time.

Message of Fatima

Mother Mary appeared to three shepherd children Lucia, Francisco and Jacintha at Cova da Iria in Fatima.

Even before she appeared an angel prepared the children and taught them the Eucharistic and Pardon prayers..

Splendidly Our Lady appeared on May 13, 1917 over the foliage of a holm-oak tree and wanted them to meet her on the 13th of every month until October 13.

She asked them whether they were willing to suffer and make sacrifices in reparation for

sins, for the conversion of sinners, in reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary and for peace in the world.

As they were willing, Blessed Mother asked them to recite the Rosary devoutly. She taught them the decade prayer and the sacrifice prayer.

Gradually people got to know about the apparition and the children had to suffer because some unbelievers called it false.

Even they had to end up in jail but they didn't want to say that the apparition was a hoax as the magistrate wanted.

Often the children prayed the Rosary and made sacrifices, even in jail with prisoners who were drunkards and thieves. They too prayed with them.

Fortunately the children remained firm and they were ready even to die in a caldron of boiling oil as the magistrate threatened to do so.

As he was defeated he released the children.

Thirteenth of September dawned and when the children met Blessed Mother, she promised to perform a miracle so that all may believe on October 13.

In October on the 13th a crowd about 70,000 arrived at Cova da Iria. The weather was windy and chilly. It rained heavily and the people were thoroughly wet. Suddenly Our Lady appeared and asked the children to say the rosary to obtain peace to the world as World War was raging like a fire in Europe. Then she pointed to the sun.

Miracle, the people said the sun whirled and danced and they feared it would fall on them. They prayed in one voice and asked pardon for their sins.

After the spectacular display was over the people found their clothes, which were soaking wet, were now perfectly dry. So let's listen to the message of Fatima and pray the rosary devoutly to obtain peace to the world and to save our souls.

Ruth Peiris



Workshop on Children Dealing with Trauma and Social Ostracism

Presented by the
Friends of Prisoners' Children
133, Ananda Rajakaruna
Mawatha, Colombo 10.

Date: October 26, 2013

Panel Discussion: 9.00 AM - 10.30 AM - Workshop: 11.00 AM - 1.30 PM with lunch

Venue: St. Bridget's Convent, Colombo 7 (Primary School Hall, Maitland Crescent)

Objective

To create awareness about Friends of Prisoners' Children and the work they are doing with a particular section of children in society.

For Whom

Eduationists, Social Workers, NGOs, Corporates (CSR and HR divisions), Prison Welfare Officers. Rotary and Lion's Clubs, Media House and Religious Groups

Scope

Prisoners' children are stigmatized and faced with a bleak future when their parents are incarcerated in prison. These children, through no fault of their own, are condemned unjustly and fare no better than their incarcerated parent and may even fall into a life of crime. Friens of Prisoners' Children see a dire necessity to address the needs of these children and support them in becoming responsible citizens of society and thereby work towards a crime-free society in the future.

Friends of Prisoners' Children have selected prisoners' children for annual scholarships to ensure sustainability of their education. To learn more about this, we invite you to participate in our workshop.

Registration - Call 0777 287815 by Oct 20, as registration will be on a first come first served basis

Art & Architecture in Liturgy

Compiled by: Kishani S. Fernando

The month of October is dedicated to the Holy Rosary.

According to an account by fifteenth-century Dominican, Alan de la Roch, Mary appeared to St. Dominic in 1206 after he had been praying and doing severe penances because of his lack of success in combating the Albigensian heresy. Mary praised him for his valiant fight against the heretics and then gave him the Rosary as a mighty weapon, explained its uses and efficacy, and told him to preach it to others.

If we turn to history, we see many great triumphs of the Rosary. Early tradition attributes the defeat of the Albigensians at the Battle of Muret in 1213 to the Rosary. But even those who do not accept this tradition will admit St. Pope Pius V's attribution to the great defeat of the Turkish fleet at the battle of Lepanto when on the first Sunday of October, 1571. Accordingly, he ordered a commemoration of the Rosary to be made on that day. Two years later, Gregory XIII allowed the celebration of a feast of the Rosary in churches having an altar dedicated to

the Rosary. In 1671, Clement X extended the feast to all Spain. A second great victory over the Turks, who once, like the Russians, threatened the ruin of Christian civilization, occurred on August 5, 1716, when Prince Eugene defeated them at Peterwardein in Hungary. Thereupon Clement XI extended the feast of the Rosary to the whole Church.

Battle of Lepanto

On October 7, 1571, a great victory over the mighty Turkish fleet was won by Catholic naval forces primarily from Spain, Venice, and Genoa under the command of Don Juan of Austria. It was the last battle at sea between "oared" ships, which featured the most powerful navy in the world, a Muslim force with between 12,000 to 15,000 Christian slaves as rowers. The patchwork team of Catholic ships was powered by the Holy Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Knowing that the Christian forces were at a distinct material disadvantage, the Holy Pontiff, St. Pope Pius V called for all of Europe to pray the Rosary for victory. We know today that the victory was decisive, prevented the Islamic invasion of Europe, and evidenced the Hand of God working through Our Lady. At the hour of victory, St. Pope Pius V, who was hundreds of miles away at the Vatican, is said to have gotten up from a meeting, gone over to a window, and exclaimed with supernatural radiance: "The Christian fleet is victorious!" and shed tears of thanksgiving to God.

What most of us do not know is that one of three admirals commanding the Catholic forces at Lepanto was Andrea Doria. He carried a small copy of Mexico's Our Lady of Guadalupe into battle. This image is now enshrined in the Church of San Stefano in Aveto, Italy. Not many know that at the Monastery of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Spain, one can view a huge warship lantern that was captured from the Muslims in the Battle of Lepanto. In Rome, look up to the ceiling of St. Maria in Aracoeli and behold decorations in gold taken from the Turkish galleys. In the Doges' Palace in Venice, Italy, one can witness a giant Islamic flag that is now a trophy from a vanquished Turkish ship from the Victory. At Saint Mary Major Basilica in Rome, close to the tomb of

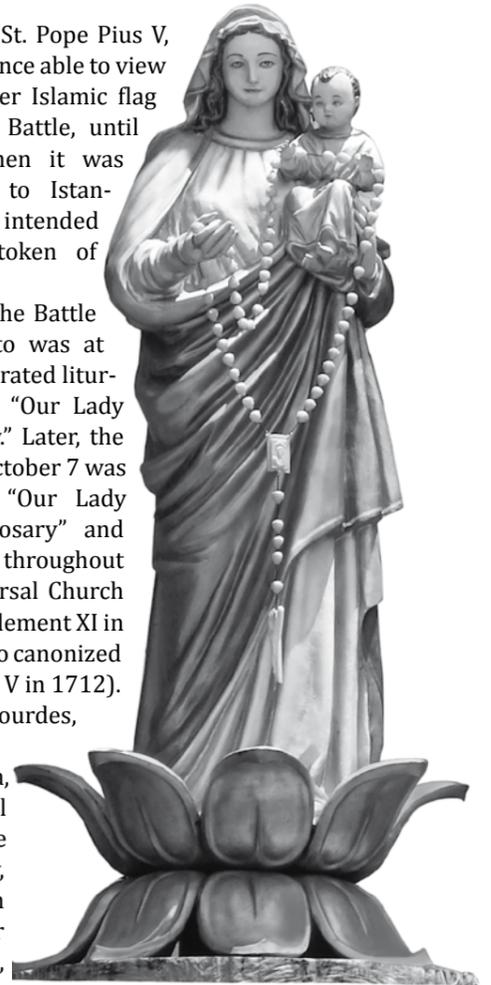
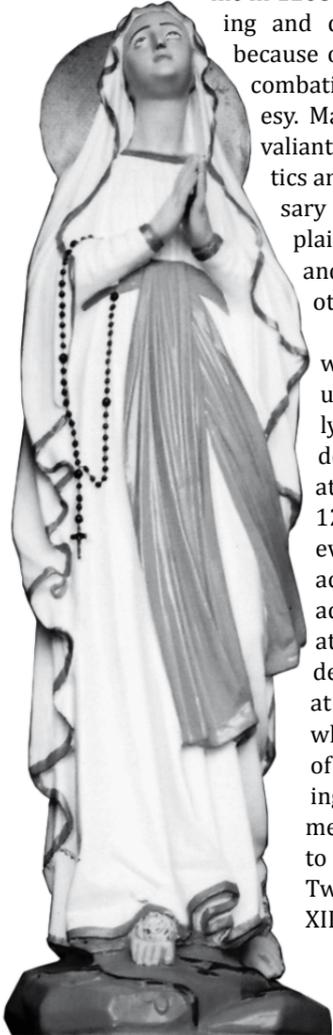
the great St. Pope Pius V, one was once able to view yet another Islamic flag from the Battle, until 1965, when it was returned to Istanbul in an intended friendly token of concord.

The Battle of Lepanto was at first celebrated liturgically as "Our Lady of Victory." Later, the feast of October 7 was renamed "Our Lady of the Rosary" and extended throughout the Universal Church by Pope Clement XI in 1716 (who canonized Pope Pius V in 1712).

Lourdes, Fatima At Fatima, Portugal where Our Lady, when asked her name, said: "I am the Lady of the Rosary." At Fatima and at Lourdes, Our Lady requested from us to pray the Rosary. Heaven presented its peace plan at Fatima and truly gave us hope for the world.

Our Lady of the Rosary, pray for us!

Pix : Metal statue of Our Lady of Lourdes at the grotto at Paliattu Church, Trincomalee; statue at Our lady of the Rosary Badalgama; Painting at St. Theresa's Church, Thimbirigasyaya; painting depicting the battle at Lapan-to at Our Lady of the Rosary Sea Street, Negombo.



The Church and Evangelization

Some important sayings of His Holiness Pope Paul VI in *Evangelii Nuntiandi* on Evangelization in the Modern World:

Evangelization: vocation proper to the Church

No 14. The Church knows this. She has a vivid awareness of the fact that the Saviour's words, "I must proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom of God," [Luke 4:43] apply in all truth to herself: It is with joy and consolation that at the end of the great Assembly of 1974 we heard these illuminating words: "We wish to confirm once more that the task of evangelizing all people constitutes the essential mission of the Church. ["Declaration of the Synod Fathers"] Evangelizing is in fact the grace and vocation proper to the Church, her deepest identity. She exists in order to evangelize, that is to say, in order to preach and teach, to be the channel of the gift of grace, to reconcile sinners with God, and to perpetuate Christ's sacrifice in the Holy Mass, which is the memorial of His death and glorious resurrection."

No 15. The Church is born of the evangelizing activity of Jesus and the Twelve.
... The Church is the depository of the Good News to be proclaimed.

Some important sayings of Pope John Paul II in *Redemptoris Missio* on Evangelization and faith:

No 1. "The Mission of Christ the Redeemer, which is entrusted to the Church, is still very far from completion. As the second millennium after Christ's coming draws to an end, an overall view of the human race shows that this mission is still only beginning."

No 2. "...I wish to invite the Church to renew her missionary commitment....
...For missionary activity renews the Church, revitalizes faith and Christian identity, and offers fresh enthusiasm and new incentive. Faith is strengthened when it is given to others!"

No 4. "...the Church's fundamental function in every age, and particularly in ours, is to direct man's gaze, to point the awareness and experience of the whole of humanity toward the mystery of Christ."...The redemption event brings salvation to all..."

No 10. "Since salvation is offered to all, it must be made concretely available to all....."

Mission Sunday Collection - 2012	
Diocese	SPOF Collection 2012
ANURADHAPURA	62,830.00
BADULLA	56,723.00
CHILAW	549,485.00
COLOMBO	1,925,211.00
GALLE	100,400.00
JAFFNA	389,115.00
KANDY	335,060.00
KURUNEGALA	265,985.00
MANNAR	3,749,168.00
RATNAPURA	96,200.00
BATTICALOA	130,242.00
TRINCOMALEE	50,000.00
TOTAL	7,710,419.00

The Pontifical Society of the Propagation of Faith



Founded in Lyons, France in 1822 by Miss Marie Pauline Jaricot, to awaken and promote Missionary awareness in all sectors of the People of God, among local Churches, in view of the evangelization of the world and to exchange spiritual, personnel and material resources.

World Mission Sunday

"Strengthened by Faith, let us be com

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

This year, as we celebrate World Mission Day, the *Year of Faith*, which is an important opportunity to strengthen our friendship with the Lord and our journey as a Church that preaches the Gospel with courage, comes to an end. From this perspective, I would like to propose some reflections.

1. Faith is God's precious gift, which opens our mind to know and love him. He wants to enter into relationship with us and allow us to participate in His own life in order to make our life more meaningful, better and more beautiful. God loves us! Faith, however, needs to be accepted, which means, it needs our personal response, the courage to entrust ourselves to God, to live His love and be grateful for His infinite mercy. It is a gift, not reserved for a few but offered with generosity. Everyone should be able to experience the joy of being loved by God, the joy of salvation! It is a gift that one cannot keep to oneself, but it is to be shared. If we want to keep it only to ourselves, we will become isolated, sterile and sick Christians. The proclamation of the Gospel is part of being disciples of Christ and it is a constant commitment that animates the whole life of the Church. "The missionary outreach is a clear sign of the maturity of an ecclesial community" (BENEDICT XVI, *Verbum Domini*, 95). Each community is "mature" when it professes faith, celebrates it with joy during the liturgy, lives charity, proclaims the Word of God endlessly, leaves ones own to take it to the "suburbs," especially to those who have not yet had the opportunity to know Christ. The strength of our faith, at a personal and community level, can be measured by the ability to communicate it to others, to spread and live it in charity, to witness it to those we meet and share the path of life with us.

2. *The Year of Faith*, fifty years after the beginning of the Second Vatican Council, motivates the entire Church towards a renewed awareness of its presence in the contemporary world and its mission among peoples and nations. Missionarity, is not alone about geographical territories, but it is about peoples, cultures and individuals, because the "boundaries" of faith do not only cross places and human traditions, but the heart of each man and each woman. The Second Vatican Council emphasized in a special way how the missionary task, that of broadening the boundaries of faith, belongs to every baptized person and all Christian communities since "the People of God lives in communities, especially in dioceses and parishes, and becomes somehow visible in them, it is up to these to witness Christ before the nations" (*Ad Gentes*, 37). Each community is

therefore questioned and invited to make its own, the mandate entrusted by Jesus to the Apostles, to be His "witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8) and this, not as a secondary aspect of Christian life, but as its essential aspect: We are all invited to walk the streets of the world with one's brothers and sisters, proclaiming and witnessing our faith in Christ and making ourselves heralds of His Gospel. I invite Bishops, Priests, and the Presbyteral and Pastoral Councils and each person and group responsible in the Church to give a prominent position to this missionary dimension in formation and pastoral programmes, in the understanding that their apostolic commitment is not complete unless it contains the intention of bearing witness to Christ before the nations and before all peoples. This missionary aspect is not merely a programmatic dimension in Christian life, but it is also a paradigmatic dimension that affects all aspects of Christian life.

3. The work of evangelization often finds obstacles, not only externally, but also from within the ecclesial community. Sometimes there is lack of fervour, joy, courage and hope in proclaiming the Message of Christ to all and in helping the people of our time to an encounter with Him. Sometimes, it is still thought, that proclaiming the truth of the Gospel means an incursion on freedom. Paul VI speaks eloquently on this: "It would be... an error to impose something on the consciences of our brethren. But to propose to their consciences the truth of the Gospel and salvation in Jesus Christ, with complete clarity and with total respect for free options which it presents... is a tribute to this freedom" (*Evangelii Nuntiandi*, 80). We must always have the courage and the joy of proposing, with respect an encounter with Christ, and become heralds of his Gospel. Jesus came amongst us to show us the way of salvation and He entrusted to us the mission to make it known to all to the ends of the earth. All too often, we see that it is violence, lies and mistakes that are emphasized and proposed. It is urgent in our time to announce and witness the goodness of the Gospel, and this from within the Church itself. Because from this prospective, it is important to never forget a fundamental principle for every evangelizer: One cannot announce Christ without the Church. Evangelization



is not an isolated individual act; it is always ecclesial. As the Catechism of the Church wrote, "When an unknown catechist or pastor, proclaims the Gospel, gathers the community together, administers the sacraments, even alone, he is performing an ecclesial act. He acts in the name of the Church of a mission which he has received from himself or by a personal initiative, but in union with the mission of the Church and in her name. And this gives strength to his mission and makes every missionary and evangelizer feel that he is not alone, but part of a single mission, animated by the Holy Spirit"

4. In our era, the widespread use of information technology and facility of communication through new media has made it possible for people, knowledge, experience and work reasons entire families from one continent to another, professional and cultural exchange, tourism, and other phenomena, also propelled great migrations of peoples. This makes it difficult for the parish community who lives permanently in the area. More and more people in large areas of what was traditionally Christian regions, a number of those who are torn between faith, or indifferent to faith, or indifferent to the dimension or animated by the beliefs have increased. This is not infrequent that, so many people make lifestyle choices that take them away from faith, leaving them in need of a "new mission." To all this is added the fact that a large part of humanity has yet been reached by the message of Jesus Christ. We also live in a time of crisis that touches all sectors of existence, not only the economy, of finance, of the environment, but also the deeper meaning of life. The fundamental values that have been lost. Even human coexistence is threatened by tensions and conflicts, by insecurity and difficulties

- October 20, 2013

Committed to spread the good News"



the right path that leads to a stable peace. In this complex situation, where the horizon of the present and future paths seem threatened by menacing clouds, it is necessary to proclaim with courage in all realities, the Gospel of Christ, which is a message of hope, reconciliation, communion and proclamation of God's closeness, of His mercy, His salvation; a proclamation that the power of God's love is able to overcome the darkness of evil and guide us on the path of goodness. Humanity of our time needs the secure light that illuminates its path and that only the encounter with Christ can give. Let us bring to this world, through our witness, with love, the hope given by faith! The Church's mission is not proselytizing, but the testimony of a life that illuminates the path, which brings hope and love. The Church - I repeat once again - is not a relief organization, an enterprise or an NGO, but a community of people, animated by the Holy Spirit, who have lived and are living the wonder of the encounter with Jesus Christ and want to share this experience of deep joy, the message of salvation that the Lord gave us. It is the Holy Spirit that guides the Church in this path.

5. I would like to encourage all, to become bearers of the good news of Christ and I am grateful especially to missionaries, to the *Fidei Donum* priests, men and women religious and lay faithful - more and more numerous - who by accepting the Lord's call, leave their homeland to serve the Gospel in different lands and cultures. But I would also like to emphasize that these same young churches are engaging generously in sending missionaries to the Churches that are in difficulty - not infrequently Churches of ancient Christianity - thus bringing the freshness and enthusiasm with which they live their faith that renews life and gives hope. To live in this universal freshness, responding to the mandate of Jesus: "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations" (Mt 28, 19) is richness for each particular Church, each community because sending missionaries is never a loss, but a gain. I appeal to all those who feel the call to respond generously to the Holy Spirit, according to your state in life, not to be afraid to be generous with the Lord. I also invite Bishops, religious families, communities and all Christian groups to support, with foresight and careful discernment, the *Ad Gentes* missionary call and help Churches that need priests, religious and laity to strengthen the Christian community. And this attention should also be present among Churches that are part of the same Episcopal Conference or Region because it is important that Churches rich in vocations help more generously those that suffer their shortage.

Together I urge the missionaries, especially the *Fidei Donum* priests and laity to live with joy their precious service in the Churches to which they are sent and to bring their joy and experience to the Churches from which they come, remembering how Paul and Barnabas at the end of their first missionary journey "reported what God had done with them and how he had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles" (Acts 14:27). They can become the way to a kind of "return" of faith, bringing the freshness of the young Churches so that Churches of ancient Christianity rediscover the enthusiasm and the joy of sharing the faith in an exchange that is mutual enrichment in the journey of following the path of the Lord

The concern towards all the Churches, that the Bishop of Rome shares with his brother Bishops, is an important commitment in the implementation of the Pontifical Mission Societies, which are meant to animate and deepen the missionary conscience of every baptized Christian and of every community, by reminding them of the need for a more profound missionary formation of the whole People of God and by nourishing the sensibility of the Christian community in offering their help to encourage the spread of the Gospel in the world.

Finally a thought to Christians who, in various parts of the world, have in difficulty in openly professing their faith and in being recognized and given the right to live with dignity. They are our brothers and sisters, courageous witnesses - even more numerous than our martyrs in the early centuries - who endure with apostolic perseverance the many current forms of persecution. Quite a few also risk their lives to remain faithful to the Gospel of Christ. I wish to assure my closeness in prayer to individuals, families and communities who suffer violence and intolerance and I repeat to them the consoling words of Jesus: "Take courage, I have overcome the world" (Jn 16:33).

Benedict XVI exhorted that: "The word of the Lord may spread rapidly and be glorified everywhere, just as it is among you" ("2Thess 3:1); May this Year of Faith increasingly strengthen our relationship with Christ the Lord, since only in him is there the certitude for looking to the future and the guarantee of an authentic and lasting love" (Porta fidei, 15). This is my wish for World Mission Day this year. I cordially bless missionaries and all those who accompany and support this fundamental commitment of the Church to proclaim the Gospel to all corners of the earth, and we, ministers and missionaries of the Gospel, will experience "the delightful and comforting joy of evangelizing" (PAUL VI, *Evangelii nuntiandi*, 80)

**From the Vatican, May 19, 2013,
Solemnity of Pentecost**

"Strengthened by Faith, let us be committed to spread the Good News"

The Lord's Invitation/Command:

- "Go therefore, and make disciples of all nations (Mt. 28:19)
- "Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to the whole creation" (Mk. 16:15)
- ".....and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be preached in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things....." (Lk. 24:47-48)
- ".....As the Father has sent me, even so I send you....." (Jn. 20:21)

This is how the four Evangelists have recorded in the New Testament of the Holy Bible about the invitation of the Master, to proclaim the Good News to all the people.

Although Lord Jesus invited disciples to put this command into action with the words - 'Come follow me', we still can see throughout the Gospels, incidents where the weaknesses of these disciples become very visible: Peter obstructed the path of the Master and later even denied Him three times; James and John were aiming at high places in the Lord's kingdom; Thomas, one of the twelve, dared to say: - "Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails and place my finger in the mark of the nails and place my hand in his side, I will not believe." (Jn. 20:25B). Then the betrayal of the Master by Judas Iscariot; these were some of the incidents found in the Gospels as regards the weaknesses of the disciples. The Lord and Master Himself seems to have foreseen these weaknesses of those whom He had chosen, for He says at different places:

- "Behold, I send the promise of My Father upon you; but stay in the city, until you are clothed with power on high (Lk. 24:49); In another place He says: "Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, but I have prayed for you, that your faith may not fail; and when you have turned again, strengthen your brethren." (Lk. 22:31-32); Again, "But you shall receive power, when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses" (Acts 1:8); Then finally the Master says: "And lo, I am with you always, to the close of the Age" (Mt. 28:20B).

Thus, the Master Himself strengthened the Faith of these His disciples, whom He called to spread the Good News. This He did, for He knew that unless a person is strengthened in Faith, he or she cannot be fully committed to spread the Good News to others.

These disciples of Jesus, who were strengthened in their faith, lived their call to the



letter. Peter and Paul left Jerusalem to become witnesses to God's love to the people of the Roman Empire and became martyrs for Jesus' doctrine. We know in history that Doubting Thomas, once he became strong in his faith, embarked on a difficult Missionary journey to India and finally became a Martyr. It is no secret that all other Disciples of Christ, travelled the then known world, taking the Good News of the Master. Following in their footsteps, there arose a great Missionary revival in the Church, when the followers of Jesus were strengthened in their faith.

This invitation or rather the Command of Jesus - "Go to the whole world and proclaim the Good News," is still valid, even to this day. On this World Mission Sunday, Holy Mother the Church reminds all her children about this important call we had received, to proclaim the Good News. Just like the disciples of Jesus, let us also accept our shortcomings and weaknesses, but being strengthened in our faith by the Lord's Power, let us actively engage in our Missionary responsibilities. Let us remember that the Lord and Master will always be with us, as He said: "And lo, I am with you always, to the close of the Age." Let us participate in our Missionary task, according to the vocation that each one has received, with our words and exemplary lives. Let us also, realize that Prayer, Mortifications and Monetary Contributions are very powerful instruments in our Missionary endeavours.

May Christ, our Lord and Master, make us strong with the Power of the Holy Spirit, as in the past!

Yes, strengthened by Faith, let us be committed to spread the Good News!

God Bless you! May Mary our Mother protect and guide you!

**Rev. Fr. Reginald Saparamadu
National Director Pontifical
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Missionary Oblates Celebrate Jubilarians

Silver Jubilee Anniversary



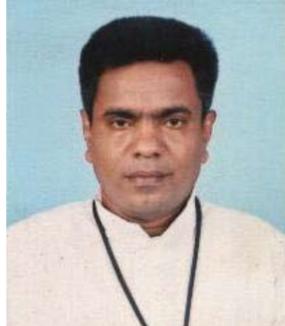
Rev. Fr. James Jayasinghe OMI



Rev. Fr. Joe Cooray OMI



Rev. Fr. Christopher Madurawala OMI



Rev. Fr. Newman Muthuthamby OMI



Rev. Fr. Eymard OMI

The Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate (OMI) of the Province of Colombo, Sri Lanka, thank God for the gift of their vocation as they gather together to celebrate the jubilee of eleven Oblates on the October 28, 2013 at De Mazenod House, Matakkuliya.

Among the jubilarians are Rev. Fathers James Jayasinghe, Joseph Cooray and Christopher Madurawala who are celebrating the 25th anniversary of their Priestly Ordination. They were ordained on September 6, 1988 at the Church of Our Lady of Fatima, Maradana.

Rev. Fathers Newman Muthuthamby and Eymard Dalpathadu celebrate the Silver Jubilee of their religious life as they remember their religious oblation made in the year 1988 at the Sacred Heart Novitiate, Bandarawela.

The Golden Jubilee of the Priestly Ordination of Fathers Alexander Costa and Stanley De Mel is also a reason for celebration. They were ordained in Ampitiya and St. Lucia's Cathedral, Kotahena in 1963.



Rev. Fr. Alex Costa OMI



Rev. Fr. Thiruchelvam OMI



Rev. Fr. Martin Quere OMI



Rev. Fr. Andre Didon OMI

The Golden Jubilee of religious life of Fathers Jacob Thiruchelvam and Herman Paul Fernando is also celebrated this year, since they made their first oblation in the year 1963 at the then Oblate Novitiate at Mont Eden, Kalutara.

The Oblates will give thanks to the Lord on that day for the only remaining French Oblate Missionaries in Sri Lanka, Fathers Martin Quéré and Andre Didon, who are celebrating their 65 years of priestly life and 70 years of religious life respective-

ly. Rev. Fr. Martin Quéré, a well known historian, was born on the February 25, 1924 in Lescoat, France. After his ordination as an Oblate Priest in 1948 at Solignac, he was sent to Sri Lanka as a missionary.

We wish all the Oblate Jubilarians God's

choicest blessings that they might continue to be worthy ministers of God's love to His people, especially the poor and the marginalized to whom the Oblates are sent to serve.

Rev. Fr. Randil Fernando OMI



Rev. Sr. Mary Helena from St. Mary's Church Peliyagoda Kelaniya joined the Congregation of Rosarian Contemplative Sisters of Sri Lanka in 1985 and received her first vows in 1988 October 7 and lived 25 Silver Years at Religious Profession.

She offered her service as a Conrtemplative cloistere nun at Tawatte and Talawila, Monasteries for many years. At present she holds the responsibility of Religious Prioress of Southern monasteries of Sri Lanka.

We wish her a happy jubilee.

Monica Fernandopulle

Hubert Fernando - Sweet memories will remain

This appreciation is a celebration of an enduring friendship of well over fifty years. We lost you forever but the sweet memories of the past will remain in our hearts for ever and ever.

Hubert Fernando had his education at St. Mary's College, Negombo and St. Xavier's College, Marawila. From his younger days he depicted a keen

interest to be a priest. So, he started his formation and spent the prime of youth for six long years at St. Paul's Seminary, Marawila and four years in the National Seminary, Ampitiya. However God had a different plan for him and he was compelled to comply with the request made by the Superiors regarding his vocation to the priesthood. Many are called but a few are chosen.

He opted to choose pedagogy as his maiden career, and he was privileged to teach Latin to the semi-

narians of St. Aloysius' Seminary, Borella, accepting the request made by the Rector, Rev. Fr. Frank Marcus Fernando, the late Bishop Emeritus of Chilaw Diocese. Later he assumed duty as a trained specialist teacher of English and rendered a dedicated service in various parts of the island for 30 years.

He started his wedded life in 1968 and fulfilled his duty and obligation to the utmost as a dear husband to his wife and as an exemplary father to his only son and two daughters. His

children excelled in their studies and the youngest daughter entered the medical profession.

He was a Catholic devoted to his belief, and he volunteered to hold various offices in the Church council of Waikkal Parish. His forte was music and he depicted his varied talents leading the Church choir of St. Benedict's Church Waikkal, until his sudden demise. As an ex-seminarian he was in close contact with many priests and religious of the Archdiocese and Diocese of Chilaw.

In fact his name will be cherished forever in the hearts of all who will not fail to acknowledge his dedicated service to God and man. His simplicity shown throughout his life will linger in our minds for many more years.

Lastly it is tragie that a person of the calibre of Hubert had to leave us forever at a time when his service seemed indispensable, particularly to his family and generally to the parishioners of St. Benedict's Church, Waikkal.

Leonard Wijesiri

Appreciation

In conventional letter writing we normally ask the well-being of the recipient as a first question. Fortunately I don't have to pose that question to you because I am quite certain that you are keeping perfectly fine in Heaven, since it is a place of joy and happiness.

Although six months have passed by, I still can remember as if yesterday the way you said adieu to us and accepted the Heavenly assignment. Although I questioned God that day as to why he did not answer my prayers, I now realise that those prayers were actually answered and we were privileged as parents to have our only son as our very own Angel.

Rashi, I really treasure the short period (13 years) we spent together and I am glad that we as a small family unit was wrapped around God's glory. We as a fam-

ily prayed together and stayed together and that full credit should go to Ammi and you. Though I never ever thought that you would depart from us so soon, I sincerely thank God for giving me the time from my busy schedule to spend time with you and Ammi in a meaningful way. We shared our happiness as one, we played music and sang songs as in a concert, we journeyed around the country several times a year, your appetite was tested frequently, you were updated with the latest movies and most importantly we faced problems collectively. In short, for better and for worse we were together. I honestly wish this would be a good lesson to all the busy parents who do not have time



for their children.

Although you were very affectionate to us, some of your great characteristics were revealed to us by your friends and teachers only after your depart. Thereby you still make me proud of you. In a competitive world where only the fittest survive

while destroying the weaker ones, your contribution towards less privilege friends to make them competitors, is marvelous. Your friends miss the sharing and caring hand of yours and the advice you gave them.. The genuine and innocent smile that brightens your face is been still

recalled by your teachers and they do pray and thank the Lord for giving them the opportunity to be your teacher. Your marvelous contribution towards the College was witnessed by us through the well attended reception/farewell parade which marched towards the cemetery. I do

hope that your temperament would be an example to your friends to realise the values of life.

I'm fully aware that your assignment with God is for the entire humankind. Your prayers and guidance to me, Ammi and our family is immensely valued. I seek your guidance and support to reach the ultimate goal of meeting you in Heaven one day. Until I write to you please do intercede for us to walk closely with our Lord.

I earnestly thank our Lord for giving me the strength from the Holy Spirit to pen these few words to you.

Lovingly,
Thaththi
Malin Perera



A Father writes to his Angelic son Darling Rashi (Rashida Perera),

Jesus voiced



Chroniced
Precious
script
Old parchment
Wriggled,
preserved
In Aramaic
Divine events
Life, goodness
Teaching,
Revelation
Miracles, Acts
Divine Message
Now voices love
A past promise
A History fulfilled
Reiterates
Survives
In Salvation
Miran Perera

An Analysis of New Religious Movements in the light of New Evangelization

Introduction:

There is a rapid growth in the new religious movements (here we speak about the non-Catholic and anti-catholic movements) at present in the world, and in our own land. It is not easy to identify and classify these movements due to the complexity of their origin and strategy. These movements are also called as sects, pseudo-religious movements, cults and so on. They really pose a serious challenge to the life and mission of the Church.

These new religious movements have got a number of distinctive features such as sectarian attitudes, intolerance of other beliefs, aggressive proselytism, etc. They are organized into small, tightly-knit groups with clear authority and control by means of various training and indoctrination. Some groups have other revealed books apart from the Holy Bible or interpret Bible radically in contrast with the traditional Christian teaching. Thus their agenda fits into the secular world view than that of the religious world view and not at all with that of Catholic.

The Target Groups:

The target groups of these movements are often young people, who are unemployed and coming from unstable families; minority ethnic groups; those who are not active in the Church; and even from well to do and highly educated families, whose needs and aspirations are not being met in the Church.

The unstable present culture of depersonalization which results in relativism (subject as the supreme point of reference for moral judgment), hedonism (pleasure alone), utilitarianism (self worth depends on the usefulness, use and throw attitude) and so on; creates rapid changes in our society. These changes include the break-up of old communities, widespread doubts about traditional beliefs, values and even institutions, and anxiety about the future. Hence, a sense of confusion, uncertainty and fear with which many people today go through the mill of life. Thus new needs, aspirations and questions have been created, to which the new movements appears to answer. There lies the secret of their apparent success in recruiting the new members. Whether they genuinely help these people or fishing in the troubled water is a matter open to serious discussions.

Some Reasons for People to Join the New Religious Movements:

Here an attempt is made to put in writing certain needs and aspirations, but in individual cases they are mostly inter-twined.

1. The need to belong

As traditional lifestyles become disturbed, people feel uprooted and lonely. So small communities in which everyone knows everyone else and this appear to offer a sense of belonging and communion, of protection and security.

2. The search for answers

Due to the unstable culture of depersonalization in the wider society, comes a variety of beliefs and values to choose from; with a people often confused and uncertain. The movements in contrast, they offer simple and clear cut answers to complicated and confusing questions.

3. The search for wholeness

People today often feel cut-off;

deep within themselves they feel the fragmentation. The dualism of soul and body, reason and emotion, masculinity and feminist identity has created a division within themselves, with others and so on. Here they promise to bring harmony, wholeness and healing back to the needy.

4. The search for cultural identity

Especially in Asian, African and South American countries, people feel that secularization and urbanization have cut them off from traditional cultural and religious values. Here in some of the new religious movements, they incorporate local styles of worship and preaching in order to make them feel connected to their indigenous styles.

5. The need to feel special

In the Church many feel they are just a member, a faceless member of a large and impersonal institute. Here, they are recognized, given importance, offered opportunities to talk and share, in ministry and leadership.

6. The search for transcendence

Many people seek something beyond what is offered in the material world. They seek a sense of mystery and deeply spirituality. In the Church they are not properly directed and helped but here, they discuss the Bible, prayer, meditation, the charismatic gifts of the spirit such as healing and prophecy take place, their search is appreciated and upheld.

7. The need for spiritual guidance

In the new religious movements often a strong and charismatic leadership is offered, the leader so much so times even takes the place of Christ the people come because of him or his preaching and he is hailed as a 'prophet' or an 'anointed' or a 'spiritual guide'.

8. The need for vision

People are worried and they are disturbed due to violence, conflict and war. They even feel powerless to do anything substantial. Here, they are offered a new 'vision', the sign of hope, a new 'creation' and 'peace' that they seek for. The promise of a new age, a new era being offered and in return called to be 'born again, re-baptized, among the 'elect' and so on.

9. The need to be involved

As the vision for the future, the dawn of the new era is spoken of, the members need to contribute and 'do something', hence, they participate in planning and decision making, funding and implementing. Thus the direct involvement of the members is promoted by these movements.

Everyone who has got a sound understanding about the society today will agree upon the listed needs and aspirations of the common people and this is the ground reality of the day. When we speak of a new evangelization (re-implantation of the Gospel values) we need to take this ground reality seriously. We, the active members of the Catholic Church need to be convinced about this fact and be devoted and committed to the cause. We have to go out of our way to meet people, warmly, personally and directly. We have to make them feel spe-



Rev. Fr. Uthayadas Arulanantham

a true new evangelization is to take place, this attitudinal change of mind is necessarily a primary component.

Then in the Sri Lankan context, we the shepherds and co-responsible partners both religious and laity should overcome the racial, communal and language barriers. Otherwise, the suppressed will always be the main target of the new movements and the loss of the members in the Catholic Church will result in Our Catholic churches (parishes) should be able to cater to the needs of its faithful and the needs can be spiritual, psychological and even social perhaps intertwined. Each member is to be recognized and appreciated irrespective of his or her background. The unity in diversity is to be upheld as the Catholic identity, rather than uniformity enforced among the communities.

The Need for the Legitimate New Movements in the Church:

Whenever the Catholic Church is faced with sufferings and difficulties from outside or within, there were always authentic Catholic movements and associations that which came to the aid of the Church. These are clear examples of providence and divine inspiration. Even in the period under persecution, the first small Christian communities rallied around their priests and bishops even ready to die for the Supreme Faith. In the time of heresies, it is the Catholic movements of laity supporting the orthodox bishops who went into exile for the sake of the Catholic Faith. Even when the Church authority is vested with political power it is the religious movements of Sts. Benedict, Francis, Dominic and Ignatius who came to the rescue of the Church. After the French revolution and industrialization where people were depersonalized as today, it is the religious congregations such as Oblates, Salesians, Holy Family and so on who gave new life to the Church thus, the face of man renewed by them.

For that matter even today as the Catholic Church many hallenges from these pseudo-religious movements whether they are highly political or multi-national, orthodox or new-age, in order to give a suitable and reliable answer to the people in need, we need legitimate new movements in the Church with the guidance of the Church leadership. These movements cannot be catholic for the name sake but truly in its life and teaching.

In Conclusion:

According to the above mentioned facts, our parishes need a structural change, where it is divided into basic units in order to create a sense of familiarity and belongingness, thus, forming a true parish family, where everyone is welcomed, loved, allowed to grow in faith. Therefore, the formation of these basic units should be the higher priority in the re-organization of the Parish, here sometimes the previous local lay leaders who held wider areas will become the first obstacle, yet, the shepherds need to explain and go ahead. It is here we can cater to the special and personal needs of the faithful and if there are various communities, we need to pay attention and become sensitive to the specific needs of those faithful too.

cial, offering participation and room for spontaneity and responsibility. The need for follow up with home visits, offering support and guidance, helping them to re-interpret their personal experience in the light of divine intervention, to make them aware of the presence of the riune God – Father, Son and the Holy Spirit in their life and in its each and every situation, and to appreciate the blessing and gift of the membership in the Catholic Church, thus, providing answers to the ultimate questions of life. Thus, a life-long journey with an individual member and the formation of his or her conscience is vital in the new evangelization.

The Methods and Indoctrination of the Movements:

1. Disguising the true identity of the movement at the initial meetings with the potential recruits, and nowadays they even infiltrate the Catholic Church circles disguising themselves as agents.
2. Overpowering the potential recruits with flattery and affection, offering food, money, medicines sometimes even sex thus take control of the situation, for that matter the infiltrated agents will make big donations, feed the hungry, helping in the projects and church maintenance.
3. Demanding unconditional surrender to the leader, even so called Christian groups may downgrade the role of Christ in favour of their founder or guide.
4. Isolating the potential recruits from outside influence even family, friends, media, etc.
5. Cutting him/ her off from his/ her past; at the same time concentrating on former mistakes and unsuccessful relationships.
6. Continually making efforts to brainwash them with talks and lectures, slogans and clichés, thus, making their mind dull and stopping them thinking for themselves.
7. Keeping them constantly busy and never alone, by ensuring obedience. In the light of the above mentioned methods and strategies first of all, the shepherds of the parish communities have to act as good shepherds and genuine stewards. Then the Catholic faithful should be made aware of the real situation in which we live and bear witness. Thus, those assisting in the mission of a particular church whether it be the members of Religious Orders or it be the lay pious associations and legitimate movements within the Church should be considered not as collaborators and supporters but as co-responsible partners in the mission entrusted by Christ to the Church at large. For

Strengthened By Faith, let us be committed to spread the Good News

Rev. Fr. Danushka Silva CMF

Giving the opening address to the *Year of Faith*, Pope Benedict XVI stated that Jesus is the centre of the Christian faith and Christians believe in God whose face was revealed by Jesus Christ. He also further said that Jesus is the fulfillment of the Scriptures and their definitive interpreter and he is not only the object of the faith but, as it says in the Letter to the Hebrews, "the pioneer and the perfecter of our faith" (12:2).

As the Scripture reveals, Jesus is the true and perennial subject of evangelization. "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring Good News to the poor" (Lk. 4:18). This mission of Christ, this movement of His continues in space and time, over centuries and continents. It is a movement which starts with the Father and, in the power of the Spirit, goes forth to bring the Good News to the poor, in both a material and a spiritual sense. The Church is the first and necessary instrument of this work of Christ because it is united to Him as a body to its head. "As the Father has sent me, so I send you" (Jn 20:21), says the Risen One to His disciples, and breathing upon them, and adds, "Receive the Holy Spirit" (v.22).

In this way Christ wished to pass on His own mission to the Church. He did so, and continues to do so, until

the end of time pouring out His Spirit upon the disciples, the same Spirit who came upon Him and remained in Him during all His earthly life, giving Him the strength "to bring Good News to the poor, He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour" (Lk. 4:18-19).

You and me as the members of this Church are bound by this mandate to fulfill it in the best way possible. But still, most of us are not willing and ready to take up this task and subsequently try to give excuses such as life in the present day is challenging and full of troubles, so that the time to spare for God's mission is limited. The fact that we all should know is that the Catholic Church is the teacher of joy. Consequently, it becomes the perfect sign of the presence of God. If so, for the members of this Church Christ and His life must become the reason of joy, because the cross of Christ appeared, on that Friday normally called 'Good'. Yet the light went out as even the sun hid in shame. It seemed we could never smile again. But then came the Sunday called 'Easter', the Son rose from the dead and the light was back at our door. What we should know by this event is that God knows all our 'good Fridays' of life, but none of them will prevail the 'Easter Sunday' which arrives

in due time.

As we are living in the *Year of Faith*, we have got an opportunity to rediscover our faith in the cross of Christ and then to experience the joy of Resurrection. Adding to this, World Mission Sunday which falls on today provides an opportunity for Catholics in every parish in the world to celebrate our universal faith in Christ and our call to support the missionary activity of the church that sends ambassadors of faith and joy to the ends of the earth.

Most of us have experienced that God is for us and God is with us in all circumstances. It is a joy to experience the way that Christ brings life out of death. The life, death and resurrection of Jesus reveals God's plan for transforming the world into which our lives get included as well. To be baptized into this mystery of faith is to also be sent forth into the world witnessing to God's presence among us. As the Body of Christ, we are each given a share in the Good News of Jesus that makes us new and makes us one. Realizing this blessed assurance we have in Jesus, can also bring us joy.

World Mission Sunday connects us to what God is doing in the hearts and minds of people all over the world. We ought to support those who go forth to bring this message of God's goodness and faithfulness. They carry with them the joy that comes from knowing God's will to bring life out of

death. It remains the greatest work of the Church as St. Paul says "how beautiful are the feet of those who bring Good News!" (Rom 10:15).

Though, this mission is available to all of us, most of us are still puzzled of how to contribute into it. It is true that the mission has to occur across the ocean and across the street of the world. But first of all, it is better that all Christians become missionaries themselves at home. They are to be the eyes and ears, hands and feet, head and heart of God's love, forgiveness and justice with family, neighbours, co-workers, and those on the margins of society. Second, Catholics can support those doing missionary work in other countries through prayer, financial support, keeping informed, and being involved in parish activities like being a part of pious associations, evangelization teams, and stewardship committees. The present world has received much smaller for us and many others due to planes, internet, Skype, cell phones and many other systems. But still the message of God is the same though the avenues of communication are changing. As a result, we should also use all these possibilities to bring up the mission entrusted to us via all these streams.

All Christians can



share the Good News of God's life, love, and justice, with or without words (proclamation or witness), in many different ways. More than any of those, we must be people of prayer, consciously living in the presence of God. We must be people who put aside any desire for personal satisfaction or success. Instead what is required of us is faithfulness, even if our years in mission sometimes seem like immense waste of our life's energies. We do well to recall that Jesus squandered His life, constantly emptying Himself. He enjoined us to do the same.

We need also to steep ourselves in the new culture, to listen deeply to what it is saying to us. It is a mistake to assume we understand, even if we know all the words. In a new culture, each of us is like a "child," always having more to learn. The main message is that of Jesus is "Love one another as I love you" (John 15:12). In this way, when we love the people as God does, that changes everything. Ultimately, we will be tireless missionaries of God for ever.

Mission Sunday

Introduction: Today is the 29th Sunday in ordinary time. We also celebrate World Mission Sunday today. Our theme this year is: "Strengthened by Faith, Let us be committed to spread the Good News" It is appropriate to reflect on the evangelization of the Good News. Today's first proclamation from prophet Isaiah invites all the nations to come forward to walk in the light of the Lord. The 2nd reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Ephesians reminds us of the gift to be a minister by our Baptismal Grace. The gospel of today narrates the climax scene in the Bible; where Jesus tells His disciples to go out to the whole world and proclaim the Good News to all creation. During this Eucharistic celebration let us pray for the Lord's Grace to be open to receive the Good News, and the courage and willingness to proclaim it to all.

Penitential Rite:

Response: Lord, forgive us for we have failed.

1. Lord we are sorry for the times we failed to respond to Your call and to Your Good News. For this we are sorry.....
2. Lord we are sorry for having failed to fulfill our Baptismal responsibility of being ministers of Your Holy Word. For this we are sorry....
3. Lord we are sorry for having failed to bear witness to Your Love. For this we are sorry....

Opening Prayer: God our Father, You will all men to be saved and come to the knowledge of your truth. Send workers into Your great harvest that the Gospel may be preached to all Your people, gathered together by the Word of Life, and strengthened by the power of the Sacraments, may advance in the way of salvation and love. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen

1st Reading Is. 2 /1-5

Responsorial Psalm 19 : 1-4

Response: Unless the Lord builds the House they labour in vain who build it

The heavens are telling the glory of God; And the firmament proclaims his handiwork. Day by day pours forth speech, And night to night declares Knowledge.

There is no speech, nor are there words: Their voice is not heard; Yet their voice goes out through all the earth, And their words to the end of the world.

2nd Reading 1 Eph. 3/2-12

ALLELUIA... Through the Good News God called us to share the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ Alleluia

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Response: O Lord hear us we pray, O Lord give us your love.

Heavenly Father, we pray for our Holy Mother the Church, that we may be open to your invitation to be the messengers of Your Good News. We pray to the Lord.

Response: O Lord hear us we pray, O Lord give us your love.

Almighty Father, we pray for all the missionaries all over the world; that their faith may be strengthened in order to bring many more people towards you. We pray to the Lord.

Response: O Lord hear us we pray, O Lord give us your love.

Heavenly Father, we pray for all the leaders of our country that they may be guided by your wisdom to govern the country and to work for peace and justice. We pray to the Lord.

Response: O Lord hear us we pray, O Lord give us your love.

Almighty God, we pray for all our suffering brothers and sisters, that they may be able to experience your love and compassion and be able to find true peace in you. We pray to the Lord.

Response: O Lord hear us we pray, O Lord give us your love.

LITURGICAL CALENDAR YEAR C
20th October - 27th October 2013

Sun:	29th Sunday of Ordinary Time World Mission Sunday Ex. 17:8-13; 1 Tim 3:14- 4:2; Lk. 18: 1-8
Mon:	Rom 4:20-25; Lk. 12:13-21
Tue:	Rom 5:12, 15-21; Lk. 12:35-38
Wed:	Memorials of St. John of Capistrano, Priest Rom. 6:12-18; Lk. 12:39-48
Thu:	Memorial of St. Anthony Mary Claret, Bishop Rom 6:19-23; Lk. 12:49-53
Fri:	Rom. 7:18-25a; Lk. 12:54-59
Sat:	Rom. 8: 1-11; Lk. 13:1-9
Sun:	30th Sunday of Ordinary Time Sir 35:15b-17,20-22a; 2 Tim. 4:6-8,16-18; Lk. 18:9-14

HOLY CROSS COLLEGE, GAMPAHA - TURNS 85

J. I. Rosairo



Like the serpent on the standard who heals those bitten by the serpent of evil, when looked up to Him, Jesus through His Cross, shows the extent of God's love towards man.

The Book of Numbers (Chapter 21: 6-9) records the continuous grumbings of the Israelites in the desert, against their leaders and God, Himself. God punishes them by sending fiery serpents among the people. Many die, Moses pleads to God, who in His Mercy, bids Moses to make a serpent of bronze and put it upon a standard, so that those who were stung and looked up at the bronze serpent, were healed. Like the serpent on the standard who heals those bitten by the serpent of evil, when looked up to Him, Jesus through His Cross, shows the extent of God's unconditional love towards man.

This predominantly Catholic Institution in Gampaha, has taken upon itself the name of the Holy Cross of Jesus

Christ, as its standard and celebrating the Feast of the Exaltation or the Triumph of the Holy Cross on September 14. This School which had endured for Eighty Five long years, has since grown into a huge tree where birds of various kinds and hues have come to roost.

Students in their smartly attired uniforms, came, to celebrate what they call "COLLEGE DAY."

It was raining all morning and Holy Mass was held at the Main Hall instead. The entire assembly comprising teachers and students, past teachers and students and well wishers were present at the Service. Among the distinguished personalities present were Rev. Sister Barbara, the Mother Superior of Lisieux Convent, Gampaha, Rev. Sister Deepani, the incumbent Principal, Rev. Sister Dharshika Vice-principal and Rev. Sister Hiranthi, former Vice principal and a past pupil, who had made it from far away Chilaw, while the celebrant was

Rev. Father John Camillus, the chaplain to the sisters of the Apostolic Carmel in Gampaha. Strange but true, with the Holy Mass coming to an end, the sun began to peep through the weird, dark clouds, giving the hope of a bright sunny day and truly it was.

The second half of the day's proceedings was held at the Gymnasium and the College Grounds, under bright sunshine, where the College and Papal Flags were hoisted by Rev. Sister Deepani and Rev. Sister Dharshika, respectively. This was followed by the singing of the College Anthem, while the March Past took pride of place, by selected students representing the four houses, to the strains of the Senior Western Band, at the end of which the Birthday Song was sung and the cutting of the Birthday Cake following thereafter.

A distinguished Past Pupil. Ms. Maheshi Ranaweera, now a Senior Lecturer at the University of Kelaniya, spoke

eloquently of her life at College and all what she had gained. She voiced her gratitude to her Alma Mater for what she is today.

The Past Pupils' Association had not forgotten their little sisters. Having selected one hundred of them, they were gifted with a thousand rupees each by way of Honoraria Scholarships. Rev. Sister Principal, then addressed the gathering, followed by a Grade two student giving her impression of her school, as she saw it.

The College Head prefect, Shalini Samaranayake, introduced a theme song that the prefects themselves had composed sung and recorded - singing the praises of the College. It was then played to the audience which drew spontaneous applause from all. With the rendition of the National Anthem and the acclamation of 'Three Hearty Cheers' to Holy Cross College, the celebrations came to an end.



JESUS with a DIFFERENCE

[Spiritual Reflection]

Mark 4:35-41

Jesus Stills a Storm



On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, "Let us go across to the other side." But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke him up and said to him,

"Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?"

Jesus:

He was on rest after the day's work. He needed to sleep. Yet He was asked to wake up and see to the needs of His disciples.

Hidden Points:

- Did the disciples forget that Jesus was with them at that time?
- Did they want to test Jesus?
- Were they not happy that Jesus was resting?
- Was Jesus checking the faith of His disciples?

Difference:

- Are we not allowing Jesus to rest awhile?
- Do we also question Jesus when we are helpless?
- Are we not aware that Jesus is with us?
- Do we also question whether Jesus cares for us?

Turning Points:

- Jesus clearly said, "Let us go across to the other side."
- But Jesus was in the stern, asleep on the cushion.
- The Disciples saw Him clearly with their naked eyes, yet they were afraid.
- They questioned Jesus and showed their faithlessness.
- Finally they broke the sleep of Jesus in order to get their need fulfilled.

Rev. Fr. S. Randil Fernando OMI
Nazareth, Wennappuwa

CHILDREN

Children, dear children they are like flowers.
Help them to grow up into sturdy towers.
Inspire them dear Elders help them to bloom,
Lead them carefully away from gloom.
Develop their talents right from the start
Reassure their reward if they do their part.
Encourage them to study to make the world good
Never discourage them, teach them
"I can, I could."



TEACHERS

Teachers who answer the noble call,
Eagerly teach students both big and small.
Answers they'll give very tactfully,
Converting those who question irritably.
Healthy relationship they happily share,
Even with those who annoy or dare.
Respect and love when they give,
Sincere love and respect in return receive.



Emilda S. Douglas

Young World

Youth Fellowship through Cricket



Champion Trophy

A softball six-a-side Cricket tournament organized by the Kotte Deanery, was held at St. Thomas' College Grounds, Kotte recently.

A total of 16 teams representing the 8 parishes of the deanery comprising of 10 members per team participated.

The Chief Guest at the finals was former Sri Lanka Test Cricketer Nuwan Soysa who presented the cham-



Runner Up Trophy

ampionship and runner up trophies to the winners.

The tournament was organised under the guidance of Rev. Fr. Edmund Tillekeratne, Dean of Kotte. Also present was Very. Rev. Fr. Anthony Fernandopulle, Episcopal Vicar (Colombo South) Parish Priest of St. Thomas' Church, Kotte.

Trevor Ludowyke

Kumara's 100th Programme for Children and Youth



The 100th programme for children, youth and youth leaders conducted by Mr. Kumara Nayanajith of our sister paper *Gnanarthapradeepaya* was held at the Shrine of St. Anne's Talawila recently. The event was organised by Rev. Fr. Nihal Pius, Administrator of the Shrine and Rev. Frs. Dilanka Nirman and Anton Niroshan and the youth of the Talawila Parish.

Shepherdians Celebrate 'Year of Faith'



Primary School of Good Shepherd Convent, Kotahena proudly presented "CREDO" - an evening of Song, Drama, Ballet and Dance, to celebrate the Year of Faith. His Lordship Rt. Rev. Dr. Maxwell Silva, Auxiliary Bishop of Colombo graced the occasion as the Chief Guest.

Very. Rev. Fr. Tony Martyn and



Rev. Fr. Reginald Lucian were the Guests of Honour. The theme which ran through the programme was the renewal of faith aspects. Certificates were awarded to the winners of the Bible Quiz and Art Competition which were conducted to mark the event.

English Teachers - Primary School.

First Holy Communion at Halpe Parish



Sixteen children from the Parish of Halpe received their First Holy Communion recently at the Church of Our Lady of Good Health, Pathanigodella.

Holy Mass was celebrated by Rev. Fr. Bernard Neville assisted by Rev. Fr. Amila Gomes and Rev. Fr. Suranga Fonseka.

H. A. Caldera

Program for confirmation students at Godella Parish



A special preparatory programme for students receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation was conducted recently at the Godalla Parish by Mr. Kumara Nayanajith of the *Gnanartha Pradeepaya*. Children from four churches of the Parish participated in the programme, which was held under the guidance of Rev. Fr. Maurice Anderson and Asst. Parish Priest Rev. Fr. Danushka Fernando. The children were also taught about the importance of meditation and reflection.

H. A. Cyril Perera

Little Loyolians Excel



Out of 116 students who sat for the Grade 5 Scholarship Examination from Loyola College, Bopitiya thirteen students got through with excellent results.

We offer our heartiest congratulations to our little Loyolians, the Sectional Head, Rev. Sr. Celina De Silva and Grade 5 teachers who guided them.

*Ishani Chathurika
Dulesha Silva
Loyola College*

Chilaw Diocese to celebrate 2014 as Youth Year



His Lordship, Rt. Rev. Dr. Valence Mendis addressing the Youth Day celebrations of the Ullhitiyawa Parish in the Chilaw Diocese said that 2014 will be named "Chilaw Diocese Youth Year".

His Lordship said that the motive in having a Youth Year is to bring the youth closer to the Church. "Young people who are with the Church will not go astray," His Lordship said.

Picture shows some youth enjoying in a game of musical chairs.

Pic. Ruwan Fernando

"Again, a young man is known by his actions"

Proverb 20:11



English with Fun and Entertainment

Dear Readers,

In the fourth lesson of English with Fun and Entertainment we learnt the Speech Sounds f) (v), (θ) as in *think* (ð) as in this, tongue twisters, two funny stories namely Mouthology and Elephant, some riddles, inspirational quotes an exciting teaser and some proverbs..

In this lesson you will be familiar with the English Speech sounds (s) seal (z) zeal, a funny story about Elf's Ant, some exciting riddles, timely inspirational quotes about teachers, an innocent joke, a mild teaser and a couple of proverbs. Thanks for the readers who made valuable suggestions and for using these lessons effectively.

You are invited to share your experiences to enrich our lessons further.

With best regards!

NJ

Task 1

Let's add two more English Speech Sounds today. They are (s) seal (z) zeal (s) as in sun (i)(s) is a voiceless hissing sound and (z) as in zebra (ii) (z) is a voiced buzzing sound

Read aloud and practice

(s) see sit sat say saw soon miss pass bus worse race ice missing crossing castle grocer person decide	(z) zebra Zink zed zoo zero his bars lose does nose eyes cows bridges easy pleasant losing busy lazy
---	---

Read aloud very fast

(1) Sita went to the zoo to see a beautiful zebra.	Six slimy snails sailed silently.
(2) I saw six lazy dogs near the sea.	Singing Sammy sung songs on sinking sand.
(3) Zeena has a very pleasant nose.	Sounding by sound is a sound method of sounding sounds.
(4) Our previous lesson was very easy.	Fuzzy Wuzzy was a bear. Fuzzy Wuzzy had no hair.
(5) These days we are very busy.	Fuzzy Wuzzy wasn't fuzzy, was he?
(6) Simon saw sixty six sea birds.	He has many bags for his dogs.
(7) Sandra swam, swam and swam and saved her life	

Task 2

Read the following story and answer the questions given below

"You may have tangible wealth untold; Caskets of jewels and coffers of gold.

Richer than I or you can never be - I had a mother who read to me."

Strickland Gillilan

The Elf's Ant Story

There once was an Elf, who had an ant as a pet. He loved his little pet so much; he would feed him whatever he wanted in his bowl, plus table scraps, especially if there was something the Elf did not wish to eat.

The ant, would gobble it up, lick his lips and wiggle his hips, and whine for more! The ant would even eat it off the floor.

The more he fed the ant the bigger he got. He got bigger and bigger and ate a lot! Until one day the Ant could not even fit in a room, and the Elf had to give him to the Zoo. Now everyone comes to the Zoo to see the Elf's Ant, and feed him peanuts, his favourite snack.

They all knew he used to be owned by an Elf, so now they call him the Elephant. And they all lived happily thereafter.

The End

-(Taken from the internet) The Little Red Bedtime Book -Short stories for kids & parents of all ages - With due credit to Dr. Blood www.DrBloodShow.com

The ant had (a pet, an elf, a bowl)

The Elf was (a male, a female, both).

The Elf fed the ant with (what he did not wish to eat)(what he wished to eat)

(what the ant wished to eat)

The more he fed the ant (the smaller he got),(the fatter he got), (the bigger he got)

The Elf gave the ant to the (school, church, zoo.)

Task 3

Riddles and Jokes

Q: Which weighs more, a pound of feathers or a pound of bricks?

Q: How many months have 28 days?!

Q: A frog jumped into a pot of cream and started treading. He soon felt something solid under his feet and was able to hop out of the pot. What did the frog feel under his feet?

Q: A horse is on a 24 foot chain and wants an apple that is 26 feet away. How can the horse get to the apple?

Q: If a blue house is made out of blue bricks, a yellow house is made out of yellow bricks and a pink house is made out of pink bricks, what is a green house made of?

Q: What goes up a chimney but can't come down a chimney?

Q: We see it once in a year, twice in a week, and never in a day. What is it?

Q: Mr. Blue lives in the blue house, Mr. Pink lives in the pink house, and Mr. Brown lives in the brown house. Who lives in the white house?

Q: They come out at night without being called, and are lost in the day without being stolen. What are they?

Q: How do you make the number one disappear?

Q: What goes up a chimney and never comes down?

Jokes : Read aloud this funny joke and answer the funny question given below

The children were lined up in the cafeteria of a Catholic elementary school for lunch.

At the head of the table was a large pile of apples. The nun made a note, and posted on the apple tray: "Take only ONE. God is watching."

Moving further along the lunch line, at the other end of the table was a large pile of chocolate chip cookies. A child had written a note, "Take all you want. God is watching the apples".

Question: Why were the children lined up? Underline the correct answer.(They were hungry / They were asked to / It was their lunch time)

Task 4

Read aloud and prioritize the following inspirational quotes about teachers and teaching according to your preference

- A teacher affects eternity: he can never tell where his influence stops. - Henry Adams
- What nobler employment, or more valuable to the state, than that of the man who instructs the rising generation. - Marcus Tullius Cicero
- By learning you will teach; by teaching you will understand. Latin Proverb
- Education is the mother of leadership.- Wendell L. Willkie
- If you would thoroughly know anything, teach it to others.- Tryon Edwards
- We cannot hold a torch to light another's path without brightening our own. -Ben Sweetland
- We learn by teaching. - James Howell
- It is the supreme art of the teacher to awaken joy in creative expression and knowledge.- Albert Einstein
- You cannot teach a man anything, you can only help him find it within himself. Galileo Galilei

Task 5

Underline the appropriate word and complete the proverbs

All that (shines / glitters/ brightens) is not (silver / copper / gold)

(Think / Look/ Meditate) before you (climb / jump / leap)

(Rolling / Jumping /Moving) stone (collects / picks /gathers) no moss.

Early (animal / bird/ reptile) catches the (fish/ worm /bus)

Every (bright / dark/ grey) cloud has a (gold / silver /diamond) lining.

Answers

Task 2 : (i)a bowl (ii) male (iii) (what the ant wished to eat. (iv) the bigger he got v) the zoo

Task 3 - Riddles: (i) A: Neither, they both weigh one pound! (ii) A: All 12 months (iii) The frog felt butter under his feet, because he churned the cream and made butter. (iv) The chain is not attached to anything. (v) Glass (vi) an umbrella (vi) The letter "E" (vii) The president (viii) Stars (ix) Add the letter G and it's "GONE" (x) Your age

Task 4 Jokes - All three answers are possible

Task 5- 1. All that glitters is not gold. 2. Look before you leap. 3. Rolling stone gathers no moss. 4. Early bird catches the worm. 5. Every dark cloud has a silver lining.

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Compiled by Noel Jayamanne

QUIZ

On Catholic Themes

(..... from last week)

QUESTIONS

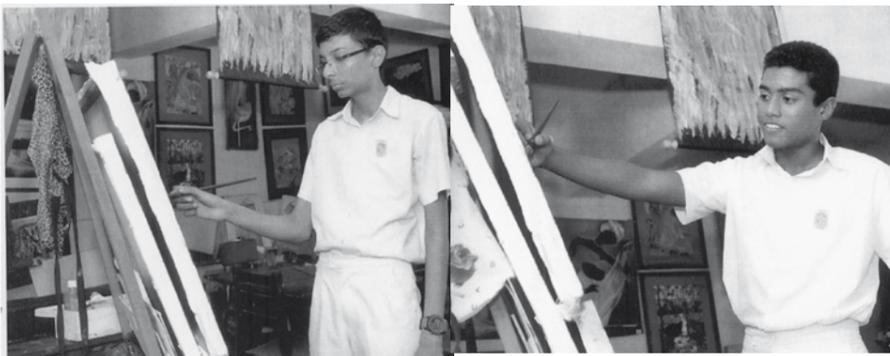
1. THE CHURCH AND CHURCH TEACHINGS

Confirmation

430. What is the Sacrament of Confirmation?
431. Who can receive the Sacrament of Confirmation?
432. What are the conditions necessary for receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation?
433. Why is the Sacrament of Confirmation necessary?
434. Who is the ordinary minister of Confirmation?
435. What does the Bishop use in anointing the person he confirms?
436. What is holy chrism?
437. When is Chrism Mass celebrated?
438. Why is there only one Chrism Mass in a diocese?
439. What is the special significance of the Chrism Mass?
440. Can the lay faithful participate in the Chrism Mass?
441. How is the sacrament of Confirmation given?
442. What is another word for the sacrament of Confirmation?
443. Which are the Sacraments that use sacred chrism in their administration?
444. How many kinds of Sacred Oil are there?
445. Who blesses the Holy Oils and when?

(contd next week.....)

St. Sebastian's Walk and Art Exhibition "Piyawara"



St. Sebastian's College Moratuwa, has organized a walk on the theme "Walk for Unity" on Saturday October 26, 2013 under the supervision of the Rector Rev. Fr. Bonnie Fernandopulle, and Vice Rector Rev. Fr. Rohitha Rodrigo.

In view of this event, an art exhibi-

tion will be held on the theme "Piyawara" at the College premises. It will be presented by Trinal Kavishka Karunaratne and Visulmina Samanga Subasinghe, two students with great artistic skills under the guidance of Mrs. Dulari Wickremasekara, the teacher in charge. All are cordially invited.

Immaculate Heart! Help us to conquer the menace of evil, which so easily takes root in the hearts of the people of today, and whose immeasurable effects already weigh down upon our modern world and seem to block the paths towards the future! –

Blessed John Paul II



ANSWERS

I. THE CHURCH AND CHURCH TEACHINGS

Confirmation

430. The sacrament through which the Holy Spirit is given to the Christian in a special way and enables him/her to profess his/her faith as strong and perfect Christians and soldiers of Jesus Christ.
431. Every baptized person who is not yet confirmed can and should receive it.
432. One must be in the state of grace.
433. Because without it the baptismal grace is not complete.
434. The Bishop, but he can also permit priests to do so in certain circumstances.
435. Holy Chrism.
436. Olive oil mixed with balsam, consecrated by the bishop during chrism Mass.
437. Traditionally the Chrism Mass is celebrated on the Thursday of Holy Week. If, however, it should prove to be difficult for the clergy and people to gather with the bishop, this rite can be transferred to another day, but one always close to Easter.
438. There should be only one celebration of the Chrism Mass given its significance in the life of the diocese, and it should take place in the cathedral or, for pastoral reasons, in another church which has a special significance.
439. It manifests the communion of the priests with their bishop in the same priesthood and ministry of Christ. The priests who concelebrate with the bishop should come to this Mass from different parts of the diocese.
440. Yes, they are encouraged to participate and to receive the sacrament of the Eucharist.
441. The person is anointed with the sacred chrism on the forehead, together with the laying on of the minister's hands, and the words, "Be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit".
442. Chrismation.
443. Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Orders.
444. Three: The Oil of Catechumens, the Holy Chrism, the Oil of the Sick.
445. The Bishop at the Chrism Mass in Holy Week.

Courtesy: Clare Ukken fsp

MY CONSTANT PRAYER

God, grant me the serenity
to accept the people I cannot change,
which is pretty much everyone,
since I'm clearly not you, God.
At least not the last time I checked.
And while you're at it, God,
please give me the courage
to change what I need to change
about myself,
which is frankly a lot, since, once again,
I'm not you, which means I'm not perfect.
It's better for me to focus on changing myself
than to worry about changing other people,
who, as you'll no doubt remember me saying,
I can't change anyway.
Finally, give me the wisdom to just shut up
whenever I think that I'm clearly smarter
than everyone else in the room,
that no one knows what they're talking about except me,
or that I alone have all the answers.
Basically, God,
grant me the wisdom to remember that I'm not you.
AMEN.

Courtesy: Among Ourselves

FROM THE VATICAN DOCUMENTS

On Ecclesiastical Studies

"Let them also be introduced to a knowledge of other religions which are more widespread in individual regions, so that they may acknowledge more correctly what truth and goodness these religions, in God's providence, possess, and so that they may learn to refute their errors and be able to communicate the full light of truth to those who do not have it."

Optatam Totius 16, Decree on Priestly Training, Pope Paul VI, October 28, 1965