



Marian Year

The Rosary is the scourge of the devil!

- Pope Adrian VI

Holy Father's Visit to Sri Lanka

'Abide in Love'

Facebook account:

www.facebook.com/popevisitsrilanka2015



Spiritual preparation for the forthcoming visit of our Holy Father, Pope Francis to Sri Lanka.

Special intentions for the Sunday Liturgy
SEE Pg.15 >>>

Messenger

"REGISTERED IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POSTS OF SRI LANKA"

UNDER NO. QD / 34 / NEWS / 2014

Sunday, October 5, 2014 Vol 145 No 39 20 Pages Rs: 25.00 Registered as a newspaper

Revival of 'Domestic Church'

Pope Francis holds Extraordinary Synod

From the time of the historic Second Vatican Council, the family has been seen as the Domestic Church' and a revival of this dimension will be the main theme of an Extraordinary Synod convened by Pope Francis in the Vatican from October 5-19.

Some 150 Synod fathers will discuss on the chosen theme, "Pastoral

challenges of the family in the context of evangelization."

The family is seen as a link between the Extraordinary Synod of October 2014 and the General Synod of 2015. This is an invitation for the involvement of all those who hold in awe the sacredness of family life. This Synod calls on people and entities in the Church and beyond to be a part of its new mis-

sion in the preservation of family life.

Cardinal Walter Kasper's *Gospel of the Family*, is the good news about divine love, which is proclaimed by those who live the sacramentality of family life, experienced in the living out of its vocation. The Church's teaching on marriage is presented in this book and offered in a communicative and effective

way, so that it reaches the hearts and transforms them according to the will of God manifested in Christ Jesus.

One Hundred Day Countdown



The 100-day countdown to the canonization of Sri Lanka's first Saint the Blessed Joseph Vaz and the visit of His Holiness Pope Francis will begin on Sunday, October 5 with a Holy Mass at the Basilica of Our Lady of Lanka Tewatte.

The Mass will be celebrated by His Lordship Rt. Rev. Dr. Emmanuel Fernando, Auxiliary Bishop of Colombo.

All are welcome!

Very Rev. Fr. Cyril Gamini Fernando

Director, Media Secretariat of the Papal Visit Sri Lanka, 2015.

Shepherd Speaks



Beloved Brethren,

Anyone walking into the large square in front of St. Peter's Basilica in Rome cannot but notice the two large statues found at the side of the main flight of steps leading to the Basilica. The one statue has a set of keys on the right hand and a scroll on the left and the other a sword and a scroll. These are the statues of St. Peter, the first disciple of Jesus and of St. Paul whom the Lord chose as His missionary taking the message of the Gospel to the far off nations. Both are Martyrs whose bodies are buried in Rome. St. Peter was crucified on the Vatican Hill while St. Paul was beheaded on via Ostiense. These two apostles symbolize the Church of the apostles, martyrs and saints whose faith and life witness nourished and strengthened its mission. The faith of the Church thus is what is accumulated over the centuries through the heroic witness of the faith of these and other disciples of the Lord, many of whom paid the ultimate price in witnessing to Him. They are so numerous that we cannot even count them. And so what we believe in is essentially not just a set of dogmas invented or created by a group of Theologians with impersonal concepts but a relationship of love that had been generated between the Lord and His disciples down the centuries yielding to a new language of love. The Credo is not just a set of empty formulas to be memorized but express a living and loving relationship between men and women of all ages and the Lord Himself. They are the language of that love and trust.

These men and women make up the Church, the chosen assembly of God's people, and they have given it the expression of its identity, its vision and mission in that common faith which is also the very

Contd on Pg. 3 >>>

OCTOBER 1 - DAY FOR CHILDREN AND ELDERS

WORLD CHILDREN'S DAY

The greatest need of a person is the feeling of "being wanted" and "being noticed." Thirst for want- edness is an unquenchable thirst, found in every human being. It is particularly in the case of children. They long to be wanted, shown affection and appreciated.

Children's Day should be celebrated with this in view. Today children are thrown open to the evil of drugs, sex, alcohol, labour, abuse and violence. The theme for children's day is "Protect us with Love." This should be a wake up call to all



It is OUR Day

people of goodwill to protect the rights of children, 'they are our future, the hope of tomorrow.' A country prospers or progresses to the extent it is able to unearth the hidden potential lying in her children. "We need you to Protect Us"

"THE ULTIMATE GRANDFATHER"



VATICAN CITY: Retired Pontiff Benedict XVI joined some 50,000 pilgrims in Saint Peter's Square last Sunday (28) for a meeting between Pope Francis and elderly people from around the world.

Welcoming his predecessor, Pope Francis described Pope Benedict as the "grandfather of all grandfathers."

"I have said many times that it gives me great pleasure that he lives here in the Vatican, because it is like having a wise grandfather at home. Thank you!"

Addressing the crowds gathered in front of Saint Peter's Basilica, the Pope

Contd on Pg. 2 >>>

Canonization of Blessed Joseph Vaz

ON CATHOLIC HALF HOUR

Tune into Catholic Half Hour presented by Mr. Trevor Ludowyke, today, October 5, at 8.00 p.m. over Radio Sri Lanka (the English National Service of SLBC) on 97.4 or 97.6 MHz, featuring His Lordship, Rt. Rev. Dr. Vianney Fernando, Bishop of Kandy and President of the National Commission for the Cause of Canonization of Blessed Joseph Vaz and Very Rev. Fr. Anthony Fernandopulle, Secretary of the Commission and Episcopal Vicar of Colombo South Region.



Please Like pope visit sri lanka official facebook page.

www.facebook.com/popevisitsrilanka2015

www.popefrancissrilanka.com

Bishop of Jaffna calls for close cooperation between Government and Provincial Council



His Lordship Rt. Rev. Dr. Thomas Savundranayagam, Bishop of Jaffna has recently pointed out in an interview with the "Pathukavalan" Catholic weekly that the Government and the Northern Provincial

Council, instead of continuing to find fault with each other, must come to an understanding about working together for the well-being, the aspirations and the future of the Tamil people.

Bishop Savundranayagam said that following the last meeting of the Catholic Bishop's Conference, a delegation of Bishops had met President Mahinda Rajapaksa at Temple Trees and discussed the country's situation, including the conduct of the Budu Bala Sena and the issue of land grabbing by the military.

"As Bishop of Jaffna, I particularly brought two matters to the attention of the President," His Lordship said. "Firstly, though it is five years since the end of the military conflict and three years since the establishment of the Northern Provincial Council, only development activities have taken place but no political solution has been offered to the Tamils. Secondly, lands belonging to the Tamil people and their places of worship have been subjected to acquisition by the military under their land grabbing actions."

The President had responded that neither the Provincial Council nor the Chief Minister had demonstrated a desire to cooperate with the Government and that they have not accepted the Government's invitations to attend numerous meetings. As long as this situation prevailed there is little that the Government can do, the President had said, adding that lands belonging to the people will not be forcibly acquired and that surveying of such lands is in progress, at the end of which people will receive ownership of

what is rightfully theirs. With regard to places of worship too, the President had assured that these would be soon handed over to the people.

Subsequent to the meeting with the President, Bishop Savundranayagam had met Chief Minister C. Vigneswaran, Hon. Mavai Senathirajah MP and Northern Provincial Council Members at Bishop's House, Jaffna. At this meeting, His Lordship had appraised the group about his meeting with the President. In response, Mr. Vigneswaran had noted that the main

reason why the Government's invitations for various meetings had been rejected was that no tangible outcome had resulted by participating in several previous meetings and that the Government had not shown a political will to fulfill the aspirations of the Tamil people.

Bishop Savundranayagam reiterated to the "Pathukavalan" that there is an urgent need for both parties to find a path through their differences in a way that would allow them to collaborate with each other for the common good.

Ainslie Joseph

National Christian Literary Festival - 2014/2015 Workshop on Short Plays

Department of Christian Religious Affairs of the Ministry of Budhdhasasana and Religious Affairs organizes workshops on short plays concurrently to National Festival of Christian Literature-2014/2015 with the objective of presenting excellent citizens to future world by inculcating values of Christian culture and literature whilst enhancing knowledge of sons, daughters as well as youths of all Catholic and main line churches of NCC on Christian literature.

Our main objective is to make an opportunity to the youths for producing short plays at the end of workshops and thereby to transform them to a young generation who are capable to present traditions of Christian art to the future. Applications are hereby called from Christian youths of Sri Lanka for this workshops conducted by veteran artistes, scholars in the field of drama and Rev Fathers with wide knowledge on the field.

Conditions:

- Applications can be forwarded by those between the ages 16-35
- Applicants are required to organise as groups since a competition of short dramas is organised at the end of the workshop. (Number of the members of each group should not exceed 15).
- Members of youth societies can also forward applications.
- Applications should be submitted with the recommendation of the Parish Priest and Rev Father in charge of youth affairs of the Diocese.
- Recommendation of the Principal should be included in the applications submitted at school level.

Self prepared applications in accordance with above conditions, which contain the address and contact number of the group leader, can either be sent by registered post or submitted by hand to Director, Department of Christian Religious Affairs, 155/10, Colombo 08 before 31st October 2014.

Clarification

In our lead story last week, we inadvertently reported that the Blessed Joseph Vaz came to Sri Lanka in 1651. That was the year of his birth. He came to Sri Lanka 1687. The error is regretted.

Thirty years of service - Sri Lanka Kolping Society



Regional representatives of the Sri Lanka Kolping Society met at the Batticaloa Bishop's House, recently to discuss the arrangements for the 30th anniversary of the Kolping Society.

His Lordship, Rt. Rev. Dr. Joseph Ponniah is seen in the picture with members of the Kolping Society.

Dorsan Paul

Water tanks for the drought stricken



Five, 1000 litre plastic water tanks for the use of drought-stricken people in the Buttala area was handed over recently, on the request of Rev. Fr. Lesley Fernando, Parish Priest of the Church of Jesus, the Liberator.

Anacletus Silva

Kirimetiyyagara Corpus Christi



A Buddhist monk places a bowl of flowers on the chariot bearing the Blessed Sacrament as it passes the temple; during the Corpus Christi celebrations at St. Anthony's Church, Kirimetiyyagara

Feast of Our Lady of Good Voyage



The feast of Our Lady of Good Voyage Church, Amirthakali was celebrated on a grand scale last Sunday (28). His Lordship, Rt. Rev. Dr. Rayappu Joseph, Bishop of Batticaloa was the Chief Celebrant. Rev. Fr. A. Julian (Parish Priest), Rev. Fr. Douglas James and Rev. Fr. Jivan SJ concelebrated with him.

Soon after Mass, the statue of Our Lady was taken in procession on a boat, this time escorted by two naval boats, followed by the faithful in a number of boats.

Rev. Fr. Ramesh Christy

Thanksgiving Pilgrimage to Goa

A special Thanksgiving Pilgrimage to Goa, organized by Blessed Joseph Vaz National Secretariat has been fixed for December 4th to 9th 2014. It also will cover the Exposition of the Sacred Remains of St. Francis Xavier which will be in progress in the month of December 2014. The entire package is moderately priced. Prospective pilgrims are kindly requested to contact Mr. Roggy Corera on 077-6272351 at a very early date.

Very Rev. Fr. Anthony Fernandopulle- Secretary

The Ultimate...

Contd. from Pg. 1

said that like violence against children, "violence against the elderly is inhuman."

To grandparents in particular, the Pope entrusted a "great task; to transmit life experience, the history of a family, of a community, of a people; to share wisdom with simplicity, and the same faith: the most precious legacy!"

"The grandfather is twice father, and the grandmother is twice mother," the Holy Father said.



Church in the Modern World

Pope chooses 'family' as theme for World Communications Day 2015

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- As the family gets special focus in two upcoming Synods and an international gathering in Philadelphia next year, Pope Francis is highlighting the beauty and value of the family in his message for World Communications Day.

"Communicating the family: A privileged place of encounter with the gift of love" will be the theme of the church's celebration of World Communications Day, which most dioceses will mark May 17, the Sunday before Pentecost. The Pope's message for the day is expected to be released Jan. 24, the feast of St. Francis de Sales, patron saint of journalists.

The Pontifical Council for Social Communications, in a September 29 announcement of the Pope's choice of the theme, said the news

points out many of the difficulties facing families today and "often times, cultural changes do not help us appreciate how much the family is a good for society."

The challenge facing the church and its work in communications is figuring out how to share with the world, especially those who are hurting, the beauty of love, life and marriage between a man and a woman.

"Today the Church must learn again how to show that the family is a great gift, something good and beautiful" and to show this gift of love "more vividly," the council said.

"It is an exciting task because it moves people to look at the true reality of the human person, and it opens the doors to the future, that is, to life," it said.



Meriam fights for victims of religious persecution



Meriam Ibrahim

The Sudanese woman who was sentenced to death for refusing to give up her Christian faith and finally released after pressure from the international community, has

announced that she plans to campaign for other women who face religious persecution in her country.

No one understands what it is like to risk one's life for faith more than her. Meriam Ibrahim, the Sudanese woman who escaped a death sentence for apostasy – thanks to an international campaign and the intervention of the Italian government – has announced that she intends to fight for other victims of religious persecution in her country.

Speaking to the BBC in the US, where she is seeking asylum, Meriam said: "There are others who are in worse conditions in Sudan than those I was in." The woman said she hopes to return to Sudan one day.

"The judge told me that I needed to convert to Islam," Meriam said. "And so these warnings made me anticipate I would be sentenced to death." Meriam's father is a Muslim but she was raised a Christian by her mother and married a Christian man, against Sudanese law. She was found guilty of renouncing her Muslim faith. "Sadly, this was all under the guise of the law. So instead of protecting people, the law is harming them," she said.

When asked in another interview with Fox News Network whether she had feared dying, she said: "Faith means life. If you don't have faith, you're not alive."

First woman appointed to a Vatican Congregation



Sr. Luzia Premoli with Pope Francis

(CNA/EWTN News).- The first woman ever to be appointed a member of a Vatican congregation explains that "women still have much to give to the Church with their personal charisma."

Sr. Luzia Premoli, Superior General of the Combonian Missionary Sisters, was appointed a member of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples on September 13 and spoke recently to CNA.

She added that her appointment shows Pope Francis' commitment to having more women as decision-makers in the ranks of the Church.

While women served in the Vatican already, as consultants or even under-secretaries and members of pontifical councils, there had never been a woman appointed as a member of a congregation, the higher ranking departments of the Roman Curia.

Pope Francis cracks a joke about Mother Teresa's energy

During his one-day visit to Albania, Pope Francis told his interpreter about the time he met the Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta at the 1994 Synod: "If she had been my superior I would have been scared"

Mother Teresa of Calcutta – born Gonxhe Bojaxhiu – originally from Skopje, was never fazed by anything, she "always spoke her mind,"

even before the Synod assembly. The Pope confided this to the priest who was acting as his interpreter during his Albanian visit. The Director of the Holy See Press Office, Fr. Federico Lombardi, revealed this at a press conference in Tirana.

Describing the circumstances of his encounter with Mother Teresa who helped the poorest among the poor, the Pope said he

met Mother Teresa at the Synod held in 1994. "She sat right behind me during the sessions. I admired her strength, the determinedness with which she spoke, never letting herself be fazed by the assembly of bishops. She said what she wanted to say..."

"If she had been my superior or I would have been scared!" Pope Francis had joked.

Shepherd Speaks...

Contd. from Pg. 1

reason for its existence. The Church exists to be God's chosen vehicle of salvation for humanity and in and through its members, its saints and witnesses and the faith they profess it serves humanity.

And so it is not just a structure marked by efficiency nor is it just a philosophy of good living or a system of principles for uprightness. It is these and much more. It is the extended presence of Christ in history as the dogmatic constitution on the Church, Lumen Gentium, of the 2nd Vatican Council stated: "**as all the members of the human body, though they are many, form one body, so also are the faithful in Christ**" (cf. 1 Cor. 12:12); [LG 7].

Besides, the Church is not made up of angels but rather of the saints and sinners, dead and the living and their faith becomes the living faith of the community. It may have certain shortcomings but it is the language of that dialogue between Christ and His disciples. In the Credo we call this common bonding of faith and love, "the communion of saints". It is the living link that we have with those in Heaven, those in purgatory and those living on earth, our brothers and sisters. It is a most joyful and even meta cosmic belonging, a belonging of faith and communion with so many all over the world and beyond too. It is animated and sustained by Christ, the Head of the Church, His Body. It is a limitless experience of infinite joy. What a great privilege, then, that we carry being part of the Church of the apostles, the martyrs, the saints, those who have gone before us and those who will follow us, a Church that supersedes time and space – the Church founded by Christ Himself and on the foundation of those who followed Him closely, the apostles and martyrs? How could we leave all of that behind just because someone appears on the horizon and tells us "come I have a new formula to help you." Jesus too warned us not to be lost by such "false teachers": "take heed that you are not deceived; for many shall come in my name saying, "I am Christ; the time has come; do not go after them" [Lc. 21:8]. Let those who have ears, listen!

May God bless you!

Your Archbishop

✦ Malcolm Cardinal Ranjith

SUNDAY PUNCH

by Camillus



Camillus
05.10.2014

THE CATHOLIC WEEKLY SRI LANKA
Messenger
SINCE 1869

EDITORIAL

October 5, 2014

'Paradise Lost'

A selfish and self-destructive world bungled the 20th century. Now, 14 years into the 21st century we may not have the opportunity for another century unless all the major religions come together and provide global religious wisdom to restore peace on earth.

This prophetic warning like the warning given by the great prophets of the Old Testament was sounded by Justice C. G. Weeramantry, former Senior Vice President of the International Court of Justice, when he gave a keynote speech at the International Religious Summit held in the South Korean capital of Seoul recently.

Judge Weeramantry, one of Sri Lanka's most widely-respected personalities and often described as our own Mahatma Gandhi spoke as world leaders gathered in New York for the United Nations General Assembly and the more important Climate Summit.

Though God created earth perfectly with an eco-balanced nature, people were given the responsibility of being good stewards of Mother Earth. However, during the past four decades we have brought Planet Earth to a now-or-never catastrophe.

We must take immediate and effective action to curb carbon dioxide emissions or we will face self-destruction during the coming decades. The gravity of the crisis was highlighted at the one-day UN Climate Change Summit last Tuesday and the people of Sri Lanka also need to become aware and take action, collectively and individually, to save our country.

Political, religious and business leaders need to step out and give leadership to people in this do-or-die battle to save Planet Earth.

The world leaders who met in New York agreed to widen the use of renewable energy and raise billions of dollars in aid for developing countries. The summit, hosted by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, set goals to halt losses of tropical forests by 2030, improve food production and increase the share of electric vehicles in cities to 30 per cent of new vehicle sales by 2030.

These initiatives are non-binding but all nations including Sri Lanka must be aware of climate issues and act fast because if they do not, it will be too late.

The targets are meant to help prepare for a 200-nation summit in Paris next year to finalise a deal to slow-rising greenhouse gas emissions.

The UN chief said he hoped this would serve as a catalyst in finalising a universal and meaningful agreement on climate change in Paris next year.

The UN said in a statement that pledges of financial support would give a "significant boost" to a promise by rich nations in 2009 to raise \$100 billion a year by 2020 from all sources to help poor countries shift to renewable energy and adapt to heatwaves, droughts and rising seas.

Separately, an alliance of about 30 countries including the United States and a coalition of multinational companies set a goal of halving losses of forests by 2020 and halting losses by 2030.

If fully implemented, this would stave off between 4.5 billion and 8.8 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions a year, equivalent to emissions by all the world's one billion cars.

Addressing the summit in the aftermath of Sri Lanka's worst-ever drought, President Mahinda Rajapaksa said our country's leaders had been drawing inspiration from the philosophy of Gautama Buddha preached by Arahata Mahinda that the Earth and its vegetation did not belong to the rulers and that the rulers were only temporary trustees who had to protect the environment for the benefit of future generations.

Responding to a request made by the UN Secretary-General to the leaders attending the summit to present a national statement that will outline a vision to achieve the goal of reducing emissions, President Rajapaksa explained that in the Mahinda Chintanaya, the policy agenda of the Government, he had included several strategies to be adopted by Sri Lanka.

But independent analyst promises and chintanayas need to be implemented because the rape of Sri Lanka's forest was still going on while city streets were overloaded with non-essential vehicles. Unless effective action is taken Sri Lanka may be cast out of paradise as in the parable of the Garden of Eden.

Global Religious Wisdoms

In this article we publish extracts of an address given by Judge C. G. Weeramantry who has just returned from a meeting of the Peace Summit of the World Alliance of Religions held in Seoul, South Korea from September 17-19.



Former Judge of the International Court of Justice and its one time Vice President from 1997 to 2000, C.G. Weeramantry has stressed the importance of restoring the connection between global religious wisdom and

international law, which had been broken during the religious wars of the 17th century. He said the need to rebuild this linkage as every major principle of international law can derive support from the teachings of all religions.

The Conference attended by around 2000 delegates from all countries, consisted of religious leaders of all denominations and some former and present Heads of States and Chief Justices.

The purpose of this meeting was to emphasise the urgency of our moving towards one world of all humanity dedicated to peace and justice.

A notable feature of the event was the presence of over 100000 citizens who filled the Seoul Olympic Stadium for the opening ceremony and participated in the peace walk.

The following are some extracts from his address:

We are meeting today to discuss two of the most important topics that can ever be discussed at an international forum namely, the topic of peace on earth and the role that religion can play in taking humanity towards this goal.

There can be no doubt whatever, that if the teachings of religion are followed, humanity will find itself on the high road to global peace, which has been humanity's dream since civilisation began. Unfortunately, these teachings have been grossly violated over the centuries. We have weapons available today, a single one of which surpasses, in atrocity and destructive power, all the weapons used in World Wars I and II combined. The danger to the human future is thus greater than ever before in human history.

While the danger signals are flashing all around us and the problems before us are growing, we do not realise that a solution is at hand if only we would use it. That solution is to work out a set of rules of international conduct which all the world accepts and which will be binding not through force of arms, but through its own compelling moral authority.

International Law took its origins from the religious and philosophical thinking of all civilisations. What was envisaged was one system of law based on equity and justice which would be instinctively obeyed by all nations.

Ancient Hinduism captured this idea beautifully when it taught that the future sovereign of the world would not be a physical emperor, but the "kingless authority of the law." Rules of righteous conduct towards one's neighbour, the peaceful settlement of disputes, protection of the environment, care for future generations, humanitarian conduct, respect for treaties and agreement – all these were taught by all religions and were interwoven into the corpus of international law. Treatises on International Law as a discipline in itself began to appear and religious principles were integrated into them.

As the new system of international law took root in the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries, it proved itself unable to halt wars in which the rich and powerful states victimised and took over those unable to defend themselves. Numerous wars in Europe and the contest for colonies stained those centuries with blood on an increas-

ing scale. The 19th century, with the Napoleonic wars and others was one of the most blood drenched centuries the world had seen. Four hundred peace societies came into existence around the world which along with the great Peace Conference of 1899 sought, to plan for a century of peace as a new century was about to dawn. Those plans failed and the 20th century was even more deeply drenched in blood than any century which preceded it. That was a century of lost opportunity.

We are in the early phases of a new century. If humanity bungled its affairs in the 20th century and it was torn with war, humanity still had another century, the 21st century, to put its affairs in order. If we bungle the 21st century, as the 20th century was bungled, we will have no further century in which to put our house in order, as this is the first century to dawn with humanity having the power to destroy itself. This is our century of last opportunity.

It must be remembered that International Law has no armies at its disposal, powerful enough to challenge the great armies of the world. It can only rely for obedience on the universal respect it commands. As Albert Einstein observed, "Peace cannot be kept by force, it can only be achieved by understanding." There is no better route towards generating that understanding of peace and respect for International Law than by showing the commonality of the teachings of the great religions on the foundational principles on which International Law is built.

Unity of the Human Family

Teachings of all religions are quite categorical on this.

Lord Buddha was perhaps the first to point out that whereas every living species on the planet, whether it be a plant or a worm or an insect or a bird or a mammal, has many subspecies within it, humans are all cant in one species. "Thus there are no characteristics indicating differences of species among human beings in the way in which there are characteristics indicative of differences in species among animals and plants"

Hinduism has adopted an ancient Sanskrit phrase Vasudha eva kutumbakam, which translates as "The world is one family."

There is the fundamental teaching, in Christianity, that all humans are God's children and the prime prayer of Christianity, the Lord's Prayer, taught by Jesus himself, begins with the words, "Our Father." This carries the clear implication that every human being has a direct relationship with God and is a member of one family, headed by God, their Father. This broke through earlier traditions that one has to be in a special position to be able to address God direct, and thus stressed the unity of the human family.

Noteworthy in this connection is the celebrated farewell sermon of Prophet Mohammed "The aristocracy of yore is trampled under my feet. The Arab has no superiority over the non-Arab and the non-Arab has no superiority over the Arab, all alike are children of Adam and Eve."

Identifying the Causes of War

One of the mistakes we make today is to condemn war in general terms without condemning the causes of war. If we eliminate them, we have a peaceful world. Every religion commands us to eliminate them. Let us eliminate the causes and war will be a thing of the past. Among the causes of war are

- Revenge "An eye for an eye makes the whole world blind" – Mahatma Gandhi on revenge
- Anger and hatred towards one's neighbor

Contd. on Pg. 6

We have a Saint; are we Saints?

**Trevor Ludowyke. Bph (Rome),
Bth (Rome)**

The 17th of September 2014 will go down the history of the Catholic Church in Sri Lanka and Kanara as a red letter day, for on that day the Vatican announced that Blessed Joseph Vaz, "the Apostle of Sri Lanka" will be declared a saint during Pope Francis' visit to the island scheduled to take place from January 13-15, 2015. The Holy Father approved the vote by the Ordinary Session of Cardinals and Bishops in favour of canonization of the Indian-born saintly priest and decided to summon a Consistory shortly. Although an Indian by birth, Blessed Joseph Vaz is hailed as the "Apostle of Sri Lanka and Kanara (India)" as he had opted of his own free will to leave his homeland and make Sri Lanka (then Ceylon) his missionary abode where he spent most of his priestly ministry until his death and was buried in Kandy. While announcing the declaration of the Holy Father about his canonization Vatican noted "since Blessed Joseph Vaz was born, educated and ordained a priest in India and opted to be a missionary in Sri Lanka, both the countries have special significance at his being raised to the honours of the Altar." Yes indeed, Sri Lanka can now exclaim with great joy, "We have a Saint!"

What does it mean to have a Saint? Who is a Saint?

Our general understanding is that only the Pope can declare certain individuals as saints after their death on the basis of a lengthy process that examines the works and life of the individual brought forward for canonization guided by certain criteria established by the Catholic Church. The Catholic Church does not consider just anyone, no matter how "saintly" a life he or she appears to have led, without proper study and without confirming at least one miracle (attributed to that individual) that could be authenticated beyond scientific and medical explanation. That is why from among the millions of Catholics who have entered eternal rest, including those we may know have lived a saintly life, only a tiny minority have and would ever be recognized as saints by the Vatican. According to the Catechism, canonization is the solemn proclamation "that they practiced heroic virtue and lived in fidelity to God's grace." Pope Francis has declared that Blessed Joseph Vaz has practiced heroic virtue and lived in fidelity to God's grace and is therefore to be elevated to the ranks of the Saints in heaven.

What were these heroic virtues and what are the evidences of his fidelity to God's grace? To answer these questions we need to look closely at the life of Blessed Joseph Vaz and more importantly the circumstances within which he practiced those virtues and remained faithful to God's grace.

Childhood of Blessed Joseph Vaz

If you study the lives of saints, you will find that in most cases the saints had shown signs of a special vocation even during their early days.



Saint Peter Julian Eymard, is one such saint. It is recorded that when Peter Julian was just five-years-old, he had wandered off from the family residence and went missing. Having searched for him frantically all over the neighbourhood his

sister and half-sister had finally found him in the parish church, standing on a stool close to the tabernacle of the altar and on being questioned as to what he was doing he had said, "I am here listening to Jesus." The driving passion of St. Peter Julian Eymard was his passion for Jesus in the Holy Eucharist and he became the founder of the Blessed Sacrament Congregation, a congregation dedicated to the Holy Eucharist. Again, when Saint John Bosco was a little boy, an orphan had knocked on their door and pleaded for food and refuge. When the child related his plight of having lost his mother and driven away from his home by creditors, little John Bosco had told his mother, "He'll stay with us" and on being asked by his mother "but where will he sleep?" John had retorted "if necessary, we'll sling a basket from the ceiling for a bed!" and laughed. He was John Bosco's first orphan but certainly not the last for his entire life was dedicated towards guiding unruly and obstinate young children on the right path using ways and methods attractive to them.

So, what happened in the childhood of Joseph Vaz? It is said that little Joseph Vaz too used to secretly make his way to the church at night to pray before the Blessed Sacrament even when



its doors were closed and that whenever he did so, the church doors opened miraculously to allow him to enter. It is no surprise that as a young boy he was called "the little Saint" in his paternal and maternal villages. Furthermore, it has been recorded that the day Joseph Vaz was born, his father saw a strange star in the sky during mid-day and wrote in his personal diary that his son would become a great man. Was this a coincidence? I think not.

Joseph Vaz was born in 1651 at Benaullim, his mother's village and was baptised on the eighth day at the Parish Church of St. John the Baptist, Benaullim by its pastor, Father Jacinto Pereira. His parents, Cristóvão Vaz and Maria de Miranda, were devout Catholics. Joseph Vaz attended the elementary school in Sancoale and there he learned Portuguese while he learnt Latin in Benaullim. There again we see a very bright student who was popular among

his mentors and colleagues showing all the signs of fruitful academic career and successful life. His aptitude at studies drew the attention of all including his father who then decided to send him to the city of Goa for further studies. He was admitted to the Jesuit College of St. Paul where he followed a course in Rhetoric and Humanities and subsequently studied philosophy and theology at St. Thomas Aquinas' Academy of the Dominicans, in Goa.

Priest and Missionary

Blessed Joseph Vaz was incardinated into the Archdiocese of Goa and was ordained a priest in 1675. Following the exemplary life of St. Francis Xavier the newly ordained Fr. Vaz preferred to be disalced in order that he may be able to identify himself with the poor and chose to live a very simple life. Moreover, it has been established that it was the life and missionary zeal of St. Francis Xavier that inspired Fr. Vaz to become a missionary. He instantly became a popular preacher and confessor and was much sort after and loved by the faithful. Fr. Vaz's missionary deeds are only too well known among the Goan Catholic community even today. He did all he could for the poor and the needy that came to him. He never kept any money with him: always depended on God and his fellowmen. He had nothing to call this own! He wore only one cassock, which was patched and stitched all over. He always slept on a mat on the floor. He loved the poor. He always kept a sack of rice to be distributed after Holy Mass to the poor. Miraculously, as divine providence would have it, that sack of rice was never empty! He never sought self-glory. He was humble like his Master.

As a very young priest, Fr. Vaz placed his life in the hands of Mother Mary and declared himself as a "slave of Virgin Mary" and wrote a letter by himself on August 5, 1677 in the old Sancoale Church, where he began his preaching life signing it with his own blood. His Letter of Bondage read as follows:

Letter of Bondage

(written by Fr. Joseph Vaz a few months after his Ordination)

Let it be known to all who see this "Letter of Bondage," angels, human beings and all creatures that I, Fr. Joseph Vaz, sell and offer myself as a perpetual slave of the Virgin Mother of God. This I do through a free, spontaneous and perfect act of devotion which in law is known as an irrevocable act among the living. I give myself and all that I possess so that She, as my true Mistress and Mother, may dispose of me and my possessions as She wills. And because I consider myself unworthy of such an honour, I beseech my Guardian Angel and the glorious Patriarch St. Joseph, the most blessed Spouse of this Sovereign Lady and the Saint whose name I bear, as well as all the citizens of heaven that they may obtain from Her this favour to be included among the number of Her slaves. I confirm this and seal it with my name. I would have liked to sign it with my heart's blood. Written in the Church of Sancoale, at the foot of the altar of the same Virgin Mary Mother of God, Our Lady of Health, on this day the 5th of August, the feast of Our Lady of Snows, in the year 1677. (signed in his blood) Joseph Vaz.

While in ministry, Fr. Vaz had word from Ceylon that the Catholic Faith was threatened with extinction owing to the Dutch colonial rule which promoted Calvinism. During this period of nearly 30 years no Catholic priest or missionary was ever allowed to live or minister to the Catholics under pain of death. Catholic priests were expelled from the country. He had heard of the sufferings they were going through and that they were deprived of the life-line of Christian life, namely the Sacraments. He was well aware of the dangers that would befall any Catholic priest who dares to set foot on the soil of Ceylon. On hearing of the plight of the Catholics in Ceylon who were severely persecuted and harassed by the Dutch colonial rulers Fr. Vaz sought permission from his superiors to undertake a missionary assignment in Ceylon. However, his request was turned down and instead he was posted as a Superior to the Kanara Mission. There he worked tirelessly strengthening the Catholic faith and uniting an otherwise divided Church, building new churches and setting up small schools in villages.

One of Fr. Vaz's important contributions in Kanara was his establishing many Confraternities where there were no churches or resident priests available. In doing so, he constructed small huts for the Catholics in the area to stay together, pray together and be ministered by him. This helped strengthen the Christian faith of the people of Kanara and enabled them to preserve their faith. He did yeoman service to the cause of the poor and the downtrodden and won the hearts of the people who saw in him a shadow of their very own Saint Francis Xavier. Many miracles were attributed to Father Vaz even during his ministry in Kanara which is why he is also hailed as the Apostles of Kanara. A local legend has it that one day Father Vaz was invited by unknown persons to come far away from his parish to administer the last Sacraments to a dying prisoner. According to this legend, while he accompanied those who came for him, he was attacked by them in a lonely spot and was able to escape miraculously by kneeling on a rock with his stick where a sudden gush of water sprang forth terrifying his attackers who then fled the scene leaving him unharmed.

The sources of these two springs have become two deep wells and are still in evidence at the Church in Mudipu, India. Father Vaz's dream of coming to Ceylon continued to haunt him even after he returned back to Goa and founded the Congregation of the Oratory of St. Philip Neri in 1685. In 1686 he obtained permission to leave for Ceylon. Well aware of the dangers that lie ahead if he was identified as a Catholic priest, he discarded his priestly robe and disguising himself as a mendicant, he reached the port of Tuticorin in 1687 and thereafter embarked on the ship for Ceylon.

The Apostle of Sri Lanka

Upon arriving on the shores of Ceylon Fr. Vaz and his companion John both fell sick due to the arduous voyage which took them 20 long days owing to bad weather. Fr. Vaz suffered from acute dysentery, contracted from the terrible travelling conditions. Upon recovering, Fr. Vaz went about still disguised as a mendicant searching for a place to stay. Fr. Vaz had now to find a way to make contact with Catholics and to make

Contd. on Pg. 6



Children: Knowing their Temperament

The challenges that parents are confronted today as they raise their children in a society, that is not family-friendly is not an easy task, more so in a world where the current needs of children have also changed dramatically, the temptations, wants and needs have reached dizzy height. "I want it" - I must have it," No, I want this one," etc seems to be the first sentences they in this scenerio, how do the modern day Mom and Dad understand the child's temperament.

This series is written with the hope that God will help parents better understand their children and raise them to bring honour and glory to God, the Creator of life.

"Children are a gift from God, what they will be is the parents' gift to God."



SHE REFLECTS ME

Mom: As I entered my bedroom I saw her stand-up in front of the mirror of the dressing table, she seemed to be fully engrossed, admiring herself from all angles, she was wearing one of my finest dresses, managing somehow to keep her balance in my high-heeled shoes, the tube of red lipstick in her hand, looking intently at her handiwork.

At this point she looked more like a clown than the pretty lady she was pretending to be.

She had still not noticed me in the room, as she reached for the perfume. I said, "My, you look beautiful; and what is your name?" She turned around and in complete surprise replied, "Why Mummy you know me! I am (...!) I am trying to be just like you, Mummy".

I wanted to laugh, wondering if that is how she thought I looked. The moment passed, then a lump rose in my throat and the realisation that she was very serious and was trying to be a copy of me. What a wonderful thing, what love, what a privilege to have a child who admired me so much that she needed to imitate me.

The drama ended, but the lesson it taught me did not. It caused me to search my heart and seek Divine help to be the kind of model, that would guide her steps in the right way. I realised it was my responsibility to protect her from following other models, that would be contrary to what God, who created her wanted her to be, because children will look for heroes.

(To be contd)

We have a.....

Contd. from Pg. 5

known to them that he was a priest. Yet no Catholic would ever disclose their true identity or show any external sign of being a Catholic for fear of persecution. He would do it discreetly; and being the master at disguise and innovation he decided to conspicuously wear a large rosary around his neck which a Catholic would immediately notice. His practical method worked and he was able to discreetly make contacts with Catholics.

In 1689, he was able to set up his residence in a village called Sillalai in Jaffna where the Catholics were numerous and resolute. There he discreetly gathered Catholics in the area to celebrate the Holy Eucharist. However, the Dutch soldiers were alerted and they raided the location. It is undoubtedly by divine providence that Fr. Vaz was able to escape on that occasion even while some of the Catholics who were present had to pay a price for their faithfulness. If on that occasion the Dutch authorities were successful in apprehending him, it would have spelt doom for the Catholic Faith in Sri Lanka. Undeterred by the danger that lurked he walked the rural paths through harsh terrain searching for Catholics, ministering to their needs, instructing them in the faith, regularizing their marriages, baptizing their children, and celebrating Holy Mass in their homes and villages. Here Fr. Vaz succeeded in reviving the spirit of the faithful. However, he could not remain for long as word had got around to the Dutch authorities that a Catholic Priest was secretly ministering in the area.

Kandy

Thereafter, he was compelled to change his residence to Puttlam in order to avoid detection. From Puttlam he moved up to Kandy where he set up his operations but was arrested as a spy for the Portuguese and dragged in chains through the city of Kandy and put in prison. During this imprisonment he was able to convert many prisoners. He learnt the local languages so that he could minister to them more effectively. Gradually he won the trust of the King of Kandy and enjoyed greater freedom of movement. The miraculous shower of rain ending a long period of drought was attributed to supplications made by Fr. Vaz for divine intervention which never failed him, while on another occasion he had tamed a wild elephant that had gone on rampage among villages and also commanded serpents never to bite a Catholic Priest. During his ministry he converted a large number of non-Christians, not by force or unethical means, for he did not have any wealth or gifts to allure them, except the wealth of the Catholic faith. It was primarily his Christian life witness that attracted such a large number of converts. His selfless and sacrificial ministry of caring for and even washing the wounds of those infected and abandoned or dying owing to the dreaded small pox epidemic, which compelled the residents and even the King to flee away in fear of being infected, made him known as a true disciple of Jesus Christ. It was a miracle that he was never infected by the dreaded small pox even though he cared for those who were. His life witness speaks volumes of his heroic virtues which merited him to be declared as a Saint of the Universal Church. There were many other significant contributions he

A CROSS The Way

By Sirohmi Gunasekera

No Regrets

"Oh dear! My mother passed away this morning. I don't know what to do," said Marina.

"Please accept my deepest sympathies. Was she sick?" asked Haresh.

"Well, she had a stroke last year so we were kind of prepared. In a way, it is good to fall ill so that we can spend time with her and be ready to say farewell," said Marina.

"You must spend Quality Time with a loved one. Just breezing in and out is of no use. Even if you don't talk, just sitting with her helps to build a memo-

ry," said Haresh.

"You are right. There were times when I sat by Mummy's side sometimes for an hour although I didn't say a word," said Marina.

"Those are the happy memories which will help you through the hard part of kissing your mother goodbye," commented Haresh, adding, "The main thing is to have no regrets. There are so many who have regrets that they did not spend enough time with a loved one."

"It is best to live each day as if it is your last day on earth. Then you can sort out your priorities. One has to work and earn but it is the time you spend with those you care about that counts," chimed in Dilini.

"I know. Many of us spend our whole lives working to earn and spend money and we forget about our loved ones," remarked Marina.

"Yes, however busy we are, we must find the time and the energy to spend even half an hour enjoying a hug and a kiss and listening to those we care about," summed up Haresh.

made towards the preservation of Catholicism in Sri Lanka such as the introduction of Muhuppus and Annavis

Blessed Joseph Vaz finally died in 1711 on January 16, after 23 years of arduous missionary work in Sri Lanka and was buried in Kandy. In 1713 his cause for beatification was started. On 21st January 1995 His Holiness Saint Pope John Paul II beatified Fr. Joseph Vaz during his visit to Sri Lanka. And now we look forward to his canonization which will take place on January 14, 2014 at Galle Face Green during the Pontifical Eucharistic Celebration presided over by His Holiness Pope Francis. Blessed Joseph Vaz will henceforth become a beacon of our Catholic faith and an exemplary missionary to be emulated not only by the clergy of this country but also the faithful whose mission it is to proclaim the Good News. It is Divine providence that has enabled Blessed Joseph Vaz to emerge as a model of missionary effort in face of opposition and persecution in today's society. Therefore, his canonization should become an occasion for a Catholic revival and renewal.

We are Saints?

Who is a saint? In the early Church, as stated in the Acts of the Apostles and also in the letters of St. Paul, the term "Saint" was applied to all baptized Christians. When the Lord asked Ananias to lay his hands on Saul who had been converted while on the way to Damascus Ananias had replied "Lord, I have heard from many sources about this man, what evil things he had done to your saints" (Acts 9:13). The New Testament scriptures such as the Acts of the Apostles and most of the letters of St. Paul and even the Book of Revelation were written during times of bitter persecution of Christians. Many Christians including all the Apostles with the exception of the evangelist John were martyred. The early Christians were persecuted from the very beginning and were fearless in the face of death. They bore witness to Christ even at the cost of their lives. It is said that the Christian faith spread far and wide nourished by the blood of the martyrs. They were rightly called saints as they practiced heroic virtue and were faithful to God's grace. Therefore, when

the New Testament refers to early Christians as Saints, it is more likely that they were identifying them not just as those baptized in the Christian faith, but more importantly as those who were committed and prepared even to lay down their lives for the faith as many of them were by then facing persecution. The Greek word for Saints is 'hagios' meaning holy. The meaning of the word holy means 'to set apart'

The Lord invited his disciples to "be Holy (perfect) as your Heavenly Father is Holy (perfect)" (Matthew 5:48). Every Christian is called to holiness or to sainthood. No human is perfect. But what is required of us is that we be perfect in the practice of the virtues of faith, hope and charity. Sainthood is to practice these virtues in a heroic manner. Yes, we are saints, if we emulate the example of the saint God, has given us in Blessed Joseph Vaz.

Globe Religious...

Contd. from Pg. 4

- The strength of the Military-industrial complex
- Lack of respect for human dignity and human rights
- Traffic in arms and armament
- Failure to settle disputes amicably before they erupt into hostilities and war
- Lack of self restraint in the exercise of power
- Greed and acquisitiveness
- Pride failure to consider principles of peace and justice

The history of peace movements and peace conferences and the reasons of their failures and successes should be opened out to make the public more aware how wars can be avoided and peace can prevail. Regular meetings between religious leaders and legal professions, judges and law makers should also be arranged to discuss these matters.

The answer to all our difficulties and problems is before us. Let us grasp it, make use of global religious wisdom which is the birth-right of all world citizens, enrich our relationships with each other and ensure



by: Kishani S. Fernando

Power House of the National Seminary

The National Seminary of Our Lady of Lanka commences its 60th Academic Year on October 10,



The Chapel
The beautiful granite stone Chapel of the Seminary of Our Lady of Lanka is the power house of the Seminary. It is here that the brothers and their formators gather together as one community before their Lord. It is here they pray and sing to their Creator and it is from here they take their leave

as true disciples of Jesus and the future leaders of the Church. The Seminary's first chapel was the quaint building that is still seen on the opposite hill facing the Seminary building. Today this chapel has been converted in to the Blessed Joseph Vaz Shrine. According to records the foundation of the present Chapel was laid on November 5, 1895. The date is confirmed by an inscription on a granite stone incorporated into the building. The stone was noticed by the present Rector Rev. Fr. Elmo Dias recently. However building the Chapel was delayed due to financial constraints and was completed only in 1926.

Two Plaques

There are two plaques associated with the Chapel on the outside wall of the Chapel. The granite plaque gives the Latin dedication of the Chapel to St. Francis Xavier - 'S. FRANCISCO XAVERIO SACRUM'

The other plaque in marble is found over the main door of the Chapel. It comprises of 3 coats of arms. On top is the Coat of Arms of the Holy See. Fitted below it are the Coats of Arms of two Popes. Pope Benedict XV (1914-1922) at left and Pope Pius XI (1922-1939) at right. These are the two Popes during whose reign the foundation of the Chapel was laid and the Chapel was completed and blessed.

The Main Statue

Originally the central statue of the Chapel was a statue of St. Francis Xavier (Jesuit Saint & Missionary of India) which was placed in the alcove over the altar. The statue was in keeping with the dedication of the Chapel to St. Francis Xavier.

On the occasion of the inauguration of the National Seminary on September 10, 1955, Archbishop Thomas Cooray promised to lend the statue of Our Lady of Lanka that was made for Tewatte and was imported from Portugal to be kept in the Seminary temporarily till the Basilica of Our Lady of



Lanka was completed. It is related how the statue arrived by truck on 28th October 28, of that same year in a steady drizzle and how the brothers welcomed her with joy and gladness singing hymns. However on January 1, 1971 it was taken to Tewatte for the Consecration of the Basilica and the alcove stood empty for a long period. On February 2, 1984 it was decided to place Richard Gabriel's wood cut statue of Our Lady of Lanka which was placed in the Refectory since it had been brought to the Seminary in 1960. The inspiration to replace the empty alcove over the Altar with the Richard Gabriel statue was from Fr. Camillus Cooray. The present statue of Our Lady of Lanka replaced Richard Gabriel's statue on May 31,

2013. This decision was taken by the present Rector Fr. Elmo Dias whose intention was to install a statue with compassionate features that the brothers could relate to in prayer. The present statue was found in the Tewatte Basilica store and is believed to have been a statue commissioned by Cardinal Cooray to develop the concept of Our Lady of Lanka.

Other statues

The eight wooden statues that grace the two sides of the Chapel, were imported from Oberammergau the famous Passion Play village in Germany, by Fr. Fred Sackett OMI the first Rector of the National Seminary.

The New Eve

This elegant wooden statue of the Blessed Mother and baby Jesus is of American origin. This once belonged to the Chapel of the Mary Knoll Sisters, who served at the Kandy Hospital. On their leaving the Island the Statue was given to the Seminary. Fr. Anselm Croos explaining the details of the sculpture said that the tree fused into the sculpture symbolizes the forbidden tree and proclaims the triumph of the 'New Eve'.

Stations of the Cross

In more recent times of 2008, 14 wooden plaques of the Way of the Cross were added to the Chapel. These are the art work of Fr. Treason Silva who was then a student at the Seminary.



St. Teresa of Jesus (of Avila)



At the invitation of our Superior-General, the Carmelite Order, all over the world, is preparing for the celebration of the 5th Centenary of the birth of St. Teresa of Jesus, in March 2015.

As part of our contribution, we the Sisters of Corpus Christi Carmel, Colombo, wish to share with our readers, highlights from the life of St. Teresa, renowned Mistress of Prayer and Doctor of the Church, as we journey towards the great day.

Childhood

Teresa was born on the March 28, 1515, to a well-to-do Spanish family, where virtue, piety and discipline were fostered. The daily reading from Sacred Scripture and the lives of the Saints had its impact on Teresa's receptive mind.

From early childhood, she had a deep sense of eternity and thought heaven or hell will be FOREVER! At the age of seven, being unable to resist her burning desire "to see God" she persuaded her older brother to join her to go to Africa and die as a martyr at the hands of the Moors. To her, this was the quickest way to see God. Fortunately, an uncle of theirs met

them and brought the fugitives back home. Her brother told their parents, "Teresa made me do it!" However, her desire for God, did not cease and she built miniature convents in their garden and played convent life with her friends – the future Mother Foundress!

When she was twelve, her beloved mother died and in her distress, she turned to Our Lady and pleaded with her to be her mother. In her autobiography, she stated, "Imitate Our Lady and consider how great she must be and what a good thing it is that we have her for our Patroness."

As a teenager

Teresa was pretty and a good conversationalist and so it was not surprising that she had many friends. She wrote: "I tried to attract others by my appearance, using perfumes and all the vanities I could get." She spent much time gossiping with a relative from whom she said, she learnt nothing good. She wrote: "If I have to advise parents, I should tell them to take great care about the people with whom their children associate at such an age." (Autobiography)

Her father, aware of the

dangers to which she was exposed, made arrangements for Teresa to enter an Augustinian Convent as a boarder. Here, she regained her spiritual fervor, mainly due to the example and advice of a holy nun. However, she had to return home as she fell ill. During her convalescence, she read some good books and decided to offer her life to God as a nun. Her father objected to this, so she ran away from home, "I felt that separation so keenly, that the feeling will not be greater, I think, when I die. For it seemed that every bone in my body was being broken. God gave me such courage" (Autobiography)

Teresa entered the Carmelite Convent of the Incarnation at Avila. "Everything connected with the religious life caused me delight. When I was sweeping in the Convent, I remembered that I spent this time at home in self-indulgence and self-adornment. However, when I realised, that I was now free from all those things, there came to me a new joy, which amazed me."

A Carmelite

The Carmelite Rule, which had been mitigated chiefly due to economic reasons, was followed at the Convent. Teresa spent about twenty years in this relaxed life, spending much time in the parlour with visitors. Occasionally, she endeavoured to lead a stricter life of prayer and work. While trying to pray one day, she experienced an inner conversion and deeply felt the love of God. She realised that she had to change her life. She sought the advice of learned priests and commenced to make mortifications, and to build-up an intimate relationship with God.

Teresa prayed: "May God be blessed for ever, who waited for me so long." She could not shake him off. Like parents, waiting for their child to get in touch with them, while they were occupied with their daily schedule, but really listening only for a phone call, God waited for her. "He waited for me so long."



"St. Teresa, does not want her daughters to retire to the quiet of their cells to forget others, but to give themselves more completely to them. They go behind the veil of silence to stand before God alone, for the Church and for others."

Now Teresa, wanted to live the life of hermits and search for the precious pearl called prayer, for friendship with the Lord. Without prayer, she understood, Carmel is nothing. As Teresa began to pray, a new seriousness of purpose came to her. She wondered, "What can I do for God?" and realised that the first thing, she should do was to follow the vocation that God had given her, by keeping the Carmelite rule as perfectly as she could.

At this time, great harm was caused by the Lutherans, who destroyed Churches. Teresa wept before the Lord and entreated Him to remedy this great evil. Her whole yearning was that Our Lord should have a few good friends, since He had so many foes. Therefore for these reasons and to pray for the Holy Father, preachers and theologians who defend the Church and because Our Lord commanded her to do so, she succeeded in reforming the Carmel, in spite of great opposition and established the first Discalced Carmelite Monastery of St. Joseph in Avila, in 1562.



"We are a praying community at the service of the Church."
Rev. Father Saverio Cannistra, Superior-General of the Discalced Carmelites

Teresa - on the move!

At the request of the Father General of the Carmelites in 1567, "for the glory of the Divine Majesty," Teresa established 15 monasteries of the Discalced Nuns in Spain. Teresa travelled along the roads of Spain under the scorching sun and in pitiless frosts and with St. John of the Cross, the first Discalced Friar, she founded 15 monasteries of Discalced Carmelite Friars.

Teresa, a semi-invalid, travelled in canvas-covered carts, to make her foundations, at the request of her Superiors. She prized greatly the virtue of obedience. "O virtue of obedience, that can do all things." (Autobiography) Although, she was denounced from the pulpit as a "restless gadabout" yet Teresa, took it all in good humour.

Adventures galore

On one occasion, Fr. Julian d'Avila, who travelled with St. Teresa, wrote that the entire village of Beas, came to meet her and some villagers on horseback rode on ahead of the rest and led her back in procession. Blessed Anne of St. Bartholomew, who accompanied her wrote that in some villages, the streets were so full of people, welcoming her loudly and that there was no room even to turn.

While at Toledo, on the contrary, they did not even have a piece of wood, to boil a sardine. "Then someone, I don't know who, was moved by Our Lord to leave a bundle of wood in the church, which was of some help to us." (Autobiography)

In Salamanca, St. Teresa and another Sister were alone in the night on the feast of All Saints. Some students had been occupying that house and due to the carelessness of the owner, they had to leave in a hurry. At night, the Sisters cleared the house with great difficulty and St. Teresa noticed that her companion was fearfully looking about her in all directions. When St. Teresa questioned her, she replied simply, "Mother, I am wondering what you will do all alone, if I were to die here!" Although she may have been greatly amused, St. Teresa prompted by the Spirit, replied calmly, "Well, Sister, I shall consider what is to be done, if the occasion arises, now let me go to sleep!" She understood that these childish thoughts were caused by the devil, who wants to frighten us and divert us from our goal, if our minds are not constantly "tuned" to God. As they had two bad nights, sleep drove away their fears. The next day,



Avila) - Feast Day - October 15

more nuns arrived fortunately!

Teresa was travelling for an ideal. She transferred the community life of Carmel into the covered wagon. The Sisters had their Prioress, their schedule of prayer, a bell, their breviaries, Holy Water and a Crucifix. The Sisters observed periods of silence and had their time for laughing and joking, and writing and singing verses so as to help, pass the long days.

At last, though tired and worn-out by her many journeys,



her heart and mind were turned to the Lord. Surrounded by her daughters, she gently yielded her soul to God on the October 4, 1582, exclaiming, "I am happy to die as a daughter of the Church."

After her conversion, Teresa found herself, held and filled by God. She understood that God's words are deeds. From her experience of God in her life, gentle and demanding, who worked to free her, then overwhelm her with graces, Te-

resa has a credible message – come into the ambit of mercy. In a word, PRAY.

Schools or institutions that wish to have deeper insights or more information on St. Teresa of Jesus' life and works may contact Rev. Mother Prioress, Corpus Christi Carmel, 41 Farm Rd., Colombo 15

St. Therese, "the little flower" - Feast Day October 1

Therese Martin was the last of nine children born to Louis and Zélie Martin on January 2, 1873, in Alençon, France. However, only five of these children lived to reach adulthood. Precocious and sensitive, Therese needed much attention. Her mother died when she was 4 years old. As a result, her father and sisters babied young Therese. She had a spirit that wanted everything.

At the age of 14, on Christmas Eve in 1886, Therese had a conversion that transformed her life. From then on, her powerful energy and sensitive spirit were turned toward love, instead of keeping herself happy. At 15, she entered the Carmelite convent in Lisieux to give her whole life to God. She took the religious name Sister Therese

of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face. Living a hidden, simple life of prayer, she was gifted with great intimacy with God. Through sickness and dark nights of doubt and fear, she remained faithful to God, rooted in His merciful love. After a long struggle with tuberculosis, she died on September 30, 1897, at the age of 24. Her last words were the story of her life: "My God, I love You!"

The world came to know Therese through her autobiography, "Story of a Soul." She described her life as a "little way of spiritual childhood." She lived each day with an unshakable confidence in God's love. "What matters in life," she wrote, "is not great deeds, but great love." Therese lived and taught a spirituality of attending to everyone and everything well and with

love. She believed that just as a child becomes enamoured with what is before her, we should also have a childlike focus and totally attentive love. Therese's spirituality is of doing the ordinary, with extraordinary love.

Therese saw the seasons as reflecting the seasons of God's love affair with us. She loved flowers and saw herself as the "little flower of Jesus," who gave glory to God by just being her beautiful little self among all the other flowers in God's garden. Because of this beautiful analogy, the title "little flower" remained with St. Therese.

Her inspiration and powerful presence from heaven touched many people very quickly. She was canonized by Pope Pius XI on May 17, 1925. Had she lived, she would have

been only 52 years old when she was declared a Saint.

"My mission - to make God loved - will begin after my death," she said. "I will spend my heaven doing good on earth. I will let fall a shower of roses." Roses have been described and experienced as Saint Therese's signature. Countless millions have been touched by her intercession and imitate her "little way." She has been acclaimed "the greatest saint of modern times." In 1997, Pope John Paul II declared St. Therese a Doctor of the Church - the only Doctor of his pontificate - in tribute to the powerful way her spirituality has influenced people all over the world.

The message of St.



Therese is beautiful, inspiring, and simple. Please visit the areas in this section of the Web site to learn more about this wonderful Saint.

"Abandonment alone guides Me: I have no other compass!"

The road that leads to the divine furnace of God's Love is the surrender of the little child who sleeps without fear in its Father's arms. There are three stages in our surrender to God:

* *The first stage consists of accepting and assenting to God's Will as it manifests itself in all the circumstances of our lives.*

* *The second stage is actively doing God's Will at every moment of our lives.*

* *The third stage is to be so completely abandoned to God that one is a pliant tool in His Hands.*

It is not God's Will that people hate, fight one another or murder others, but He allows this evil to become part of His plan for our salvation. It was not the Father's Will that His Son be killed, but Jesus freely sacrificed Himself for the sins of mankind. Many of our sufferings

come from the hands of hateful and cruel men; nevertheless, it is the Father Who asks us to drink this bitter cup. It was so for Jesus, and it is the same for us.

Suffering does not signify a lack of love on the part of the Father; suffering is not in vain if it bears redemptive power. God makes use of evil in such a superb way and with such skill that the result is better than if there had never been evil. Nothing falls outside of God's plan. All that is in God's Will brings us peace of body and soul. He is always there. Everything speaks to us of Him. We must die to ourselves, and let God form our lives from moment to moment while we continually consent to His action. We seek Him in great things, while He continually communicates and reveals Himself to us in small things.

How often it

happens that God allows a difficult and evil person to provide what is needed to make us saints! If we do not dare to walk hand in hand with God, whose hand shall we choose to hold? Can God lead us astray? He knows exactly what we need. Everything He gives us is carefully measured out according to our needs. How much energy we expend in resisting God!

Have confidence! If you do not receive what you feel you need, trust God that you do not need it. God has experienced the indifference, hardness and cruelty of mankind. He has suffered through all your anguish, loneliness and despair. Everything that wounds you has wounded Him first. He has freely taken all of it upon Himself. Never can you say that you are alone in what you suffer. Our Eucharistic Lord comes to us wounded

and sacrificed! May our suffering be most meaningful and fruitful!

God is there in our lives in everything that happens. Obedience to God's Will is something that influences and permeates our whole existence. Our Blessed Mother lived with Her eyes continually turned toward God, Who speaks to us from without and from within. We hear His word from the Bible and through the Church. For a Christian, the Church is MATER ET MAGISTRA. A Catholic never chooses anything but obedience and nothing more: God's Will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. The marfe of a Catholic is Patience! Only a "humble man is patient.

We often live in the past and in the future. The only thing that matters is the present: to be docile, attentive and obedient to God's Holy Will now! Let us

not listen to our conflicting impulses: "I LIKE" "I DON'T LIKE." The deep will within us wants God, moves towards Him, and finds its satisfaction in Him alone.

The third stage of surrender is the most perfect and few there are who reach this stage of total surrender. The Spirit is prepared to lead us at all times. Are we prepared to let ourselves be led? Apart from God, we can do nothing. In order to reach this stage, we must be prepared to give up all our own plans and desires. Everything must be offered up. The total surrender of self and all our faculties must be given over. The devil fights mightily that this sacrifice be not made. All that brings peace, submission, sweetness and confidence, has the seal of God upon it, for truly it is a matter of all or nothing! We hang in the balance between

Heaven and Hell. A hurricane of love is raging over all the earth. God is tugging, pleading, weeping, shouting:

"IF YOU LOVE ME: LET Co, GIVE IN, TRUST ME, SURRENDER!"

Are we doing everything we can possibly do to help each other? We must all trust in God and not fear any persecution, but worfe as much as we are able, for the good of souls and glory of God. Fear is the beginning of betrayal! We have to fear only that we worfe and worry too little about the things of Christ and the Church, and that there is too little sacrifice in our lives. Let us not be soft with ourselves. Lean on Christ and we will be unbeatable. Let us resign ourselves completely to the Will of God, repeating the words of the little Saint Therese of Lisieux.

Sent by Emilda Douglas

REV. FR. ANGELO STEFANIZZI, s.j.

95th Birth Anniversary

Rev. Fr. Angelo Stefanizzi was born in Matino Lecce, Italy, on October 2, 1919 and was called to rest in the Father's House, on February 3, 2010, when he was in the Jesuit Infirmary, at Lewella, Kandy, where he was spending his last days confined to a wheel Chair. In his life span of 90 years he spent 58 years in Sri Lanka, in the Kegalle deanery of the Diocese of Ratnapura. He served as the parish priest at Yatiyantota, Dehiowita, Gurugalla and Maliboda parishes throughout his life. These parishes are surrounded by tea and rubber estates and the people here were simple and very poor and he too lived a simple life in consonance with the life of his herds even though he was born into a well-to-do family in Italy.

After his regency in Bari he went to Kurscong in India for his Theological studies and was ordained on 21.11.1949. He came to Sri Lanka in 1952 and then onward he made Sri Lanka his home country. He moved to Maliboda in Deraniyagala in 1982.

The Superintendent of Maliboda Estate was one Mr. Fraser from Scotland. With the help of Mr. Fraser and his wife the then parish priest of Yatiyantota Rev. Fr. C. Ianaccone built St. Anne's Church at Nindagama divi-

sion of Maliboda Estate and was Blessed by Rt. Rev. Dr. Nicholas Laudadio, sj, Bishop of Galle.

In March, 1983 Maliboda was made an independent parish. In July in the same year the brutal ethnic violence broke out. Jaffna traders in Deraniyagala town were killed and burnt in their shops. Maliboda Church became a refugee camp for the estate Tamil workers.

A few months earlier in October, 1982 Fr. Stefanizzi met Mr. Hubert Tintelott, Secretary of the International Kolping Society, in Germany. Kolping Society is a socio religious organization of lay Catholics, inspired by Fr. Adolph Kolping, a German Catholic Priest of the mid-nineteenth century. Mr. Tintelott had requested Fr. Stefanizzi to start a Kolping Society in Sri Lanka saying that "you priests will take the priestly spiritual part. We, the laity, will play our part but in partnership with you." So,



Sri Lanka Kolping Centre at Deraniyagala.

in Christmas week of 1983, Sri Lanka Kolping Society was born in Maliboda church. Kolping Society is not confined to only Catholics. This was a development of all people. In solidarity, in dialogue with the genuine patrimony of all religious traditions.

Kolping National Centre was opened in Deraniyagala on October 5, 1985, and an Inter-religious Meditation Hall constructed was declared open January 1, 1988 by a shared meditation led by the Rt. Rev. Dr. Vianney Fernando, Bishop of Kandy and Ven. Maddemagala Pagnaseela Thero of the nearby temple, also participated by Buddhist, Hindu and Muslim leaders.

In 1998, Sri Lanka Kolping Society was incorporated by Act of Parliament. Through Kolping Society Fr. Stefanizzi has rendered yeoman service to the poor people of all races in the area. He was more concerned about children's education.

On estates he opened pre-schools, evening classes for school drop-outs and adults, He appointed voluntary teachers to schools which suffered due to the dearth of teachers. He opened Vocational Training Centres for the unemployed youth, introduced a loan System for self employment, built houses for the homeless and a host of other assistance.

He was able to produce priests and nuns from his parishes. During his tenure of priestly vocation he was able to built several chapels and churches on estates. He was very much attached to the estate workers whom he helped in numerous ways.

That was Rev. Fr. Angelo Stefanizzi, S.J, 'Suduswamy'; always smiling and walking with a small bag hanging from his shoulder and carrying an umbrella.

Even though his body was buried in Ampitiya hundreds of people from Maliboda, Dehiowita, Ruwanwella, Yatiyantota attended the funeral including priests and nuns. The Sri Lanka Kolping Society will hold a Holy Mass on October, 4 at Yatiyantota Church, in memory of Fr. Stefanizzi followed by a general meeting.

J. Anthony

'Uva: How did they play the game'

- A New Super Star

Reference the editorial under the title 'Uva: How did they play the game' published in the Catholic Messenger dated September 21, 2014, where it vividly describes the political scenario of the recently concluded Uva election precisely and with conviction. Similar views expressed by all private print Media, the result was a foregone conclusion as another victory for the UPFA.

By the time this article is read however, the euphoria and the gloss of the so called "victory" would have died down.

On the other hand however, it was a massive victory for the greens, where due to the magnitude of his boldness and courage chief UNP candidate to take on the might of the ruling party, proved to be a huge success, if not for which the UNP would have still precipitated further down and died a natural death in the near future.

This dynamic, ever smiling pleasant faced youthful character Harin Fernando is the new "Super Star" of the UNP. Having received more than 173,000 odd pref-

erential votes approximately 88% of the votes, it is said is a record for preference votes so far, so much so owing to his drive, enthusiasm and leadership he was able to increase the seats for the UNP from 7 in 2009 to 13 (85% in 2014), while the UPFA had a decline from 25 to 19.

Had the "marriage" between Ranil and Sajith taken place sometime earlier in spite of all the internal squabbles, cut throatism crossovers within the greens and if a level playing field was there, with an independent Election Commissioner, the UNP could have ramped home victorious. Our present Election Chief, who has been taken to the cleaners, having been called by various names in the Media.

After all this is the Miracle of Asia where everything and anything is possible and you get away with, if you are on the correct side of the divide, while the rest have to trust in the Heavens for better times.

Duleep Casie Chetty
Colombo

Constance (Bussy) Sattrukalsinghe

A Tribute to a darling Aunt on her Birthday

As we all remember very vividly, our Aunt Constance, played an important role in our lives. We consider ourselves as the luckiest nieces in the world to have had her as our Aunt. We could always count on her. She was there to share our joys and sorrows. One such instance was when we lost our Thaththa (her only brother) 30 years

ago. She and her husband, Uncle Benny, filled that great vacuum in our lives pouring out their love and concern in magnanimous proportions. There were so many instances she helped us even before we felt the need to ask for help.

She was one of the few who truly walked hand in hand with the Lord. She lived what most

people preached about - a real genuine Christian. She found no excuse to walk that extra mile to uplift the downtrodden. She was that rare kind of lady who kept in touch with her kith and kin on a regular basis.

St. Anthony's Church, Kollupitiya, is where she displayed her talent in music from the time she was a teenager,

by playing the Church organ and assisting with the Sunday Liturgy, almost up to the time of her passing away.

God just needed her to come home. She has taken up her space in Heaven, right where she belongs, with her parents, husband and our Thaththa, her brother.

She will always be remembered every single

day, from the smile on her face to the phone calls and chats we used to have. We will forever cherish the memories of her, for they are priceless.

We thank our God for her earthly life, for every memory of love, joy and laughter she brought into our lives, every good deed done by her and the joys and sorrows shared with us.

We think about her always, we talk about her daily, we hold her close within our hearts and there she will remain, to walk and guide us through our lives until we meet our Darling Aunt again, on that beautiful shore.

May her soul rest in peace.

Nilmini, Shiromi and Krishanthi

Catechism for the Youth
YOUUGA

Compiled by
Fr. Indra Ratnasiri Fernando,
Parish Priest, Nittambuwa

What significance does the Old Testament have for Christians?

In the Old Testament God reveals himself as the Creator and preserver of the world and as the leader and instructor of mankind. The Old Testament books are also God's Word and Sacred Scripture. Without

the Old Testament, we cannot understand Jesus. (121-123,128-130,140)

In the Old Testament a great history of leaning the faith begins, which takes decisive turn in the New Testament and arrives at its destination with the end of the world and Christ's second coming. The Old Testament is far more than a mere prelude for the New. The commandments of prophecies for the people of the Old Covenant and the promises that are contained in it for all men were never revoked. In the books of the Old Covenant we find an irreplaceable treasure of the prayers and wisdoms; in particular, the Psalms are part of the Church's daily prayer.

What significance does the New Testament have for Christians?

In the New Testament God's REVELATION is completed. The four Gospels according to Matthew, Mark, Luke and John are the centerpiece of Sacred Scripture and the most precious treasure of the Church. In them the Son of God shows himself as He is and encour-

ters us. In the Acts of the Apostles we learn about the beginnings of the Church and the working of the Holy Spirit. In the letters written by the apostles, all facets of human life are set in the light of Christ. In the Book of the Revelation we foresee the end of the ages. (124-127,128-130,140)

God revealed in the Old Testament as the Creator of the universe and the leader of the human race, without the OT. we are unable to understand Jesus; the NT. is hidden in the O.T. Indeed, the faith begins with the OT. and it arrives at its destination in the N.T. with the Second Coming of the Lord. Thus, God's Revelation is completed in the NT. The four Gospels are the heart of the Scriptures. In the Acts, we begin to learn about the beginnings of the Church and the active role of the Holy Spirit. The life is set in the light of Christ through letters in the New Testament. To be a Christian means to unite oneself with the life of Christ.

The Church actually draws her life and strength from the Sacred Scriptures. (To be contd)

I call you friends, says the Lord, because I have made known to you everything I have learnt from my Father. (Jn. 15:15)

LITURGICAL CALENDAR YEAR A
5th Oct. 2014 - 12th Oct. 2014

Sun: 27TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

Is.5:1-7; Phil 4:6-9; Mt.21:33-43

Mon: Memorials of St. Bruno, Priest &

Bl. Marie-Rose Durocher

Gal.1:6-12; Lk.10:25-37

Tue: Memorial of Our Lady of the Rosary

Acts 1:12-14; Lk.1:26-38

Wed: Gal.3:1-5; Lk.11:5-13

Thu: Memorial of St. John Leonardi, Priest

Gal.3:1-5; Lk.11:5-13

Fri: Gal.3:7-14; Lk.11:15-26

Sat: Gal. 3:22-29; Lk.11:27-28

Sun: 28TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

Is.25:6-10; Phil 4:12-14,19-20;

Mt.22:1-14 or 22:1-10

Papal Visit

SPIRITUAL PREPARATION FOR PAPAL VISIT AND CANONIZATION OF BL. JOSEPH VAZ SUNDAY MASS INTENTIONS Sunday October 5th

That we encounter Jesus Christ and His Gospel in a way that it will open to us a new horizon, giving true meaning to life, giving us the courage to stand for and work for a better world which has no place for lies, corruption.
We pray to the Lord.

That we prayerfully open ourselves to the grace of docility to the Holy Spirit Who speaks to us in our heart, Who speaks to us in all our life's circumstances and in the life of the Church.
We Pray to the Lord.

That we as the Catholic faithful come to experientially realize at our depths that the profound hunger present within man; the hunger for life, the hunger for love and the hunger for eternity, can only be satisfied by the reception of the Holy Eucharist.
We Pray to the Lord.

That, we the Catholic faithful in Sri Lanka may be graced with a persevering faith like unto Blessed Joseph Vaz to re-evangelise those who have strayed away from the Catholic Church.
We pray to the Lord.

Twenty Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading

Is. 5: 1-7.

God through His Prophet expresses His anguish over the sinful living of the Israelites. He uses a parable to elucidate the fact. The owner does everything possible to reap a good harvest for his vineyard but it yields only wild grapes. God vows to destroy it completely.

Second Reading:

Phil. 4; 6-9.

St. Paul asks the believers to pray to obtain whatever they want from God. This will keep their minds and hearts in Jesus Christ. St. Paul has achieved so much of perfection that he feels that God's peace is within him. Therefore he wants us to imitate him so that we too may attain this peace.

Gospel: Mt. 21: 33-43

Through the parable of the owner and the tenants Jesus gives the true picture of the Jewish leaders and vows to give God's kingdom to the Gentiles.

Reflection

Today's Readings show us God's Judgment against those who do not lead a life worthy of Him. No mercy will be shown to those who lead a sinful life. On the Day of Judgment the wrong doers will be rejected and destined to eternal damnation. But there is a ray of hope for those who turn to Him in prayer and repentance. They will reap the grace of God in forgiveness and be holy again. They would gain salvation.

In the First

Reading God is disgusted with the nation of Israel. Through His prophet God expresses His disgust over the sinful state of Israel. Through the image of the vineyard the Lord tells His chosen ones how much He has done for them that they may reap a rich harvest. He has done all things possible to achieve this but the vineyard has yielded only wild grapes. Therefore He now vows to destroy them completely. This action of God is just and fair because the Israelites have earned it through their sinfulness.

In the Gospel too an image of a vineyard is presented to make us understand why a sinner deserves God's punishment. Here the employees of the vineyard are sinful. They kill the servants who are sent by the owner to collect the harvest and later even the owner's own son. It is quite natural that the owner destroys everybody in the vineyard. The chief priests and the elders were correct in saying so. But the Lord's ways are different. Christ relates from the scripture of the stone that the builders rejected and how it became the corner stone. God threatens to give the kingdom to a nation that would bring in a good harvest. Though there is a threat in it we could also see a ray of hope therein. It is not outright condemnation but only a warning. It is for us to amend our lives.

St Paul in the Second Reading tells us how to achieve this end. May be he is saying this out of his own experience. He was once a great persecutor of the Apostles and of the



church before his conversion. Now he is a faithful Apostle. He wants us to pray and let our requests be made known to God and he also assures God's grace upon our lives. If we are unable to achieve God's peace all by ourselves then St Paul suggests that we at least look at him and aim at what he has done namely to reach for the peace of Christ Jesus. In this way we all could receive God's forgiveness and become worthy of the kingdom of God.

Aid Story

Once a robber broke into a mission house during the absence of the priest and was about to make away with many belongings when suddenly the priest arrived and caught the thief, the thief begged that he be released. The priest, investigating calmly, learnt that he was so poor and innocent hence taken up to theft. because he had no any other way. In-

stead of calling the police, the priest gathered a few more of his belongings and presented them to the thief and also employed him as a gardener. That man never stole anything thereafter.

Aid Story 2

When Queen Victoria reigned in England, She on one of her visits; visited a widow and stayed there for long; enjoying a brief conversation. The Lady was pious. Therefore the neighbour taunting her asked. "Who is the most honoured guest you have entertained in your home?" they expected her to say Jesus. But to their surprise she answered. "Her Majesty, the Queen." Ah, we caught you this time! How about Jesus you're always talking about? Isn't he your most honoured guest?" She answered, "No indeed! He is not a guest. HE LIVES HERE!"

Rev. Fr. Ciswan De Croos

"Therefore, I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that will produce its fruit" (Matthew 21,33-43)

We are once again ready to listen to another parable of Jesus – the Parable of the Tenants. This illustrates how God deals with His People – how He judges Israel. In the Parable, the vineyard stands for God's People; the landowner, God; the tenants, the leaders of Israel; the groups of servants sent to the vineyard, the prophets; the son of the landowner, Jesus and the new tenants of the vineyard, the new leaders of God's People the Apostles or the believing Jews and Gentiles of the Church of Jesus.

This Parable of Jesus brings us back to Isaiah 5,1-7 where we listen to the Vineyard Song. In the Song also we find

a vineyard, hedge, wine press and tower. "The vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel, and the men of Judah are his cherished plant (5,7). God "looked for the crop of grapes, but what it yielded was wild grapes" (5,2). See how the mind of Jesus is fully saturated with the OT and how the NT develops on the OT!

From time to time, God sent Prophets to His People. But the leaders of Israel – who were only tenants of God's People – beat, killed or stoned them: "Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how many times I yearned to gather your children together, as a hen gath-

ers her young under her wings, but you were unwilling! (Matthew 23,37). Prophets were badly treated by the leaders of Israel in their days. For example, Jeremiah 26 closes with the fate of Uriah a Prophet of Judah who was slain by the sword and whose corpse was cast into the common grave on the orders of the king. Thus what Jesus tells in the Parable is deeply rooted in the History of His People.

God did not get His produce – the good works. The total produce belongs totally to Him. But He did not get it. Finally Jesus His Son – the Heir of the Vineyard – is sent. But the tenants plot to kill him and acquire his inheritance. If a Jew-

ish proselyte dies without heir, the tenants of his land have the final claim on it. Thus "They seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him." Did Jesus not die outside the city of Jerusalem? "Therefore, Jesus also suffered outside the gate, to consecrate the people by his own blood" (Hebrews 13,12).

"What will the owner of the vineyard do to those tenants when he comes?" Jesus does not answer the question. Instead, He lets His audience – the chief priests and the elders of the people – answer it and thereby condemn themselves: "He will put those wretched men to a wretched death ..." What will then happen to the

Vineyard? God will "lease his vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the proper times."

The Parable thus illustrates how God deals with Israel in patience and justice. He was patient with the leaders of Israel over and over again and yet, when they refused to respond, He judged them eventually. God's repeated patience gave way to eventual judgment. Hence the Church Leaders, as the new tenants of the Vineyard, should be accountable to God producing its fruit – the good deeds – and giving it to Him at the proper times.

Rev. Fr. Don Anton Saman Hettiarachchi



CHRISTIANS' WEAPON:

The ROSARY

hand into his trouser pocket and pulled out a Rosary and began reciting it. The students laughed at him. Finally, the train reached its destination in the city of London. The students went to the lecture hall and waited for their lecturer. A few moments later, he quietly stepped into the hall. The students could not believe their eyes. They were simply astonished, because, the lecturer was none other than the old man who had been in the train, reciting the Rosary.

Their wonder grew even more as he was introduced as a great Scientist, Louis Pasteur, one of the greatest microbiologists. We see how much he had faith on Mother Mary. St. Basil says, "Hey, You Sinner, without being a coward, learn to rely on the Holy Mother, seek her assistance, you should understand that she is always ready to help you. It is the desire of God that she should help all the people in all their needs."

The major incidents in the life of Christ, from His birth to His crucifixion, burial, resurrection and ascension are remembered in the mysteries of the Rosary. Christ openly acknowledges that he will grant the requests made to Him by His Mother by changing water into wine at the wedding feast at Cana. Holy Mother is the link that binds heaven and earth. She is the bridge between God and man. From the birth of Jesus till crucifixion, she bears all the sorrows and suffering in her heart to fulfill the will of God. She was the one who readily agreed to be the Mother of the Saviour by saying "Yes" to the order of the Father (Lk:1:38). Pope John Paul II was an ardent devotee of Mary and he propagated Marian piety. On May 13, 1982, On the 64th anniversary of the feast of the Lady of Fatima, Pope John Paul was shot by a 23-year-old Turk named Ali Agca. As the Pope was falling down, he prayed, "**Mary, I am fully yours.**"

The Mother promises all those who recite the Rosary with piety her special protection and graces. St. Dominic says, "I have always received whatever I have asked for after reciting the Rosary." In the prayer of the Rosary, Jesus and Mother Mary are present. The Rosary is a mighty weapon to resist the machinations of the devil. Through the reciting of the Rosary all our bondage to sin will be broken. Our bad habits will go away. St. Louis Montfort had asserted that "all those who say the Rosary on a daily basis would never go astray."

Yes, indeed, the Rosary beads are blessed beads, beautiful beads. Yet, it is sad to know that there are many

(even fervent Catholics) who do not realise the beauty and value of the Holy Rosary. So, many avoid the recitation of the Rosary due to various reasons. Some righteous Catholics believe that when we recite the Rosary, we give undue prominence to our heavenly Mother adoring her as a divine being and giving her the first place, the place that belongs to God. This is a false notion.

We begin the Rosary with the "I believe..." (Creed) affirming our faith in God. During the recitation of the 5 decades we say the *Lord's*

Prayer six times and after each decade we praise the Holy Trinity. When we say "Hail Mary..." we are praising her because she is full of God's grace and because of her close union with God. We are indirectly giving praise to God, who has enriched her in a very special way with His heavenly grace. Some are under the impression that the recitation of the Rosary keeps us at a distance from Jesus. This too is a false notion. Each time when we recite the "Hail Mary" we say, "Blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus." The recitation of the five decades makes us praise the name of the Jesus fifty-three times. There are also some who seem to think that the recitation of the Rosary is monotonous. It is not like that. The repetition of the Hail Mary acts like a soothing balm to our stricken minds. The meditation of the Mysteries lifts our hearts and illumines our minds. The meditation also reveals to us our Blessed Mother's shining sanctity, her humility and her perfect resignation of God's will and makes us deeply conscious of our worthlessness and wretchedness.

So, we should not take our Mother Mary from our heart and from the Church. Our present Pope Francis recently said that, "Those who do not accept Mother Mary are orphans." Let us recite the Rosary in our daily life and give our honour to our Mother.

Bro. Rajasekar CR.
2nd Year Theology
Rosarian Scholasticate, Kandy.

Marian Year
2013 - 2014



"Lead us to Christ
O Mary our Mother"

Dear Friends, Do we know why the Rosary is so powerful? Why did Our Lady in her apparitions at Lourdes and Fatima and other places repeatedly request for the specific prayer of the Rosary? The answer is, because the Rosary is powerful and has been given as a gift by our Mother Mary to help us on our earthly pilgrimage. and to protect us from the evil one and win souls for God.

The Rosary is not just a chain of ordinary beads. Each bead is a prayer and each bead is a sacrifice. The crucifix on the Rosary reminds us of Our Lord's promise of redemption. Pope Pius IX says, "In every family, let the Rosary be said in common every evening; for it is a simple, beautiful and richly indulged prayer".

The Rosary is a powerful prayer that can be recited anytime by anyone who has faith in the intercessory powers of the Holy Mother. It is the Bible of the blind and Saints described it as a religious book that can be read even in darkness.

We have heard about the great Scientist Dr. Louis Pasteur. One day, he was travelling by train. There were some University students also in the same compartment, but, they did not recognize him. He put his

Celebrating the right to education

October 1, is a very special day in Sri Lanka, because it is Children's Day and Elders' Day.

Children's Day is celebrated on various days in different countries but it is only in El Salvador, Guatemala and Sri Lanka that it is celebrated on October 1st. However International Elder's Day is celebrated throughout the world on October 1.

The idea of the Children's Day was adopted by the United Nations' General Assembly in 1954 to protect children and to celebrate childhood. It is also a day set apart to focus on Child's Rights. But even though children have rights, children all over the world are suffering from poverty, hunger, abuse, war, terrorism, child labour and child trafficking.

In our country we see children

on the streets begging and children working in shops and rich people's houses when they should be in school. They do not go to school because their parents are poor and cannot afford to send them to school.

Who is Malala?

I would like to tell you a story of a girl named Malala. Malala was an ordinary Pakistani girl, that is until she spoke up for the rights of children when the Taliban terrorist forbade girls to go to school and bombed their schools.

One day when she was riding home in the school bus a Taliban terrorist climbed into the bus holding a gun. "Who is Malala?" he demanded. Malala hid her face in her hands. But before anyone could stop him he fired

three shots at her. Miraculously two shots missed her but the third hit her on the head. She was badly injured but survived.

Today she is carrying out a campaign for the Right of Education, for she says that through education lot of problems in the world could be solved.

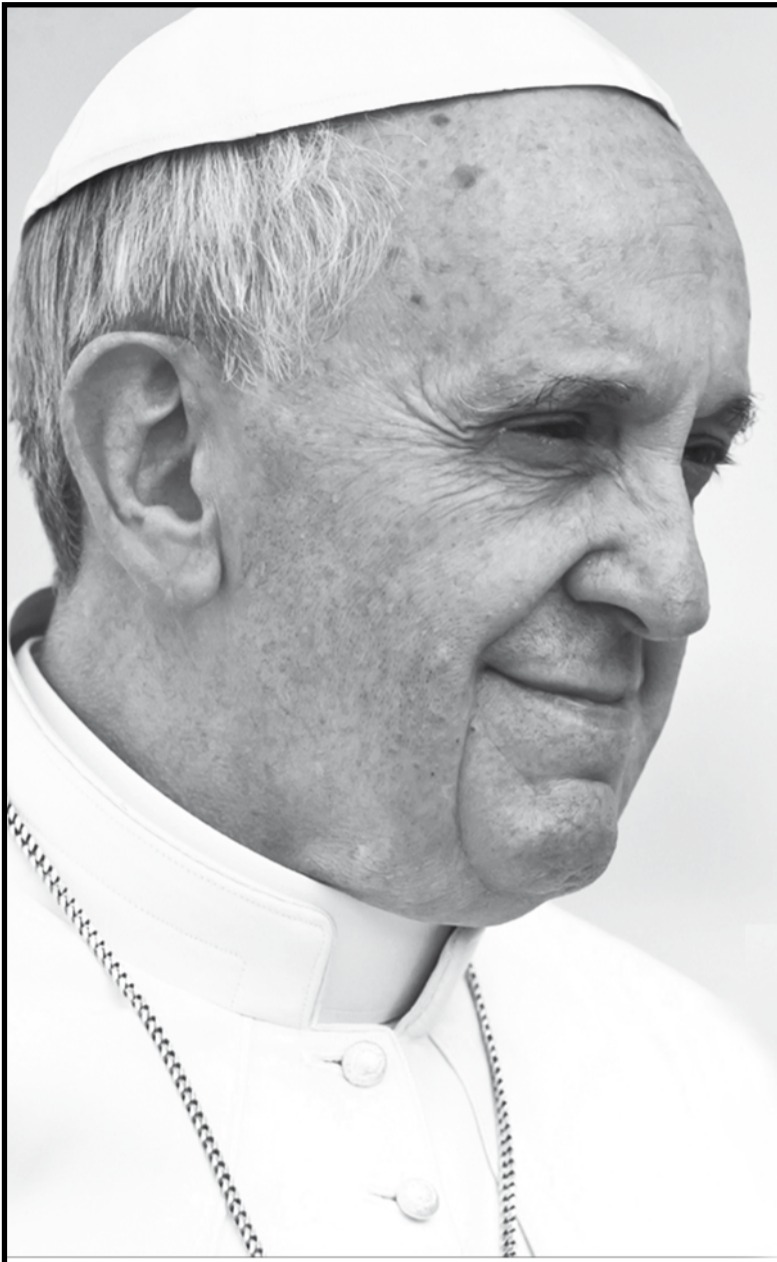
She says that if all children are educated it can stop a third World War. She also says going to school is important for children, because not only does it teaches math and science but teaches them how to live in unity, respect others ideas and rights, and many other good qualities which is important if children are to grow up into responsible citizens.

If Malala could stand getting shot and have many operations to put



her right, why can't we have a little courage to help the children in our street - for every child has the right to education.

Devmini S. Fernando
Grade 5 B
Holy Family Convent, Bambalapitiya



TO BE SAINTS
IS NOT A PRIVILEGE
FOR THE FEW
BUT A VOCATION
FOR EVERYONE
- POPE FRANCIS

We are privileged to be the first port-of-call of his Holiness Pope Francis' visit to Asia in 2015. This holy visit brings good news to all Sri Lankans, Christians and non-Christians alike. The canonization of Blessed Joseph Vaz, Patron Saint of Sri Lanka, to be celebrated with Holy Mass on 14th January 2015.



ABIDE IN
LOVE

HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS VISITS SRI LANKA

INFORMATION AND MEDIA COMMITTEE, POPE'S VISIT 2015

Young World

All Island Inter-School Bible Quiz 2014 As the Saints go marching on...



The Archdiocese of Colombo Inter-School Bible Quiz competition was organized by the Bible Society of St. Joseph's College Colombo 10, in collaboration with the Department of Christian affairs of the ministry of Buddhasasana and Religious Affairs and the Catholic National Commission for Education, Catechetics and the Bible Apostolate.

It hosted the first round of the All Island Bible Quiz on July 5, 2014 at St. Joseph's College, Colombo 10.

From All saints' College, Colombo 10. there were Seven groups which

participated as follows:

- Junior Category -**
Sinhala and English Medium
- Intermediate Category -**
Sinhala, Tamil and English Medium
- Senior Category -**
Sinhala and English Medium

Among these seven groups, five groups were chosen for the All Island competition representing the Archdiocese. The final results of the Inter-School Bible Quiz of the Archdiocese (All Saints' College) are as follows

- Junior Category -**
English Medium - 1st Place
- Intermediate Category -**
Sinhala Medium - 2nd Place
Tamil Medium - 2nd Place
English Medium 2nd Place
- Senior Category -**
English Medium 2nd Place

The finals of the All Island Bible Quiz was held on September 13, 2014 at St. Joseph's College Colombo 10. Among the five groups who were chosen for the finals, three groups had the privilege of becoming the All Island winners of the Quiz.

Intermediate Category -

- English Medium - 1st Place
- Sinhala Medium - 2nd Place

Senior Category -

- English Medium - 2nd Place

Samadhi Madushani Rathnayaka of Grade 11 had the honour of securing the Gold Medal in the Intermediate Sinhala Category.

All Saints' College came up with flying colours at the All Island Bible Quiz receiving three places at the All Island level with a gold medalist.

Rev. Sr. Anne Christine, Principal, Mrs. Ann Wijethunga Deputy Principal, Rev. Sr. Sajeevani (who trained all three groups), all the teachers and other students congratulated the winners who brought honour to their dear Alma Mater as the School celebrates 110 years of humble service to the less fortunate Catholics of the locality, on November 1 - the feast of All Saints.

May our Mother of Carmel and all the Saints intercede for our children to grow with the inspiration of the Word of God, the light for their lives.

**Congratulations and
God Bless you dear children**

Sr. M. Riana AC

Listen, My son, accept what I say, and the years of your life
will be many

Proverbs 4:10

English with Fun and Entertainment

Dear Readers,

In our 46th lesson we learnt some palindromes, read a religious joke, learnt some proverbs with their meanings, recited a beautiful poem and added some more idioms to your vocabulary.

This lesson consists of an activity with **and, but or, so**, and an inspirational poem, quotes from "Little Flower of Jesus" and a religious song of May the Good Lord Bless and keep you by Gentleman Jim.

Certificate Course in Professional English (CCPE) Batch 111 conducted by the Archdiocesan Education Commission commenced on 20th September. Late applicants who wish to join the course could contact me on 071 8004580 for an interview over the telephone for selection.

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

God Bless You!

NJ

Task 1: Read the information given and complete the blanks

The Little Flower said "Miss no single (i)..... of making some small (ii), with a smiling (iii)..... and a kindly (iv)....."

Task 2:

(i) According to the message in the second image what does Our Lord need from us.
(ii) What are the things that he doesn't need from us?

Task 3: Learn the delicate shades of meaning of the selected words from the text and read the information for better understanding.

- sacrifice** - give up, forgo, forfeit, let go
- thoughts** - opinion, judgment, views,
- deeds** - actions, conduct, activities
- intelligence** - brains, acumen, acumen
- talents** - gifts, aptitudes, abilities
- intimacy** - relationship, closeness, caring
- great** - enormous, immense, vast
- profound** - deep, thoughtful, reflective
- kindly** - gentle, compassionate, friendly
- smiling** - happy cheery jolly
- simple** - easy, effortless plain
- simplicity** - plainness, purity, bareness

Activity 1: Basic coordinating conjunctions are **and, but, or, so**. Underline the most appropriate word within brackets.

1. Kumar was cold, (and/ but/ or/ so) he put on a coat.
2. Maria tried to read a novel in French, (and/ so /but /or) it was too difficult.
3. To get from Vancouver to Victoria, you can fly, (and/ or/ but/ so) you can ride the ferry.
4. I bought a bottle of wine, (and/ or/ but /so) we drank it together.
5. The waiter was not very nice; (but/or/and/so) the food was delicious.
6. I went to buy a Rolling Stones CD, (or/ but/and/so) the shop didn't have it.
7. Anna needed some money, (but/and/so/or) she took a part-time job.
8. There's so much rain lately (so /but/and/ or) the farmers could do their cultivation
9. Julie has a guitar, (and/but/so/or) she plays it really well.
10. The concert was cancelled, (so/but/and/or) we went home.

Activity 2 - Learn the following inspirational poem. Memorize it and keep it for life

<p>' The heights by great men reached and kept, Were not attained by sudden flight, But they, while their companions slept, ' Were toiling upward in the night'. <u>Henry Wadsworth Longfellow Vocabulary list</u></p>	<p>Vocabulary list heights -elevation pinnacle zenith apex attained - reached, achieved, conquered companions - friends, buddies, chums toiling - labouring working striving</p>
--	---

Activities 3 -Read the texts about Saint Thérèse of Lisieux given below and respond to the tasks. The text includes quotes from the saint and two images

"Miss no single opportunity of making some small sacrifice, here by a smiling look, there by a kindly word ; always doing the smallest right and doing it all For Love."

"If a little flower could speak, it seems to me that it could tell us quite simply all that God has done for it, without hiding any of its gifts."

"All my strength lies in prayer and sacrifice. They are my invincible weapons, and I know by experience that they can soften the heart much better than words."

Saint Thérèse of Lisieux was born on, January 2, 1873 as Marie-Françoise-Thérèse Martin. At 15, she entered the Carmelite convent in Lisieux and became a French Discalced Carmelite nun. She is popularly known as "The Little Flower of Jesus" or simply, "The Little Flower." She took the religious name Sister Therese of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face gave her whole life to God Living a hidden, simple life of prayer, she was gifted with great intimacy with God

Activity 4: Learn the words given in the vocabulary list first. Find a CD and listen to the song with the words and you will experience a sense of elation. May the Good Lord Bless and Keep You - JIM REEVES LYRICS



May the Good Lord bless and keep you
Whether near or far away
May you find that long awaited
Golden day today.

May your troubles all be small ones
And your fortunes ten times ten
May the Good Lord bless and keep you
Till we meet again.

May you walk with sunlight shining
And a bluebird in every tree
May there be a silver lining
Back on every cloud you see.

Fill your dreams with sweet tomorrows
Never mind what might have been
May the Good Lord bless and keep you
Till we meet again.

(May you walk with sunlight shining)
And a bluebird in every tree
(May there be a silver lining)
Back on every cloud you see.

Fill your dreams with sweet tomorrows
Never mind what might have been
May the Good Lord bless and keep you
Till we meet again.

May the Good Lord bless and keep you
Till we meet, (Till we meet)
Till we meet again...

- Vocabulary List**
awaited - expected, anticipated
troubles - worries distresses
fortunes - riches, treasures
bless - sanctify, exalt
shining - brilliant, magnificent
dreams - thoughts, visions

Answers

Activity 1 Answers 1.so 2.but 3.or 4.and 5.but 6.but 7.so 8.and 9.and 10.so

Activity 3 -

Task i : Answer - (i) opportunity (ii)sacrifice (iii) look (iv) word

Task ii : Answer - Our Lord needs from us to be simple.

Task iii : Answer - He doesn't need from us great deeds, profound thoughts, intelligence or talents

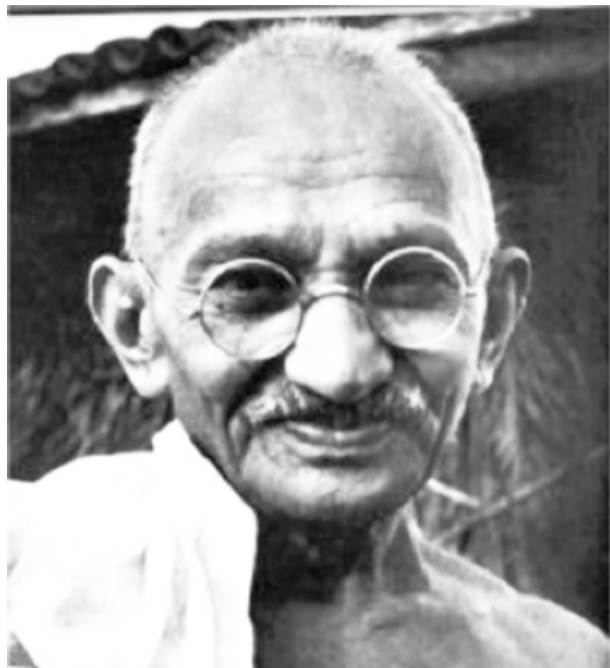


Contact us on: 071 8004580
E-mail: noeljayamane@yahoo.com



Compiled by Noel Jayamane

Remembering the Mahatma on his 145th Birth Anniversary



The father of a nation

Gandhi got two key words from Christianity: The teaching in the Sermon on the Mount and the Symbol of the cross. Gandhi described the Sermon on the Mount as the whole of Christianity for him who wanted to live a Christian life.

Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, known to all as Mahatma Gandhi, was the preeminent leader of Indian nationalism in British-ruled India. Employing non-violent civil disobedience, Gandhi led India to independence and inspired movements for non-violence, civil rights and freedom across the world.

The son of a senior government official, Gandhi was born and raised in a Hindu Bania community in coastal Gujarat and trained in law in London. Gandhi became famous by fighting for the civil rights of Muslim and Hindu Indians in South Africa, using new techniques of non-violent civil disobedience that he developed. Returning to India in 1915, he set about organizing peasants to protest excessive land-taxes. A life-long opponent of "communalism" (i.e. basing politics on religion) he reached out widely to all religious groups. He became a leader of Muslims protesting the declining status of the Caliphate. Assuming leadership of the Indian National Congress in 1921, Gandhi led nationwide campaigns for easing poverty, expanding women's rights, building religious and ethnic amity, ending untouchability, increasing economic self-reliance, and



Young Gandhi in England

above all for achieving Swaraj—the independence of India from British domination. His spiritual teacher was the Jain philosopher/poet Shrimad Rajchandra.

Gandhi's contact with Christ

During his studies in England, Gandhi became interested in the Christian faith. He had been reading the Bible to keep a promise he had made to a friend. He had difficulties understanding the Old Testament because in it, he found out so much that he could not reconcile with the bidding of returning good for evil.

He was studying for the bar exams in London when he was given the New Testament to read. This made a positive impression on him. The Sermon on the Mount as he said "went straight to my heart," he is quoted to have said. In this sermon, he was fascinated by these words: *"But I say to you, that ye resist not evil: But whosoever smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also."*

He insisted always that Jesus occupied in his heart the place of one of the greatest teachers who have had a considerable influence in his life...the message of Jesus as he understood in the Sermon on the Mount unadulterated and taken as a whole. Gandhi got two key words from Christianity: The teaching in the Sermon on the Mount and the Symbol of the cross. Gandhi described the Sermon on the Mount as the whole of Christianity for him who wanted to live a Christian life.

"Joy comes not by the infliction of pain on others, but the pain voluntarily borne by oneself"

What was Jesus to Gandhi

Gandhi often affirmed: "It is that sermon which has endeared Jesus to me. But what does Jesus mean

For Gandhi, Jesus died as a victim of His own principals and for Albert Einstein, Gandhi died as victim of his own principles. Mahatma Gandhi was born on October 2, 1869 and was assassinated on January 30, 1948.

to Gandhi? He revealed this in these words: "I regard Jesus as a great teacher of humanity." What really attracted Gandhi to Jesus' life and message is the aspect of Jesus' suffering. Suffering for others form one of the pillars of Gandhi's Message to the world. It is worth noting that Gandhi's philosophy of nonviolence - *satyagraha* - as already affirmed above has three principles: Truth- Sat/Satya, Nonviolence- Ahimsa and self-suffering- Tapasya. These are called the pillars of Satyagraha. Failure to grasp them is a handicap to the understanding of Gandhi's nonviolence.

Gandhi saw all these principles in Jesus' life and the one that really attracted him was the third aspect that is *Tapasya* - willingness to self-sacrifice or suffering. On this note Gandhi declares: "The example of Jesus' suffering is a factor in the composition of my undying faith in nonviolence which rules all my actions, worldly and temporal." He kept hanging in his little hut a black and white print of Christ on which was written "he is our peace."

The picture of the crucified Christ wearing only a loin cloth such as is worn by millions of poor men in Indian villages, had touched Gandhi's heart very deeply. It was in the Vatican in 1931, after returning from the Roundtable Conference in London that Gandhi saw a life size crucifix and immediately had an emotional reaction towards it. After gazing at it, he declared: "I saw there, many nations, like individuals, could only be made through the agony of the Cross and no other way. Joy, comes not by the infliction of pain on others, but the pain voluntarily borne by oneself."

He understood the Cross and believed that when one lived the life Jesus lived, he would probably end up in conflict with the powers that be. For him, Jesus died because of the way He lived. The Cross of Christ was therefore the result of His living out His way of life to the end. On the Cross, Gandhi saw the perfection of virtue. Living like Christ means living a life of the Cross, without it, life is long dead.

Jesus was for him the prince of *satyagrahi* (a non-violence activist). Gandhi's followers were trained to forgive and thank the jail keeper for performing the arrest. Gandhi equally admired the gentle figure of Christ, so patient, so kind, so loving and so full of forgiveness that he taught his followers not to retaliate when abused but turn the other cheek.

Summer Camp for the war affected children



Around fifty children from the North participated in a 4-day summer camp for war affected children conducted by the Diocese of Galle.



Forty children from the South also participated. The purpose of the camp was to create unity and harmony among the children.



For the opening session of the camp there were dignitaries from various quarters from government officials to the clergy.