



Sede Vacante

4 Pg



The Roman Pontiffs 8-10 Pg



Journey to Golgotha

13 Pg

Messenger



March

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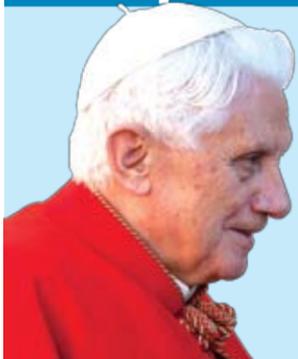
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Archdiocese of Colombo Childrens' Day

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Pope Benedict XVI issues 'Motu Proprio' to allow earlier Conclave



EWTN/CNA - Pope Benedict XVI has changed Church law allowing cardinals to vote earlier for the new Pope, provided that they are all in Rome.

"Pope Benedict XVI allows for the College of Cardinals to begin the Conclave before fifteen days have passed from

the beginning of the *Sede Vacante*, providing that all voting cardinals are present," said Archbishop Pier Luigi Celata last Monday at the Holy See's press office.

The Pope's February 25, 'Motu Proprio,' a decree written on his own initiative, means that the cardinals

will no longer have to wait 15 days to elect the new Head of the Church.

"The modification also provides that the Conclave must begin no more than 20 days after the beginning of the *Sede Vacante*, even if all the electors are not present," Archbishop Celata added.

But the exact

date when the voting will begin remains unknown until the cardinals hold their initial general meetings, according to the Holy See's Press Office Director, Father Federico Lombardi.

Fr. Lombardi also said that the cardinals may not announce the date of the

Conclave until after they meet a second time.

Pope Benedict's declaration modified Blessed John Paul II's 'Universi Dominici Gregis,' a 1996 Apostolic Constitution amendment, which also was a modification of the rules on the Conclave.

VOTE OF APPRECIATION FOR THE HOLY FATHER

A Vote of Appreciation in Honour of His Holiness, Benedict XVI who stepped down as the Chief Shepherd of the Catholic Church, was taken up in Parliament last Wednesday (20).



Many parliamentarians from both sides of the House spoke in exaltation of the Holy Father as a person who stood for unity at an international level.

Applications for Catholic Private Schools

The Catholic Education Office of the Archdiocese, hereby wishes to inform the public, that the dates specified for the issue of application forms for admission related to all Catholic Private Schools, in 2014, will be notified in the next issue of the 'Messenger' dated March 10, 2013.

Eucharistic Miracles Exhibition

An Eucharistic Miracles Exhibition will be declared open by His Lordship, Rt. Rev. Dr. Emmanuel Fernando, Auxiliary Bishop of Colombo on Friday, March 1, at St. Lucia's Cathedral, Kotahena. The Exhibition will be held from March 1 to 4.

The event will provide comprehensive information in English,

Sinhala and Tamil on the exhibits and their significance, while important images depicting the miracles together with their locations will be vividly displayed.

The Exhibition will be initially launched in the Archdiocese of Colombo and subsequently be held in other dioceses

(SEE PG. 2)

New Provincial for CMSF

Rev. Bro. Jayaraj Arulanandan cmsf was elected as the new Provincial of the Congregation of the Missionary Brothers of St. Francis of Assisi recently, with Bro. J. Selvanayagam as Vice Provincial, and Bro. Rajendiran Sahayanathan as Provincial Bursar. Bros. Theoples Therese, Melson Devarasa and Rajendiran Sahayanathan were elected as councilors.



Rev. Bro. J. Arulanandan

Bro. Jayaraj Arulanandan, was born on August 8, 1973 in Dehiowita, Diocese of Ratnapura, to late

(CONTD ON PG. 2)

Professional Counselling - an essential requirement for school students



Chief Guest Mr. Geoffrey Alagaratnam and his wife Dilani, being welcomed by the Rector of St. Peter's College, Rev. Fr. Travis Gabriel, Vice Rectors and staff members.

Presenting the Annual Report of St. Peter's College, Bambalapitiya at the prize-giving held recently, the Rector, Rev. Fr. Travis Gabriel

said that the emotional health of a student is an essential foundation for the development of a healthy individual.

Many are the multi-faceted issues of our times and they have posed a challenge to students and even 'accompany the students to school,' Fr. Travis observed.

We give below excerpts of the address:

"Today we live in a multi-faceted society. Many social, cultural, economical and religious issues have become entwined with our day to day lives. In the present day context, various challenges of life accompany the students to school. The lives of these students are to a great extent affected by these challenges, without them being fully aware of it. Their minds and emotions are not at rest and therefore

(CONTD ON PG. 3)

'Pope Emeritus'

Vatican City, (VIS) - Benedict XVI will be 'Pontiff Emeritus' or 'Pope Emeritus', Fr. Federico Lombardi, S.J., Director of the Holy See Press Office, reported in a press conference on Tuesday, February 26. He will keep the name of 'His Holiness, Benedict XVI' and will dress in a simple white cassock without the mozzetta. (elbow-length cape).

Sri Lankan-Indian devotees flock to St. Anthony's Church, Katchativu

Sri Lankan devotees from the North and several from India gathered in numbers to celebrate the annual feast of St. Anthony's Church in Katchativu.

The Festive Mass was presided over by His Lordship, Rt. Rev. Dr. Thomas Savundaranayagam, Bishop of Jaffna. All festive preparations were organized by the



Administrator, Rev. Fr. A. Amal Rajan.

This celebration which is observed annually to bring about close ties between Sri Lanka and India, was enabled through

the mediation of the Defence Ministry.

The Navy Commander Vice Admiral, Jayanath Colombage, monitored and facilitated the proceedings.

Admissions to St. Aloysius' Seminary for 2014

St. Aloysius' Seminary trains young students to serve as priests in the Archdiocese of Colombo. Application forms for entrance in the year 2014 are being issued from the first week of March 2013.

Students who are in Grade 9 and above, can speak to their respective parish priests of their intention of becoming a

priest. The parish priest can obtain the application forms from the Seminary following the guidelines of the Diocese.

The filled application forms should be handed over to the Seminary before April 30, 2013.

Rev. Fr. Rector
St. Aloysius' Seminary, Borella.

Easter Articles



Please send in your contributions for the Easter Issue of the 'Messenger' before March 17, 2013.

New Principal for St. Anne's, Kurunegala

Rev. Bro. A.E. Tarcisius FSC has assumed duties last week as the Principal of St. Anne's College, Kurunegala, replacing the late Bro. Denzil Mendis.

Bro. Tarcisius moves to Kurunegala from De La Salle College, Mutwal where he was Principal for 17 years from 1996. Beginning his teaching career at St. Xavier's College, Mannar, he also served a stint at St. Anthony's College, Wattala. In addition, he has served the De La Salle Congregation as the Bursar of the Province for the period 1998/99.



A.J.

Annual Lenten Renewal of Kotahena Shepherds

The annual Lenten Renewal of the past pupils of Good Shepherd Convent, Kotahena will be held on Sunday March 10, 2012 from 9.00 a.m. to 12 noon followed by Holy Mass and lunch at the Kotahena Shepherdian Home for Elders, No. 25/28, Kattiyawatta Road, Mabile, Wattala

For details call: Antoinette Fernando, Tel. No. 071-6283875 on or before March 7, 2013. All past pupils are welcome.

St. Anthony's Church Choir, Mahawatte, celebrates fifty years



The Choir of St. Anthony's Church, Mahawatte, celebrated its 50th anniversary on February 9, 2013. Fifty years in general is indeed a memorable span and it was really a joyous occasion for all the Mahawatte choristers past and present. It was heartening to see the founder members of the choir and the present choristers gathering together to celebrate this great event.

The celebrations began with the Festive Masand and the lighting of the traditional oil lamp. The present choristers provided the singing. A few speeches were made before the conclusion of the Mass. All choir members past and present who had given generously their time and service, were thanked and their contribution appreciated. The late Rev. Fr. Bernard Balois OMI who was instrumental in forming this choir was specially remembered with honour and gratitude. The celebrations came to an end with a fellowship dinner.

Choristers come and choristers go. The prayer is that they will be able to render service generously to the end 'May St. Anthony keep the Mahawatte Choir going' - 'Ad Multos Annos'.

Ramani Perera

Exhibition of the Eucharistic Miracles in the Archdiocese of Colombo

Month	Date	Deanery	Parish
March	1 - 4	Colombo North	Kotahena
March	8 - 11	Combo Central	Borella
March	15 - 18	Colombo South	Kollupitiya
March	22 - 25	Moratuwa	Moratuwa
April	5 - 8	Kalutara	Paiyagala
April	26 - 29	Gurubawila	Pahathgama
May	3 - 6	Gampaha	Moragoda
May	10 - 13	Katana	Halpe
May	17 - 20	Negombo (1)	Grand Street
May	23 - 26	Negombo (2)	Kadolkale
May-June	31-3	Thudella	Ja-ela
June	7 - 10	Kandana	Weligampitiya
June	14 - 17	Ragama	Ragama
June	21 - 24	Wattala	Wattala
June-July	28 - 01	Kotte	Rajagiriya
July	12 - 15		Dehiwala
July	26 - 29		Indigolla
August	1 - 5		Dalupotha
August	16 - 19		Tewatte

Celebrating the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, Kalutara



The 104th Annual Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, Kalutara was held recently. The Archbishop of Colombo, His Eminence Malcolm Cardinal Ranjith presided at Vespers assisted by Rev. Fr. Suran Attidiya, (right) and Rev. Dr. Anthony Fernandopulle, Episcopal Vicar, Colombo South Region.

Picture shows His Eminence being accompanied to the Grotto by Rev. Fr. Suran Attidiya, Parish Priest, Kalutara and Rev. Fr. Maurice Namal, Dean (Kalutara Deanery).

D. Anselm Fernando

St. Anthony's College, Wattala clinch 'Best Batsman Award' at U. 13 Inter-School Tournament

Master Saman Prabash of St. Anthony's College, Wattala clinched the Best Batsman Award at the finals of the Inter-School Under 13, Division I Cricket Tournament, held recently at the Thurstan College Grounds.

For the first time St. Anthony's College, Wattala entered the finals but lost to Richmond College, Galle and became runners-up of the Tournament.

Clarence Leonard

New Provincial...

Contd. from Pg. 1

In 1989 after his school education he joined the Congregation of the Franciscan Missionary Brothers Matala. His novitiate was at Chilaw from 1991 to 1993, and was later sent to India to do Vocational Training and study Franciscan Spirituality from 1995 to 1997. He did biblical studies at ISFA Mutuwala from 1998 to 1999 and successfully partook in a course on Animating Communities at Sadana Institute, India in 2011.

He served as Assistant Superior at Mariya Joseph Brothers House, and was Director at St. Francis Boys' Home, Matala, prior to being the Director of the Don Bosco Boys' Home for ten years.

We pray for him and for his team to carry out the mission and the service of our Lord Jesus in the footsteps of our Seraphic Father, St. Francis of Assisi and our Beloved Founder, Paulus Moritz. We wish them all success.

Bro. Joseph Justus, C.M.S.F
Provincial Secretary

The Eucharistic Miracles Exhibition in Sri Lanka

In the words of St Thomas Aquinas, "Material food first changes into the one who eats it, and then as a consequence, restores to him lost strength and increases his vitality. Spiritual food on the other hand, changes the person who eats it into itself. Thus the effect proper to this Sacrament is the conversion of a man into Christ, so that he may no longer live, but Christ lives in him; consequently, it has the double effect of restoring the spiritual strength he had lost by his sins and defects, and of increasing the strength of his virtues."

The importance of the Eucharist in the life of a Catholic is very well described in the above quotation. The Pontifical Academy in Rome made a detailed study of all the Eucharistic Miracles that had taken place around the World and selected 126 after a process of thorough investigation. They had an Exhibition of these miracles in Rome in the year 2004 which was declared by His Holiness Pope John Paul II as the year of the Eucharist. This Exhibition which proved to be a great success was held in several Parishes in Italy.

Following this success the 'Real Presence' Eucharistic Adoration and Education Association in the United States with the support of the Pontifical Academy held the Exhibition in the US in several Parishes and called it the Vatican International Eucharistic Miracles of the World Exhibition.

This Association published a book with detailed descriptions and illustration of all the Miracles and also produced VCD's and DVD's. We have received all the in-

First priest-son of Tangalle



Rev. Fr. Naveen Jude de Silva who was ordained to the priesthood on January 29, 2012 becomes the first priest-son of the Tangalle parish which has a history of over a hundred years. He was ordained by the Bishop of Galle, Rt. Rev. Dr. Raymond Wickramasinghe at St. Mary's Cathedral, Galle.

Ainslie Joseph

Ihala Katuneriya - new Parish in Chilaw Diocese

Rev. Fr. Pius Kennedy Fernando has assumed duties last week as Parish Priest of the newly created Parish of Ihala Katuneriya in Chilaw Diocese. The former Katuneriya Parish has now been divided into Ihala and Pahala Katuneriya.

Fr. Kennedy Fernando was previously the Parish Priest of St. Sebastian's Church, Madampe for six years, prior to which he taught for ten years in the National Seminary, Ampitiya as Dean of the Philosophate. He is also currently the Secretary of the Catholic National Commission for Ecumenism and Interreligious Dialogue.

A.J.

Vincent de Paul Society distribution of hearing aids



Hearing Aids were distributed free of charge for the needy people. This was distributed at the Dalupotha Mission House organised by the Dalupotha Vincent De Paul Society. The Negombo City, Lions' Club sponsored this project which was a great relief to the needy people.

On the same day Professor Anton Meemana's book titled *Jeewitharakshana Patamalawa* (ජීවිතාරක්ෂණ පාඨමාලාව) was distributed among a group of mission leaders.

Rev. Fr. Julius Christopher, Parish Priest, St. Anthony's Shrine, Dean of Negombo Region and Spiritual Director of St. Vincent De Paul Society distributed the hearing aids and the books among the people.

Rev. Fr. A. Roland Leslie

The Eucharistic Miracles Exhibition in Sri Lanka

formation from them and also the support of the Pontifical Academy to hold the Exhibition in Sri Lanka, this year which has been declared by His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI, as the 'Year of Faith'. His Eminence Malcolm Cardinal Ranjith appointed Rt. Rev. Dr. Emmanuel Fernando, Auxiliary Bishop of Colombo, to head the Committee to organize this Exhibition in Sri Lanka. We wish to thank His Lordship for his able guidance and support, the Committee has decided to publish this book which will serve as a Catalogue for the Exhibition and benefit those who did not have the opportunity to attend. Our thanks go out to Rev. Father Sanath Fernando for attending to the translations

We wish to record our gratitude to our Sponsor of the book Mr. Manik Pereira and also those who provided financial support for the Exhibition, Manik Perera, Navindra Abeyesekera and Naresh Abeyesekera.

On behalf of the committee,
Anton Abeyesekera

A Special Lecture

A lecture on "Faith is God's gift but we must confess with our lips and entrust ourselves fully to God." (Rom 10: 10), (Acts 16:14) will be delivered by Rev. Fr. Emmanuel Fernando, OMI on March 5, 2013, from 4.00 to 6.15 p.m. at the Institute of Spiritual Formation of Asia (ISFA) 130, De La Salle Street, Colombo 15

Director - 0777-682-989

50th Jubilee of Don Bosco Technical College, Ethukala, Negombo

Don Bosco Technical College, Ethukala, in Negombo celebrated its 50th Jubilee recently coinciding with the 25th Silver Jubilee of the Priestly Ordination of Rev. Fr. Anthony H. Pinto SDB. While His Lordship Bishop Vianney Fernando, Bishop of Kandy, presided at the Jubilee Vespers, Rev. Fr. Anthony presided at the Jubilee Eucharistic celebration together with Very Rev. Fr. Nihal Liyanage SDB, Council Members and the other priests gathered.

His Excellency Archbishop Joseph Spiteri, the Apostolic Nuncio in Sri Lanka and His Grace Archbishop Emeritus Oswald Gomis also partici-

pated in the 50th Golden Jubilee Mass.

After the Eucharistic celebration, a cultural show and the presentation of awards were held in the presence of Minister Dulles Alahapperuma - Minister for Youth Affairs and Skills Development, Minister Sarath Kumara Gunaratne - Deputy Minister of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development and several other government representatives.

Sri Lanka was one of the earliest foreign missions, which Don Bosco planned to reach and had Don G. Cagliari as the pioneer.

Thomas Cardinal

Cooray, the Archbishop of Colombo allocated a 12 acre piece of land in Ettukala, Negombo for a technical school in January 1962 and Fr. Henry Remery a French National built a seven foot wall to enclose the premises. He started a small oratory and a workshop. The first Salesian at Negombo was Br. M. A. Christy Fernando who worked with Fr. Remery along with Br. Janze with a lot of enthusiasm.

Fr. Difiore - The Provincial of Madras visited Don Bosco, Negombo for the first time in 1972.

In 1967 a new and large workshop was added with carpentry, arc welding, and mechanics.

In 1991 Fr. Pinto started motor mechanism, electronics, and out-board motor repair. Air conditioning was introduced in 1993.

The Printing section was introduced in 1998. The Institute progressed under the administration of several Salesian Priests and blossomed into a new chapter from 1988 to 2004 under the leadership of the then Rector, Rev. Fr. Anthony H. Pinto, Rev. Fr. Felix Mallawarachchi, assisted by the Program Coordinator: W. S. A. Perera.

On the 15th of August 2004, Rev. Fr. Ajith Shiran Karawgoda, Rev.



His Grace Archbishop Emeritus Oswald Gomis is seen lighting the oil lamp with His Ex Most Rev. Dr. Joseph Spiteri, Apostolic Nuncio on his right.

Fr. Joe Xavier and Rev. Fr. Benard Fernard assumed duties as the Rector, Principal and the administrator on this Institution, respectively.

Rev. Fr. Sunil De Silva

Professional Counselling....

Contd. from Pg. 1

emotions are not at rest and therefore they find it difficult to cope with the challenges they have to face while at school. The inevitable result is that the students find it difficult to manage their daily life pattern, their studies get hampered a great deal and they become the 'problem children' we encounter in our classrooms.

A student's academic skills can lie dormant or function at minimum level due to various problems confronting him at a personal level. These underlying problems have to be detected with professional delicacy and dealt with accordingly.

The last couple of years have seen a surge in the variety of concerns and problems faced by students. Family related problems, stress and anxiety are the most pressing emotional and behavioural health issues found among teenagers. Study and research have revealed that one of the most common causes is an unstable home life arising from divorce, poor parenting, loss of parents and single parents. Academic problems, peer group pressure, financial instability, exposure to unsuitable media and social status comparisons could also cause much depression and tension. A lack of religious and moral values also have an undesirable effect on students.

There is also another very common problem that we educationists have to be aware of and that is the academic pressure experienced by students in wanting to perform well and obtain good results at public examinations. They face stiff competition from their peers and in trying to achieve the best, fill up their free hours with a string of tuition classes, leaving no time for relaxation and leisure. This kind of pressure can be very dangerous and produce adverse results especially health wise. We, educationists and parents, have a serious responsibility to guide these youngsters and direct them towards their goals.

Holy Cross College OBU Meets His Eminence



The Executive Committee members of the OBU at Holy Cross College, Kalutara met His Eminence Malcolm Cardinal Ranjith recently together with President of the OBU and Rector of Holy Cross College, Rev. Fr. Camillus Fernando

We, the school authorities, need to provide Professional Counselling to our students in order to promote emotional and behavioural health.

The Role of the Professional Counsellor

In a Catholic School like ours, we believe that God has created all human beings according to the image and likeness of Himself for a predestined mission. The role of the Counsellor could be seen as an unravelling of this image and likeness in each student and each person, as it has been vitiated and clouded by the factors that were discussed above. The environment, experiences and education in which students are immersed today have confused and complicated their lives. So the contribution and accompaniment of an enlightened Counsellor, a Mentor or a "Guru" is a must in today's

New Daham Pasal Prefects of St. Kolbe's Church, Kanuwana



The election of New Prefects of St. Kolbe's Daham School at Visakawatta, Kanuwana for 2013 took place recently. Here the new prefects are seen with the chief guest on the occasion Rev. Fr. Dilan Perera OMI, Editor of *Bakthi Prabodanaya*, and Rev. Fr. Lester Nonis the Parish Priest, Rev. Sisters and Staff members of the Daham school.

Sarojinie Perera

school environment, so that students may realize their self - worth, self - esteem, self - awareness and self - fulfilment.

Professional Counselling is the answer to calm today's ruffled young minds and help them become responsible citizens of the future.

The prize-giving was held at the Nicholas Perera Hall with Chief Guest being Mr. Geoffery Alagaratnam, distinguished Old Boy and President's Council.



From the Vatican

The Lord called me to climb the mountain: Pope Benedict XVI

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Pope Benedict XVI gave his pontificate's final Sunday blessing from his studio window to the cheers of tens of thousands of people packing St. Peter's Square, but sought to reassure the faithful that he wasn't abandoning the church by retiring to spend his final years in prayer.

"Dear brothers and sisters," the Pope said as he dwelt on the Sunday Gospel on the Transfiguration, "the Word of God feels particularly directed at me, at this point in my life. The Lord called me to 'climb the mountain,' to devote myself even more to prayer and meditation."

"But this doesn't mean abandoning the church," he said, as many in the crowd looked sad at his departure from regular view. "On the contrary, if God asks me, this is because I can continue to serve it (the church) with the same dedication and the same love which I have tried to do so until now, but in a way more suitable to my age and to my strength."

Around 120,000 pilgrims heard Holy Father Benedict XVI deliver his last Angelus address.

SUNDAY PUNCH

by Camillus

CARRY YOUR CROSS AND COME TO GOD



THE CATHOLIC WEEKLY OF SRI LANKA
Messenger
SINCE 1988

EDITORIAL

March 3, 2013

"If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in His love" (John 15:10). "If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples" (John 15:7-8).

Can we compromise the teachings of Our Lord and still remain His true disciples?

His Eminence Malcolm Cardinal Ranjith has drawn the attention of our Catholic politicians and VIP's to their obligation to uphold the Catholic teachings and practices in their public life. While these persons are compromising their Catholic practice there are other Christians in the West who steadfastly stand up for Christ in the face of opposition from the law and the courts and discrimination in their workplaces. Nadia Eweida, a BA worker, from south-west London, made the headlines when she was sent home in 2006 after refusing to remove a necklace with a cross or hide it from view. Shirley Chaplin, from Exeter, was moved away from nursing to a clerical role by the Royal Devon and Exeter NHS Trust in Devon after refusing to remove a necklace bearing a crucifix. She lost her job after 30 years of nursing.

These are Christians who bore witness to their faith in their day to day professional lives. They stood against the viewpoint that they can have faith but not demonstrate it in public in their professional lives.

Christ's commands relate to the formation of our Christian character. His commands throughout Scripture, are related to character qualities such as honesty, integrity and fairness which are intertwined. The development of our character is the objective of all the things that God allows to happen to us and should be our goal. "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God.... To be conformed to the image of His Son" (Romans 8:28-29). So if we compromise our conduct as Christians can we develop our moral character? Do we not tend to compromise other values too like integrity in our public life?

Those who bow before alien religious gods or follow practices which are not in conformity with our Christian beliefs and practices are seeking to deceive the non-Catholic majority community in our country. They show that they do not have a Christian conscience and are willing to go along with what is pragmatic and will bring them worldly recognition and esteem. "You must face the facts. Christ preached that there was only ONE WAY to the Father and that was THROUGH HIM. The Old Testament refers to how the people of Israel turned from the worship of the One True God to the worship of idols. They prayed to a god who was completely incapable to doing anything for them. Worldly gods may give positions and temporary power, honour and even happiness but it is not a sign of having the real truth. It simply is the fact that you are choosing worldly power and honour instead of the Truth. Power and honour are only a temporary state of being.

Jesus also referred to His disciples as the light of the world. "A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lamp stand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven." Should not our politicians and public dignitaries note and follow this teaching of Our Lord?

'Sede Vacante' When the Holy See is Vacant...

Rev. Fr. Freely Muthukudaarachchi

The Holy See has fallen vacant until a new Pope is elected by the Conclave of Cardinals after the renouncement of Pope Benedict XVI which took effect on February 28. It is like a diocese getting vacant when the bishop has died, transferred or resigned from office. The Diocese of Rome is vacant, so also the Holy See. It is said that during the time of the vacancy, no innovations (*sede vacante nihil innovetur*) are to be made in the diocese or in the Apostolic See, such as new appointments, erection of parishes and Dioceses or issuing new decrees or carry out acts involving the power of governance reserved to the Pope (Canon 335). The norms to be followed during the vacancy and the election of the Roman Pontiff are given in the Apostolic Constitution, *Universi Dominici Gregis* issued in 1996 by Pope John Paul II.

Government of the Church

During the period of transition of the Apostolic See, the government of the Church is entrusted to the College of Cardinals, for the preparation of everything necessary for the election of the new Pope. All the heads of the Dicasteries of the Roman Curia — the Cardinal Secretary of State and the Cardinal Prefects, the Archbishop Presidents, together with the members of those Dicasteries — cease to exercise their office. The two Cardinals who do not loose office during the vacancy and continue to function in their office are Camerlengo and Major Penitentiary.

Camerlengo - Cardinal in-Charge of Administration of Temporal Affairs

The person in-charge of (Apostolic Camera) all administrative activities of the Holy See during the time of the vacancy is the Apostolic Chamberlain who is also called the Camerlengo. His duties and responsibilities are: *Cardinal Camerlengo, after the renouncement of office by the Pope, shall take possession of the Apostolic Palace in the Vatican and, either in person or through a delegate, of the Palaces of the Lateran and of Castel Gandolfo, and exercise custody and administration of the same. During the vacancy of the Apostolic See, the Camerlengo of the Holy Roman Church has the duty of safeguarding and administering the goods and temporal rights of the Holy See, with the help of the three Cardinal Assistants, having sought the views of the College of Cardinals, once only for less important matters, and on each occasion when more serious matters arise (No. 17).*

Since 2007 Tarcisio Cardinal Bertone has held concurrently the positions of Secretary of State and Camerlengo being appointed by Pope Benedict XVI. However, his office as Secretary of State has ceased. He continues in office as Camerlengo. The Vice Camerlengo is Archbishop Pier Luigi Celata who will assist Cardinal Bertone in the administration of the Apostolic See during the vacancy.

Paenitentario Maiore - Cardinal/Minister-in-Charge of Spiritual Affairs

The other Cardinal who retains in office during the vacancy is the Major Penitentiary, Manuel Cardinal Monteiro De Castro. The Major Penitentiary is in charge of the Apostolic Penitentiary, the dicastery of the Holy See responsible for indulgences, the provision of confessors for the major basilicas in Rome, and judging questions of conscience, called internal forum, submitted for adjudication to the Holy See, such as dispensations and absolution from sanctions. This ordinary spiritual work continues during the vacancy of the Roman See, so that souls may continue to benefit (No. 14).

Administration of the Diocese of Rome

Cardinal Vicar General of the Diocese of



Rome Agostino Cardinal Vallini will continue in office and will be in charge of the administration of the Diocese of Rome during the vacancy. But all the other Episcopal Vicars cease to function like during the vacancy of any other diocese.

Cardinal Archbishop of the Vatican St. Peter's Basilica, Angelo Cardinal Comastri and Vicar General for the Governorate of the Vatican City State, Giuseppe Cardinal Bertello will continue in office in order to oversee the logistics during the vacancy and Conclave and at the installation of the New Pope (No. 14).

Officials of the Conclave

The Dean of the College of Cardinals carry out various internal functions within the College and presides over them, however, he has no authority over other Cardinals. The Dean of the College convokes the Cardinals during the vacancy and presides over their congregations and meetings. He also sends the notice to all the Cardinal electors in order to convene the Conclave. He is the one who asks the elected to accept election as Pope.

The Dean of the College of Cardinals is Angelo Cardinal Sodano who was elected to this post by Cardinals in 2007. Cardinal Sodano is 85-years-old and not a Cardinal elector at the upcoming Conclave. The Vice Dean of the College of Cardinals is Roger Cardinal Etchegaray who is 90-years-old and also not a Cardinal elector.

However, because at present both the Dean and the Vice Dean are over eighty years of age, the Cardinal elector who is first in rank and age will preside over the Conclave. At present (Cardinal-bishop) Giovanni Battista Cardinal Re (79) is the senior elector in rank and age (No. 9).

The senior Cardinal-Deacon who will carry out duties in the Conclave is Jean-Louis Pierre Cardinal Tauran. He is the Cardinal who introduces the New Pope from the balcony of the Vatican Basilica.

Other Officials during the Vacancy

During the vacancy of the Apostolic See, the Substitute of the Secretariat of State, the Secretary for Relations with States and the Secretaries of the Dicasteries of the Roman Curia remain in charge of their respective offices, and are responsible to the College of Cardinals (No. 20). In the same way, the office and attendant powers of Papal Representatives (Apostolic Nuncios) do not lapse (nNo. 21). The Almoner of His Holiness will also continue to carry out works of charity in accordance with the criteria employed during the Pope's lifetime (No. 22). The Supreme (court) Tribunal of the Apostolic Signatura and the Tribunal of the Roman Rota, during the vacancy of the Holy See, continue to deal with cases in accordance with their proper laws (No. 26).

During the vacancy, laws issued by the Roman Pontiffs can in no way be corrected or modified, nor can anything be added or subtracted, nor a dispensation be given even from a part of them, especially with regard to the procedures governing the election of the Supreme Pontiff. However, faculty has been granted to the College of Cardinals to interpret

Contd. on Pg. 7

HIS HOLINESS POPE BENEDICT XVI

The Piano Playing Professor

His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI took the world by surprise on February 11, 2013 by announcing his retirement from his Ministry as Head of the Catholic Church to take effect from February 28. The Pope was the Head of the Vatican City State, a State that is the smallest in the world, but with a flock as massive as 1.2 billion Catholics around the world to whom he was their Spiritual Leader. The Holy Father's announcement came as a bolt out of the blue, with even heavens above reacting with a bolt of lightning above the Vatican Dome in a clear blue sky, coinciding with the announcement.

As a matter of fact the Papacy is the oldest dynasty in the world and the Holy Father speaks out not only for Catholics but for all humanity for the word Catholic means Universal.

Pope Benedict XVI was born in Germany on April 16, 1927 as Joseph Aloisius Ratzinger to a very devout religious family. His father was a righteous policeman and apart from his brother who is also a priest and living, he had a sister who never married and who looked after the two brothers. His childhood ambition was to become a priest but never did he dream that he would end up as the Head of the Holy See.

As a youth he was conscripted to join Hitler's youth movement in the face of severe financial and other penalties that were enforced on dodgers who did not wish to obey. He ran into trouble on numerous occasions as he and his family were convinced that Nazism was in conflict with their faith trying to subordinate religion to political ideology.

Towards the end of the War he was drafted into the German Air Force as an Air Force Child Soldier while still in the Seminary but managed to escape returning to the Seminary. He firmly believed that he and the family were saved from Nazi punishment by a 'Special Angel' guarding them.

He became a Priest together with his brother in 1951 and was blessed to be elevated as Cardinal in 1977. Prior to becoming the Pope he was an academic par excellence and a highly regarded University Theologian having served in many universities. He was fondly called the 'Piano Playing Professor'. It is said if he did not choose a religious career he would have been an University Professor. He was known as a gentle intellectually gifted man who loved music and nature. He was called a "green man" for his environment friendly attitudes. As a Cardinal he was highly respected as the driving force as the Prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of Faith and as the Dean of the College of Cardinals.

Cardinal Joseph Aloisius Ratzinger was elevated Pope on April 19, 2005 choosing the regnal name of Benedict XVI. Maybe he came as a reluctant Pope for it was rumoured that he never wished to be so. As Pope Benedict XVI he followed the saintly footsteps of Pope John Paul II. He gave continuation and stability to the Church defending fundamental Christian values. He committed himself to the service of reconciliation and harmony between all people whom he called the children of God. He advocated strong fundamental Christian values to counter increased



secularization of many Western countries which was harming moral values.

Pope Benedict became Head of the Catholic Church at a most challenging time, both external and internal. The biggest challenge was to compromise two different values in the background of fast spreading globalization. - The challenge of bringing together without conflict, the values of the liberal society of the western world and the traditional values of the developing world. He sought to heal the internal wounds of the Church with the Divine Spirit of forgiveness and understanding for to err is human and to forgive is divine. Although he was a conservative hardliner in preserving the Catholic Doctrine, he was flexible to the extent of being receptive to acceptable interpretations to the literal meaning of the Scriptures. He called the Scripture a spiritual experience that cannot be

debated upon.

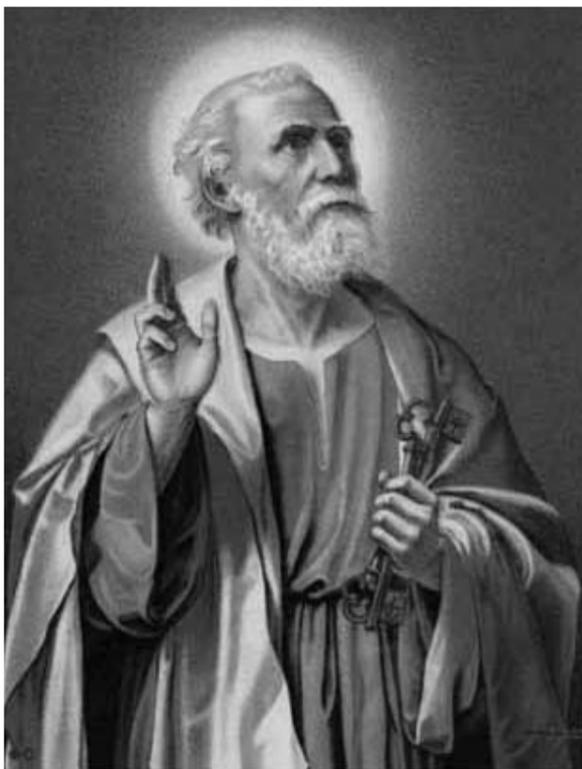
He preached that the strength of the Church is the Absolute Truth that should not bend to the blowing winds and currents however strong they may be. He never gave into morally unacceptable modern pressures such as gay marriages, abortion and other unnatural tendencies. Pope Benedict XVI worked hard for Christian Unity of Eastern and Western Churches. He reached his hand across to other religions for unity and world peace. He espoused Christian compassion speaking out for human rights, protection of the environment and to fight against poverty and injustice. He was vehemently against war which he believed has no justification and openly criticized the Western powers for war against Iraq saying that no bad means can justify a good end.

Pope Benedict spent

his entire life teaching and preaching as a Priest, Bishop, Cardinal and Pope. He was a wonderful theologian and Pastor to his flock. He was courageously honest to admit that he was too frail in mind and body to fulfill his Ministry of the Church. He has taught the world and the Church that Papacy is not about power but true service and that the path of power is not the path to God. He perhaps saw his happiest times had very little to do with power and that he was happier otherwise devoting his full time to prayer which he hopes to do after retirement. He was a great example of humility, strong courage and inner honesty. The Church under him did have problems and challenges but all in all His Holiness gave his flock eight wonderful years of faith and spiritual guidance. As a Catholic I say "Thank You Your Holiness"

John Amaratunga

The Office of Peter



The power conferred by Christ on Peter and His successors is, in an absolute sense, a mandate to serve. The teaching authority, in the Church, entails a commitment to service of the obedience of the faith. The Pope is not an absolute monarch, whose thought and will are law. On the contrary, the Pope's ministry is a guarantee of obedience to Christ and His Word. The Pope must not proclaim his own ideas, but bind himself constantly and bind the Church to obedience to the Word of God, in the face of attempts to adapt and water down, and in the face, as well, of all opportunism.

Pope John Paul II

did so when, in the face of all attempts, apparently benevolent, in the face of erroneous interpretations of freedom, he emphasized in an unequivocal way the inviolability of the human being, the inviolability of human life from its conception to natural death. The freedom to kill is not true freedom, but a tyranny that reduces the human being to slavery. In his important decisions, the Pope is conscious of being linked to the great community of faith of all times, to binding interpretations developed through the Church's journey of pilgrimage. Thus, his power is not above all but at the service of the Word of God, and on him

weighs the responsibility to ensure that this Word continues to be present in its grandeur and resonating in its purity, so that it will not be shattered with the constant changes of fashion.

Taking possession of the Cathedral of the Bishop of Rome, the Basilica of St. John Lateran, 10 May 2005

One of the basic characteristics of a shepherd must be to love the people entrusted to him, even as he loves Christ whom he serves. "Feed my sheep" says Christ to Peter, and now, at this moment, He says it to me as well. Feeding means loving, and loving also means being ready to suffer.

Loving means giving the sheep what is truly good, the nourishment of God's truth, of God's Word, the nourishment of His presence, which He gives us in the Blessed Sacrament: *My dear friends - at this moment I can only say: pray for me, that I may learn to love the Lord more and more. Pray for me, that I may learn to love His flock more and more - in other words, you, the Holy Church, each one of you and all of you together. Pray for me, that I may not flee for fear of the wolves. Let us pray for one another, that the Lord will carry us and that we will learn to carry one another.*

(Courtesy: The Pope Benedict Code)

Temptations of Christ

Christ humiliated Himself so much to be born in human form. He was even tempted by Satan.

The account of the temptations of Christ in the Gospel of Mathew says, that Jesus was fasting in the desert for forty days and forty nights (Mathew 4:1-13). Obviously He was hungry after this long fast. Satan came to Jesus with some stones and asked Him to turn them into bread so that He will be able to relieve his pangs of hunger. Jesus replied "Man does not live by bread alone."

Satan knew that Jesus had the power to turn stones into bread. Most probably he knew

Bits & Pieces

Madi

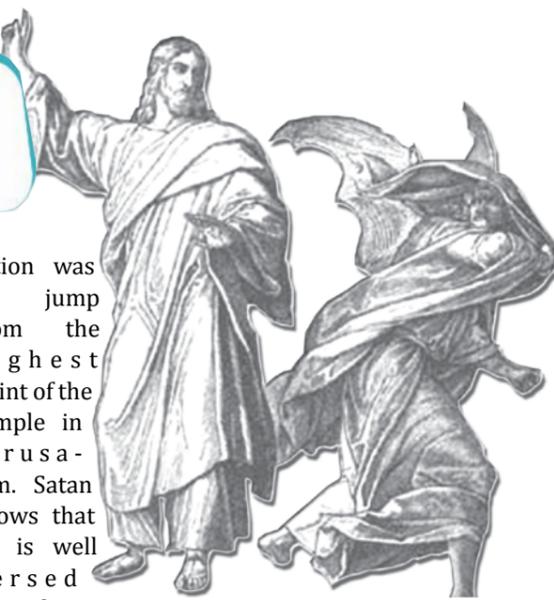
that one day Jesus would feed more than 5,000 people with five loaves of bread and two fish (Luke 9:13-17). He also may have known that He will give his own flesh and blood as the eternal nourishment in the Sacrament of the Eucharist (Luke 22:17-19). In the Gospel of John, Jesus even calls Himself the bread of life: 'I am the bread of life.' He who comes to Me will never go hungry, and he who believes in Me will never go thirsty" (John 6:35).

The second temp-

tation was to jump from the highest point of the temple in Jerusalem. Satan shows that he is well versed in the Scripture. He quotes from Psalm 91 of the Old Testament: "He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone." In retali-

ation Jesus too quotes a verse from Scripture: "Do not put the Lord your God to the test" (Deuteronomy 6: 16).

He shows Satan that tempting God is one of the worst sins that a person can commit. It is



Some people look for others' faults as if they were of high archeological value. Jesus has given us the best answer to fault finders. When confronted by the Pharisees, we are well aware of the response Jesus gave when they brought a woman to him being caught in adultery.

A businessman came in one day to a barber shop for a hair cut. This barber was the fault-finding type who often looked at the negative side of things. He rarely had a pleasant word for anybody. The businessman said he wanted to go to Rome on a business trip. "What airline are you taking?" the barber asked. When the airline was mentioned, the barber commented that their service was very poor and the air-fare very high. "Which hotel do you hope to stay in?" was barber's next question. The hotel was mentioned. "Oh, the food there is horrible, you'll ruin your day with a bad tummy," advised the barber. The businessman disclosed that he had plans to see the Pope too. The wide eyed barber laughed, "That's only a dream. The Pope gives audiences to

very prominent people only."

Two months later, the businessman returned to the barber shop after the trip to Rome. "How was your trip," the barber queried. "Wonderful! The flight was excellent, the hotel was marvelous and I met the Pope," the businessman answered. "You saw the Pope? What happened?" the barber was excited. "I bent down and kissed his ring," was the reply. "No you're kidding, what did he say?" The businessman cleared his throat and looked round the shop. Many clients who had come to the shop were also eagerly listening by now. He broke the silence. "I knelt down to get his blessing. The Pope touched my head. Then he looked hard at my head and said, "What a shame, my son, whoever gave you this ugly haircut?"

There's a saying, 'What goes around comes around.' If you are a critical, negative person, life will treat you badly. You'll be happy on the other hand, if

Buried treasure

you develop a positive, joyous outlook. The constructive attitude and the joy you share will be returned to you like a bountiful harvest. If your focus is others' faults, you will bury your own faults within yourself making your whole personality turn into a festering wound.

Thoughts that haunt me

A young couple moves into a new neighbourhood. The next morning, while they are eating breakfast, the young woman sees her neighbour hang the wash outside. "That laundry is not very clean.

She doesn't know how to wash correctly. Perhaps she needs better laundry soap," the young lady commented. Her husband looked on, but was silent. Every time her neighbour would hang her wash to dry, the young woman was irritated.

About a month later, the woman was surprised to see a nice, clean wash on the neighbour's clothes line and said to her husband, "Look, she has learned how to wash correctly. I wonder who taught her." The husband replied, "I got up early this morning and cleaned our windows."

Ananda Perera

Here's a worthy recipe for us all at this early stage of the New Year!

A Cake for 2013

Ingredients

2012 Doubts and Tears
12 months of Hurts
7 days of Tears
6 cups of Patience
5 cups of Peace
4 cups of Love
3 cups of Joy
2 Helping Hands
1 Large Heart

Method

Put the doubts, fears and hurts into a large saucepan. Pour in the tears and simmer till evaporated. Add 6 cups of patience, 5 of peace, 4 of love, 3 of joy and the large heart. Knead with 2 helping hands. Put onto a baking sheet and sprinkle with peace. Cook with tender care, allow to cool, then cut into 365 small pieces. Wrap in gold foil and freeze. Serve each day to the needy.

From "The Friendship Book"
Sent by Mavis De Silva
St. Nicholas' Home - Dehiwela

like jumping into a blazing oven thinking that God will save us from getting burnt by hot coal. This is to be totally dependent on God without doing anything yourself. We have heard the wise saying that "God will help those who help themselves."

Satan is persevering. He does not give up. He took Jesus to a high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor and says that all these belong to Him. The devil then requests Jesus to bow down before him and that he will give all these possessions to Him. This was the last straw as far as Jesus was concerned. Jesus admonished Satan saying, "Away from me Satan! It is written: Worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only" (Mathew 4: 10).

This is one of the most common sins of today, tantamount to "selling your soul to the devil." Today we can see around us so many of our colleagues who are worshiping money, wealth, property and other material objects just to embrace a life of luxury

and comfort. Some of us do not feel any end to the greed to acquire material wealth and opulence. If we were tempted like Christ was, we would have easily fallen into Satan's trap.

After these three temptations Mathew writes in his Gospel "The devil left him, and angels came and attended on him" (Mathew 4: 11). Jesus after his forty day fast and His victory over the tempter deserves to be served by the angels. But Luke ends the temptation episodes in a different way. Luke hints at the perseverance of Satan to tempt us. Luke writes, "When the devil had finished all this tempting, he left Him, until an opportune time" (Luke 4:13).

As human beings we all have to face an innumerable amount of temptations during our mortal life. Jesus teaches us that temptations could be overcome with the grace of God. The evangelist Luke teaches us to be 'on our guard' because the tempter is a persevering fallen angel who has supernatural powers and who will never give up.



By Sirohmi Gunsekera

Giving Up

"It's the Season of Lent. Have you given up anything you like as a sacrifice?" asked Carlo.

"Well, I had big plans on Ash Wednesday but I find it difficult to continue sacrificing. You see, I wanted to give up eating sweets but it's very hard" confessed Marlene.

"Well, you shouldn't think of a blanket thing like all sweets. Why don't you just decide to cut down on chocolates?" suggested Carlo.

"Even then, I find it hard to think of no chocolates for forty days. That's more than one month!" said Marlene.

"No, no, that's not the way to think. Just make up your mind that you won't have a chocolate milk shake today! Or just politely decline eating a piece of chocolate cake. Try it in the morning. Then if you are strong, do something else in the afternoon and congratulate yourself on your will-power if you can make it till evening without biting into a chocolate. Today's victory is all that counts." suggested Carlo.

"Yes, I should perhaps buy some fruits so I can munch those when I get hungry! I know there is sugar in apples and grapes, but I can't give up everything, can I?" said Marlene.

"Your system needs some sugar so eating fruits is okay. The main thing is to keep yourself occupied so you won't think of food. Besides, the moment you decide to sacrifice eating sweets, all sugary things acquire an added value for it becomes forbidden fruit and are therefore tastier." said Carlo.

"Anyway, it's not forever. Besides, I find I can lose some weight if I cut down on sweets. Isn't that an added incentive?" asked Marlene.

"Yes of course. But you should model yourself on Jesus who fasted in the desert for forty days. We too should pray to God so we can resist temptation. One feels good when one has sacrificed something one likes. Offer it up to God in prayer." concluded Carlo.

TAKE TIME FOR A MINUTE OF HUMOUR - SMILE!



The famous preacher Billy Graham used to meet a Negro who was always cheerful. "Uncle Joe" once he inquired "How do you manage to remain so cheerful?" "Well, I'll tell you," replied Uncle Joe, "I've just learned to cooperate with the inevitable, especially my wife."

Rev. Fr. Fracidd Anthony Fernando OMI

Sede Vacante

When the Holy See is Vacant...

(Contd from Pg. 4)

doubtful or controverted points in this legislation and to issue a judgment (Nos. 5 & 6).

Election Preparation Committees

While the See is vacant, there are two kinds of Congregations of the Cardinals:

General Congregations; which include the whole College and are held before the beginning of the election. All the Cardinals who are not legitimately impeded must attend the General Congregations, once they have been informed of the vacancy of the Apostolic See. The General Congregations preceding the beginning of the election, which are therefore called "preparatory," are to be held daily so that Cardinal Camerlengo can hear the opinion of the College and communicate whatever is considered necessary or appropriate, while the individual Cardinals can express their views on possible problems, ask for explanations in case of doubt and make suggestions. At the same time the Cardinals present are to swear an oath to observe the prescriptions contained herein and to maintain secrecy in the following manner: "To maintain rigorous secrecy with regard to all matters in any way related to the election of the Roman Pontiff or those which, by their very nature, during the vacancy of the Apostolic See, call for the same secrecy."

Particular Congregation: Is made up of the Cardinal Camerlengo and three Cardinals, one from each Order, chosen by lot from among the Cardinal electors already present in Rome. The Particular Congregations are to deal only with questions of lesser importance which arise on a daily basis or from time to time. (Nos. 7 - 12).

Papal Powers during the Period of Vacancy

Some powers vested on the Roman Pontiff are derived solely by virtue of his office. The extensive fullness of power of the Petrine Office is derived from the will and mission of Jesus. The Pope "possesses supreme, full, immediate, and universal ordinary power

in the Church, which he is always able to exercise freely" (Canon 331). After the renouncement of office by the Pope, his power of jurisdiction in the Church ceases. However, he continues to enjoy the power of Orders he received by virtue of his ordination which is perpetual and episcopal in character.

Infallibility - Ex Cathedra

The prerogative of infallibility of the Roman Pontiff is derived by virtue of his office as Vicar of Christ and Successor of St. Peter. It has deep roots in the history of the Church. It was officially articulated and solemnly defined by the First Vatican Council in 1870. Ex Cathedra - "By virtue of his office, the Supreme Pontiff possesses infallibility in teaching when as supreme pastor and teacher.... he proclaims by definitive act that a doctrine of faith or morals is to be held" (Canon 749). This gift of infallibility has been very rarely used by a Pope, only twice after it was defined as a dogma.

It is clear that when the Pope has renounced his office he does not possess power of jurisdiction as the supreme pastor. Therefore, his prerogative of teaching infallibly ceases with his renouncement of office.

Pope's name during Mass

In the prayer for the Universal flock of the Eucharistic prayer during Mass, the mention of the name of the Pope and bishop of the Diocese takes place. During vacancy of the Papacy, it may be used as: Remember, Lord, your Church, spread throughout the world, and bring her to the fullness of charity **together with (N) E.g. Anthony, our bishop and all the clergy**, omitting the reference to the Pope. But in the diocese of Rome or any other vacant diocese, it may be used as: **Church, spread throughout the world, and bring her to the fullness of charity together with all the clergy.**

During vacancy of a diocese, when the Holy See is not vacant, the name of the bishop is omitted and the prayer is used as: **Together with (N) E.g. Benedict, our Pope and all the clergy.**

Civil Power of the Pope

All the civil power of the Supreme Pontiff concerning the government of Vatican City State, an enclave of Rome, belongs to the College of Cardinals, solely for the dispatch of ordinary business and of matters which cannot be postponed while the Holy See is vacant (No. 23). Code of Civil Procedure of Vatican City State is given by the Lateran Treaty of 1929. President of the Governorate of the Vatican City State, Giuseppe Cardinal Bertello will continue in office in order to oversee the civil administration.

Coat of arms

The official Coat of Arms or the symbol on the flag of Vatican City State and the Holy See, which is the papal tiara (crown) over the keys is changed during the vacancy. The crown is replaced with an umbrella to signify the absence of the Pope and that the Holy See is under the administration of the Camerlengo.

Period of Vacancy

According to the norms of the present law, the Conclave to elect the new Pope is to be begun between the 15th and the 20th day after February 28th. Taking into consideration the present circumstances if the conclave date is not advanced, the period of vacancy may be between 16 and 27 days. A new Pope is to be elected before March 27. Unless, present guidelines are changed in order to make an advancement of the date of the Conclave.

Guidance of the Holy Spirit

Two retreat preachers known for their sound doctrine, wisdom and moral authority are entrusted with the task of presenting spiritual guidance to the Cardinals by two well-prepared meditations on the problems facing the Church at the time and on the need for careful discernment in choosing the new Pope. One Meditation will take place in the congregations during the vacancy. The second meditation will take place in the Sistine Chapel immediately before the beginning of the Conclave.

We entrust the Church to the guidance of the Holy Spirit, so that, at this time of discernment the Spirit of the Lord may descend upon the Church of Rome.

The importance of the Family Rosary

It seems to me that a principal cause of the loss of faith is the drop in the practice of reciting the Family Rosary.

In Austria, after World War II, there was a complete collapse of vocations. One year, apparently, no one at all entered the seminaries. So the bishops held a synod, to find out how it could be that this had happened. The conclusion they reached was that the War had so disrupted family life that the centuries-old practice of saying the Rosary in the home had stopped, and had just not started again. This is my experience, too; when the Rosary goes, the faith soon collapses.

So I think that the abandonment of the family Rosary is the main reason why so many Catholics have lost the faith.

One reason, I think, why the daily Rosary makes for a happy home, is this. From what some possessed people have said, and from what some of the saints have said, it seems certain that demons fear the Rosary. It makes their hair stand on end, so to speak. Holy water certainly drives them out, but they come back again. The daily Rosary drive them out and keeps them out.

This must be one reason why, as they say, "the family that prays together stays together."

The Power of the Rosary

The Most Holy Virgin Mary in these last times in which we live has given a new efficacy to the recitation of the Rosary to such an extent that there is no problem, no matter how difficult it is whether temporal or above all, spiritual, in the personal life of each one of us, of our families, of the families of the world, or of the religious communities, or even of the life of peoples and nations, that cannot be solved by the Rosary. There is no problem, I tell you, no matter how difficult it is, that we cannot resolve by the Prayer of the Holy Rosary. With the Holy Rosary, we will save ourselves; we will sanctify ourselves; we will console our Lord, and obtain the salvation of many souls.

Miracles of the Rosary:

* *Battle of Lepanto, 1571.* On Sunday October 7, the Christian and Turkish fleets met in Lepanto Gulf, off the coast of Greece. The bitter battle finished with a brilliant victory for the Christians. That very evening Pope St.



Pius V had at Rome a clear knowledge of this success. The same afternoon, the Confraternities of the Rosary, particularly in Rome, had marched through the streets in procession reciting the Rosary. This victory put an end to the naval power of the Turks and saved Christian Europe. To this day this victory has been attributed to the praying of the Rosary. The feast of "The Most Holy Rosary" is celebrated on October 7 annually and the month of October is dedicated to the Most Holy Rosary.

* *Atom Bomb over Hiroshima, 1945.* There was a home eight blocks (about 1 kilometer) from where the A-Bomb went off in Hiroshima Japan. This home had a church attached to it which was completely destroyed, but the home survived, and so did the eight German Jesuit missionaries who prayed the Rosary in that house

faithfully everyday. These men were missionaries to the Japanese people, they were non-military, but because Germany and Japan were allies during WWII they were permitted to live and minister within Japan during the war. Not only did they all survive with (at most) relatively minor injuries, but they all lived well past that awful day with no radiation sickness, no loss of hearing, or any other visible long term defects or maladies. Naturally, they were interviewed numerous times (Fr. Schiffer, a survivor, said over 200 times) by scientists and health care people about their remarkable experience and they say "We believe that we survived because we were living the message of Fatima. We lived and prayed the Rosary, daily in that home." Of course the secular scientists are speechless and incredulous at this explanation

- and they are sure there is some "real" explanation - but at the same time over 55 years later the scientists are still absolutely bamboozled when it comes to finding a plausible scenario to explain the missionaries' unique escape from the hellish power of that bomb.

* *Russians Pull-out of Austria, 1948.* After World War II, the Allies turned over Catholic Austria to Communist Russia. For three years the Austrian people endured this tyranny. Then, a Franciscan priest, Father Petros, remembered how the Christians although greatly outnumbered had defeated the Turks at the Battle of Lepanto through the Rosary, and he launched a Rosary crusade. Through it 70,000 people, one tenth of the Austrian population, pledged to say the Rosary daily for the Soviets to leave their country. Austria was valuable to the Russians because of its strategic location, rich mineral deposits and oil reserves. Yet on May 13, 1955, the anniversary of the first apparition of Our Lady at Fatima, the Russians signed the agreement to leave Austria, and they did so without one person being killed and without one shot being fired. It was the only time that the militant

aesthetic forces of Marxism had ever peacefully left a country in which they held power. Military strategists and historians still remain baffled as to why the Russians pulled out. But we are not - it was the power of the Rosary.

The 'Country That Saved Itself' - Brazil 1962.

In 1962 there was a looming threat of a communist takeover in Brazil. A woman there named Dona Amelia Bastos was known to have formed a Rosary Rally among the Brazilian women to do their part in opposing the looming threat. Their goal was simply to pray the Rosary in large groups asking the Virgin Mary for help in opposing the Communist takeover which the President of Brazil was leaning towards at the time. In Belo Horizonte 20,000 women reciting the Rosary aloud broke up a Communist rally. In Sao Paulo, 600,000 women praying the rosary in one of the most moving demonstrations in Brazilian history, caused the President of Brazil to flee the country and not a single death was encountered, sparing the country from Communist takeover.

(Courtesy: "Our Glorious Faith and How to lose it" by Hugh Thwaites sj)

The Roman Pontiffs



1. ST. PETER

Born in Bethsaida, Galilee. Received from Jesus Christ the supreme pontifical power to be transmitted to His successors. Instituted the first ecclesiastical code and the recitation of the "Our Father." Having been arrested, he insisted on being crucified head downwards. Died 29 June 67.



2. ST. LINUS

Born in Volterra. Elected in 67, he died on 23 September 76. He is buried near St. Peter. He created the first fifteen bishops. He forbade women to enter a church with uncovered heads. During his pontificate evangelists Luke and Mark were martyred.



3. ST. CLETUS

Roman. Elected in 76, he died in 88, a martyr. He drew up the rules for the consecration of bishops. In the area of the Vatican, near the tomb of St. Peter, he had an oratory built for the burial of martyrs. He was also responsible for rules governing ecclesiastical dress.



4. ST. CLEMENT

Roman. Elected in 88, he died in 97, a martyr. Banished to Pontus by the Emperor Trajan, he was thrown into the sea with an anchor round his neck. He restored the Sacrament of Confirmation according to the rite of St. Peter. To his time is attributed the use of "Amen" in religious ceremonies."



5. ST. EVARISTUS

Greek. Elected in 97, he died in 105. Given the increase in the number of Christians, he divided the city into parishes. He founded the first seven diaconates entrusted to senior priests, and this is considered to be the origin of the present College of Cardinals.



6. ST. ALEXANDER I

Roman. A disciple of Plutarch. He was elected in 105 and died in 115. To him are attributed the institution of the use of Holy Water in Churches and houses and the prescription that hosts to be consecrated, be made from unleavened bread.



7. ST. SIXTUS I

Roman. Elected in 115, he died in 125. He is buried in the Acropolis of Alatri (Frosinone). He ordered that the corporal be of linen and that sacred vessels be handled only by consecrated ministers. He decreed that the *Trisagion* be sung before Holy Mass.



8. ST. TELESPHORUS

Greek. Elected in 125, he died in 136, a martyr. He composed the "Gloria in Excelsis Deo" and instituted the seven week fast before Easter. He decreed that each priest should celebrate three Masses on Christmas night. He inserted new prayers into the Holy Mass.



9. ST. HYGINUS

Athenian. Elected in 136, he died in 140 a martyr. He determined the different prerogatives of the clergy and defined the grades of the ecclesiastical hierarchy. He instituted the use of Godparents at baptism to assist the newly born during their Christian life, and decreed that all churches be consecrated.



10. ST. PIUS I

Born in Aquileia. He was elected in 140 and died in 155, a martyr. He is supposed to have established the date of Easter on the first Sunday after the March full moon. His rules for the conversion of Jews are considered to be important. He opposed Marcus the agnostic.



11. ST. ANICETUS

Born in Syria. He was elected in 155 and died in 166, a martyr. He decreed that the clergy should not have long hair. He confirmed the celebration of Easter according to the tradition of St. Peter.



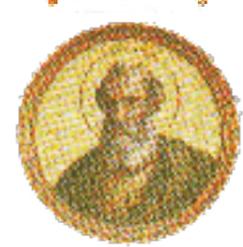
12. ST. SOTER

Born in Fondi. He was elected in 166 and died in 175, a martyr. He can be described as the Pope of Charity. He forbade women to burn incense during the congregation of the faithful. He ratified matrimony as a sacrament, valid only if blessed by a priest.



13. ST. ELEUTHERIUS

Born in Nicopolis (Epire). He was elected in 175 and died in 189, a martyr. He sent Fugatus and Damian to convert the Britons. He abolished some Jewish customs concerning the purity and impurity of food which were still observed by some Christians.



14. ST. VICTOR

Born in Africa. He was elected in 189 and died in 199, a martyr. He decreed that, in Baptism, any kind of water could be used in an emergency. Memorable was his struggle against the bishops of Asia and Africa so that Easter should be celebrated according to the Roman Rite and not according to the Jewish one.



15. ST. ZEPHYRINUS

Born in Roman. He was elected in 199 and died in 217, a martyr. He decreed that young people of 14 years and over should receive Holy Communion at Easter. His pontificate was characterised by bitter theological struggles. He excommunicated Tertullian. He introduced the use of the paten and of chalices of cut glass.



16. ST. CALIXTUS

Born in Rome. He was elected in 217 and died, a martyr, in 222. He was responsible for the excavation of the famous catacombs on the Via Appia where 46 popes and about 200,000 martyrs are buried. He was beaten to death with clubs and his remains thrown into a well where "Santa Maria in Trastevere" now stands.



17. ST. URBAN I

Born in Rome. He was elected in 222 and died, a martyr in 230. He converted St. Cecilia to Christianity. In 230, on the site of her martyrdom in Trastevere, he had a church built where her remains now lie. He consented to the acquisition of property by the Church.



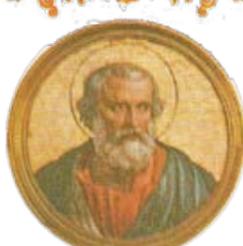
18. ST. PONTIAN

Born in Rome. He was elected on 28 August 230 and died on 28 September 235. He ordered the chanting of the Psalms, the recital of the "Confiteor" before death and the use of the salutation "*Dominus vobiscum.*" He was deported and condemned to work in the mines in Sardinia. He died suffering on the little island of Tavolara



19. ST. ANTERUS

Born in Magna Grecia, he was elected on 21 November 235 and died on 3 January 236. Like others he suffered martyrdom at the hands of the Emperor Maximus, a barbarian from Thrace. He ordered that the acts and relics of the martyrs be gathered together and kept in churches in a place called the "Scrinium."



20. ST. FABIAN

Born in Rome. He was elected on 10 January 236 and died a martyr on 20 January 250. At the moment of his election a dove, symbol of the Holy Spirit, alighted on his head. During his pontificate the exodus from Rome to flee the persecution of Decius was such that it gave rise to the hermetical life of the anchorites.



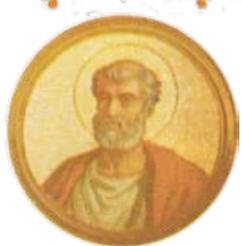
21. ST. CORNELIUS

Born in Rome. He was elected in March 251 and died a martyr in June 253. During his pontificate the first schism took place with the election of the antipope Novatian, later excommunicated during a council held in Rome. Exiled to Civitavecchia he died there having refused to offer sacrifices to the pagan gods.



22. ST. LUCIUS I

Born in Rome. He was elected on 25 June 253 and died a martyr on 5 March 254. Of an ascetical nature, he forbade men and women not related by blood to live together he decreed that clergy should not live with diaconesses even if given lodging for reasons of charity.



23. ST. STEPHEN I

Born in Rome. He was elected on 12 May 254 and died a martyr on 2 August 257. During his pontificate the struggle against the schismatic followers of the antipope, Novatian, flared up again. He was beheaded, during a religious function, on his pontifical chair in the catacombs of St. Calixtus.



24. ST. SIXTUS II

Greek. He was elected on 30 August 257 and died a martyr on 6 August 258. Of a meek disposition, he settled the disputes that had arisen under Cornelius, Lucien and Stephen. He effected the translation of the mortal remains of St. Peter and St. Paul. During his time the martyrdom of Cyprian, who pronounced the exclamation "*Deo Gratias,*" took place.

**25. ST. DENIS**

Born in Turio. He was elected on 22 July 259 and died on 26 December 268. At that time the Barbarians were storming the gates of the Roman Empire. He was elected a year after his successor because of persecutions. He reorganised the parishes of Rome, and obtained liberty for the Christians from Gallienus.

**26. ST. FELIX I**

Born in Rome. He was elected on 5 January 269 and died on 30 December 274. He asserted the divinity and humanity of Jesus Christ and the doctrine of two natures in one person. He suffered the persecution of Aurelian. He began the custom of burying martyrs under church altars and of celebrating Holy Mass on their tombs.

**27. ST. EUTYCHIAN**

Born in Luni. He was elected on 4 January 275 and died a martyr on 7 December 283. He ordered that martyrs' remains should be covered with the "Dalmatic" which was similar to the cloak worn by the Roman Emperors. Today, it is a sacred vestment worn by deacons at solemn religious functions. He instituted the blessing of the crops.

**28. ST. CAISU**

He was born in Salona (Dalmatia). Elected on 17 December 283 he died a martyr on 22 April 296. His martyrdom was not at the hands of his uncle, Diocletian. He decreed that no one should be ordained bishop until he had passed through the orders of hostarius, reader, acolyte, exorcist, subdeacon, deacon and priesthood.

**29. ST. MARCELLINUS**

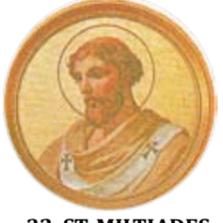
Born in Rome. He was elected on 30 June 296 and died a martyr on 25 October 304. In this period the persecution of Diocletian reached its peak destroying also churches and sacred texts. Among the victims we find St. Agnes, St. Lucy, St. Bibiana, St. Sebastian, St. Lucien.

**30. ST. MARCELLUS I**

Born in Rome. He was elected on 27 May 308 and died a martyr on 16 January 309. Since his pontificate came after the throne had been vacant for four years he had to deal with the difficult problem of pardoning those who had abjured during the persecutions. He decreed that a council could not be held without the authorization of the pope.

**31. ST. EUSEBIUS**

Born in Cassano (of Greek origin). He was elected on 18 April 309 and died a martyr on 17 August 309. During his pontificate the polemics about the apostates continued, bringing the Church almost to the point of schism. He succeeded in maintaining a position of firmness and pardon. He suffered martyrdom in Sicily.

**32. ST. MILTIADES**

Born in Africa. He was elected on 2, July 311 and died on 2, January 314. During his pontificate, the Emperor Constantine - after his vision "in hoc signo vinces" - issued his decree of tolerance for the Christian Faith. Blessed bread, dates from this time. St. Miltiades constructed the Basilica of St. John the Lateran.

**33. ST. SYLVESTER I**

Born in Rome. He was elected on 31 January 314 and died on 31 December 335. He was the first Pope to wear the Tiara. He celebrated the first Ecumenical Council at Nicea where the "Creed" was formulated. He instituted Sunday as a holy day in memory of the Resurrection. He created the "Iron Crown" with a nail from the Holy Cross.

**34. ST. MARK**

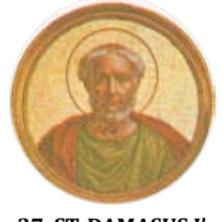
Born in Rome. He was elected on 18 January 336 and died on 7 October 336. He decreed that the Pope should be consecrated by the Bishop of Ostia. He instituted the "Pallium" which is still in use. It is made from the wool of a previously blessed lamb and is decorated with black crosses. During his pontificate the first calendar of religious feast days was initiated.

**35. ST. JULIUS I**

Born in Rome. He was elected on the 6, February 337 and died on 12, April 352. He ordered that the Oriental Church should celebrate Christmas on December 25 instead of uniting it with the Epiphany on January 6. He is considered to be the founder for the Archives of the Holy See since he ordered that all official acts be preserved.

**36. ST. LIBERIUS**

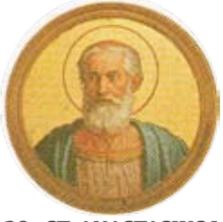
Born in Rome. He was elected on 17 May 352 and died on 24 September 366. The polemics with the Arians were still going on and these led to the election of the antipope Felix II. Liberius laid the foundations for the Basilica of St. Mary Major, tracing out the perimeter after a snowfall on the 15 August.

**37. ST. DAMASUS I**

Born in Spain. He was elected on the 1 October 366 and died on 11 December 384. He was a learned Pope. He authorized the singing of the psalms by alternate choirs (Ambrosian Rite) instituted by St. Ambrose. He introduced the use of the Hebrew term "Alleluia". He had the Sacred Scriptures translated from Hebrew.

**38. ST. SIRICUS**

Born in Rome. He was elected on 15 December 384 and died on 26 November 399. He was the first, after St. Peter, to assume the title of Pope (Papa) from the Greek "Father." It is maintained also that it is an anagram formed from the initials of the words "Petri Apostoli Potestatem Accipiens." He upheld the necessity of celibacy for priests.

**39. ST. ANASTASIUS I**

Born in Rome. He was elected on 27 November 399 and died on 19 December 401. He resolved the schism between Rome and the Church of Antiochia. He strenuously fought the followers of immoral practices, maintaining that the Divinity was also hidden in material things. He decreed that priests should remain standing during the Gospel.

**40. ST. INNOCENT I**

Born in Albano (Rome). He was elected on 22 December 401 and died on 12 March 417. During his pontificate Rome was attacked by the Goths of Alaric. He established the observance of the Roman Rite. He persuaded Honorius to prohibit gladiatorial contests in the arenas.

**41. ST. ZOSIMAS**

Greek (Masuraca). He was elected on 18 March 417 and died on 26 December 418. He had a strong personality and insisted on the rights of the church against foreign interference. Of very strict morals, he ordained that illegitimate children could not be raised to the priesthood. He sent vicars-apostolic to the Franks.

**42. ST. BONIFACE I**

Born in Rome. He was elected 28 December 418 and died on the 28 September 422. The interference of Charles of Ravenna marks the beginning of secular power interference in the election of popes. His consecration was delayed for several months because of the opposition presented by the antipope Eulalius.

**43. ST. CELESTINE I**

Born in Rome, he was elected on 10 September 422 and died on 27 July 432. He called the Third Ecumenical Council which condemned the followers of Nestorius, the Patriarch of Constantinople. He sent St. Patrick to Ireland. Mention is first made in this period of the "pastoral staff."

**44. ST. SIXTUS III**

Born in Rome. He was elected on 31 July 432 and died on 19 August 440. He enlarged and embellished the Basilicas of St. Mary Major and St. Lawrence. He was the author of several epistles and upheld the jurisdiction of Rome over Illyria against the Eastern Emperor who wanted it dependent on Constantinople.

**45. ST. LEO I**

An Italian from Tuscia. He was elected on 29 September 440 and died on 10 September 461. He is called "the Great" because of his energetic work in maintaining the unity of the Church. He called the 4th and 5th Ecumenical Councils and defined the mystery of the Incarnation. Alone prevented the "Scourge of God" (Attila).

**46. ST. HILARY**

Born in Cagliari. He was elected on 19 November 461 and died on 29 February 468. In his political thought he followed his great predecessor. He decided that a certain level of culture was needed in order to become a priest, and that popes and bishops should not nominate their successors. He instituted an apostolic vicariate in Spain.

**47. ST. SIMPLICIUS**

Born in Tivoli. He was elected on 3 March 468 and died on 10 March 483. During his pontificate occurred the Fall of the Western Empire and the schism which led to the founding of the Churches of Armeia, Syia and Egypt (Copts). He regulated the distribution of offerings to pilgrims and for new churches.

**48. ST. FELIX III**

Born in Rome. He was elected on 13 March 483 and died on 1 March 492. He tried to restore peace in the disturbed Eastern Church. He had sons, one of which was the father of the famous Gregory the Great. He has been erroneously taken for Felix II, a holy martyr.

The Roman Pontiffs

(Contd from Pg. 9)



49. ST. GELASIUS I
Born in Rome of African origin. He was elected on 1 March 492 and died on 21 September 496. He instituted the Code for the uniforming of ceremonies and rites. Because of his charity he was called the "Father of the Poor." He maintained the supremacy of the Church over that of kings. He inserted the "Kyrie Eleison" into the Holy Mass.



50. ANASTASIUS II
Born in Rome. He was elected on 24 November 496 and died on 19 November 498. He brought about the conversion of Clovis, king of the Franks and of his people. He was weak with schismatics and was even accused of heresy. Dante Alighieri put him through Hell.



51. ST. SYMMACHUS
Born in Sardinia. He was elected on 22 November 498 and died on 19 July 514. He consolidated Church property referring to it as permanent benefices for the use of the clergy. He ransomed all the slaves giving them their desired freedom. To him is attributed the first construction of the Vatican Palace.



52. ST. HORMAIDAS
Born in Frosinone (Rome). He was elected on 20 July 514 and died on the 6 August 523. During his pontificate St. Benedict founded the Benedictine Order and the celebrated Abbey of Monte Cassino, was destroyed by bombs in 1944. He decreed that the Bishopric should not be bestowed in privilege.



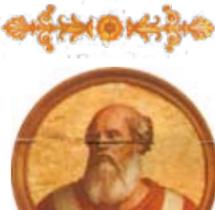
53. ST. JOHN I
Born in Populonia. He was elected on 13 August 523 and died on 18 May 526. He crowned the Emperor Justinian. He died in prison in Ravenna having been imprisoned by the barbaric King Theodoric, invader of Italy. He was the first pope to go to Constantinople.



54. ST. FELIX IV
Born in Benevento. He was elected on 12 July 526 and died on 22 September 530. Arbitrarily nominated pope by Theodoric for his own ends, he showed such loyalty towards the interests of the Church that the King of the Goth repudiated him and had him exiled. Liberty of cult was restored to the Christians on his death.



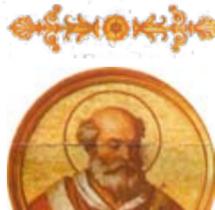
55. BONIFACE II
Born in Rome. He was elected on 22 September 530 and died on 17 October 532. Of Gothic origin, he was considered a "barbarous foreigner." As a result a rival faction elected Pope Dioscoros. The ensuing struggle ceased only on the death of Dioscoros. He had the monastery of Montecassino built on a temple of Apollo.



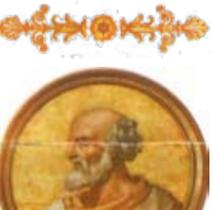
56. JOHN II
Born in Rome. He was elected on 2 January 533 and died on 8 May 535. He was the first Pope to change his name since Mercurius was the name of a pagan god. Through an edict of Atalaric the pope was recognised as the head of the bishops of the whole world.



57. ST. AGAPITUS
Born in Rome. He was elected on 13 May 535 and died on 22 April 536. He was induced by the King of the Goths to go to Constantinople to check the Emperor Justinian's ambitions in Italy. He was poisoned there by the Emperor's wife Theodora who was of the eutichian faith.



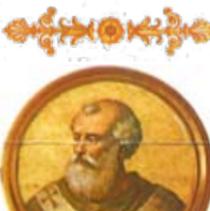
58. ST. SILVERIUS
Born in Frosinone. He was elected on the 1 June 536 and died a martyr on the 11 November 537. The Byzantine armies of Justinian, under the command of Belisarius, captured Rome. The Pope was exiled to the island of Ponza where he was assassinated, having been forced to renounce the Papacy.



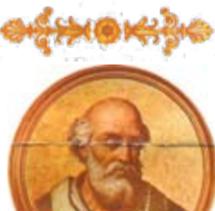
59. VIGILIUS
Born in Rome. He was elected on 29 March, 537 and died on 7 June 555 despite Theodora's efforts, he refused to annul the condemnation of the eutichian theories. He was arrested while celebrating Holy Mass but succeeded in escaping. He called the Fiftieth Ecumenical Council. During his pontificate, Justinian imposed the "Pragmatic Sanction".



60. PELAGIUS I
Born in Rome. He was elected on 16 April 536 and died on 4 March 561. His elevation to the papacy was influenced by Emperor Justinian since Rome was now a province of the Byzantine Empire. He remained faithful to the principles of Catholic orthodoxy. He had the Church of twelve Apostles built.



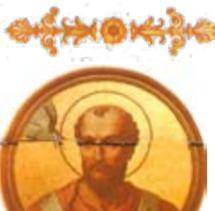
61. JOHN III
Born in Rome. He was elected on 17 July 561 and died on the 13 July 574. He saved Italy from the Barbarians because, during the disastrous Lombard invasions desired by Narsete, he rallied all the Italians in the defence of their land against the cruelties of the invaders.



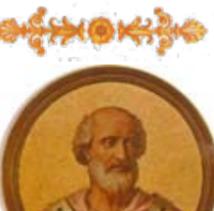
62. BENEDICT I
Born in Rome. He was elected on 2 June 575, after a vacancy of almost a year, and died on 30 July 579. He tried in vain to restore order in Italy and in France thrown into confusion by the barbaric invasions and internal disorders. He confirmed the 5th Council at Constantinople.



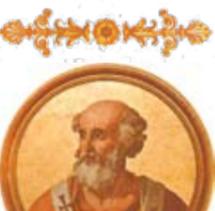
63. PELAGIUS II
Born in Rome of Gothic origin. He was elected on 26 November 579 and died on 7 February 590. While Rome was besieged by the Lombards he sought help from Constantinople. He decreed that priests must recite the Divine Office every day. He was the victim of a plague, the victims of which died yawning and sneezing.



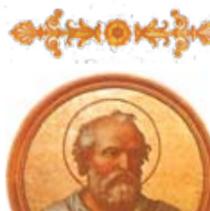
64. ST. GREGORY I
Born in Rome. He was elected on 3 September 590 and died on 12 March 604. He reaffirmed the civil authority of the pope, thus beginning the "temporal power." On the decline of the plague in Rome an angel appeared to him on a castle that was from then called Castel Sant' Angelo. He instituted *Gregorian Chant*.



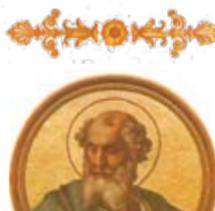
65. SABINIAN
Born in Blaera. He was elected on 13 September 604 and died on 22 February 606. His election came after a vacancy of six months. He regulated the ringing of the bells to indicate the canonical hours for meditations and prayer to the faithful. He decreed that sanctuary lamps be always kept burning in the churches.



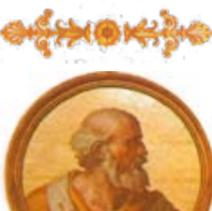
66. BONIFACE III
Born in Rome, he was elected on 19 February 607 and died on 12 November 607. He forbade arrangements for the election of the new pope until three days had passed (today 9 - "novendiali") since the death of his predecessor. He decreed that the only universal bishop was that of Rome, that is, the Pope.



67. ST. BONIFACE IV
Born in Abruzzo. He was elected on 25 August 609 and died on 8 May 615. He consecrated the pagan temple of Agrippa, called the Pantheon, to the memory of the Virgin and of all the saints, thus instituting All Saints Day on November 1. He sanctioned moral and material improvements for the lower clergy.



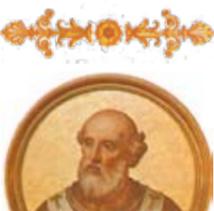
68. ST. DEUSDEDIT I
Born in Rome. He was elected on 10 October 615 and died on 8 November 618. He tended lepers and the plague stricken with heroic abnegation. He was the first to use seals of lead for Bulls and pontifical decrees. His is the oldest pontifical seat preserved in the Vatican.



69. BONIFACE V
Born in Naples. He was elected on 23 December 619 and died on 25 October 625. The beginning of his pontificate was delayed for 11 months and was embittered by wars for the Crown of Italy. He instituted the privilege of sanctuary for those persecuted who sought refuge in churches. Mohammed began preaching during his pontificate.



70. HONORIUS I
Born in Capua. He was elected on 25 October 625 and died on 12 October 638. He sent missionaries to almost all parts of the known world and instituted the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross on 14 September. He resolved the problems of the Eastern Church, and the Schism of Aquileia on the question of the "Three Chapters."



71. SEVERINUS
Born in Rome. He was elected on 28 May 640 and died on 2 August 640. There were grave disagreements between the Byzantine Emperor Heraclius and the Pope because of the latter's condemnation of the monothelitic heresy. To punish him the Emperor ordered the sacking of the Basilica of St. John Lateran's and the Lateran Palace.



72. JOHN IV
Born in Dalmatia. He was elected on 24 December 640 and died on 12 October 642. He tried to bring the dissentients of Egypt to the way of Truth. He had translated to the Lateran the remains of the martyrs Venantius, Anastasius and Maurus. He himself ordained 28 priests and 18 bishops in order to be certain of their faith.
(To be contd.)

A journey to Golgotha

Jesus had already made a name for Himself preaching His Gospel in the regions of Judea and Galilee. His preaching was a source of light to the people who until then had lived in the shadow of darkness. He was much liked and sought after by the people because they were captivated by His teaching. Suzanna, who was in her late teens, had a yearning to listen to His discourses as they were inspiring and enlightening.

Jesus was due to come to Jerusalem. When the people herd of this, many of them, carrying the leafy branches and palms went out to greet Him as He entered the city riding a donkey. They began to cry out "Hosannah to the Son of David! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosannah, glory in the highest!" Some of them spread out their cloaks on the road for Him to pass. Suzanna who was among them made her way with difficulty through the large crowd and accosting him, she cried out "Jesus, Jesus" in reverential esteem. Turning towards her, Jesus gently touched her head. She was immensely impressed by His kind response.

The next day, Jesus visited the temple and seeing that some people were misusing the temple as a market place, He drove them away, overturning their tables and stools. The Chief Priests and scribes who later heard of what Jesus had done were enraged by it. They wondered who He was to act with such authority and tried to find a way to kill Him. They were hesitant to do any harm to Him because he had a large following. They decided that they would make an attempt to seize Him after the Passover festival which was approach-

ing and in doing so prevent a possible uprising by the people against it.

In the company of His Apostles, Jesus said "You know that in two days time it will be the Passover and the Son of Man will be handed over to be crucified." This put Jesus in a vulnerable position. Seizing the opportunity, Judas Iscariot, one of Jesus' Apostles, who had a greed for money, came to terms with the Chief Priests to betray Jesus to them for a payment of thirty pieces of silver.

Jesus and His Apostles celebrated the Passover in a house in the City. During the meal He said "Truly I say to you: one of you will betray me." All of them were troubled and each one asked Him in town "You do not mean me, do you Lord?" Replying to Judas he said "You have said it." Judas walked away soon after.

After the Passover meal, Jesus offered bread and wine to His Apostles, consecrated as His Body and Blood and asked them to do likewise in commemoration. Having sung a hymn, He led His Apostles to the Garden of Gethsemane. In the Garden He had a disturbing fear of what would befall him at the hands of His enemies. He said to Peter, James and John who accompanied Him further into the Garden, "My soul is filled with sorrow even to death. Remain here and stay awake with Me."

Moving a little away from them, He fell on His face and prayed to His Father saying "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me, yet, not as I will but as You will." But He did not compromise on His obligation towards His father to save mankind. In that state of fear, drops of blood formed like sweat

and fell to the ground. Seeing Judas leading a large group of men armed with swords and clubs, He said to His Apostles, "The one who will betray Me is near." Approaching Him, Judas kissed Him as a sign of identification. The men with him soon seized Jesus, bound Him and led Him away.

At the night time trial before the Sanhedrin, Jesus was wrongfully convicted of blasphemy for calling Himself the Son of God, punishable with death. Before Governor Pilate the following morning for official sanction of the death sentence, Pilate found Jesus to be innocent of all charges brought against Him and wanted to release Him. But the angry crowd cried out "Crucify Him. Crucify Him." Pilate asked Jesus "Are you the king of the Jews?" and He replied "You say so." Pilate understood Him wrongly in the political sense. Thereafter Jesus was scourged according to Roman customs, crowned with thorns in ridicule, humiliated and led away to Golgotha to be crucified.

Jesus' journey to Golgotha carrying His cross in His weak state was an appalling sight to many. He was bleeding from His bruises caused mainly by stinging whip lashes. Men women and children watched Him with pity as He staggered on helplessly. Some voiced their displeasure to the cruelties imposed on an innocent man by the Roman administration.

When Suzanna heard that Roman soldiers were taking Jesus to Golgotha to be crucified, she told her parents "I must go to see Jesus for the last time." Her mother who was hesitant to let her go said "It is too dangerous for you to go because people iden-



tify us as Jesus' followers." But her father said "Let her go if she wants to." She left home without delay and by the time she reached Golgotha which was a fair distance from her home, Jesus had already been crucified.

Jesus was in a ghastly state, bleeding profusely from His wounds. Someone in the crowd pointing his finger at Suzanna and said "She is one of Jesus' faithful followers" and the others with Him laughed at her. She stood still in silence and fear, but she could not bear to see Jesus on the cross. Another said to Jesus "If you are the Son of God come down from the cross and save yourself" which caused further laughter.

Jesus' mother, Mary, Apostle John and Magdalene stood at the foot of the cross in sorrow and despair, in the tenseness that prevailed. An unusual darkness came over the land by noon. Towards mid-afternoon, Jesus cried out "Father into your hands I commend My spirit" and died. His tragic end brought sorrow to many who were there. At that moment, an on-looker said to another "The Jewish race is responsible for Jesus' death," and the other replied "Jesus was killed by Jews who did not

like Him."

Soon after, the earth trembled and rocks in the vicinity cracked. Tombs opened and bodies of several holy people rose to life. These unusual occurrences were understood by some to be Divine responses to the death of a God-man. The soldier in charge of the crucifixion said in wonder "Truly he was the Son of God."

Just then, faint sounds of thunder were heard in the distant. Winds blew across with force. As drops of rain began to fall, everybody started to leave. Moments later the rain came down in a torrents. Bright flashes of lightning illuminated the sky, followed by loud claps of thunder. Water flowed freely, inundating roads partially. Suzanna was on her way home in haste.

Suzanna's father and mother were in fear because she had not returned home by then. A short while later they heard a knock on the door. Her mother opened the door and was relieved to see her. As she entered her mother said "I was worried about you. You are wet. Change your clothing and wipe yourself." Suzanna said in sadness "Jesus was crucified and He died." Her mother thoughtfully said "Many people did not believe that Jesus was a divine emissary. He preached a gospel of deliverance and He had to die to make deliverance a reality for humans. What is exclusive about Jesus is that He will rise again after three days as He said."

E.M. Aldons

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

O Holy Spirit Thou who make me see everything and show me the way to reach my ideal. Thou who give me the divine gift to forgive and forget the wrong that is done to me and who are in all instances of my life with me. I in this short dialogue want to thank Thee for everything and confirm once more that I never want to be separated from Thee no matter how great the material desires may be. I want to be with thee and my loved ones in your perpetual glory. Amen.

In Thanksgiving M. P.

(N6222)

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Spoiling the Name.....

The unrepeatable uniqueness
God has given to me...
In calling me by name.
The God who is the root and ground of my being.

The 'ego' is the 'center of consciousness'
St. Paul says, "it is no longer...
I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me"
That I am in touch with one another.

'Abusing' and 'back biting'
Which brings me the darkness within
It is 'hard painful and unbearable'
That it is the 'virus' that 'spread everywhere'.

Those who are 'committed' to God
And 'serving' for the 'love of God'.
Tend to 'spoil' the 'name of the person'
And 'loose' the 'sense' of 'loving others.'

'Spoiling' the 'Name of a Person'
Is a 'sin' and it will make us go away from God
What is the life 'witness' and 'value'
That 'committed one's giving' to the world?

Sr. A. Christina Lourdes (H.F.)

Mother Mary's Memoire

My Beloved Son,

How oft have I, your mother Mary, gleefully watched you in your boyhood days playing with nails both big and small in your earthly father, Joseph's carpentry outfit helping him with a cheerful heart to assemble the wooden chairs, tables, cupboards and whatnot he daily made, and at times dropping the nails and injuring your small fingers while picking them up, little knowing that in later years your grown-up hands and feet will be inhumanly pierced with much larger nails causing you excruciating pain and be condemned to be crucified on a cross like a common criminal thus fulfilling the will of your Heavenly Father, the Supreme Creator of all that is seen and unseen in this unfathomable Universe, with the sole purpose of redeeming the whole of mankind of their sinful, hypocritical and wicked ways!

Yes, my Beloved Son, my eyes, ears and heart bore all this inhuman scourging, cursing, piercing your head with a crown of thorns, flogging and spitting upon you with irritating frequency while you were carrying the burden of the heavy cross on your weary journey to Calvary, with stoic calm and deafening silence notwithstanding the anguish and grief I felt within



me when my tearful eyes witnessed the blood and water which gushed forth from your side when one of your brutal killers pierced you with a lance while hanging on the cross.

With all this untold suffering you underwent for the sake of humanity, my Son, has mankind reformed themselves and abandoned their wicked ways and sinful habits up to this day?

Rienzie Ivan Perera

St. Joseph's College - Wattala Athletic Meet 2013

St. Joseph's College, Wattala was a hive on activity on Saturday February 2, 2013. The College grounds bore all signs of festivity with the colourful decorations of the four houses, each having huts of their own. It was clear the excitement was well witnessed as the students of Bonjean, Coudert, Marque and Melizan took their places in their respective houses.

The ceremony began with the arrival of the chief guest Dr. Sudharshani Fernandopulle, Member of Parliament. She was received at the gate by Rev. Fr. Ranjith Andradi, Rector St. Joseph's College, Wattala, Rev. Fr. Kamal Kumara, Principal of the College together with the teachers in charge of sports and the four athletic houses, and were accompanied by the school Western Band to the grounds. The hoisting of National, Papal and School flags followed each symbolizing, freedom, peace, a community of love, respectively. The guest of honour was Mr. Sahan Pradeep Vitahna, Chairman of Mahara Pradesiya Saba who was honoured by the College Scouts and accompanied by the College Eastern



Band to the ground.

Addressing the gathering Rev. Fr. Ranjith Andradi explained the values of students taking part in sports. Characteristic of school education is formation of students physically, intellectually, culturally and spiritually. Taking part in sports, children are indirectly taught how to face victory and defeat in life. They should however be taught not to be discouraged by defeat. You should be disciplined, law

abiding citizens, be a light to others and be a good Josephian.

In his speech Rev. Fr. Andradi, appreciated Rev. Fr. Kamal Kumara, Principal of the school, Masters in charge of sports, Mr. Eardly Prasanna and Prasanna Silva and Masters in Charge of athletic houses, for their effort and hard work in making this event a success.

*Text: Padminie Nanayakkara
Pic. Sanjeen Lloyd*

Patience and Kindness Wins

My first appointment as a young teacher was to a government school in the suburbs of Colombo. I was the teacher of English in the primary classes. Whenever I went to Grade 5, I noticed a boy in Grade 4 being pulled up or often caned for not getting his sums right. The boy was too big for the class (he was big in size and age) I used to feel sorry for him. I prayed for him.

One day in the absence of their teacher I was asked to take that class. I went happily, and put up some additions on the board.

The sums were so easy that even Grade 2 children could have done them. But I said, "Pencils down please. I want all of you to get all the sums correct, so listen to me carefully. If you don't understand you can ask me again and again. I went round the class, naturally all were doing well. Next I put up some subtractions. When I collected the books for correction I was more interested in the weaker ones specially the big boy. True enough all had done well. I spoke to the Lord then I quietly called the big boy and spoke gently to him

and said, "You are a clever boy, see you have got all your sums correct. Why is that you don't pay attention in class? Why is that you are caned practically ever day. Will you promise me that you will do better?" He promised. God answered my prayer.

He did study. He did do well. Even the other teachers noticed the change in the boy and were surprised. Strong Faith sees the invisible, believes the incredible, and receives the impossible.

Emilda S. Douglas

"Growing Old"

Growing old is not retiring
for the battle still is on,
Going on without relenting
Till the final victory is won.

The longer we live, the more that we know
Old age is the time for wisdom to show,
Who knows how much good some word we might say
Could do for that one who has wandered away.

Dear Jesus, help us to stay close to you
And trust you more each day,
So when the storm of life appears
We will not drift away.

Anton Selemberam

A building on fire

On a recent evening, suddenly thaththi came running to tell ammi that a building was on fire. Malla, ammi achcha and I ran to the balcony. It was the first time I saw a fire, flames and smoke covering the sky. I was sad, thinking of the people in the homes. The next day ammi and thaththi went for a walk they were told it was the kachcheri that had burnt. Little later in the morning ammi took us to see the kachcheri. We saw the smoke and the fire brigade spraying water.

*Dasha Seneviratne,
Grade 2H*

Leadership Training Workshop



A leadership training workshop was carried out for the Daham Pasal Prefects of Holy Cross Church, Munnakkaraya and St. Nicholas Church, belonging to the parish of Grand Street, by Kumara Nayanajith of the Lama Pradeepaya.

It was a comprehensive session, which successfully enabled the children to groom themselves to be better leaders.

This was organised by Rev. Fr. A. Udayadas, assisted by the Daham Pasal teachers.

What it says in the Readings

Repent, says the Lord, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.

(Mt. 4:17)

LITURGICAL CALENDAR YEAR C March 3 - 10th March 2013

Sun: Third Sunday of Lent

Ex. 3: 1-8, 13-15; 1 Cor. 10: 1-6, 10-12; Lk. 13: 1-9

Mon: 2 Kgs. 5: 1-15a; Lk. 4: 24-30

Tue: Dan. 3: 25, 34-43; Mt. 18: 21-35

Wed: Deut. 4: 1, 5-9; Mt. 5: 17-19

Thu: Jer. 7: 23-28; Lk. 11: 14-23

Fri: Hos. 14: 2-10; Mk. 12: 28b-34

Sat: Memorial of St. Frances of Rome

Hos. 6: 1-6; Lk. 18: 9-14

Sun: Fourth Sunday of Lent

1 Sam. 16: 1b, 6-7, 10-13a; Eph. 5: 8-14; Jn. 9: 1-41 (or 1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38)

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Response: Lord, hear us in your love.

It is by producing good fruit that a tree shows that it is healthy: That all Christians may be prepared to give rather than to receive. Let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, hear us in your love.

Christ was the gardener who asked that the tree be given another chance: That all those in authority may be kind and merciful towards those they serve. Let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, hear us in your love.

For all those whose lives are barren and empty of the deeds of love: That they may get the grace to do something about it. Let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, hear us in your love.

That, in our lives, we may not be content merely to produce the fruits of outward observance, but that we may strive to produce the fruits of humility, patience, forgiveness, generosity and peace.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, hear us in your love.

Sunday Rhythm Third Sunday of Lent

Master:	Look here, for three years now I have been coming to look for fruits on this fig tree and finding none.
Gardener:	Leave it one more year and give me time to dig around it and manure it: It may bear fruit next year; if not, then you can cut it down.
Richest Blessing:	Digging round the fig tree and manuring it.
Richest Result:	"...it may bear fruit..."
To Think:	I need to check myself whether I am fruitful or not. I need to be strengthened and manured with prayer and God's love.
To Pray:	Dear Lord, guide me to update myself and respond to the signs of the time willingly and fruitfully. AMEN.
To Act:	Let us make a move to help each other to be more active in our daily life while setting a tone to preach the Good News to the world.

Rev. Fr. S. Randil Fernando OMI

Third Sunday of Lent

First Reading:
Ex. 3: 1-8, 13-15.

Moses is called to bring the Israelites out of Egypt. The Israelites had repented and prayed to the Lord and the Lord of Mercy chooses Moses to rescue them.

Second Reading:
1 Cor. 10: 1-6, 10-12.

Referring to the Israelites, who continued to sin even after they were rescued from Egypt. St. Paul warns that the same fate would befall the Corinthians if they did not heed the call for conversion.

Gospel: Lk. 13: 1-9.

Referring to the ones who died a tragic death Jesus warns the Israelites that the same fate would be theirs if they did not repent. God out of mercy will always give them and give them time

too. This is proved by the Parable of the Fig Tree.

Reflection.

Today's readings remind us of the need to repent and turn away from our sins. Merely turning away from sin is not sufficient, we should also avoid all occasions of sin or else the same fate that befell those who did not repent will be ours. The urgency of conversion is also stressed but God in His mercy always tolerate us and awaits change in our lives.

In the First Reading, God answers the call of the Israelites. The Israelites living in slavery in Egypt repented of their sins and prayed for their freedom. God in His mercy answered their prayer. As a sign of His forgiveness He chooses Moses to bring them out of Egypt and He promises Moses that He

would bring the Israelites out of Egypt. This is the beginning of salvation for the Israelites. All these were accomplished because the Israelites repented and prayed to God Almighty. This is the reason why we too should always repent for all our sins and thereby pave the way for conversion.

From the Gospel it is clear that if we do not repent and be converted we would be like any other sinner and be punished in the same way in which they too were punished. Of this the Gospel says "Do you think that these Galatians were worse sinners than all the other Galatians, because they suffered thus? I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish."

It is the same in the case of those eighteen, upon whom the tower in

Sidoam fell. The Parable of the Fig Tree show us that even though it is fit only to be cut and burnt. God out of mercy will give it more time and chances to bear fruit.

The Second Reading takes us beyond conversion and reminds us that once having been converted if we are to continue in our sinful ways and fall back, the same fate would befall us as of those who did not change their lives. Once converted, we should live a holy life.

Today's liturgy invites us to repent and to allow the conversion process to take place in our lives. Though there is an urgency of conversion, God out of mercy will await the conversion of the sinner. But once converted we ought to live in holiness lest we fall back to our old selves.

Rev. Fr. Ciswan De Croos

Let us pray for a Pope after God's own heart...

Tanya Ferdinandusz

Within hours, even minutes, of the news of the Pope's coming resignation, speculation was running rife. Possible 'contenders' to be the next Pope were being mooted, discussed, debated; in some circles, odds were being proposed...

Turning away from speculation to the Scriptures, I was reminded of a story from the Old Testament, at a time when the people of God were facing a crisis of leadership. The Prophet Samuel informs King Saul:

"...the LORD has sought out a man after his own heart; and the LORD has appointed him to be ruler over his people..." - 1 Samuel 13:14

Let us pray for a pope after God's own heart...

Samuel is sent by God to anoint the next king of Israel. As the sons of Jesse line up, the prophet speculates about who might be God's chosen successor. The Lord cautions Samuel:

"Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart." - 1 Samuel 16:7

The world assesses and evaluates based on such things as stature and status; the world makes its decisions based on such things as profits, position, power and political expediency. But the Lord looks on the heart, and seeks a heart that is true to Him, a heart that resonates with God's own heartbeat—grieving over the things that grieve God, rejoicing over the things that please God. As the Scriptures say: "For the eyes of the LORD range throughout the entire earth, to strengthen those whose heart is true to Him" (2 Chronicles 16:9).

Let us pray for a pope after God's own heart...

For a man whose heart is true to the Lord.

And let us pray also for all those modern-day Samuels who are charged with discerning God's will in this matter—that their hearts will beat to the drumbeat of God's

voice and God's values.

The Pope holds many lofty titles... To me, the one that resonates most closely with the words and will of our Lord is this one: "Servant of the servants of God."

Jesus warned the apostles, those soon-to-be leaders in the Early Church:

"You know that among the Gentiles those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. But it is not so among you; but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve..." - Mark 10:42-45

Over and over again, the Scriptures reveal that it is those who are committed to serve whom the Lord exalts to positions of leadership.

Let us pray for a pope after God's own heart...

For a man with a servant's heart—to lead and guide the servants of God.

Psalm 78 closes with these moving words:

"He chose His servant David, and took him from the sheepfolds; from tending the nursing ewes He brought him to be the shepherd of His people Jacob, of Israel, His inheritance. With upright heart he tended them, and guided them with skillful hand." - Psalm 78:70-72

These verses suggest several important qualities in the lad who was taken from the sheepfolds to the palace. Foremost among them is the statement that David ministered to God's people with an 'upright heart' - in other words, he was a man of integrity, with single-minded devotion to God. As the Psalmist prayed, "give me an undivided heart to revere your name" (Psalm 86:11).

Let us pray for a pope after God's own heart...

For a man with an undivided heart, single-minded in his devotion to God, uncompromising in upholding Kingdom values.

For a man who will diligently seek God's will—and determinedly walk in God's ways

Jesus did not pick a perfect human being to lead the Church. Instead, He chose Simon Peter, a self-confessed sinner, who had denied His Master not once, but thrice. At the restoration of Peter (John 21), Jesus asks Peter, not once, but three times, "Do you love me?" Before Peter could go out to preach and proclaim, he had to be reconciled in his relationship with the Lord. Firmly grounded and deeply rooted in God's love, the former fisherman is sent out as a fisher of men, as a shepherd of God's sheep, to tend them and feed them.

Let us pray for a pope after God's own heart...

For a man who loves God with all his heart.

For a man who loves God's people with all his heart.

It is said that General Eisenhower would often demonstrate the art of leadership with a piece of string. He would put it on a table and say: "Pull it and it will follow wherever you wish. Push it and it will go nowhere at all. It's just that way when it comes to leading people. They need to follow a person who is leading by example."

Peter, the first pope, had this to say to his fellow-elders:

"...tend the flock of God that is in your charge, exercising the oversight, not under compulsion but willingly, as God would have you do it — not for sordid gain but eagerly.

Do not lord it over those in your charge, but be examples to the flock..." - 1 Peter 5:2-3

Let us pray for a pope after God's own heart...

A man with a shepherd's heart. A man who exercises wise and loving stewardship over the flock of God.

A man who leads by the shining example of his own life.

Let us pray for a pope after God's own heart.

And let's not forget to pray for ourselves—that one each one of us would be a man or woman after God's own heart.