



ST. CASIMIR
04th Mar 2012

Messenger

*"Gleaned from
the classics"*
By Johannus

*Dictum sapienti
sat est.*

(from Plautus &
Terence)

A word to the wise
is sufficient.

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Pettah's Eucharistic Shrine is 150 years

The first foundation of the Blessed Sacrament Community in Asia was established at St. Philip Neri's Church, Pettah. In 1956 on the invitation of His Eminence, the late Thomas Cardinal Cooray OMI, a team of Priests and Brothers arrived in Sri Lanka and ever since the Blessed Sacrament Fathers have made this hallowed Church more and more a Eucharistic Shrine, for thousands of faithful to gather and pray." His Lordship, Rt. Rev. Dr. Emmanuel Fernando, the Auxiliary Bishop of Colombo stated, while presiding at the Solemn Eucharistic Celebration of the 150th Jubilee of St. Philip Neri's Church, Pettah, Colombo, last Sunday.

"Today, St. Philip Neri's serves as a



First Lady, Madam Shiranthi Rajapaksa, declares open the Chapel to mark the 150th anniversary of the Church of St. Philip Neri, Pettah. His Lordship Rt. Rev. Dr. Emmanuel Fernando, blessed the chapel.

Eucharistic Shrine in the City, for thousands of faithful from many different parts of the country," said His Lordship.

His Lordship Bishop Emmanuel blessed the new Chapel and it was declared

open by the First Lady, Madam Shiranthi Rajapaksa. The Chapel is dedicated to the Infant Jesus and the Bl. Peter Julian Eymard.

The Jubilee Flag was hoisted by His Lordship and Rev. Fr.

Justin Chawkan SSS, the Administrator of St. Philip Neri's Church. Several other priests, the Religious and a large number of faithful participated in the Solemn Jubilee Mass.

(Archdiocesan Website)

Catholic Bishops' Conference condemns brutal killing of fisherman

The Catholic Bishops' Conference of Sri Lanka (CBCSL) expresses its deepest regret over the brutal killing of Mr. W. Anthony Fernando, a young fisherman of Chilaw during the protest over the unexpected increases in the prices of fuel. CBCSL wishes to condemn in the strongest terms possible this most deplorable act of violence which inflicts irreparable loss and pain on his family and the community of fishermen.

CBCSL wishes to convey its deepest condolences to the bereaved family and the fishing community while imploring God's mercy on all the afflicted. It is our earnest hope that there will not be any repetition of such brutality carried out with such disregard to the inestimable value of life.

Bishop Norbert M. Andradi, OMI
Secretary General - CBCSL

Archdiocesan Lenten Fund 2012

"Life is a gift from God and so are children"

Archdiocesan Lenten Fund 2012 will be utilized to establish a special fund for the "Protection of Life and to Ensure Children's Right to Life"

Since the number of abortions are on the increase all over the country specially in the Archdiocese, the main aim of this fund will be to help in every way possible the mothers to protect their unborn children and give birth to them.

Seth Sarana Caritas, Colombo will launch a programme to educate our people and to persuade them to contribute for this special fund.

Rev. Fr. Lawrence Ramanayake
Seth Sarana Caritas, Colombo

'A Cardinal's task - to bear witness to the joy of Christ's love'

During last Saturday's Mass with the newly elected cardinals, the Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI presented the 'identikit' of a cardinal who is a worthy representative of his community. Then, in the solemnity of the Cathedral of St. Peter the Apostle, the Pope said a homily, indicating the Church's mission in this secularised third millennium. "God is not isolation, but glorious and joyful love, spreading outwards and radiant with light," Benedict XVI stressed. The Cardinal's task is "to bear witness to the joy of Christ's love."

Pope Benedict highlighted the fact that, "The Church does not exist for her own sake, she is not the point of arrival, but she has to point upwards, beyond herself, to the realms above. The Church is truly herself to the extent that she allows the Other, with a capital 'O', to shine through her - the One from whom she comes and to whom she leads.

The Church is the



place where God "reaches" us and where we "set off" towards him: She has the task of opening up, beyond itself, a world which tends to become enclosed within itself, the task of bringing to the world the light that comes from above, without which it would be uninhabitable.

In his homily, the Holy Father summed up

the meaning of a cardinal's role. His message came across as a word of warning at a time when the Curia is experiencing internal conflicts triggered by confidential documents being leaked to mass media.

The theologian and pastor Pope warned: "The new dignity that has been conferred upon you

is intended to show appreciation for the faithful labour you have carried out in the Lord's vineyard, to honour the communities and nations from which you come and which you represent so worthily in the Church, to invest you with new and more important ecclesial responsibilities and finally to ask of you an additional

(Continued on Pg. 2) >>

"Youth of India and Sri Lanka must grow together as neighbours"



Indian High Commissioner, Ashok K. Kantha, being welcomed to the Prize-Giving of St. Peter's College, Colombo.

The 80th Annual Prize-Giving of St. Peter's College, Colombo 04, was held on Friday 17th February 2012, at the Nicholas Perera Hall. The High Commissioner of India to Sri Lanka, Ashok K. Kantha graced the occasion as the Chief Guest.

It is said that, "Education is not received; it is achieved." This was proved by the young Peterites who strode across the stage in pride to receive their prizes.

The Chief Guest thanked The Rector, Rev. Fr. Travis Gabriel, for inviting him for the Peterite Prize Day. While congratulating the Prize Winners he said that, 'Awards' are the result of those who put in the effort, as well as the hard work of the teachers. He further said that 'Life' is a continuous situation and that we should always make the best use of it. It is good

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YEAR OF THE WORD OF GOD

"Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God." Mt 4: 4

ISSUING OF APPLICATIONS TO GRADE 01 OF 2013, IN CATHOLIC PRIVATE SCHOOLS OF THE ARCHDIOCESE

Applications to Grade 01 of 2013, in Catholic Private Schools of the Archdiocese will be issued as follows:

1	Loyola College - Negombo	March 12th, 13th, 14th and 15th March 16th	2.00p.m. - 4.00p. m. All Catholic children 2.00 p.m - 4.00 p.m. All non-Catholic children
2	St. Thomas' Catholic Int. College- Seeduwa	March 15th, 16th, 17th,19th and 20th	8.30a.m. - 12.30p.m.
3	Good Shepherd Convent - Kotahena	March 19th March 20th,21st and 22nd	8.30a.m.- 10.30a.m. Montessori Children, Past Pupil's, Children who have sisters in the School 8.30a.m.- 10.30a.m. To the general public
4	Holy Angel's Girls' School - Payagala	March 19th	8.00a.m. - 1.30p.m.
5	Holy Cross College - Kalutara and Branch School-Payagala	March 19th and 20th	9.00a.m.- 12 noon
6	St. Joseph's Branch College Enderamulla	March 20th ,21st, 22nd,23rd, 24th and 26th	9.00a.m. - 2.00p.m.
7	Loyola College Branch- Bopitiya	March 20th and 21st	2.00p.m. - 5.00p.m.
8	Holy Family Convent - Kalutara	March 22nd and 23rd	1.30p.m. - 5.00p.m.
9	St. Joseph's Branch School - Negombo	March 26th - 30th	8.00a.m. - 1.00p.m
10	St. Joseph's College -Maradana	March 26th - 30th	9.00a.m.- 1.00p.m
11	Ave Maria Branch School - Bolawalana	March 28th 29th and 30th	12noon - 3.00p.m
12	St. Bridget's Convent - Colombo 07	March 29th March 30th and April 2nd, 3rd	8.00a.m. -12 noon Montessori Children 8.00a.m. -12 noon To the general public
13	St. Benedict's College - Kotahena	March 31st and April 1st	9.00a.m. - 12 noon
14	Ave Maria Convent - Negombo	March 30th March 31st	8.30a.m. - 12 noon Montessori Children, Past Pupil's, Children who have sisters in the School 8.30a.m. - 12 noon 1.30p.m. -3.30p.m. To the general public
15	De Mazenod College - Kandana	April 10th and 11th	8.30a.m. - 12.30p.m
16	Holy Cross College - Gampaha	April 16th, 17th and 18th	8.00a.m. - 12 noon
17	Holy Family Convent-Colombo 04	April 26th and 27th	8.00a.m. - 12 noon
18	Our Lady of Victories- Moratuwa	April 26th,27th and 28th	9.00a.m. - 12 noon
19	Christ King College Branch School, Weliveriya	April 26th and 27th	12 noon - 2.00p.m
20	St. Lawrence's Convent Colombo 06	April 26th April 27th	12 .30p.m. - 3.00p.m Montessori Children, Past Pupil's, Children who have sisters in the School 9.00a.m -2.00p.m To the general public
21	Marist Stella College-Negombo	April 28th	9.00a.m. - 12noon
22	St. Joseph's College - Nugegoda	May 1st -31st	10.00a.m. - 3.00 p.m.
23	Good Shepherd Convent - Panadura	May 2nd, 3rd and 4th	11.00a.m -1.00p.m
24	St. Sebastian's College- Moratuwa	May 2nd ,3rd, 4th and 8th ,9th	8.00a.m. - 12.30p.m
25	St. Peter's College - Bambalapitiya	May 7th ,8th and 9th May 10th	9.00a.m -2.00p.m To the general public 9.00a.m -2.00p.m Past Pupil's Children
26	St. Peter's Branch School Udugampala	May 7th, 8th and 9th May 10th	9.00a.m -2.00p.m To the general public 9.00a.m -2.00p.m Past Pupil's Children
27	St. Jude's Int. College-Kurana	May 13th	8.00a.m.- 5.00p;m
28	Christ King College -Pannipitiya	May 14th ,15th and 16th	10.30a.m. - 1.30p.m.

Please forward your Family book, Baptismal certificate and Birth certificate of the child and any other documents requested by the School to obtain applications. Since there is no room in private Schools to accommodate all the children who apply, please send your applications to vested and government Schools too. We also warn you not to be deceived by the mediators who will ask for money assuring the admission of your child and request to you to give information of such people.

Rev. Fr. Ranjith Madurawala,
Archdiocesan Director of Education and
General Manager of the Catholic Private Schools

EXHIBITION OF BIBLE FLORA BY CBS

Coinciding with its 200th anniversary celebrations this year, the Ceylon Bible Society (CBS) held a two-day exhibition of Fauna and Flora of the Bible on 16th and 17th February in the CBS New Auditorium in Kollupitiya. This project is an extension of the main Bible History Exhibition arranged by CBS.

Mrs. Lakshani Fernando, General Secretary of CBS said that the Fauna and Flora Exhibition will be taken to various parts of the country as part of its efforts to make the Bible more relevant and interesting to the people of this country. She expressed her gratitude to His Eminence Cardinal Malcolm Ranjith for making a donation of Rupees One Hundred Thousand towards the cost of holding the exhibition.

(Sedec Correspondent)

Open Way of the Cross (Tamil)

Date: 26.02.2012 (Sunday)

Time:3.00p.m.

Venue: Begins at New Chetty Street (Mater Dolorosa Church) Colombo 13.

The route is as follows:

From New Chetty Street Church through Jampettah Street, St. Anthony's Mawatha, Chekku Street (Sri Karthiresan Street), Brassfounder Street, Ginthupitiya Street, Hanny Hapuhamu Mawatha, Sangamitha Mawatha, Jampettah Street, Galpotha Street, George R. De Silva Mawatha, Kotahena Street, Bonjean Road and ends at St. Lucia's Cathedral. (Ends with Holy Eucharist)

Kindly announce the above information at Sunday Mass and encourage the faithful to participate in this holy event. Please be kind enough to display the Way of the Cross banner in your church premises. Hope you will generously extend your co-operation to make this event a success.

Rev. Fr. Ignatius Varnakulasingham

Cardinal task.....

Contd. from Pg. 1

readiness to be of service to Christ and to the entire Christian community.

This readiness to serve the Gospel must be firmly founded upon the certitude of faith." The Church is only really itself in as much as it lets Him shine through. The Pope quoted St. Ignatius of Antioch, who in his Letter to the Romans calls the Church of Rome a Church that "presides in charity" (Salutation, PG 5, 801). Benedict XVI stressed that "presiding in faith is inseparably linked to presiding in love.

"Faith without love would no longer be an authentic Christian faith. Likewise the law and the Church's authority rest upon faith. The Church is not self-regulating, she does not determine her own structure but receives it from the word of God, to which she listens in faith as she seeks to understand it and to live it," the Holy Father said.

Finally, the Pope entrusted the "ecclesial service" of the cardinals "to the Virgin Mary, saying: "May she, Mother of the Incarnate Word, protect the Church's path, support the work of the pastors by her intercession and take under her mantle the entire College of Cardinals."

Unity Week Service at St. Lawrence's Church Wellawatte



The Apostolic Nuncio, Most Rev. Dr. Joseph Spiteri, Chairman of the Catholic National Commission (CNC) for Ecumenism, Rt. Rev. Dr. Cletus Perera OSB and General Secretary of the National Christian Council (NCC), Rev. Ebenezer Joseph were among the Church leaders who gathered at St. Lawrence's Church, Wellawatte, to celebrate Christian Unity Week.

The Service of Praise and Worship, arranged jointly by the CNC and NCC, brought together a large congregation of clergy, Religious and lay faithful of different churches.

(Ainslie Joseph)

125th Jubilee of St. Agnes Church, Pannala



His Lordship Rt. Rev. Dr. Harold Anthony Perera, was the chief celebrant at the 125th Jubilee celebrations of St. Agnes Church, Pannala.

Picture shows His Lordship blessing the crowd with the statue of St. Agnes.

(G.B.H. Livera)

St. Sebastian's Church, Enderamulla celebrates 121st Feast



The 121st Church feast of St. Sebastian's, Enderamulla, was held recently officiated by Very Rev. Fr. Anthony Fernandopulle, Episcopal Vicar (Colombo North, Region)

Picture shows the statue of St. Sebastian, mounted on a "horse driven" chariot being taken in procession.

(Text Hemamali Gamage - Pic. H.A. Caldera)

Ath-Oya Church celebrates fifth anniversary



The fifth anniversary of Bl. Joseph Vaz Church, Ath-oya, Ratnapura, was held last week.

Picture shows the statue been brought into the Church after the procession.

(Theobald Samaratinga)

Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, Tambakande



The annual feast of Our Lady of Lourdes was held in Tambakande in the Kurunegala diocese in a grand scale, recently. Picture shows parishioners taking the statue in procession around St. Bruno's Church.

The festival was organised by Rev. Fr. Stanley Peiris Parish Priest of Tambakande with the help of parishioners.

(Text & Pic: Cecil Danicius)

Ayurveda Centre at St. Anne's Church, Wattala



An Ayurvedic Treatment Centre organised by St. Anne's Society Wattala, in association with Nimal Saparamadu Foundation was declared open by Rev. Fr. Ruban Leslie, Parish Priest, St. Anne's Church, Wattala, recently.

The Centre will be open for the people every 2nd and 4th Thursdays.

Picture shows Rev. Fr. Ruban getting a check up as the first patient. Malinga Jayawardena, President of the Society, Sunil Visidagama Secretary, Mrs. Nirmalie Saparamadu, President of the Foundation and officials of the Society and the foundation are also seen in the picture.

(Pic. Nimal Perera)

Pilgrims' Rest at Madhu Church sponsored by People's Bank



His Excellency the President Mahinda Rajapaksa handed over a sponsorship cheque for Rs. 5 million from People's Bank to Mannar Bishop Most. Rev. Dr. Rayappu Joseph to construct a Pilgrims' Rest at the Madhu Church premises.

The donation was made at Temple Trees recently. His Lordship Rayappu Joseph, gifted a three dimensional portrait of St. Mary's statue at Madhu Church to the President as a mark of appreciation.

Rev. Fr. Emilianuspillai, Parish Priest, Madhu Church. Rev. Fr. Sylvester Jayakody and Dr. D.J.D. Jayakody, Director, Mr. N. Vasantha Kumar, CEO/ General Manager of People's Bank were also present.

Award for contribution to journalism

To mark the 150th Jubilee of St. Mary's Church, Nayakakanda, parishioners who had contributed their abilities, talents and skills for the betterment of the Church were honoured.



Picture shows Mr. Nimal Perera, correspondent for the Messenger and Gnanartha Pradeepaya, being awarded for his contribution to journalism by His Eminence, Malcolm Cardinal Ranjith. Also in the picture is Parish Priest, Rev. Fr. Mahendra Gunatillake.

(Nihal Pinto)

Youth of India.....

Contd. from Pg. 1

to be young today, as the youth of today have many opportunities for development. He added that the youth of India and Sri Lanka were lucky to be part of a multi-ethnic, multi-cultural society and that "we must grow together as neighbours."

The Rector, Rev. Fr. Travis Gabriel, thanked Mr. Ashok K. Kantha for being present at the Prize Giving despite a very busy schedule. The keynote of his address was about University Education, a dire need for the future of Sri Lanka. (A Peterite staff member)

Feast of Our Lady of Velankanni, celebrated at Maggona



The second anniversary of Our Lady of Velankanni was celebrated at "Gladis Watta", Munhena Road, Maggona, on 4th February, with Holy Mass officiated by Rev. Fr. Hemantha Udayakumar Perera, Parish Priest of Maggona and Rev. Fr. Jude Asanka TOR.

(Pic. D. Anselm Fernando)

SUNDAY PUNCH

by Camillus



THE CATHOLIC WEEKLY OF SRI LANKA
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 SINCE 1869

EDITORIAL

26 February 2012

Duplicity in the corridors of Power

The Centre for Policy Alternatives has issued a statement urging the Government to take some practical steps to resolve the ethnic problem and pave the way for the reconciliation of the two communities - the Sinhalese and the Tamils. The CPA statement points out that the government is morally bound to implement the proposals of the LLRC since it is its own Commission. Failure to implement those recommendations would be construed as a lack of sincerity. Despite the President promising to implement the recommendation of the LLRC the actions of the government belie its words.

Tamil women in Mannar have forwarded a petition protesting against the establishment of a military base (a permanent one) in the middle of an area where there are nine villages that consist mostly of returnees and old IDPs and many of whose families are headed by women. All nine Women's Rural Development Society members drew up the petition which carried 564 signatures. The petition was sent to Mannar GA and DS (who allocated the government land for the military camp). It has also been posted to the Land Commissioner, the Human Rights Commission, the Minister, Rishard Bathurudeen and the Governor of the North (since the pressure came to the Mannar DS from the Governor to allocate this land). Why is the Government not appointing the National Land Commission as provided in the 13th Amendment? Why is the Government acting contrary to the recommendations of the LLRC which states as follows:

"It is important that the Northern Province reverts to civilian administration------. The military presence must progressively recede to the background to enable the people to return to normal civilian life and enjoy the benefits of peace."

The LLRC Report also dealt with High Security Zones (HSZs) in paragraph 9.142 and recommends a review for the purpose of releasing more land to the public. We call for the immediate dismantling of all HS zones which serve no rightful purpose. All occupied land must be returned to rightful owners. The Report also refers to illegal armed groups in paragraph 9.73 and to the alleged crimes of the EPDP in paragraph 9.208.

As the CPA statement points out *"The ubiquitous presence of and pressure exerted by the armed forces in the Northern and Eastern Province engenders grave and direct fear among the people and inhibits social life. Militarization and armed paramilitary groups are the root cause of harassment and are associated with abduction and other unlawful acts."*

Why then is the Army setting up new Army camps? Isn't this going against the recommendations of the LLRC which the President has promised to implement? Some would say this is 'double speak' where words have lost their meaning or mean just the opposite of what they mean in ordinary language. The Government leadership has lost all credibility because people think it is duplicitous.

As the CPA points out: *"The spread of military tentacles into reconstruction projects ---- and military sponsored expansion into small and medium business undertakings are taking precedence and steamrolling the local community out of the neighbourhood economy, Commitment to the concept of the primacy of civilian democracy over military power makes it imperative that the LLRC recommendations be implemented forthwith and in full."*

A lasting solution to the ethnic imbroglio can be reached only if political power is devolved to be exercised by the peoples elected representatives. The Tamil people need to feel a sense of security - security for their lives, livelihoods and property. This cannot be ensured by setting up more and more military camps. It is trust that begets trust and mistrust begets mistrust. To generate trust the language of government must be Tamil in the predominantly Tamil areas just as Sinhala should be the language in the Sinhala majority areas. This can be implemented only through devolution of power including land administration (subject to the policy decisions of the National Land Commission). Similarly police stations in the North and East should come under the Provincial Council so that the police are made accountable to the people through their representatives. But this does not mean that the Provincial Council politicians can be allowed to act arbitrarily. They must not interfere in the personnel management - appointment, transfer or dismissal, of police officers. Nor should they be allowed to interfere in the investigation of crime and the administration of the Criminal Procedure Code. They must not interfere with the independent Police Commission or the independent Public Service Commission.

Politicians do not like to see their power diluted and this is the real motive for southern politicians' reluctance to devolve power. They project their opposition as coming from the Sinhala people. But such powers are to be devolved not only to the PC of the North and East but throughout the country. Unless power is devolved there cannot be genuine reconciliation. Where there is such reconciliation there is no need for more and more military camps in the North.

Cardinal Cooray: A true Son of De Mazenod

Rev. Fr. Anselm de Cross

The founder of the Oblates Mgr. Eugene De Mazenod chose as the motto of his congregation the Evangelical vision contained in the scripture, "I am sent to bring good news to the poor."

The novice, Benjamin Thomas Cooray from the day he entered the novitiate to the day he took his perpetual vows as an Oblate, continued to meditate and contemplate this evangelical vision. It is this vision that he inculcated to the oblate brothers while he was the Superior of the Scholasticate. There is no doubt that he assiduously practiced the vows of poverty, chastity and obedience which are the hallmarks of the religious life.

When he was appointed Archbishop of Colombo he realized that now it was the appointed time to put his oblate dream into effect. He received Rupees seventy five thousand as gifts at his consecration as Bishop. He spent all that money in buying a land 25 acres in extent at Dampe and started the first housing scheme for the poor. Today there are 165 houses in that land together with a church.

He was deeply concerned about the poor fishermen. During the rough season they migrated to Mannar where there were constant fights between the migrants and the locals. He approached Bishop Glennie, the Bishop of Trincomalee who readily consented to provide a place in the East for the fishermen. The Archbishop chose Rev. Fr. M. Anthony Fernando, the Parish Priest of Sea Street and his assistant Rev. Fr. Joe Fernando to implement the plan. They travelled to Marankeni and Panichankerni in the Eastern Province and started to build the necessary infrastructure to move the fishermen from Negombo to the East Coast. To further his pastoral care of the fishermen he sent Fr. Joe Fernando to the Cody Institute in Canada, to study fishermen's cooperatives. Once he returned, with the help of Fr. Anthony, Fr. Joe initiated the fishermen to the cooperative methods. Loans were given to the fishermen to buy new equipment. Fr. Joe together with the inventive skill of his assistant Fr. Felix Perera, introduced for the first time outboard motors to be attached to the catamarans [Thepams] and also for the first time introduced nylon nets. This is in short the concern Cardinal Cooray had for the fishermen.

This missionary vision was not limited to the Archdiocese. It is sad to note that although the Diocese of Anuradhapura owes its existence to the missionary foresight and endeavours of Cardinal Cooray, information even when requested was not forthcoming from diocesan authorities, however providentially information was forthcoming from Rev. Fr. Jayalath Ballagala, who was resident in Anuradhapura for some time. It is from his encyclopedic knowledge that information was gleaned.

The North-Central Province was then a part of the Diocese of Jaffna. With the agricultural schemes introduced by D. S. Senanayake, a large migration of the people of the South took place



An autographed photo from Rome sent by Rev. Fr. Benjamin Cooray to his friend Rev. Fr. Emmilianuspillai by courtesy of Rev. Fr. Gunasellan

to the North-Central Province, as many were Sinhala-speaking and the fathers of Jaffna were not able to fulfill their pastoral needs, Cardinal Cooray then Archbishop, approached his friend Bishop Emmilianus of Jaffna who agreed to hand over the North-Central Province to the Archbishop. He agreed to provide the necessary personnel and finances for the running of the Province.

The Archbishop chose Fathers Reginald Silva and Laurence Perera as the oblate pioneers. At Allagollawa there were Catholic migrants from Wahacotte. They were provided with land, houses, a school and a church. He also bought land at Kahagama to be given to the Catholic migrants. A church too was built. A land was also bought at Kekirawa and at Kalawewa where a church was dedicated to Our Lady Of Lourdes. A land in extent off 27 acres was bought at

"Cardinal Cooray, then Archbishop chose Rev. Fr. M. Anthony Fernando, the Parish Priest of Sea Street and his assistant Rev. Fr. Joe Fernando to implement the plan. They travelled to Marankeni and Panichankerni in the Eastern Province and started to build the necessary infrastructure to move the fishermen from Negombo to the East Coast. To further his pastoral care of the fishermen he sent Fr. Joe Fernando to the Cody Institute in Canada, to study fishermen's cooperatives."

Nochchiagama for the Catholic population and also at Talawa where the Catholic population was settled with a church.

Like Father Joseph Vaz, he chose laymen to continue the missionary work, chief among them was Peduru Mudalali and Lazarus Mudalali who were from Makewita. In spite of the Cardinal Cooray's onerous duties as the Archbishop, he constantly visited these missionary stations and for him it was a great joy to see these missions flourish. It was his great Mazedonian heart that prompted him to launch out into the deep as His Master commanded.

The Pope, the Jews and the Nazis

Cardinal Pacelli was elected pope, on 2nd. March 1939. He had become pope in a time of war. His diplomatic skills, his gift for languages, his sensitivity and intelligence, he was now to use them to face many challenges of his times. He gave proof that he intended to continue the task of his predecessor namely, defending the peace of the world.

In the first few months as pope he declared: "Nothing is lost by peace, everything may be lost by war." As Cardinal Pacelli, he had helped to draft Pius XI th's anti-Nazi encyclical written in German, "*Mit Brennender Sorge*" (With burning anxiety), in 1937. Papal encyclicals have always been written in Latin, except for this one in particular; and it was read in all German churches. This infuriated the Nazis and many priests were arrested and imprisoned.

During World War II and in the following years and up to the time of his death, Pius XII was considered as having contributed significantly to saving Jewish lives from Nazi attempt to eliminate Jewish people. The Pope was also regarded as a saintly man, of peace and compassionate defender and protector of all victims of war.

The Jews of the earlier years who expressed gratitude and admiration for the help given to them by Pope Pius, have now been replaced by those of the present who accuse the Holy Father with 'silence', in the face of the "Shoah", the Hebrew word for disaster or Catastrophe, is the term many Jews now prefer to Holocaust.

Who or what caused this new vision causing a break in the Catholic-Jewish relationship, since World War II?

In February of 1963, the fictional play, "The Deputy," by a young German playwright Rolf Hochhuth, portrayed Pius XII, as a Nazi collaborator and accused the Pope of silence. He offers no historical evidence for this. Subsequently the hostile critics chose to join in the chorus and insists that Pius could have done more to save the Jewish lives from extermination.

Pope Paul VI in order to counteract these charges released in 1965 - 82, Vatican Documents relating to the activities of Pius XII and the Church's role in the Second World War. These documents allowed the historians to follow hour by hour, day by day, the activities of the Pope and his associates. Pope John Paul II, anxious to give an official response to the holocaust appointed a pontifical commission to investigate and report on this complex question. After a decade of investigations the Vatican published the document: "We remember," a reflection on the "Shoah". Since this publication, there has been an important contribution by Fr. Pierre Blet, S.J., who had published his book "Pius XII and the Second World War." Also, another book titled "Pope Pius XII the Architect for Peace," were published by Sr. Margherita Harchione. These documents give ample evidence that Rolf Hochhuth knew little or nothing about the circumstances of the Second World War; and that his allegations were baseless. Furthermore, we must take into account that these accusations have been made five years after the Pope's death; and not when he was alive.

Pope Pius XII th's diplomatic skills taught him that prophetic denunciations closed doors, narrowed room

for manoeuvre. He weighed his words and actions with the greatest care, fearful that worse might befall. His encyclicals against racism was read in the churches all over Europe, but copies were seized and the printers had their presses confiscated.

The Holy Father also issued encyclical "*Summi Pontificatus*" (On the unity of human family. The New York Times carried a front page article with the following head lines, "The Pope condemns dictators, Treaty violators and Racism." The Times writer saw the Pope as an Old Testament prophet, speaking words of fire.

There were instances where the protests made by the Pope sent through diplomatic Channels remained hidden. The vendors of the Vatican paper "*L'Osservatore Romano*" and those buying it were molested and beaten and the copies of the journal forcibly taken from kiosks and burned. Also it is said the German Episcopacy was divided regarding the approach to be taken when dealing with the Nazi regime. Some bishops urged that the Pope must condemn the Nazi regime outright, while still others feared that to do so would endanger the Jews who were already taken captive. This situation was quite understandable for in trouble times spirits become divided as to what the country or even what the individuals must do. However, the Pope reserved for himself the time to speak strongly against the brutality and atrocities of the Nazis. Margherita Marchione in her book "Pope Pius XII Architect for Peace" says that the Pope's dilemma was like that of a pilot of a plane seized by terrorists. Should he encourage his crew to resist or should he keep the terrorists talking as long as he can in the hope of saving many lives as possible?

From the many frustrated efforts made by the Pope, I pick just a few examples. In protest against the deportation of Hungarian Jews to the Auschwitz camp, in a telegram to the Hungarian Chief of State, Admiral Horthy, on 25th June 1944, the Pope stated and demanded that, "These unfortunate people should be saved from further sufferings." In June 1943, the Vatican Radio emphatically stated: "He who makes a distinction between Jews and other men is unfaithful to God and is in conflict with God's Commands." The Pope was personally interested in the life of each individual brought to his attention.

Young and old appealed to him in locating missing relatives and thus Pius XII established the "Vatican Information Bureau." Requests came from every country in the World and all received his attention.

Between the years 1939 -1946, Pope Pius gave particular attention to the prisoners of war. To them his Christmas message offered comfort. The Pope also sent gift packages accompanied by a spiritual blessing and words of consolation. One prisoner called that day when the Pope's gift arrived, "The most beautiful day of captivity." We have this interesting account from the book: "Pius XII th. And the Second World War."

The Jewish community in Rome was suddenly summoned to the General's Head quarters of SS, by Lieutenant Colonel Herbert Koppler who asked the Jewish community to hand over within twenty four hours some fifty kilos of gold, failing to do so would result in immediate deportation of all men from the Jewish community in the city. Despite

the desperate efforts, they could only come up with thirty five kilos of gold. Rome's Chief Rabbi, Israeli Zolli, appealed to the Pope. The balance fifteen kilos of gold came from the Holy Father and the Christian community.

In obedience to Pius XII th's direct urging, hundreds of convents, monasteries, and other religious buildings were opened to shelter and hide thousands of Jewish men, women and children. To facilitate this, the barrier of the Canonical cloister were lifted, thus allowing men to enter the convents of women religious and also permitting women to enter cloisters of male religious. Thousands of Jews remained hidden in the Vatican and in the Papal apartments of Castelgandolf. To this day, on the walls one can see the darkened ash where these fugitives from Nazis lit fires to cook and keep warm.

Before I conclude, I would like to pick just three or four postwar appraisals of Vatican policies.

1. Israeli historian and diplomat, Pinchas Lapide in his book, "The Last three Popes and the Jews," states that Pope Pius XII saved 860,000 Jewish lives.

2. Golda Meir, Israel's Prime Minister, on the occasion of the Pope's death said: "When fearful martyrdom came to our people in the decade of Nazi terror, the Voice of Pope Pius XII was raised for the victims. The life of our times was enriched by a voice speaking out on the great moral truths above the tumult of daily conflict."

3. Among those hiding in the Vatican for nearly one year, was the Chief Rabbi of Rome, Israeli Zolli. He caused a sensation when he entered the Catholic Church. At the end of the war, in gratitude for the Pope's war time efforts, at baptism he took the Pope's very name, Eugenio.

4. A tribute by the renowned physicist Albert Einstein, a Jew and an agnostic, states: "Being a lover of freedom, when the Nazi revolution came in Germany. I looked to the universities to defend it, knowing that they

had always boasted of their devotion to the cause of truth; but no, the universities immediately were silenced. Then I looked to the great editors of the newspapers, whose flaming editorials in days gone by, had proclaimed their love of freedom, but they like the universities were silenced Only the Church stood squarely across the path of Hitler's campaign for suppressing the truth. I never had any special interest in the Church before, but now I feel a great affection and admiration because the Church alone has had the courage and persistence to stand for intellectual truth and moral freedom.

The Vatican Information Bureau closed officially on 31 October 1947. In addition to its 885, staff members of retired priests, cardinals and nuns, thousands of others participated in this humanitarian charity. The Vatican officials had processed no fewer than 11,250,000, missing persons enquiries.

Back to the question: Was the Catholic Church silent? Yes, she was silently active.

Bryan Landsberger



The Annunciation

Pinturicchio and the Borgia

Nestling in the Vatican's old Apostolic Palace is the Borgia Apartment, a suite of rooms named after Pope Alexander VI (1492-1503), the enigmatic Rodrigo Borgia whose cultural policies, diplomatic relations and private affairs had one of the greatest impacts ever on Church History. Upon taking up residence at the Vatican, the Borgia Pope ordered the Papal Apartment to be redecorated by Bernardino di Betto (*Pinturicchio*) 1454-1513, a master from Perugia whose pictorial style captures an inherently religious quality unrivalled by those of Italy's other High and Post Renaissance masters.

The Borgia Apartment series articulate these qualities superlatively in the *Annunciation* painted in a lunette with the scene set centrally in a deeply receding arcade. Here Pinturicchio represents the Virgin and Archangel Gabriel as three-dimensional forms with unusual weight and volume. What is most striking is the artist's capacity to harmonize the contours of a linear composition with the mass of tone and volume, fusing shapes and edges into each other with an ease that escapes notice.

(Courtesy: *L'Osservatore Romano*)



Marriage in the Original Covenant The Original Sin



Adam and Eve were placed over all creation, including the animals, because only they could respond freely to the gift that was creation. All the rest of creation is unaware of itself, and determined in its actions. Animals, even when they have a highly developed psychology, are completely material; they are a part of the world, acting only by instinct, even when that instinct might be so highly developed - as in a dolphin, for example - as to seem actually 'intelligent.'

Man is a unity of body and spirit. with the spiritual capacity to know what is right and to choose

it freely. While we experience nature's drives, we are free, when we act, to channel them, or even to act against them. It is this conscious freedom. that allowed Adam and Eve to receive creation as an original gift from God, and to offer it back to Him. governing it in a way that reflected the natural state of intimacy that they enjoyed with their Creator; they "walked with God."

We don't know exactly what the material circumstances of Adam and Eve's sin were, but we know that it was a sin of pride, a deliberate failure to live and to walk in the truth. For some mysteri-

ous reason, Adam and Eve chose to ignore God's plan, and to impose their own order on creation. Eve, we are told, "saw that the tree was good for food, pleasing to the eyes, and desirable for gaining wisdom" (Gn 3:6). What she and her husband chose not to see, however, was the will of God, which was the standard by which both of them were meant to govern the world, and from which all of their authority over creation was derived. Adam and Eve violated the relationship of love, trust, and obedience that bound them so intimately to each other and to God.

This original sin

of Adam and Eve, like the loss of a title, or the debt of a squandered fortune, would be inherited, with all of its effects, by all of their descendants.

Consequences of the Original Sin

The greatest consequence of this sin was a hardening of hearts and a resistance to love. Before the fall, the source of the love that Adam and Eve shared was the love of God himself. When they turned their back on the source of all love, their own love for each other was also damaged. They could no longer approach each other

with such intimacy as before.

Their attitudes toward each other had changed. They no longer found it easy to see each other as a "helpmate," representing God; now they each experienced an inordinate desire to dominate not only things, but also - persons, including each other. Once, they had experienced their mutual attraction as a source of equality and mutual belonging; now, it was always marred by the possibility that one-of-them would try to gain the upper: hand over the other, especially the man over the woman (On 3:16). So for the first

time, they began to feel shame, as a sign of awareness, and a shield against mutual abuse.

(Continued on next week)

(Courtesy: Marriage Together in Christ - Catholic Truth Society)

In 1952 Lester Levinson, a physicist from New Jersey, USA, was discharged from his medical treatment and was sent home to die. He was diagnosed with bleeding gastric ulcers, kidney stones and cardiac problems. As a scientist he tried to comprehend the deep-seated causes of his physical diseases.

He realized that the somatic diseases that he was suffering from were caused by unresolved inner feelings that were not dealt with in his life. He realized that he can deal with his inner feelings in three ways. He can vent them by bursting into angry outbursts. He can suppress them by hiding his feelings which will lead to inner conflicts and illnesses. The third was to deal with the feelings by expressing them verbally in a non-violent manner.

He dreamed about his happy moments during his life, such as looking at the starry blue skies lying on a meadow in the camp-site with his girl- friend. He realized that positive feelings such as courage, acceptance and peace gave him happiness. The negative feelings such as apathy, grief, fear, lust, anger and pride made him feel sorrowful and depressed. He felt that these negative feelings adversely affected him not only psychologically but also physically. He discovered when these negative feelings were ignored or suppressed, they led to physical illness.

Lester discovered the origin of these negative feelings and boiled them down to three wants: Want for acceptance; want for control and want for security. When someone lacks acceptance or approval of other people, that person develops negative feelings. In the same way when the want for control or change are unfulfilled, the person develops negative feelings. At the same time when a person is insecure and is struggling for survival, they develop negative feelings that corrode the psyche and cause certain psycho-somatic illnesses.

On the other hand he realized not depending on the approval and good opinion of other people makes you free of negative feelings. Imagine a situation where you act or do things not to please others but



Sedona Method

Bits and Pieces

Madi

just because you want to do them because they are right and not against one's conscience. This type of behaviours will make you free from obligations to other people.

The feeling of freedom and independence that we enjoy when we are not bent on controlling other people's behaviour or trying to change others is deep and remarkable. It is much easier and more therapeutic to change our own behaviour and feelings than to impose changes on others. It is the same with security and survival. People are free when their security needs and needs for survival are met.

Lester Levinson discovered a method of verbally expressing our negative feelings which originate from the need for approval, control and security. This method is called the Sedona Method. He taught his clients to bring their present or NOW feelings to surface and let go of these feelings in a methodical three step process. He taught his clients to ask the question, "Could I release this feeling?" The obvious answer to this question is, "Yes, I can release this feeling of grief, anger, lust etc."

The second question is, "Would you release these feelings?" The best answer to this is, "Yes I will release or let go of this feeling of" The last question is, "When, do you want to release or let go of these feelings?" The obvious answer to this question is, "Now" or "I want to let go of these feelings NOW."

Health scientists have discovered that Lester Levinson's Sedona Method is one of the best ways of venting one's feelings. I do hope my effort to summarize the profound Sedona Method on which volumes of books have been written, into one page will benefit our readers. If you have access to internet or the worldwide- web, please do access: www.sedona.com for comprehensive details.

N.B. Lester Levinson, "who was sent home to die in three months at the age of 42, survived till he was 84 years old.



A CROSS

The Way 69

By Sirohmi Gunesequera

Gifts of love

The little girl came home in tears. The Class Bully had caught hold of her and had pummeled her unmercifully. There was no-one to help her. Little Sonali's world had collapsed around her. She came home and mechanically ate the rice and curry the maid served her. Sonali's mother, Miriam was busy at work and she did not want to disturb her.

So she bottled up her pain and fell asleep.

In the evening, her mother came home with the present of a slab of chocolate. But Sonali was too upset by the day's events to care. She flung herself into her mother's arms and sobbed out her story.

Miriam herself had had a hard day at work and felt like crying herself. But she hugged her little girl and tried her best to comfort her. She realized that chocolates and gifts could not make up for the warmth of a caring mother at home when her child needed her. She wondered if the money she earned was worth the sacrifice.

Sonali kept asking her mother to come and confront the Bully. Miriam hemmed and hawed. She had her office work to do but she agreed to take a half day off and come and meet Sonali's teacher and tell her about the incident.

"Are we Working Mums doing the right thing by our children?"pondered Miriam, adding, "After all, we enjoy making use of our talents but our kids need us more. We brought them into the world and we have a duty by them, don't we? I realize now that bringing them presents cannot make up for Quality Time spent with our growing kids." Miriam decided that she would discuss it with her husband and arrange for both parents to spend more time with their children.

"We will pray to God to give us enough money and help us to manage even if it means that one of us works only part-time," she thought.

REFLECTIONS FOR LIFE

A Christian is an ambassador who speaks for the King of kings.

The Lamb who died to save us is the Shepherd who lives to lead us.

It's the journey, not just the destination that's important.

Adding up your blessings will multiply your joy.

The poorest person is he whose only wealth is money.

God's answers to our prayers may exceed our expectations.

Revenge restrained is a victory gained.

A gentle word of compliment falls lightly but it carries great weight.

Bite your tongue before your tongue bites others.

Gossip ends at a wise person's ears.

Sent by: Newton Fernando

TAKE TIME FOR A MINUTE OF HUMOUR - SMILE!



A slow learning student in special education asked his Dad. "Dad where did my Intelligence come from? Father replied. "Well son, you must have got it from your mother, 'cause I still have mine."

Rev. Fr. Fracoid Anthony Fernando OMI



Art & Architecture in Liturgy

Compiled by: Kishani S. Fernando

Some points for reflection this Lent

Live simply and justly in solidarity with the poor and marginalized and be a good neighbour. Make no war on them, rather, be one with them in spirit, truth, and love.

Hear the truth when it is spoken to you. Discern the signs of the times and speak the truth at all costs.

Make injustice visible — witness, remember, teach, proclaim, tell, light candles, do not curse the darkness.

Lent in European art

Protect the poor and powerless—listen, learn, educate, organize, empower participation, and respect life from the moment of conception to the time of natural death.

Work for reconciliation with truth, evangelisation, catechesis, orthopraxis.

Celebrate life, goodness, beauty, virtue, responsibility, and joy.

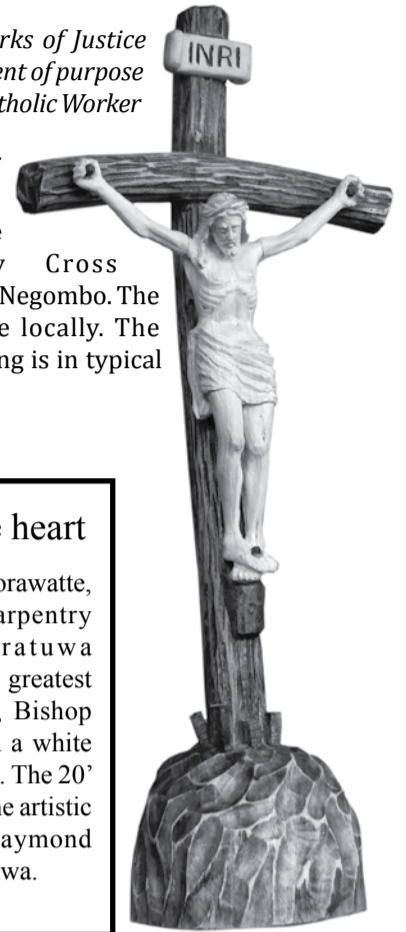
Practice peace, non-violence, servant leadership, harmony, voluntary cooperation, and the proper stewardship of God's creation.

Pray without ceasing.

Ensure fair distribution, subsidiarity, economic opportunity, justice, and food security for everyone everywhere.

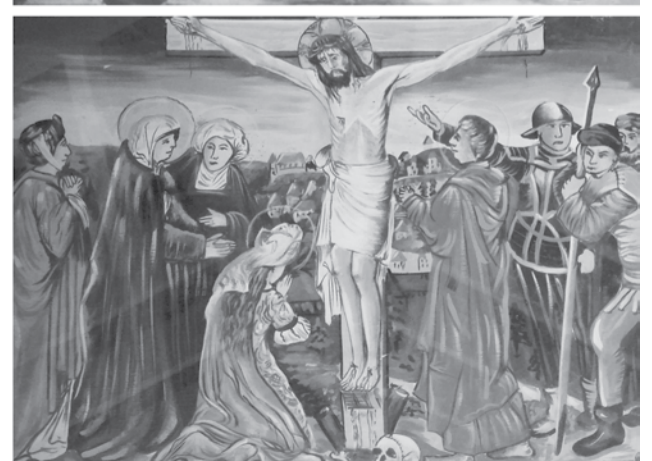
(Taken from 'The Works of Justice and Peace', the statement of purpose of the Oscar Romero Catholic Worker House).

The paintings of the Stations of the Cross, seen here are at the Holy Cross Church, Munnakkara, Negombo. The paintings were done locally. The backdrops and clothing is in typical European style.



A gift from the heart

The Parish of Willorawatte, the heart of the carpentry industry of Moratuwa honoured one of its greatest sons, His Lordship, Bishop Maxwell Silva, with a white sandalwood crucifix. The 20' cross with stand, is the artistic creation of Mr. Raymond Fernando, of Moratuwa.



The Way of the Cross

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

Act of Contrition

O my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended thee. I am sorry and beg Your pardon for all my sins and detest them above all things because they have crucified my loving Saviour Jesus Christ. I firmly resolve, by the help of Your holy grace, never to offend You again. Amen.

FIRST STATION JESUS IS CONDEMNED TO DEATH



P. We adore thee, O Christ and we bless thee
R. Because by thy Holy Cross thou hast redeemed the world.

Consider how Jesus, after having been scourged and crowned with thorns, was unjustly condemned by Pilate to die on the Cross.

Prayer: Dear Jesus, give us the grace not to condemn anyone. Teach us resignation in trials.

I love thee O Sweet Jesus with my whole heart and repent sincerely for having offended thee. Never permit me to offend thee again. Grant that I may love and serve thee always and then do with me what Thou wilt.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be.

P. Have mercy on us O Lord. Have mercy on us.

All: May the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. Amen.

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

SECOND STATION JESUS IS MADE TO CARRY HIS CROSS



P. We adore thee, O Christ and we bless thee
R. Because by thy Holy Cross thou hast redeemed the world.

Consider how Jesus, in making this journey with the Cross on His shoulders, thought of us, and offered His Father the death He was about to undergo.

Prayer: Dear Jesus whenever we have to carry the crosses of our daily life help us to do so lovingly and willingly.

THIRD STATION JESUS FALLS THE FIRST TIME



P. We adore thee, O Christ and we bless thee
R. Because by thy Holy Cross thou hast redeemed the world.

Consider the first fall of Jesus under the Cross. His flesh was torn by the scourges, his head was crowned with thorns. He could scarcely walk. Yet had to carry this great load upon his shoulders.

Prayer: Dear Jesus by this first fall preserve us from falling into mortal sin.

FOURTH STATION JESUS MEETS HIS MOTHER

P. We adore thee, O Christ and



we bless thee
R. Because by thy Holy Cross thou hast redeemed the world.

Consider this meeting of the Son and the Mother which took place on this journey.

Prayer: Mother Mary be with us on this our journey on earth. Guard us, guide us, and lead us to Jesus.

FIFTH STATION

SIMON OF CYRENE HELPS JESUS

P. We adore thee, O Christ and



we bless thee
R. Because by thy Holy Cross thou hast redeemed the world.

Consider how his cruel tormentors, wished him to die the shameful death on the cross and Simon of Cyrene to carry the Cross behind Our Lord.

Prayer: Dear Jesus give us the grace to help others lovingly and willingly for the love of you.

SIXTH STATION VERONICA WIPES THE FACE OF JESUS



P. We adore thee, O Christ and we bless thee
R. Because by thy Holy Cross thou hast redeemed the world.

Consider how the holy woman named Veronica, wiped his face with a towel, on which was left the impression of his holy countenance.

Prayer: Dear Jesus give us the grace to be brave and compassionate like Veronica. Help us to reach out to people who need help.

SEVENTH STATION JESUS FALLS THE SECOND TIME



P. We adore thee, O Christ and we bless thee
R. Because by thy Holy Cross thou hast redeemed the world.

Consider the second fall of Jesus under the Cross; a fall which renews the pain of all the wounds in his head and members.

Prayer: Dear Jesus preserve us from falling into sin.

EIGHT STATION JESUS CONSOLES THE WOMEN OF JERUSALEM



P. We adore thee, O Christ and we bless thee
R. Because by thy Holy Cross thou hast redeemed the world.

Consider how these women wept with compassion at seeing Jesus in such a pitiable state, streaming with blood as he walked along. 'Daughters of Jerusalem' said Jesus, 'weep not for me, but for yourselves and for your children.'

NINTH STATION JESUS FALLS FOR THE THIRD TIME



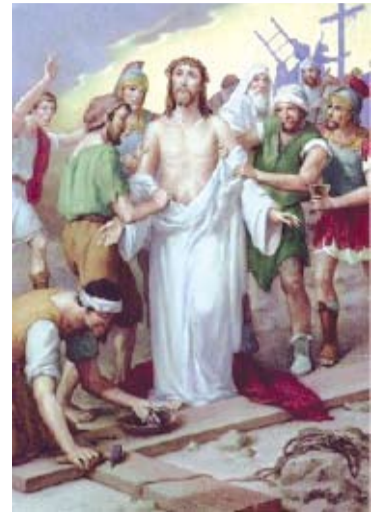
P. We adore thee, O Christ and we bless thee
R. Because by thy Holy Cross thou hast redeemed the world.

Consider the third fall of Jesus Christ. His weakness was extreme, and the cruelty of his executioners who tried to hasten his steps when he could scarcely move.

Prayer: Dearest Jesus when weary upon life's journey help us to remember your journey with the Cross.

TENTH STATION

JESUS IS STRIPPED OF HIS GARMENTS



P. We adore thee, O Christ and we bless thee
R. Because by thy Holy Cross thou hast redeemed the world.

Jesus was stripped by the executioners, His inner garments adhered to his torn flesh. and they dragged them off so roughly that the skin came with them.

Prayer: Dearest Jesus help us to keep ourselves pure and holy in thought, word and actions.

ELEVENTH STATION JESUS IS NAILED TO THE CROSS

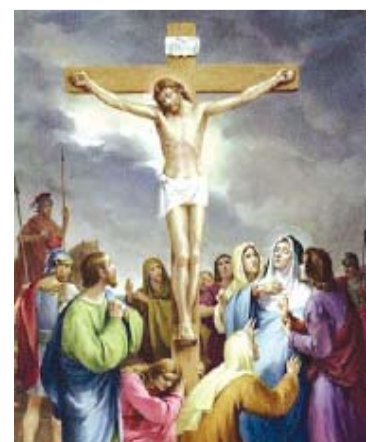


P. We adore thee, O Christ and we bless thee
R. Because by thy Holy Cross thou hast redeemed the world.

Consider how Jesus, having been placed upon the Cross, extended his hands, and offered to his eternal Father the sacrifice of his life for our salvation.

Prayer: Dearest Jesus give us the grace to forgive others as you forgive us.

TWELFTH STATION JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS



Don't sweat the small stuff!

Don't sweat the small stuff." This was a phrase that became popular a few years ago: You would hear it in coffee-shop conversations, on television talk-shows, or read such advice in "Question and Answer" columns in the daily newspaper. There was even a book written with that same title by a California psychologist. It became a best-seller. Everyone knows what it means, of course: That we shouldn't let the little things in life get us down. How one actually accomplishes this is another story altogether.

Psychologists tell us that one of the "little things" that can ruin many a day is criticism or rebuffs from other people. How should one deal with such unpleasantness? "Don't take it personally!" Urge the psychologists because we are all such unique individuals and so distinct from one another, we should just recognize that such negativity is

part of the human journey, and - as the expression goes - we should just move on.

One just has to think of a political election: Even if the Prime Minister were to win a landslide victory, garnering 55% of the popular vote, this still means that 45% of the population did not want him to win. And most politicians, to survive, do not dwell on this negative aspect; they dwell on the positive. As should we. What we should not do is turn such criticism into a full-scale crisis or an emergency! Or defend ourselves as though our lives were at stake. Believe it or not, there is a 15th century German who would agree with such sentiments completely: Thomas A. Kempis. He wrote the immortal classic, *The Imitation of Christ*, the most popular Christian book (after the Bible) of all time. One of the constant themes of the book is that we should concentrate on

pleasing God and focus on what pleases Him rather than on what pleases the world. This was a book read daily by St. Therese of Lisieux, the 19th century French saint who was declared a Doctor of the Church in 1997.

St. Therese read the book so thoroughly and so often that she could quote huge chunks of it by memory. She not only read the book, she applied it to her own life. She needed to! The industrious Therese often had to endure the criticism of the other nuns in the convent: "There were several Sisters who never ceased repeating that she was doing nothing, that she seemed to have come to Carmel to amuse herself." (Letters of St. Therese of Lisieux, Volume Two, footnotes). There were even some who thought she was faking her illness. (She died of tuberculosis at the age of 24)

The 19th century French saint who would have been in agreement with Thomas A. Kempis was St. John Vianney, who is also known as the Cure of Ars. He said in his writings: "I observe this in a great many people - that a single word of blame disturbs and disquiets them," declared the Patron Saint of priests. He gained international renown for transforming his formerly indifferent parish into a model of Christian holiness. He too spoke about the "touchiness" of certain people to criticism and says that this is related to pride, to a lack of humility. (Ouch!) In a sermon on the subject of pride he said that the saints "were so completely dead to themselves, that they cared very little whether others agreed with them or not." A truly humble person "whether he is laughed at or esteemed, praised or blamed, honoured or despised, it is all the same to him," says the saint. That attitude of detachment! So dear to the saints! But - how does one attain it?

St. Teresa of Avila, the 16th century founder of the Discalced Carmelite Order and Doctor of the Church, could tell us a thing or two about detachment: She had to learn it the hard way.

She was born in Avila, Spain in 1515, a child of wealth and privilege. She joined the Carmelite Convent of the Incarnation at Avila at the age of 20 and participated vigorously in the decidedly un-ascetic spirit of the Convent, where there was more socializing in the parlour than praying in the chapel; the charming effervescent Teresa was the most popular of the bunch! Some of the nuns even had their own servants with them in the Convent. After her conversion to Christ in her 40's (Christ appeared to her bearing the Crown of Thorns) she became resolved to devote herself entirely to Him. She realized that the



"Try to please God, the angels and the saints" - St. John Marie Vianney

lax practices in the Convent (and in herself) had to be reformed. In this she met fierce opposition: The nuns were quite happy with themselves, and their lifestyles, thank you very much. She encountered "strong opposition and criticism;" false testimony "and serious calumnies" were presented against her. "Father General was displeased with me," she said, "without any reason at all, because of information given by biased persons." Teresa reasoned that, "today people will think one thing, tomorrow, another." She took it all in her stride.

How did Teresa learn this art of detachment? In the same way as St. John Vianney: She referred everything to God. He was the centre of her life. It is important to note that one of Christ's first messages to her (He appeared to her several times) concerned this very matter: She had been fretting about peoples' negative attitudes towards her. Jesus told her not to concern herself about all that! 'Imagine. From the mouth of Jesus, Himself.

French author Marcelle Auclair, remarks in her biography, Teresa of Avila: "Everything that was difficult or dangerous Teresa put into the hands of God and when action was not possible for her she did her best to forget such matters."

And St. John Vianney's advice for dealing with criticism from others? It was straightforward: "Do not try to please everybody. Try to please God, the angels, and the saints. It is they who are your public."

The rest is all - just small stuff.

(Courtesy: Canadian Messenger - March)

The Way.....

(Contd. from Pg. 8)

P. We adore thee, O Christ and we bless thee

R. Because by thy Holy Cross thou hast redeemed the world.

Consider how Jesus, being consumed with anguish after three hours of agony on the Cross, abandoned himself to the weight of his body, bowed his head and died.

Prayer: Dearest Jesus I love You, day and night, night and day, in life and in death, in death, and in life, for all eternity.

THIRTEENTH STATION JESUS IS TAKEN DOWN FROM THE CROSS AND LAID IN THE ARMS OF HIS MOTHER



P. We adore thee, O Christ and we bless thee

R. Because by thy Holy Cross thou hast redeemed the world.

Consider how after our Lord had died Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus, took him down from the cross and placed him in the arms of his afflicted Mother.

Prayer: Mother Mary take us under your mantle take us into your loving arms hide us in your Immaculate Heart till we are ready to meet Jesus to praise God for all eternity.

FOURTEENTH STATION JESUS IS PLACED IN THE SEPULCHRE

P. We adore thee, O Christ and we bless thee

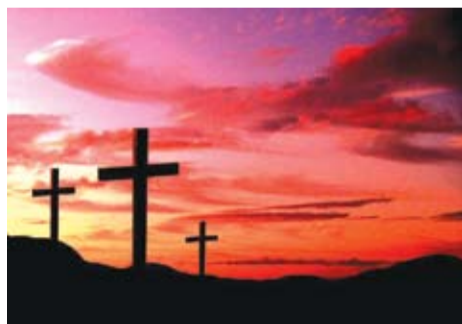


R. Because by thy Holy Cross thou hast redeemed the world.

Consider how the disciples, accompanied by his Mother, carried the body of Jesus to bury it. They closed the tomb and all came away sorrowful.

Prayer: Dear Jesus make us die to sin and rise to the life of grace.

FIFTEENTH STATION JESUS RISES FROM THE DEAD



P. We adore thee, O Christ I and we bless thee

R. Because by thy Holy Cross thou hast redeemed the world.

On the third day he rose again triumphantly. Now he is seated at the right hand of God the Father. Jesus still lives.

Prayer: Dearest Jesus give us the grace to live with you for all eternity praising, adoring and thanking you, together with Mother Mary and all the Angels and Saints.

(Sent by Emilda S. Douglas)

Kalpage Blanche Sybil Antoinette Perera Amerasinghe



Sybil as she was known was born on the 26th October 1917. Sybil was the first born. Her first recollections were of being brought up on an estate in Polgahawela, within the Kurunegala district. Her mother was Esther Weerakoon of Mailagastenne, Badulla. Esther had been educated at St. Bridget's Convent, Colombo and also taught there before marriage. Her father Mudaliyar Weerakoon was a member of the minor judiciary (Village Tribunals) which was at that time about the highest judicial position a Ceylonese could aspire to.

Sybil's father was a lawyer, and was originally from Kalutara. He was a Buddhist and his full name was Kalpage Charles Lawrence Weerasekera Perera. He later converted to Catholicism and was a great benefactor of the Church in addition to being active in the lay associations. His contribution to the Church, education and the poor was recognized by the Pope who conferred

a Knighthood of the Order of St. Sylvester.

Sybil was the eldest in a family of eleven and was educated at the Holy Family Convent, Kurunegala, and left school at an early age. She married Clarence Amerasinghe at the tender age of eighteen. Her school figured prominently in her life till the 1980's when she left Kurunegala. From the time the Past Pupils' Association was formed till the rules were changed to allow a lay person to be the President she was the Secretary. This was for a period of about twenty five years and when the rules were changed she became the President. The medal for the best student was called the Sybil Amerasinghe Medal for Good Conduct.

Sybil was also a live wire of the Sacred Heart Society in Kurunegala and was associated with it from the time she left school till she left Kurunegala. Her mother was the President for over twenty five years and when she passed away the honour was passed on to Sybil who held the position for about the same period or more. The red ribbon she wore always was her pride and an emblem of her dedication to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Her last wish was to be cremated with it.

Sybil played such a key role in church affairs in Kurunegala, carrying on the good work done by her father and mother. When she held these positions in the School and Church societies, Clarence, her husband who was the Crown Proctor, was also for a time President of the Catholic Association, a position regarded as being the leadership role of the lay Catholic community in the city.

Sybil knew how to attend to all her chores in the house, look after the needs of the children and husband, attend to her outside duties and still have time to relax with the family. However, grimy her hands were after

working in the kitchen which had a firewood hearth, by six in the evening she would be scrubbed and dressed in a saree looking fresh as if she had been waited on hand and foot during the day, so that one always felt she had loads of time for everything and everybody.

She supervised the studies of her children demonstrating her capacity for intellectual excellence beyond her role as a housewife! She excelled at Geography and Mathematics. The scale models she made of pulp for her son Ranjit were permanent exhibits in the Geography Room at St. Anthony's College for many decades and may still be there. This was the era when the legendary George Denlow taught Geography at St. Anthony's and for him to have relied on these exhibits was proof of her competence in this subject and her technical skills. She was also an artist and skilled with needle and thread, producing many works of art with paints and thread work, Sybil belonged to a generation which was taught to commit to memory poetry and other useful things.

The children all excelled in their respective fields and they were her pride. Ranjit capped a great academic career by ending up as a Supreme Court Judge. He was also a member of the Constitutional Council of Sri Lanka and Chairman of the Law Commission. Shirani is a leading Music Teacher, Nihal who is also a well known academic, was a Director of the ADB and is currently a Professor at the Asian Institute of Management and Franklyn the youngest, was the Director General of the Employers Federation of Ceylon and later with the ILO.

A Thanksgiving Mass was held in her memory on 24th of February at 7.30 p.m. at All Saints' Church, Borella.

When you take into account your whole life and the purpose of this life, or reflect on why God has put you on this earth, what do you think is the most important thing you should be doing to achieve that purpose? The ultimate purpose of your life is to go back to God, your Creator. That's why he created you. But how do you become eligible to be chosen by him?

When you go to a shop, you give your money to get what you want. To get to heaven, what must you show to God? What must you give him?

Alexander the Great, the famous con-

Thoughts that haunt me

queror of the Persian Empire, the most heroic king of all times, wanted to conquer the whole world and went on conquering many countries. When he came to India, disaster struck! He realized he was in the final stages of his life and was going to die. He told his close friends, "When I die, when you take me for burial, put me in the coffin in such a way that my empty hands will be outside the coffin and then put the lid of the coffin on top. This will be a lesson for others that although I brought so many nations under my

control, with my death, all that comes to nothing. My empty hands mean I take back nothing. All the jewels, the pearls and the gold I plundered from other nations--- put them on the ground and walk on them when you take my coffin for burial. Show the others they are of no use." But Alexander who was only 33 years when he died, was too late in realizing the true purpose of life.

During our lifetime, we try to collect as much as possible money, property, other assets and savings for the future,

whereas the goal in life should be to give like the cow who gives us while living the precious milk. Steve Jobs, the co-founder of Apple Computers, who died a few months back, once said, "Being the richest man in the country doesn't matter to me. Going to bed at night, saying that we have done something wonderful, that's what matters to me."

The only thing that matters in this life are the good deeds that you do while you are alive.

ANANDA PERERA

The Christian surrenders one's life to God

The duty of us Christians is to live a Christian way of life and witness to Christ Our Lord. In order to do so we have to submit ourselves totally to God's will. It is sad to say that very few Christians have been able to understand this.

We always perform our religious duties according to the way we feel. We go on doing what we want. We rarely contemplate on the need to ask God to direct us in our day to day work. We take God's will for granted and carry on with our activities. But Our Lord has said very clearly "Not everyone that says unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that does the will of my father who is in heaven" Mt 7: 21. These words give us the real way to be Christians.

We do not merely become Christians by practising Christianity in the way we think is right.

Our Lord during his Life on this earth showed us the real way to live a Christian life. He always did and said what his Heavenly Father wanted him to do. He never performed anything without asking help and guidance from his Heavenly Father. Lord Jesus has showed us the Christian way of Life through these words, "And he said to them all, if any man will follow me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me" Lk 9: 23. These words are very clear. We have to deny ourselves and hand over our lives to God. God gave us this life to live according to his plan. If we deviate from his plan and

do whatever we think is right then we are working according to our plan and not our maker's.

Lord Jesus has told that we are a special plan for each and everyone of us. But how many of us really ask God's help to know what he has planned for us. In order to know this we have to hand over our God given life to him and allow our Creator to navigate our ship of life. Then our Lord Jesus would be there to guide and lead us. This is what we should understand as surrendering our whole selves to God. If we do so we would be in the safe hands of our Creator. He would be really happy to welcome us and lead us to a way of life of his will. This is really our Christian calling.

Lord Jesus showed us this way of life while

on earth. In all what he preached and performed it was to accept and do what his Heavenly Father willed. He came to this world to take up his cross and walk on his way to Calvary to offer ourselves to God and redeem us from the powers of evil. He did this unto the end. Even at the eleventh hour Jesus prayed to his Father "Abba, Father, all things are possible unto thee; take away this cup away from me: nevertheless not what I will, but what thou wilt" Mk 14: 36 Jesus was truly faithful to his father's will. He knew that he was going to sacrifice his human life for us. He knew how painful and ignominious it would be. But he submitted himself to the will of God. This is what Jesus means by living a truly Christian way of life.

R.V.A. Navaratne

Even death can't break the bonds of Mother and Son Love ...



I walked away that morning, without a backward glance,
I didn't know that moment was going to be our last.
The last time I would hold you or see your lovely face,
The last time I would kiss you and feel your strong embrace.
The shattered remnant of my heart is strangely beating still, with holes so black and fathomless no light could ever fill.
I don't know how I face each day without you, my darling Amma
Gone is all the happiness, the love of life, the joy.
The year stretched on before me, so bleak and dark and long,
I pray you walk beside me, Amma, and help to keep me strong.
And when my life is over, come to me on that day, and smile at me and hold me tight and carry me away.
The wind that whispers through the trees, the brightest star at night,
A rainbow on a dismal day, a shaft of golden light,
All these are signs you send to me, a message from above,
That even death can't break the bonds, of Mother and Son Love....

Premil

Last week's book review on 'Of cabbages & things' Vol 2, was written by Anne Abheyskera.

POPE'S LETTER EXPLAINS URGENT NEED FOR YEAR OF FAITH

VATICAN CITY-Pope Benedict XVI says the Church's "Year of Faith," starting October, comes in response to a "profound crisis of faith that has affected many people" and left them searching for answers.

"Ever since the start of my ministry as Successor of Peter, I have spoken of the need to rediscover the journey of faith so as to shed ever clearer light on the joy and renewed enthusiasm of the encounter with Christ," the Pope wrote in his letter, "Porta Fidei" (Door of Faith), announcing the year long initiative.

"The door of faith' is always open for us, ushering us into the life of communion with God and offering entry into His Church," he reflected. "It is possible to cross that threshold when the Word of God is proclaimed and the heart allows itself to be shaped by transforming grace."

The Year of Faith begins from October. 11, 2012, the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Council. That same date is the 20th anniversary of Blessed John Paul II's publication of the Catechism of the Catholic Church, a text Pope Benedict XVI said was meant to show "the power and beauty of the faith."

It will conclude on November. 24, 2013, the Solemnity of Christ the King.

October 2012 will also be the occasion of the Church's next General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops, on the

theme of "The New Evangelization for the Transmission of the Christian Faith." This event, the Pope noted, "will be a good opportunity to usher the whole Church into a time of particular reflection and rediscovery of the faith."

Next year's celebration is not the Church's first "year of Faith." In 1967, Pope Paul VI presided over an observance on the same theme, which that Pope described as a response to the "disturbance" and "perplexity" surrounding the faith after the Second Vatican Council.

By studying their faith, believers can learn to explain it in light of new circumstances driving others to doubt or disbelieve.

"To a greater extent than in the past, faith is now being subjected to a series of questions arising from a changed mentality which, especially today, limits the field of certainties to that of scientific and technological discoveries," Pope Benedict observed.

"Nevertheless, the Church has never been afraid of demonstrating that there cannot be any conflict between faith and genuine science, because both, albeit via different routes, tend towards the truth."

The Pope said it would be a matter "of decisive importance" for Catholics to look back on the history of their faith during the 2012 - 2013 year, to gain an

understanding of how the Church continues Christ's mission of redemption.

"In him who died and rose again for our salvation," he said, "the examples of faith that have marked these two thousand years of our salvation history are brought into the fullness of light."

Pope Benedict has asked the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith to draw up more specific guidelines on how to "live this Year of Faith in the most effective and appropriate ways, at the service of belief and evangelization."

He cited the words of the Virgin Mary's cousin Elizabeth, on the occasion of their visitation before Christ's birth, as he asked Catholics to "entrust this time of

grace to the Mother of God, proclaimed "blessed because she believed."

Taken from <http://www.can.com>



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St. Joseph's College - Wattala Branch Inter-House Athletic Meet, 2012



St. Joseph's College, Enderamulla was a hive of activity on Friday 10th February 2012. The Enderamulla College

Grounds, bore all signs of festivity with the colourful decorations of four houses, each having huts of their own. It is clear the

excitement was well witnessed as the students of Coudert, Melizan, Bonjean and Marque, took their places in their respective

houses.

The ceremony began with the arrival of the chief guest, Rev. Fr. Victor Silva, Rector, John Mary Vianney Seminary and former Rector, St. Joseph's College, Colombo. Fr. Victor Silva was received at the gate by Rev. Fr. Ranjith Andradi, Rector, St. Joseph's College, Enderamulla and Rev. Fr. Kamal Kumara, Principal of the College, together with the teachers in charge of sport and four athletic houses. The Chief Guest was subsequently awarded the guard of honour by the College scouts and was accompanied by the School Western Band to the grounds.

Addressing the gathering, Rev. Fr. Victor Silva said, "It comes to

my mind the happy occasion, I came to this school about 13 years ago, when I assumed duties as Rector at St. Joseph's College, Colombo. When I observe the progress of this School, I can be very happy. It is a great pleasure to see this beautiful School and playground which is situated in an enchanting environment. The dedication of priests in charge are praise worthy, specially the present Rector, Rev. Fr. Ranjith Andradi. The dedication and the personal supervision of Rev. Fr. Ranjith Andradi is largely responsible for the success and present well being of the College."

Fr. Victor Silva also stated that sports activities not only uplift

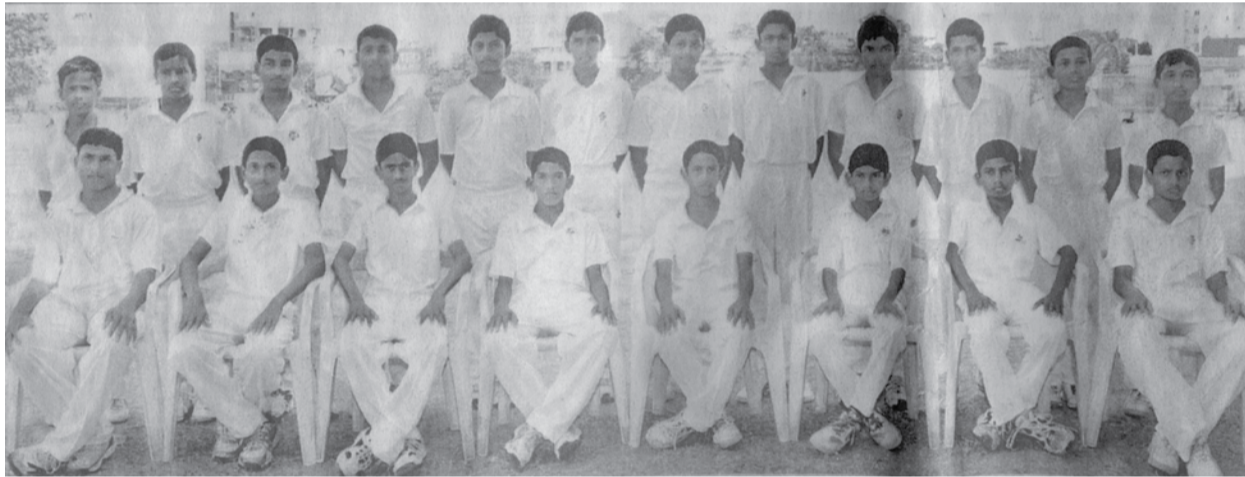
the physical progress of a child but also helped him to learn how to face victory and defeat while running the race of life.

The Vote of Thanks was given by Rev. Fr. Ranjith Andradi, Rector, St. Joseph's College, Enderamulla.

In his speech Fr. Andradi, appreciated the Masters-in-Charge of Sports, Dilshan Fonseka and Eardley Prasanna, who were accompanied by Prasanna Silva and Mrs. Niluka Silva, for their effort and hard work in making this event a success.

Text:
Padminie Nanayakkara
Pix:
Shewin Mahawatta

Up and Coming Junior Peterite Cricketers



St. Peter's College Under - 13 Division two cricketers did extremely well going upto the quarter finals of the All-Island Championship. Here, they pose for a pre-match photo.

Seated from left: Shihen Silva, Ramith Jayasena, Jeromy Perera, Supun Hansika (Captain), Shevon Perera, Sachin Silva, Rukshan Dias, Ameen Miflal. Back row: Sha-

non Fernando, Dennis Manisha, Shamil Boteju, Vihanga Ruwanpathirana, Pramuk Samaradivakara, Shamal Ratnayake, Mauranga Perera, Devin Chandira, Danushka Anthony, Jayodya Ratnayake, Shenal Mahanama, Shenal de Silva.

The Peterite cricket coach, Mr. T. Sunil, is a coach par excellence.

Brilliant answers by student but the teacher gave him '0' marks only

Q- In which battle did Tipu Sultan die?
A- His last battle!

Q- Where was the Declaration of Independence signed?
A- At the bottom of the page!

Q- What's the main reason for Divorce?
A- Marriage!

Q- River Ganges flows in which State?
A- Liquid state!

Q- When was Mahatma Gandhi born?
A- On his birthday!

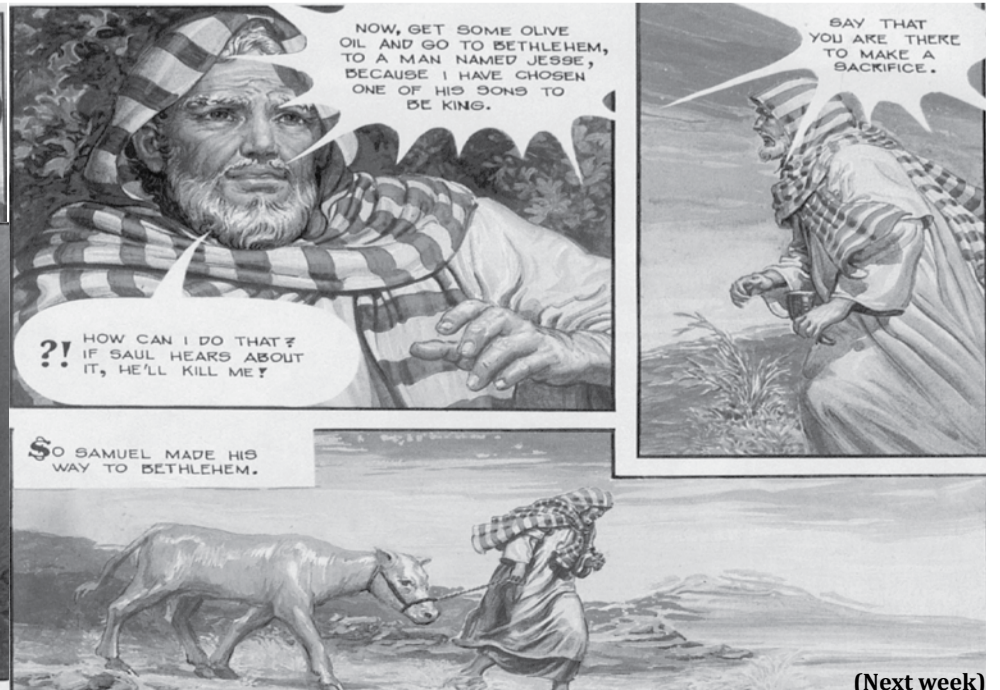
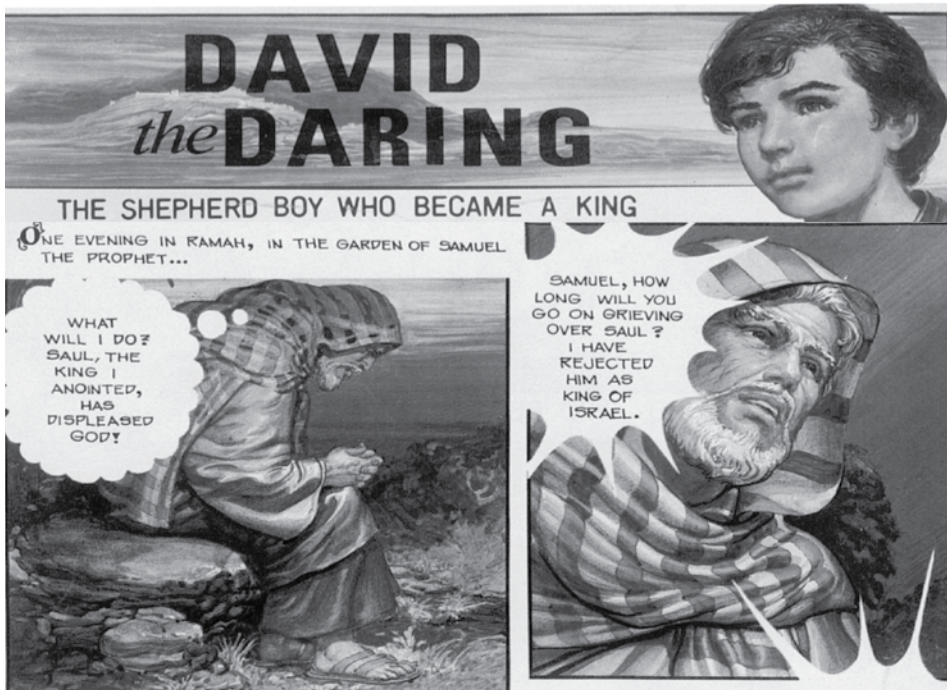
Q- How will you distribute 8 mangoes among 6 people?
A- By preparing mango shake....

Cricket- A game of glorious uncertainties

When Sri Lanka and India tied their Triangular series match in Adelaide, Australia, last Tuesday, none other than the scorers may have realized it was something out of this world where even a computer may have struggled to get it right. But a miracle took place that never happened before as both teams got it spot on equal in not only total runs but also in the number of wickets, extras, fours and sixes all being identical.

(Courtesy : The Island)

5TH MATCH FEB 2012	
SCORES	
236	236
WICKETS	
9	9
4s	
15	15
6s	
2	2
EXTRA RUNS	
(N1 W6 I R1) = 8	(R = I R1 W6 N1)



(Next week)

What it says in the Readings

Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. (Mt. 4: 4)

LITURGICAL - CALENDAR YEAR B 26th Feb. - 4th March 2012

Sun: FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

Gen. 9: 8-15, 1 Pt. 3: 18-22, Mk. 1: 12-15

Mon: Lev. 19: 1-2, 11-18, Mt. 25: 31-46

Tue: Is. 55: 10-11, Mt. 6: 7-15

Wed: Jona 3: 1-10, Lk. 11: 29-32

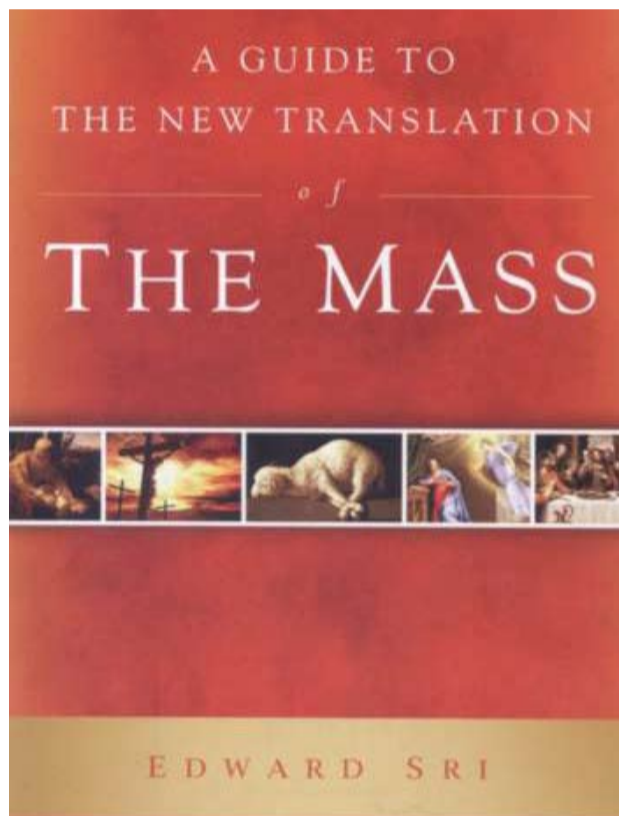
Thu: Esth 4: 17, Mt. 7: 7-12

Fri: Ez. 18: 21-28, Mt. 5: 20-26

Sat: Deut. 26:16-19, Mt. 5: 43-48

Sun: SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

Gen. 22: 1-2, 9-13, 15-18, Rom. 8: 31b-34, Mk. 9: 2-10



Questions and Answers

1. Is the Mass changing?

The essence of the Mass is not changing, but the way it is celebrated will be noticeably different. While the structure and order of the Mass will remain the same, many of the prayers and responses of the liturgy have been newly translated into English from the original Latin text. In addition, new observances for recently canonized saints, additional prefaces for the Eucharistic prayers, additional Masses for various needs and intentions, and updated instructions for the overall celebration of the Mass will be added. The most significant change people will notice, however, is the new translation of the actual words of the Mass.

2. So the Mass we celebrate in English is a translation from the Latin?

Yes. In the Roman rite of the Church, the Mass was celebrated in Latin for centuries. After the Second Vatican Council in the 1960s, the prayers of the liturgy were translated into the vernacular (or "common") language of a given country to encourage more active participation by the people. The official Latin text of the Mass is contained in a book known as the *Roman Missal* or *Missale Romanum* (from the Latin word *missalis*, meaning "pertaining to the Mass"). This is the foundational text from which bishops around the world commission translations of the Mass into local languages.

3. How significant will the changes in the Mass parts be?

The new translation will bring about the most significant change in the way most English-speaking Catholics participate in the Mass since the years following the Second Vatican Council (1962-1965), when the liturgical texts were translated into English and officially used in worship for the first time. When the new translation is implemented, we will see how almost

Theme: Repentance (conversion) and Righteous Life, lead us to the fulfilment of our genuine expectations.

1st Reading: Genesis 9: 8-15

Noah and his sons who had led a righteous life were saved from the destructive flood. After the flood God made a covenant with Noah and the whole of creation, never again to wipe out the human race with the rest of creation, with a flood. The rainbow that symbolized God's compassion became the sign of this covenant. For the people of the Ancient Middle East, the rainbow symbolized that the destructive rainstorm was over. Hence it meant the beginning of many new expectations. The message here is God's unfailing love and compassion for the righteous and just now.

2nd Reading: 1 Peter 3: 18-22

Basing himself on the story of the destructive flood waters at the time of Noah, St. Peter

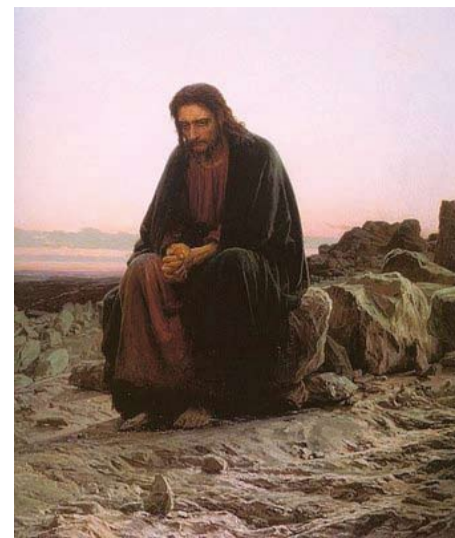
teaches us that the water at our baptism has become a sign of salvation on account of our conversion (repentance) and the life-giving death of Jesus. Contrasting the destructive flood waters and the life-giving water of baptism, St. Peter stresses on the necessity of living a righteous life in order to be saved.

Gospel: Mark 1: 12-15

After the death of John the Baptist, Jesus inaugurating a new era of salvation, preaches the Good News emphasizing on the necessity of repentance (conversion). Conversion means returning to the right path of life in order to live the values of the Gospel. Hence repentance is a necessary condition to accept as well as to live the Gospel.

Reflection:

While a righteous life leads us to salvation in Christ, a sinful life brings about destruction. Hence do we accept the necessity of conversion?



Water at baptism symbolizes our salvation in Christ. This becomes a reality provided we are resolved to be converted and to live a righteous life. Do we accept this?

It is only through true conversion we are able to accept as well as to live the values of the Gospel.

A life of resurrection in Christ can be achieved by rejecting (dying to) sin and living according to what Jesus has taught us.

Rev. Fr. Henry Silva

all of the prayers have been affected by it. The basic structure of the prayers will for the most part remain the same, but the change in wording at many points throughout the liturgy will be quite noticeable. For a time, most Catholics will no longer be able to walk into church on Sunday and automatically recite the Gloria, the Creed, and other Mass parts by memory. They will need a guide to help them become accustomed to the new translation of these prayers.

4. Why do we need a new translation?

When the Second Vatican Council allowed for "a more extended use of the mother tongue within the Mass" (*Sacrosanctum Concilium*, no. 53), various groups worked quickly to develop an official English translation to be used for the first time in worship, and a full English missal was published in 1973. The approach to translation used at that time (known as "dynamic equivalence") aimed at communicating the general meaning of the Latin text of the Mass, rather than providing a literal, or word-for-word, translation.

After forty years of celebrating Mass in English, the Church has come to see certain areas where the English text could be improved. Some have noted that, when the Latin text was paraphrased, a number of rich spiritual metaphors and images were lost. Important theological concepts were not always clear, and several biblical allusions did not shine out as noticeably as they could.

In 2001, the Vatican called for a more precise translation that gives Catholics a better sense of the richness of the Latin text - a translation that would be "without omissions or additions in terms of their content, without paraphrases or glosses" (*Liturgiam Authenticam*, no. 20). Following this approach, the new translation of the Mass preserves more fully the theological tradition captured throughout the centuries in the liturgy. It also more clearly communicates the many biblical allusions and vital theological concepts that are expressed in the Latin original.

5. Who is responsible for making the English translation of the Mass?

The translation process actually entails the work of several groups. Following the issuance of Vatican II's Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy (*Sacrosanctum Concilium*) in 1963, the bishops' conferences in several English-speaking countries commissioned a Vatican-approved organization known as the International Commission on English in the Liturgy (ICEL) to prepare preliminary translations of the Mass. These translations are then reviewed, modified, and approved by each country's conference of bishops. They are then sent to Rome for final approval by the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, the Vatican office that oversees all matters concerning

the celebration of the liturgy.

The Congregation is assisted by a subcommittee of bishops and consultants from the English-speaking world known as *Vox Clara* ("Clear Voice").

6. What are some examples of the changes made to the prayers of the Mass?

A change everyone will notice at the very beginning of Mass is the people's response to the priest's greeting, "The Lord be with you." In place of the words "And also with you," the congregation will reply, "And with your spirit" - wording that better reflects the biblical language of St. Paul in his letters (see Galatians 6:18; Philippians 4:23; 2 Timothy 4:22) and recognizes the unique work of the Holy Spirit through the ordained priest to celebrate the Eucharist.

People will also notice a change in the opening word of the Nicene Creed. Instead of saying "We believe in one God ...," the congregation will begin "I believe in one God ...," a more personal expression of faith - as well as a more literal translation of the Latin text of the Creed.

A commentary on the major changes to the English text of the Mass begins on page 10. In addition, a tear-out chart containing all of the new people's parts of the Mass can be found at the end of this booklet.

(To be continued next week)

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Response: Create a new spirit within us, O Lord.

On this first Sunday of Lent we pray for the discipline which will enable us to follow the example of Jesus in the desert, so that we too may be victorious over the evil one. Let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Create a new spirit within us, O Lord.

For all Christians that they may not be content with a superficial renewal of their lives but that they may strive after conversion of heart this Lent. Let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Create a new spirit within us, O Lord.

For the leaders of our government, that they may have the courage and the wisdom to tackle the root cause of poverty and crime in our society. Let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Create a new spirit within us, O Lord.

For those who are struggling with temptations: That the grace of Christ may help them to be victorious. Let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Create a new spirit within us, O Lord.