



CHRIST THE KING, SOLEMNITY
20th November

Messenger

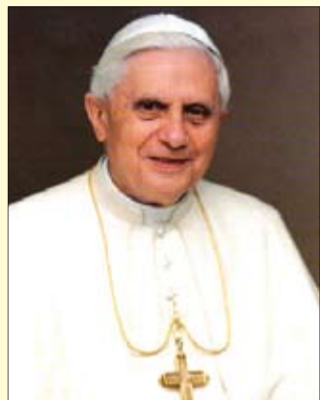


PRESENTATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

21st November

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*And only where
God is seen
does life truly begin.
Only when we meet
the living God in Christ
do we know
what life is.*

We are not some casual and meaningless product of evolution.

Each of us is the result of a thought of God.

*Each of us is willed,
each of us is loved,
each of us is necessary.*

There is nothing more beautiful than to be surprised by the Gospel,

by the encounter with Christ.

There is nothing more beautiful than to know Him

and to speak to others of our friendship with Him.

Benedictus PP XVI

Christian Unity Rally for Christmas

In the afterflow of the Christian Unity Rally for Pentecost, the Inter Church Fellowship (ICF) will conduct a Christian Unity Rally for Christmas on Saturday, December 10th, at the Cathedral of Christ the Living Saviour Bauddhaloka Mawatha, from 9.00 am to 1.00 p.m.

Messages on the theme will be given by representatives of the Catholic Church, the National Christian Council and the Evangelical Alliance of Sri Lanka. The rally will also include carols by choirs from different churches and Christmas plays.

ICF comprising clergy and lay people from ten denominations is on a mission for Christian Unity in diversity as a first step towards lasting peace, justice and unity in our country and in the world. All our welcome. (For further details contact: 2325166, 2583580, or 0773613888)

Christian volunteers are signs of God's love

Pope Benedict XVI has said that through volunteer work, Christians become signs of God's love in the world, the Catholic News Service states.

Especially at a time of serious economic crisis, moral uncertainty and social tension, Christian volunteers show "that goodness exists and that it is growing in our midst." The Pope said in a speech to participants at a Vatican meeting on Catholic volunteer activity in Europe.

The two-day meeting, sponsored by the Pontifical Council Cor Unum, which promotes and coordinates Catholic Charity, was held in conjunction with the European Year of Volunteering. It brought together about 160 bishops and representatives of charitable organizations from 25 countries.

The Pope thanked the European volunteers and "the millions of Catholic volunteers who contribute, regularly and generously, to the church's charitable mission throughout the world."

As he wrote in his first encyclical, "Deus Caritas Est" ("God Is Love"), the Pope said Catholic charitable activity isn't simply philanthropy, it's a reflection of Christian faith and the obligation to love others as Christ loved.

(Continued on Pg. 2) >>

Cardinal addresses Young Christian Students

Lauds YCS Sri Lanka, for showing right direction to Christian youth



Rev. Fr. Sunil De Silva

"Throughout the last 60 years YCS has taken the initiative especially to strengthen the spirituality of the students, showing them the right direction as Christian students and helping them prioritise the values in life," said His Eminence, Malcolm Cardinal Ranjith, Archbishop of Colombo, presiding at the solemn Jubilee Eucharistic Celebration, to mark the 60th anniversary of the Young Christian Students (YCS) movement of Sri Lanka, held recently at St Peter's College,

Colombo. "I am also very glad to note that the YCS in Sri Lanka is the oldest in the Asian Region. The theme you have selected, "Students Empowered by the Word Made Flesh" too touches my own motto as a Bishop. It further reflects the thrust of the Year of the Eucharist, we have had and the Year of the Word of God in the coming liturgical calendar year," His Eminence observed.

The Cardinal recalled with tremendous gratitude the founders of YCS in Sri Lanka and the Chaplains who had served

the movement over the years and the present ones who are doing "a great job."

"When the YCS movement was launched in Sri Lanka 60 years ago we were blessed with the presence of Joseph Cardinal Cardijn himself. The fact that he visited Sri Lanka thrice (1952, 1958, 1965) would have given the Sri Lankan movement a great impetus," the Cardinal examined.

He said that there were hundreds of cells of YCS students functioning

in different parts of the country, basing on the guidance given by the Founder of YCS His Eminence Joseph Leo Cardinal Cardijn.

Commending the work of the various Chaplains of the YCS, His Eminence said that in 1955 the Movement organized a rally at Kotahena Good Shepherd Convent under the patronage of His Eminence Cardinal Thomas Cooray. The assistance rendered

(Continued on Pg. 3) >>

Managers of children's homes get lesson on looking after children



Forty-seven managers of Children's Homes operating in the Western Province and coming under the Department of Childcare and Probation underwent a two-day Capacity Building Training Workshop from 30th October to 1st November at the SEDEC Auditorium.

The programme was part of the series of workshops initiated by

Caritas Sri Lanka, under the theme "Capacity Building on Management of Child Abuse within a Child Rights Framework."

The workshop sessions were facilitated by Dr. Prathiba Mahanamahewa of the University of Colombo, Ms. Sanjeevani Abayakoon, Attorney-at-Law from the Legal Aid Commission, Mrs. Rose Wijayasekera

of the Faculty of Law, University of Colombo and Rev. Sr. Nilanthi Ranasinghe FMM, Psychological Counsellor and Programme Officer for Child Rights in Caritas Sri Lanka.

Also present on the occasion was Rev. Fr. George Sigamoney, National Director, Caritas Sri Lanka, SEDEC.

Ainslie Joseph

Coordinator Tamil Theologate



Rev. Fr. Reginald Lucien, ROMI, Parish Priest, St. Anthony's Church, Dematagoda, has been appointed as Coordinator of the Tamil Theologate by His Eminence, Malcolm Cardinal Ranjith.

His appointment is effective from November 6, 2011.

Fr. Reginald who is at present a lecturer of the English Theologate of Aquinas University College, was formerly a lecturer at the National Seminary, Kandy.

He was also a former Superior of the Oblate Seminary.

News in Pictures

Confirmation Service at Nayakakanda Parish



Archbishop of Colombo, His Eminence Malcolm Cardinal Ranjith lights the oil lamp at the Confirmation Service held at St. Mary's Church, Nayakakanda Sunday, (13). Parish Priest of the Church Rev. Fr. Mahendra Gunathilake and Assistant Priest Rev. Fr. Malaka Silva are also in the picture.

(Nimal Perera)

Programme to enhance writing skills of Daham Pasal students



A programme for enhancing writing skills of students was conducted at St. Isidore's Church, Thibbatugoda for children attending Sunday School from Grades Seven to Eleven.

The programme was conducted under the supervision of Rev. Fr. Ranjith Terry, Parish Priest.

Mr. Kumara Nayanajith of the Lama Pradeepaya conducted the programme.

Help build St. Jude's Church, Halkandawila

The Foundation stone for St. Jude's Church, Halkandawila was laid by Rev. Fr. Cyril Gamini Fernando, Episcopal Vicar Colombo South, and Rev. Fr. Julian Tissera Dean (Kalutara deanery) on 30th October 2011.



The parishioners have now embarked on a project to reconstruct, the church with the able guidance of the Parish Priest, Rev. Fr. Thusith Pradeep Fernando. His dedication and untiring effort is a great strength in carrying out this magnificent task.

The construction work has commenced and the foundation work

is now in progress. The Church Development Committee makes a special appeal to well-wishers, and devotees, of St. Jude to partake in this noble task by helping in whatever way they could. The contribution's could be forwarded to the following account:

St. Jude's Church,
Halkandawila
Building Committee
Hatton National Bank
(Kalutara Branch)
A/C. No 034020248955
or Parish Priest,
St. Sebastian Church,
Diyalagoda - Maggona

(D. A. Fernando)

CWM family members get-together



Family Members of the Christian Workers Union (CWM) had a get-together recently at St. Anthony's Church, Mihintale.

Picture shows Rev. Fr. Eric Fernando addressing the gathering.

(Theobald Samaratunga)

Feast of the Calvary Grotto in Maggona



The 100th anniversary of the Calvary Grotto was celebrated at Maggona on 6th November 2011. The chief celebrant at Festive Mass was Rev. Fr. Kelum Dias OMI Director of "Susithodaya" St. Vincent's Home Maggona. All arrangements for the feast were made under the guidance of Rev. Fr. Shiran Ranasinghe OMI, Director of St. Vincent's Home, Maggona and Rev. Bro. John Gilbert, together with the Oblate Community.

(D. Anselm Fernando)

Annual Feast of Negombo Hospital Church



Negombo District Hospital Church, of Our Lady of Good Health held its annual feast under the guidance of Rev. Fr. Lalith Expeditus, Spiritual Director and Priest Welfare Director, of the Colombo Archdiocese.

Associated on this occasion were Rev. Fr. Sumith Kumar Fernando Spiritual Director of the Negombo Hospital and Rev. Fr. Robert.

(Cecil Danicius)

Seminar on Psychological Theories of Carl Jung

A seminar on Psychological Theories of Carl Jung, organised by the Archdiocesan Family Apostolate will be held from 25th to 27th November, 2011, at the Subodhi Institute, Piliyandala.

The Seminar will be conducted by a renowned psycho analyst and famous writer of Jungian psycho analysis in the USA, namely Dr. Linda Holahan.

Students who have followed the Family Counsellor Training Programme, under the Archdiocesan Family Apostolate in all three languages, are eligible to take part in this programme of professional training.

All those interested are invited to contact Rev. Fr. Julian Patrick Perera on 0722151863

Rosary Rally at Tambakanda Church



Tambakanda - Sadalankawa St. Bruno's Church annual rosary feast, was held under the guidance of Rev. Fr. Stanley Peiris, Parish Priest of Tambakanda. After the Holy Mass parishioners carried the statue of Our Lady around the Church, in a procession.

(Cecil Danicius)

Christian Volunteers.....

Contd. from Pg. 1

of Christian faith and the obligation to love others as Christ loved.

"His grace perfects, strengthens and elevates" the basic human vocation to love others and "enables us to serve others without reward, satisfaction or any recompense," the Pope said.

At the same time, through volunteering "we also become visible instruments of his love in a world that still profoundly yearns for that love amid the poverty, loneliness, marginalization and ignorance that we see all around us," he said

Parents' Day at Minor Seminary, Kandy

St. Joseph's Minor Seminary at Poornawatte, Kandy organised a Parents' Day for Seminarians who were joining the Intermediate Seminary, Kalutara.

The Programme commenced with Vespers and Benediction was conducted by the Vicar General, Very Rev. Fr. Milroy Fonseka.

His Lordship, Rt. Rev. Dr. Vianney Fernando interviewed the Seminarians with their parents and encouraged them to be firm in their vocation and formation.

His Lordship thanked Rev. Fr. Colvin Fernandopulle, Rector of the Minor Seminary for the initiative taken for the formation of seminarians.

Environment Friendly School of the Year

St. Lawrence's Convent Wellawatte has been privileged this year in taking home the award for second place for the best environment friendly school of the year at the ceremony was held recently at the Maharagama Youth Centre.

Inspired by last years award the Lawrentians have been working with much effort and time to achieve this goal which in return enhances the school environment and facilitates the students overall education.

Picture shows Mr. Harendra Serasinghe, Executive Director of Green Forest Association, presenting the award. Rev. Sr. Mary Chandrika Perera (Principal) is also in the picture.



(Gillian Nugara - Student)



Church in the World

Bishops call for dialogue after university protests

Bishops in Columbia are calling on the government and local students to engage in dialogue after protests erupted over a proposed reform of the country's laws on education.

The bishops invited young people to put their strength and zeal to work for the building of "a country that is at the service of the education and the dignity of all Colombians."

The Church leaders issued their statement on Nov. 10, the day when thousands of students from across Colombia convened in the capital city of Bogota to protest against the proposed reforms. Colombian media reported that the protest in Bogota ended with one person wounded and 34 people arrested.

Vatican cardinal urges priests to spice up 'dull, irrelevant' sermons

A Vatican cardinal has appealed to clergy to liven up "dull, flavourless" sermons in an address at a conference in Rome.

Cardinal Gianfranco Ravasi, President of the Pontifical Council for Culture, claimed that homilies had become "irrelevant" to worshippers who were used to the thrill and excitement of modern technology such as the television and the internet. He said: "The advent of televised and computerised information requires us to be compelling and trenchant, to cut to the heart of the matter, resort to narratives and colour."

The Cardinal described the theological language used by priests in their sermons as "grey, dull and flavourless" and appealed to priests to use the graphic and dramatic imagery of the Bible to illustrate their sermons with colour and intrigue

Pope, Israeli religious leaders see need for courage in peacemaking

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Dialogue is essential for religious leaders in the Holy Land, "a place full of memories sacred to our traditions," but a place that each day faces challenges to living together in harmony; Pope Benedict XVI told religious leaders from Israel.

The "movement toward reconciliation requires courage and vision, as well as the trust that it is God himself, who will show us the way," the Pope said as he welcomed members of the Israel Council of Religious Communities and several Israeli government representatives.

2012 papal trip to Mexico, Cuba being studied seriously, spokesman says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Vatican officials are at an advanced stage in studying the possibility of a papal trip to Mexico and Cuba in the spring of 2012, the Vatican spokesman said.

Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, the spokesman, told reporters Nov. 10 that the nuncios to Mexico and Cuba have been told to inform those governments that "the Pope is studying a concrete plan to visit the two countries, responding to the invitations received" from them.

Crib Competition & Exhibition 2011

St. John Berchman's Confraternity of Altar Servers, St. Lucia's Cathedral, Kotahena will be organizing their Crib Competition and Exhibition for the 17th consecutive year.



The Altar Servers' Associations and parishioners belonging to the Archdiocese of Colombo are invited to participate at this competition. It will be held on Saturday 10th and Sunday 11th December at the Parish Hall to coincide with the Feast of our Patroness St. Lucy.

The emphasis in this year's crib competition will be "The Word Became Flesh and Dwelt Among Us". (John 1: 14-18)

The entry forms are available at the parish office. For further details please contact: **Shahan Nirmalan (075-5436543)** and **Daniel Aloysius (0775377923)**

Very Rev. Fr. Tony Martyn
Parish Priest

Lauds YCS..... Contd. from Pg. 1

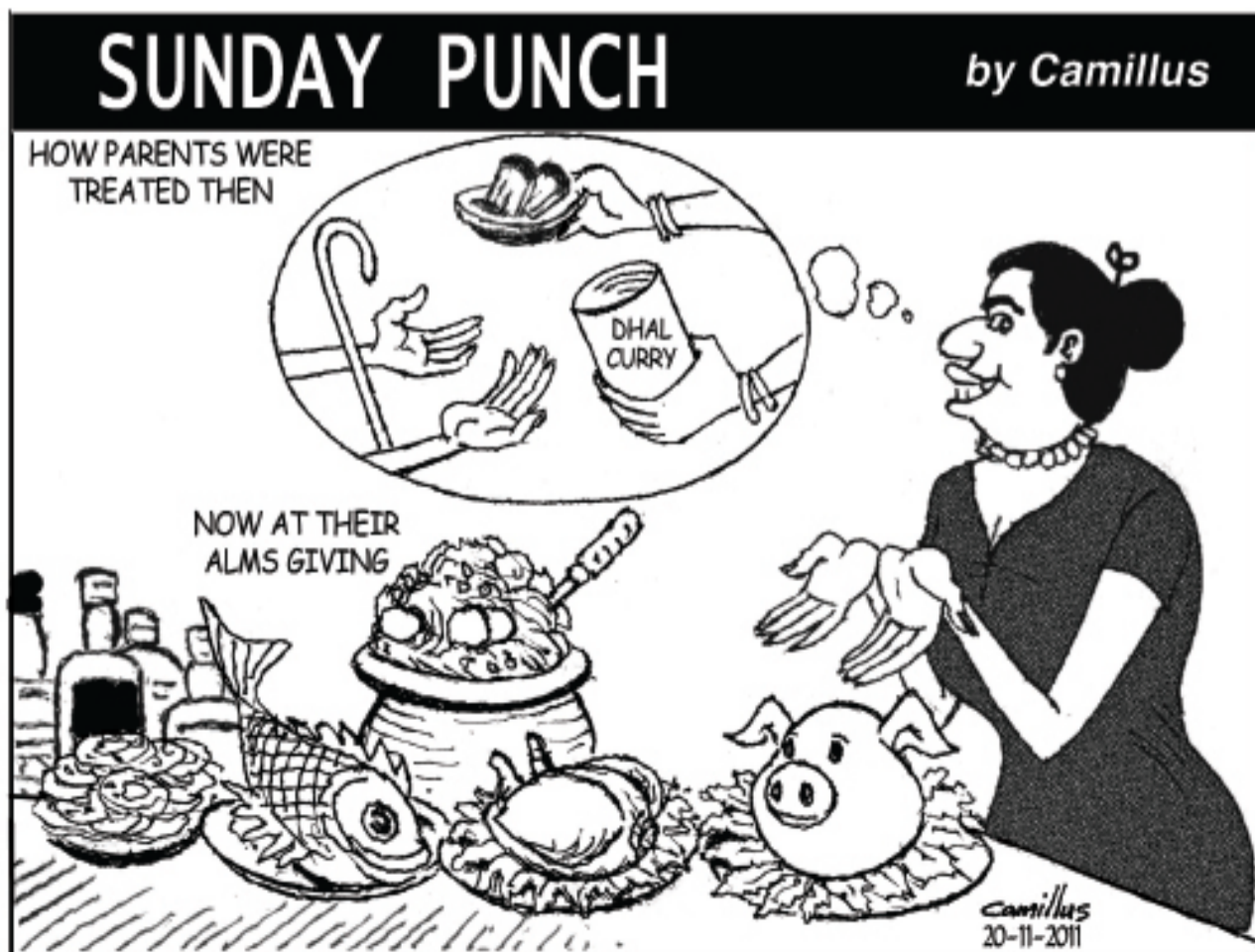
by Rev. Fr. Stanislaus Fernando (OMI), at the time was also immense value.

In 1958 Rev. Fr. Joe De Mel had the honour of becoming the first Sri Lankan Chaplain. He was followed by Rev. Fr. Ernest Porutota who did a great service for the movement. Rev. Fr. Schram's (OMI) continuous support to the movement during the after years was valuable. Rev. Fr. Oscar Abeyratne accepted the chaplaincy of the movement in 1966. Rev. Fr. Chrispin Leo was appointed as the Diocesan Chaplain of YCS in 1978. It was his concept to build a society of '5S's' which includes the qualities truth, peace, equality, justice and brotherhood. In 1980 the first IYCS South Asian Session was held in Haputale. Rev. Fr. Leo Perera's and Rev. Fr. Noel Dias's support during 1981 - 1982 nourished the movement.

Rev. Fr. Ronnie Perera was chaplain of the movement in 1997 and it was under him that 'Sisu Handa' (Voice of the students) magazine was republished.

Rev. Fr. Carlton De Silva was Chaplain in the year 2000 and the Golden Jubilee was celebrated at St. Benedict's College Kotahena in 2001 with the initiative of Emeritus Most Rev. Dr. Nicholas Marcus. At present Rev. Fr. Lawrence Ramanayake serves as the Chaplain of the YCS in the Archdiocese as well as in Sri Lanka.

YCS present Chaplain in Sri Lanka Rev. Fr. Lawrence Ramanayake, former YCS Chaplains, YCS Chaplains from several other dioceses, Episcopal Vicars and several other Fathers concelebrated at the Jubilee Mass.



'Fun & Jumble Sale 2011'

St. Mary's Home for Elders at 204, Darley Road, Maradana (adjoining St. Joseph's College,) will hold a 'Fun & Jumble Sale 2011' on Saturday 26th and Sunday 27th, November, from 9.00 am onwards.

The sale includes handicraft, clothes, food items, also fun games like lucky dip, toys and much more, and at unbelievable prices.

This has been organized by the Little Sisters of the Poor and the proceeds are in aid of the welfare of the Home for Elders.

THE CATHOLIC WEEKLY OF SRI LANKA
Messenger
SINCE 1869

EDITORIAL

20 November 2011

Should the Government exercise Internet Censorship of the news media?

Democratic organizations like 'Reporters without Borders' have pointed out that the Government has cowed the print media into submission through the intimidation of journalists. Thirteen journalists have been abducted and have disappeared and up to date the forces of law and order have failed to find them or bring the abductors to book. The journalists are now said to be exercising self censorship and to refrain from criticizing the government or do so in the mildest language. Not so the news media which operate on the Internet. They have been highly critical and their language sometimes exceeds the limits of acceptability. Many of them use instant messaging services, chat rooms, and text messages. Regular newspaper publishers too are starting to integrate social media platforms into their websites and even onto their print media by incorporating comments from readers on specific issues.

This is a useful way to use social media. It allows people to connect and engage with their favourite newspapers and gives up to the minute insight into a breaking story, or into the reporting process behind that story. Having the reporter respond to reader comments on his or her article is a good way to encourage polite debate on the comment thread, but there are potential pitfalls and newspaper editors have to monitor the language and independently verify the facts. News websites with communities which are known for intelligent debate don't happen by accident. Moderators and community managers must work behind the scenes to ensure that the site remains free of abuse, trolling and spam. The publishers behind these sites should deploy moderators to monitor particularly emotive articles and debates, and abusive language. Perhaps they may allow only some trusted community members to have their comments unvetted, though not all.

A press release issued by the Director General of the Department of Government Information on 5th November 2011, requires all websites carrying any content relating to Sri Lanka or the people of Sri Lanka uploaded from Sri Lanka or elsewhere to 'register' for 'accreditation.' The Telecommunications Regulatory Commission (TRC) that has, according to a news report in a local paper, moved to block a number of specific websites in line with this. Websites including www.lankanewsweb.com, www.srilankamirror.com, www.srilankaguardian.com and www.lankawaynews.com were blocked on the day the press release was issued without any consultation or forewarning.

We must ask under what law the Government is seeking to impose Internet censorship if it is seriously intent on going ahead with such censorship. There are no specific laws or regulations as far as we are aware. Of course there are rumours that this move to impose registration by the government is the first step in the realization of plans mooted by the TRC in 2010 to draft legislation that would make it compulsory for news websites to register with the Authority. Reporters Without Borders has deplored the action of the two Sri Lankan Internet Service Providers - SLT and Dialog Axiata in blocking access to the independent news website Lanka-e-News and calls on them to explain themselves. They say that if they are doing it at the government's behest, they have become accomplices to state censorship. The decision by SLT and Dialog Axiata to block e-News site is not justifiable. The site has been inaccessible since 18 October. These Internet Service Providers should act in terms of the law and should not discriminate against news sites critical of the government.

What is frightful is where this control could lead to in the future. The governmental authorities could not only block website content but could also monitor the Internet access of individuals.

While the Government should try to avoid secrecy and encourage openness and transparency and tolerate criticism. On the other hand critics also should be more temperate in their language of criticism.

"He who loves correction loves knowledge, but he who hates reproof is stupid". (Proverbs 12/1)

Newman-isation of Cardinal Cooray

Jayalatharachige Thomas Benjamin Cooray, born in Periamulla, did his primary education at St. Anthony's mixed Sinhala school at Dalupotha. He was sent to the minor seminary by Rev. Fr. Paul M. Alles OMI. As was the then custom he was sent to St. Joseph's College and came under the tutelage of Rev. Fr. Legoc. He did his bachelor's degree at the University College Colombo. His Oblate novitiate was under Rev. Father Perrot OMI and then went to the scholasticate seminary of St. Bernard under Rev. Fr. Emile Nicholas OMI. After an year Bro. Benjamin was sent to Rome and received his doctorates in philosophy and theology at the Angelicum under Fr. Garigou La Grange OP. Here he imbibed Thomism and was secure in the fact that the "Deposit of Faith" was handed down intact by Jesus to the apostles and that not even a letter of the deposit could ever be altered.

Archbishop

He was made Archbishop of Colombo after the death of Mgr. Masson and then he went to the Vatican Council II. At first he was a little shaken by the candid arguments on the council floor which totally rejected the schemas for discussion prepared by the Vatican Curia. The Vatican Curia wanted to preserve their power and control and when there was an onslaught by the bishops against this closed insular attitude, the Curia under Mgr. Pericle Felice the Secretary-General of the Council and Cardinal Ottaviani the Prefect of the Holy Office whose Episcopal motto was "*Semper idem*" (Always the same), complained to the Pope about the argumentative nature of the bishops that was causing scandal to the faithful, the Pope said "I did not call all the bishops together to sing in choir I want them to openly speak and express their frank opinions." The onslaught against the Curia was headed by the very presidents of the council appointed by Pope John. They were Cardinals Frings of Cologne assisted by his theological adviser Fr. Jozef Ratzinger, Suenens of Belgium, Fr. Konig of Austria, Lercaro of Italy, Wright of America.

They were ably assisted as theologians by Frs Congar, Shilobecks, Lubac, and John Courtney Murray. They rejected what was prepared by the Curia. They took their cue from the philosophy and theology of John Henry Cardinal Newman who held that "to live is to change and to live more to change more" and thus he enunciated the revolutionary idea the development of doctrine. According to this the Church is the living organism inspired by the Holy Spirit. This thought of Newman was summarized by Pope John in his opening address when he said, "The deposit of faith is one Thing the Way it is expressed is another and it has to be tuned to the modern world. This echoed the words of Jesus, "the kingdom is like the owner of a house who takes old and new things out of his store room." Thus the Council was called Newman's Council.

Transformation

All this shattered the security of Cardinal Cooray. Intelligent man that he was and having assiduously followed the sessions of the council he began to realize that things ever got to change and a profound transformation of thought and attitude was effected in him. When he came back to Colombo he immediately set about to inspire his flock with the ferment that the Holy Spirit had infused into the church. He got down Rev. Fr Lombardi to instill the new thinking to the church. The seminar was held at the National Seminary for four days where the laity both women and men, the religious both men and women, the



priests and all the bishops attended. Here was stressed not the hierarchical church but the people of God and the participants freely expressed their views and mingled without any formality.

Cardinal Cooray next got moving and brought down an expert in catechetics Rev. Fr. Hoofiger, to start the new catechetics with Ernest Don Sylvester, the social action and Sedec with Rev. Fr. Joe Fernando. Communications with Rev. Fr. Joe Nettasinghe, youth with Rev. Fr. Ernest Porutota, the vernacular liturgy with Bishop Edmund Peiris, and Frs. Marcelline Jayakody, Cabraal and Moses Perera and Mr. J.K.S. Perera were some of his initiatives. The Cardinal chose to give priestly training the new format because it lacked closeness to nature. The Lord himself was able to preach meaningful sermons with parables because of his closeness to nature and so the intermediate seminary was started to fill this lacuna. What ever he touched he adorned with the new Spirit that manifested itself in Vatican II.

His legacy will remain in the Church for ever.

(Rev. Fr. Anselm de Croos)

Jesus comes next month

That day
Comes near
Jesus comes
Every year
As that hour
Draws near
Relief brings
Pains bear
Make ready
Prepare be
Repent sins
God to see
Share around
To those poor
Visit infirms
Love those near
Clothe the naked
Relieve those fears
Feel Jesus
His requests
Genuine faith
Rewards
Bequest

Miran Perera



Pilgrim Journey of the Relic of Saint John Bosco

● Miracle worker Don Bosco with us from 19th to 30th November, 2011



Dear Friends, Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

"TRUST ALL THINGS TO JESUS IN THE BLESSED SACRAMENT AND TO MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS AND YOU WILL SEE WHAT MIRACLES ARE"

-St. John Bosco

The life size casket containing the Sacred relic of Saint John Bosco, popularly known as Don Bosco started its 130-country pilgrim journey from Turin, the headquarters of Salesian Don Bosco on 31st January, 2009 to mark the bicentenary of the Saint's birth as well as the 150th anniversary of the Salesian Don Bosco. The right hand which is embedded in a wax replica of the Saint's body, said to be having miraculous healing powers will arrive in Sri Lanka on 19th November 2011 as a part of worldwide tour and will remain till 30th November, 2011 for public veneration.

We consider this as a special moment of grace for all of us, fortunate and blessed to receive Don Bosco amidst us. Holy Father Pope Benedict XVI has granted a plenary indulgence to all those who visit, venerate and pray before the relic of Don Bosco while it is on a pilgrimage journey. Let us make his visit vibrant and jubilant and prepare ourselves worthily to receive and greet the relic.

Hardships in Pursuit

Saint John Bosco also known as Don Bosco or Giovanni Melchior Bosco – founder of the Salesian Society was born on 16th August, 1815 to a poor peasant family in a little cabin at Becchi, not far from Turin near Castelnovo de Asti of Piedmont region of Northern Italy. His father Francesco died before he reached two years of age, and his mother Margheritta, a saintly woman gave him a healthy religious upbringing. His mother played a strong role in Bosco's formation and personality and was an early support of her son's ideals.

Brought up in a peasant family and raised by a widowed mother with tenderness and energy, John endured many hardships in pursuit of an education and growth in the Christian life. He demonstrated great initiative and creativity at a very early age, had an incredible memory and perseverance. He learned magic tricks and entertained young and old with his abilities at acrobatics and held them spell-bound with his talent for story-telling.

Like St. Joseph in the Gospels,

God spoke to John Bosco in his dreams, and in this way revealed to him many future events. At the age of nine, John Bosco had the first dream, which influenced and gave great meaning to the rest of his life. In this vision, a lady told him that he would be called to bring the Gospel to young people. The years which followed were given direction by that dream.

While still a teenager, John would gather a group of boys together and entertain them. He had the gift of conjuring and this he coupled with religious instructions, using stories from the lives of the Saints or from the Bible, and finishing up with a hymn of decade of the Rosary.

John's early years were spent as a shepherd and he received his first instructions at the hands of the parish priest Fr. Joseph Colosso whom he met in 1830. Don Bosco possessed a ready wit, retentive memory, and as years passed his appetite to study grew stronger. Poverty of the home prevented any serious attempt at schooling. He was often obliged to turn from his books to the field, but the desire of what he had to give up never left him.

Learning

Despite being forced to leave home at the age of twelve because of his relationship with his elder brother, John persevered with his studies. On a cold morning of February 1827, John left his home and went to look for work as a farm servant. After begging unsuccessfully for work, Bosco ended up at the Vine Farm Louis Moglia and worked for three years. John returned home and resumed his schooling, first at Castelnovo and then at Chieri. He learnt different trades, took part-time jobs to and learnt skills including carpentry, tailoring and cobbling to pay for his schooling. He later used these to train his own students.

John was intelligent and brilliant, and the best students of the school flocked around him. At the age of 20 years, John Bosco took the most important decision of his life and entered the Seminary in Chieri in 1835. After six years of intense studies on June 5, 1841 he was ordained a priest on the eve of Trinity Sunday by Archbishop Franzoni of Turin.

After his ordination to the priesthood, Don Bosco undertook post-graduate studies in Turin the provincial capital and the seat of the Kingdom of Savoy which was flooded by peasants in search of work. Don Bosco focused his efforts on ministry to the orphans and working children of the city and established homes called "Oratories" where they could live, learn productive trades, and be educated in the faith.

During his post-graduate course in Pastoral Studies, Don Bosco visited the hospitals, streets and market places of Turin. Here he came into contact with the homeless, the unemployed and the poor. The young in particular were least able to fend for themselves and most in need of care – many were in the city without any family. Don Bosco began gathering the boys who roamed the streets with nothing to do – especially on Sundays. He spent his Sundays from dawn till night with the boys organized games and activities for them,

saying Mass, hearing their confession and taking them on walks through the countryside.

Preventive System

Don Bosco was an Italian Catholic Priest, Educator and Writer of the 19th Century, who put into practice, a method that is known as the Preventive System. His method of study knew nothing of punishment. He told that teacher should be a father, adviser and friend, and was the first to adopt the preventive method. The group would meet in the field of the church.

Eventually, Don Bosco was given an old barn. Slowly, by stages, this grew into the immense Salesian Mother House, the world famous Oratory of Turin.

In the face of much resistance by anti-clerical politicians and unfriendly churchmen, his Oratories grew so quickly that by 1868 over 1000 boys were under his care. He wrote and printed countless pamphlets that popularized Catholic teaching and answered the objections of anti-Catholics and Secularists and as a result, several attempts were made on his life.

Miracles reported by numerous eyewitnesses accompanied his work, including the multiplication of food, raising the dead healing the blind etc., to mention few.

He was also known to receive supernatural guidance from God in the form of vivid dreams which he often shared with his companions. To ensure the continuation of his work, as a follower of the Spirituality and Philosophy of Francis de Sales, Don Bosco founded the Society of St Francis de Sales, commonly known as the Salesian Society or the Salesian Don Bosco.

In 1868 to meet the needs of the Vaidocco quarter of Turin, Don Bosco resolved to build a church. He experienced considerable difficulty in raising the necessary funds, but the charity of some friends finally enabled him to complete it at a cost of more than a million francs. The church was consecrated on 9th June, 1868, and placed under the patronage of Our Lady, Help of Christians. In the same year in which Don Bosco began the erection of the church fifty Priests and Teachers who had been assisting him formed a society under a common rule with the approval of Pius XI in 1874.

Magheritta

Don Bosco's first benefactor was his mother Magheritta, a 59 year old poor peasant who left her home at Becchi to become a mother to these poor boys.

Public Veneration

The pilgrim casket containing the relic of Saint John Bosco will be kept for public veneration at St. Lawrence's Church, Wellawatte on Monday 21st November, 2011 from 9.00 a.m. to 10.30 a.m. All are welcome to pay homage, venerate, pray and be blessed by Saint John (Don) Bosco. A film "MISSION TO LOVE" on the life of Don Bosco will be screened at the Community Centre of St. Lawrence's Church, Wellawatte on 21st November, 2011 from 10.30 a.m. onwards. Entrance free. Come and See. A film worth watching to know more about this wonder worker.

She sold her wedding ring, her earrings and her necklace in order to put something on the table for them to eat. Some of these boys decided to do what Don Bosco was doing, to spread their love in the services of abandoned boys. This was the origin of the Salesian Congregation.

Don Bosco founded the Institute of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians together with Maria Dominica Mazzarello – a Religious congregation of nuns dedicated to the care and education of poor girls, popularly known as the Salesian Sisters.

In 1876, he founded a movement of Laity, the Salesian Cooperators, with the same educational Mission of the poor.

In 1875 he published 'The Catholic Salesian' monthly bulletin. This bulletin is currently published in 50 different editions and 30 languages. Bosco succeeded in establishing a network of organizations and centres to carry on his work.

His feast day falls on 31st January and the Major Shrine is in Turin, Italy – "The Tomb of St. John Bosco", Basilica of



Our Lady Help of Christians.

Don Bosco's health collapsed in 1887 and he died on 31st January, 1888 at dawn. He said in a whisper his last words to the Salesians who kept vigil around his bed, "Love each other as brothers, do good to all and evil to none ...tell my boys that I wait for them in Paradise".

His funeral was attended by thousands. Bosco was beatified on 2nd June 1929, canonized on Easter Sunday 1st April, 1934 and was given the title "FATHER AND TEACHER OF YOUTH". At the time of his death, there were 250 homes of the Salesian Society in all parts of the world. Upto 1888, over 6000 priests had gone out from Don Bosco's Institution while 1200 of whom had remained in the Society. The Professional School numbered more than 200 across the world. Today John Bosco's Salesians have started many schools and colleges and continue his work all over the world.

The right hand that performed so many miracles is coming to meet us and bless us. May his visit touch us and transform us. Let us feel and breath in his spirit.

- BASIL MEL

Drunken Driving

Statistics in Sri Lanka show that in 2010, 147 people have been killed by drivers under the influence of liquor. Such accidental deaths do affect the whole family. If the breadwinner of the family is killed by drunken drivers, the education of the children, and the standard of living of the family will get affected. Some of the dead were children. There is nothing devastating to a family than the death of a child who is deprived of the opportunity to grow up to be an adult.

An association in the USA called Mothers Against Drunken Driving (MADD) are working for Federal and State legislation against drunken drivers. Many of these mothers have lost one of their children or family member to a driver operating vehicles under the influence of alcohol. In the USA many drivers' licenses are confiscated to show how detrimental their deed is if they are caught behind the wheel while intoxicated. Their cars are put on auction.



In Sri Lanka we have seen cars being temporarily impounded and drunken drivers put in remand. We have heard about the policemen temporarily confiscating such vehicles and advising the drivers to come to the police station when they are sober to reclaim their vehicles. Offenders are forced to get lifts from their friends, to take taxis or three-wheelers or to use public transport. Presently drunken drivers are heavily fined for their offences and licenses temporarily suspended.

Two of the major religions practiced in Sri Lanka prohibit brewing and use of alcohol. Both Buddhism and Islam prohibit the use of alcohol. The founders of these religions would have seen the adverse effects of intoxication. They realized that

alcohol leads to disruption of day to day family lives. Especially the innocent women and children are being victimized. The chain reactions and adverse effects of alcohol on the health and normal behaviour of the people certainly would colour their precepts.

Besides harming pedestrians and fellow passengers alcohol intake can cause physical and mental problems. Excessive long time consumption of alcohol can lead to cirrhosis which is progressive replacement of healthy liver tissue with scar tissue. Scar tissues impair normal function of the liver which leads to systemic toxicity and death. Fetal alcohol Syndrome is a disease of the newly born babies of alcoholic mothers. Mothers who take alcohol when pregnant can cause physi-

Madi

cal and mental deformities in their babies. Korsakoff's Syndrome is a neurological defect that can cause complications of the nervous system which end up in permanent dementia.

If one is compelled to drink or circumstances lead to drinking prior to taking the wheel precautionary steps can be planned. When attending a party or a club where alcohol is served designate a driver. Pinpoint one person who is capable of driving who will agree not to drink during the party. You can call a taxi or a three-wheeler to get home safely. You can look for friends or relations who are willing to give you a lift.

Alternative ways of transport is risk free personally as well as for society. Once your mind is impaired as a result of alcohol you may not be able to make a correct or a safe decision. You will be jeopardizing your own life as well as the lives and the limbs of the passersby, your family members and friends who are driven by you.



By Sirohmi Gunesequera

Death

"November is the month of All Souls and on the 2nd of November, we said a special prayer for those of our loved ones who are dead and gone. Each one of us has lost a mother, a brother, a friend or even a grandma. Death has touched each of us and left us sad," commented Mercy.

"Yes, but why should we be sad? I am reminded of the story of the little girl who was at a funeral. She asked plaintively 'Why are you crying? Grandpa has gone to be with Jesus so you should be happy!' "responded Oliver.

"You are right. If we have faith in God, we should not let death make us sad. After all, it is only a temporary parting. In the words of the hymn,

"Beyond the sunset, When day is done ...
We shall meet on that beautiful shore ..."

Remember that Jesus came to earth and lived and died and rose again on the third day, conquering the power of sin and death,"observed Mercy.

"Each one of us should prepare for death even in the midst of life. If we can avoid sin and share love, faith and charity each day, it won't matter if we don't wake up the next day. Death can come like a thief in the night but we will be ready," remarked Oliver.

"Our death we can face but it is hard to accept the loss of a dear one, knowing we will not see him any more. But time is a healer and fond memories will help tide over the hard times," commented Mercy.

"Yes, and we must do our best to spend time with those we care about so we will have no regrets when death comes. There is no point crying and attending funerals and almsgivings if we don't spend quality Time with loved ones while they are with us,"observed Oliver.

Peace is not absence of war

Creation which is a reflection of the divine glory aspires to peace. God created all that exists and all of creation forms a harmonious whole that is good in every part (Gen.1).

Peace is founded on the primary relationship that exists between every human being and God himself, a relationship marked by righteousness (Gen. 17:1).

Following the voluntary act by which man altered the divine order, the world experienced the shedding of blood and violence. Violence made appearance in interpersonal and social relationships (Gen. 4:16, 11:1-9). Peace and violence cannot dwell together where there is violence God cannot be present. In biblical revelation peace is not absence of war it represents fullness of life. It is a gift of God, and it involves obedience to the divine plan. Peace is the goal of life, it embraces the whole of nature.

The promise of peace that runs through the Old Testament finds its fulfillment in Jesus. Peace is a value. A universal duty, founded on a rational and moral order of society that has its roots in God himself. It is based on correct understanding of the human person, and requires the establishment of an order based on justice and charity. Peace is the fruit of justice. When a man/woman is denied his/her due as a human being peace is threatened. When his/her dignity is not respected his/her civil life is not directed to the common good.

The defense and promotion of human rights is essential for the building up of a peaceful society and



Sr. Rita Gunawardane

the integral development of individuals, peoples and nations.

Peace is also fruit of love. Peace is built up day after day in the pursuit of an order willed by God and can flourish only when all recognizes that each individual is responsible for promoting it.

To prevent conflicts and violence it is absolutely necessary that peace begin to take root in human heart as a value. Then it can spread to families, community society and political community.

To obtain such a culture of peace the welfare of human beings needs to be safe guarded. People

freely and trustingly share with one another riches of their minds talents and wealth.

Violence is unworthy of human beings. Violence destroys what it claims to defend; the life the freedom and the like. War cause material and moral damage. Another name for peace is development.

Honouring Mother Mary



A great devotee of Mother Mary, Mr. Merrill Rajapakse of Unit 4 of Ragama Road, Tewatte gathered his neighbours on Wednesday 9.11.2011 to say the Rosary. They all prayed very fervently for family unity, peace in our country and peace in the world. After the Rosary they all decided to meet every Wednesday in different houses to honour Mother Mary. (E.D)

TAKE TIME FOR A MINUTE OF HUMOUR - SMILE!



Menike had just received a new dress and was praising her husband's goodness "Dear," she coaxed, "not once since you married me have you done a bad thing?" "No darling. That was the last", retorted the husband.

Rev. Fr. Fraccid Anthony Fernando O.M.I.

"Gleaned from the Classics"
By Johannus

Vindicta nemo magis gaudet quam femina

(from Juenal)

Translation:

No one delights more in revenge than woman

Compiled by: Kishani S. Fernando

Sidupiyanila: A grand piece of work and a home of peace and joy

Sidupiyanila was the loving name given to the beautiful bungalow built in the early 1940's in Ellatota Bandarawela by Mr. Watson Pieris. The house was built for his personal use as well as to be a heaven for spiritual purposes. The house was named by the great scholar and linguist Canon and Rev. P. Lucian Jansz who travelled specially to Bandarawela to experience its environs before naming it Sidupiyanila: A house of achievement and joy or a great piece of work and a home of peace and joy.

Unfortunately in 1943, as an act of retaliation on a personal misunderstanding with the owner, the house was to be requisitioned for the use of the anti government leaders who were at that time housed in the Badulla goal. It was during this same time that Lord Mountbatten Commander in Chief of South East Asia (SEAC) who had head quarters in New Delhi was in search of a holiday resort, and the house was instead requested for this purpose by the office of the SEAC foiling the attempts of the then Ceylon Government. The house was thus used and at the end of the war returned to a grateful owner who as an act of thanksgiving, wished to make it

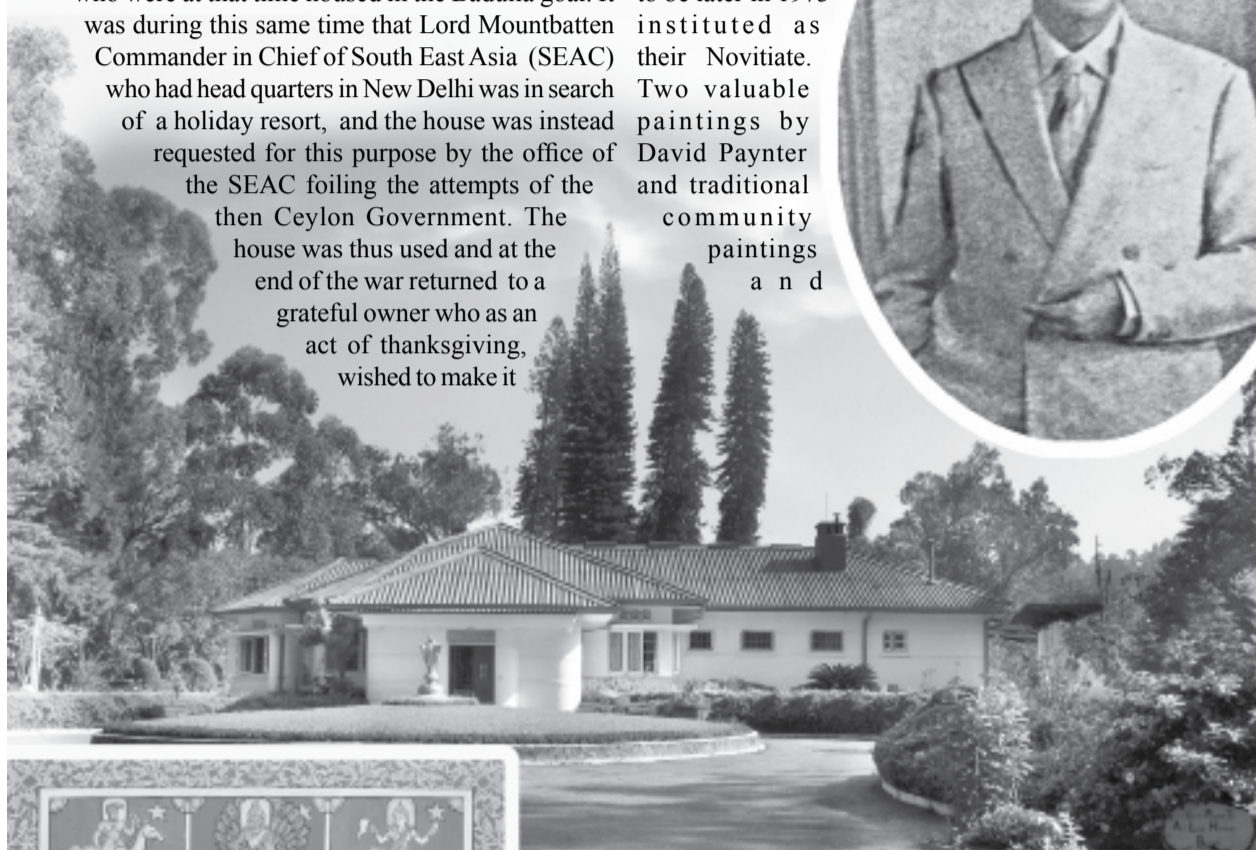
a place where people could seek God in solitude. The house was made available to the Methodist Layman's Movement for their activities while it also served as a house of prayer and retreat for men and women from all walks of life from all parts of Sri Lanka.

However again as a result of government pressure on land owners the house had to be sold and a transaction took place making the Sri Lanka Province of the Oblate Congregation the owner of the house to be later in 1973 instituted as their Novitiate. Two valuable paintings by David Paynter and traditional community paintings and



sculptures were gifted with the house and still decorate the house (see picture). Thus in a strange way the house continues to maintain the intentions and spiritual ambitions of its original owner: "A haven of religious repose to people in need, people seeking God and help from above to face the challenges of their life." A prophecy fulfilled!

Mr. Watson Pieris (see picture) was a fervent Methodist and the first Vice President of the Methodist Conference appointed in 1964. He was also one of the first Board of Governors of the Bank of Ceylon.

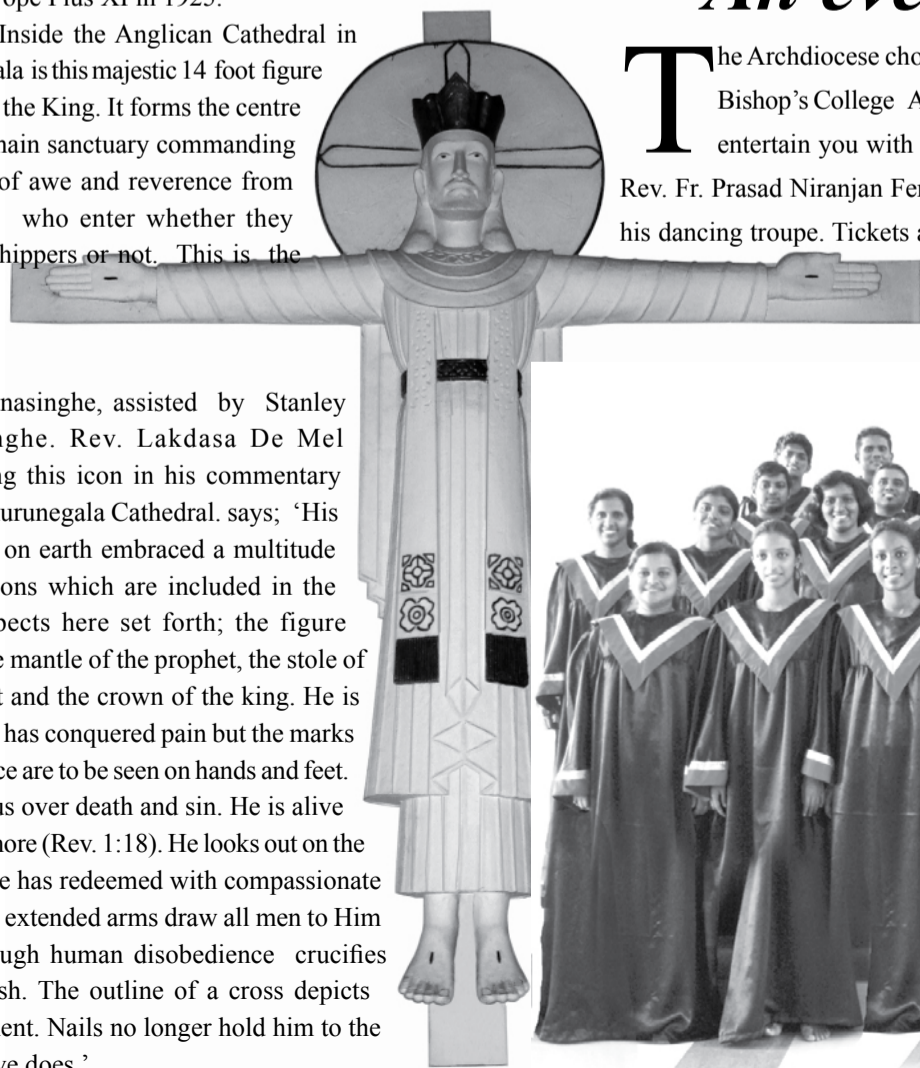


All Advent awaits

The Feast of Christ the King was established by Pope Pius XI in 1925.

Inside the Anglican Cathedral in Kurunegala is this majestic 14 foot figure of Christ the King. It forms the centre of the main sanctuary commanding feelings of awe and reverence from all those who enter whether they be worshippers or not. This is the work of famous artist

Tissa Ranasinghe, assisted by Stanley Abeysinghe. Rev. Lakdasa De Mel describing this icon in his commentary on the Kurunegala Cathedral. says; 'His Ministry on earth embraced a multitude of functions which are included in the three aspects here set forth; the figure wears the mantle of the prophet, the stole of the priest and the crown of the king. He is risen. He has conquered pain but the marks of sacrifice are to be seen on hands and feet. Victorious over death and sin. He is alive for evermore (Rev. 1:18). He looks out on the world. He has redeemed with compassionate love. His extended arms draw all men to Him even though human disobedience crucifies him afresh. The outline of a cross depicts this element. Nails no longer hold him to the cross; love does.'



An evening of harmony

The Archdiocese choir will stage 'An evening of harmony' on Sunday 27th November. It will be held at the Bishop's College Auditorium at 7.00 pm. The choir comprising 51 choristers from the archdiocese will entertain you with sacred music, carols and a medley of golden oldies. The choir will be conducted by Rev. Fr. Prasad Niranjana Fernando. There will be five guest artiste performances including an act by Channa and his dancing troupe. Tickets are priced at Rs. 500/=, Rs. 750/=, Rs. 1,000/=, Rs. 1,500/= and will be available at Vibrations. For more details contact Janith 0777344923 and Lakmali 0774171120.



The Four Last Things



Catholic belief about death, judgement, heaven and hell

Uncomfortable realities

The Church has always felt the duty to draw our attention to what may seem like uncomfortable realities, for example our own death and what lies beyond. For doing so, the Catholic Church is sometimes accused of preaching a religion of fear, but this is quite untrue. Death, judgment, heaven and hell, known as 'the four last things' are a reality we all need to face up to, even if many of us would rather not think about them.

Many of us don't think of death, and if we do it is with a certain amount of fear. Judgement and hell are not popular notions for many today. However, there is great value in being clear about these things and in helping others understand them.



The Church usually takes them in this order, because it is more or less the order in which we will face them, working through them from experience, to hope. Retribution and fear have little place here.

Death

We must all die. While many non-believers try not to think about dying at all, suppressing all thoughts of death is bad for us, both spiritually and psychologically.

If there were no sin and evil in the world and in ourselves, there might have been no death; but as we are we must be grateful that God calls us through death. Death is God's gift to sinners. No sinner would wish to live forever. We learn to delight in God's holy will, including our own death.

While we are young we tend to push death far away; as we grow older we slowly come to accept the idea peacefully. St Francis of Assisi praised God

for 'our Sister, the Death of the body'. Death is the gateway to eternal life. Going through that gate may be a painful shock, or it may be a gentle falling asleep, according to God's will for each of us; but beyond the gate we are freed from time and space with all their pressures. We shall not be depressed at our own funeral, nor shall we ever be tried or tempted any more.

It is part of Catholic spirituality that we should pray and prepare for a good death - a death for which we are ready. The prayer itself will help to free us from a morbid fear of dying.

Judgement

God judges us because he is himself Truth, and supremely Just. In the light of God's truth, we see the reality of our own lives. 'Faced with God's fascinating and mysterious presence, man discovers his own insignificance' (Catechism, 208). God does not need witnesses to give evidence of our sin; he dispenses justice without possibility of injustice; and his justice is tempered with loving-kindness. God has three possible verdicts for the sinful soul:

1. He may declare the soul to be ready to live with him in heaven forever. This is the verdict for the saints. We may be tempted to guess that this is his verdict for a minority; but we cannot imagine how liberally he gives it.
2. He may declare that the soul has wilfully forfeited any possibility of living with God forever. Such a soul will get its desire. This is condemnation to Hell. We hope it is the verdict for a very few, perhaps to none; but it must always remain



as a possibility for those who, as Jesus taught Nicodemus, choose darkness rather than light (Jn 3:17-21).

3. The soul may be committed to the purifying treatment we call Purgatory, which will bring us to the level of the saints, and prepare us for eternal happiness with God. We are confident that this will be the verdict for many. This possibility makes us sure that we cannot go to Hell by accident, any more than we can go on sinning in heaven.

Hell

Why would a loving God create hell, a state of unending misery and suffering? Only because some people use their God-given freedom to reject God and his will. They demand a state of unutterable selfishness, boredom, self-indulgence and loneliness: the sickening horror of being lost and hopeless forever.

We are all free to refuse God and his way of love, so perfectly shown to us in Jesus Christ. God will not force heaven on us. He wants us in heaven, but leaves us free to accept or reject his offer. The way to hell is therefore the way of self-centredness, the opposite of the way taught by Christ. It is a way of never-completed self-destruction. We do not know the name of anyone who has persisted in that way to the bitter end; but we know we are free to do so.

Heaven

We talk about heaven as though it were a place. We can hardly talk about it in any other way. Stories about meeting St Peter at the 'Pearly Gates' are usually jokes in which we try to express the truth about heaven, or about people on the way to heaven - to say something about a state of being that really has no boundaries of any kind. The ques-

tion 'Do you believe there is a heaven?' really means 'Do you believe we can live forever with God in perfect holiness and joy?'

Most of us usually think in pictures. The traditional pictures of heavenly life come from the Book of Revelation, the last book in the New Testament. They are meant to be symbolic pictures, not realistic photographs.

In these pictures God's throne is the centre of heaven. It is easy to understand that this means God is the essence of heavenly life. The throne is surrounded by an uncountable number



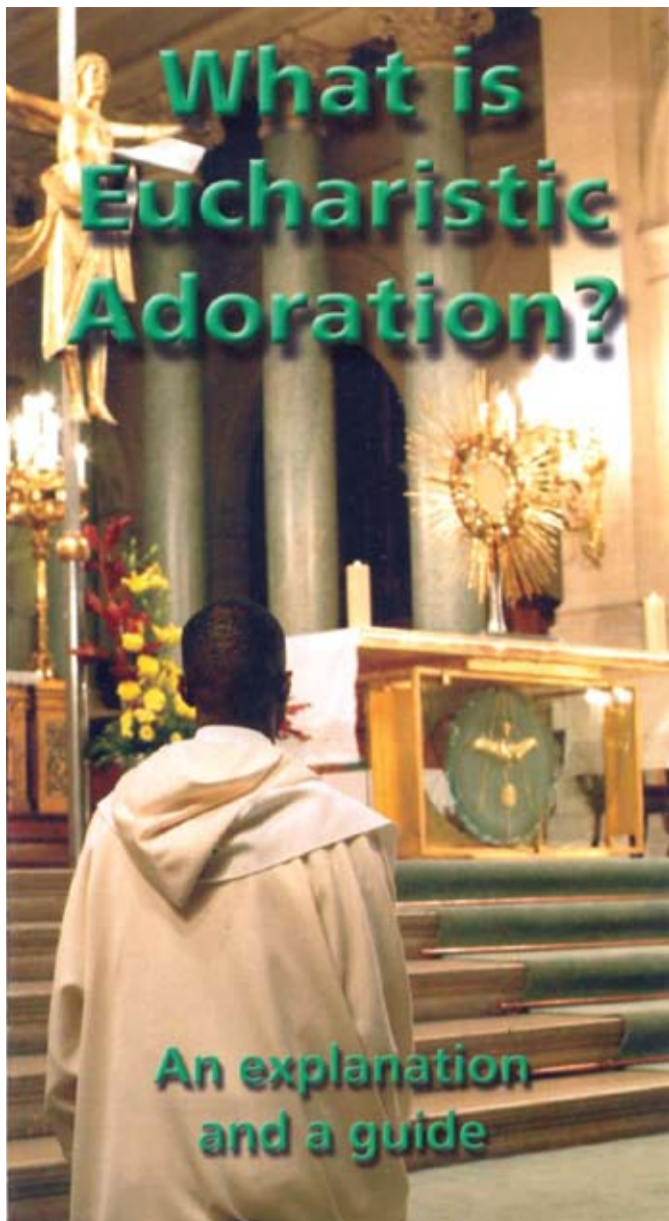
of angels and saints joyfully praising God and waiting upon him. There is no better picture language for this heavenly life, for which we have been designed. The saints are not forced to submit to a dominating master: They rejoice to love him and his being with them.

Like all joys, heavenly joy must be shared, if it is to be realisable and true. In heaven we shall be united with our departed loved ones, our descendants and all the saints of God. It is silly to suggest that there will be so many there could not possibly be room for all. The universe in which we now live is already infinite; and eternity is bound by neither time nor space.

And the idea that praising God forever will be boring is an absurdity, because praising God is the same as exercising unlimited love. Words are bound to fail us when we begin talking about heaven.

A Reflection

A little meditation will show what the Church constantly teaches: We can gain foretastes of heaven and hell, foretastes that help us prepare for death and judgement; because heaven is happily living with God and hell is trying to avoid Him.



light burns nearby, day and night, to remind us of the presence of Jesus. Pope Paul VI once described the tabernacle as the 'living heart beating in our churches', and the area of the church where it is, the most sacred part of the building.

Where does the devotion come from?

Until the twelfth century, the Blessed Sacrament had been reserved privately so that it could be administered to the sick and dying. Then, the faithful's growing enthusiasm to see and worship Christ, present under the appearance of the consecrated bread in this pre-eminent Sacrament of His love, outside the context of the Holy Mass, stimulated the development and articulation of the doctrine of the Real Presence.

In 1264 Pope Urban IV instituted the Feast of Corpus Christi (The Body of Christ). The following years saw the practices of exposing the Blessed Sacrament in the monstrance (monstrare = to show) and carrying it in solemn procession through the streets and public places, the rite of Exposition and Benediction, and also the founding of Religious Orders and Societies dedicated to the perpetual adoration of Jesus hidden in the Tabernacle.

Further development

In Western Catholic tradition, Benediction is the service of exposition and adoration which includes the blessing of the faithful by the celebrant with the Blessed Sacrament visible in the monstrance. It has evolved from the elevation for adoration of Christ's Body and Blood under the appearance of the bread and wine consecrated during Mass, from the reservation of the Blessed Sacrament in public view, and from the celebration of the Feast of Corpus Christi. It was also associated with the earlier benediction of the people at the end of a service with a cross or relic or, in the case of the Communion of the Sick, with the Holy Eucharist itself.

More recent times

More recently the Church has emphasised the value of Eucharistic devotion related to the Sacrifice of the Mass which is "the source and summit" of the Christian life. Sublime prayers and hymns should accompany devotions which are to be regarded as extensions of the Eucharistic Liturgy, and provide inspiration and time to contemplate the mysteries celebrated in the Eucharist. These devotions are further opportunities to thank God for His redemptive love, to intensify a personal relationship with Christ, to pray with Him for the Church and the world, and to seek His strength for the journey of discipleship.

What is Eucharistic Adoration?

Catholics believe that Jesus is present in a unique way in the tabernacle, because they become the body and blood of Jesus in the Mass. The bread and wine which we use are treated during the Mass with awe and reverence. We show love and reverence to the consecrated bread (the Host) and the consecrated wine (the Precious Blood), because they have changed and become sacred. We refer to the consecrated elements as the Blessed Sacrament.



From the earliest times it has been important to enable people who are sick and housebound to receive Holy Communion. Sometimes such people may be close to death and will want to receive Holy Communion in an emergency - so the Blessed Sacrament is kept in a safe place in the church so that such people can be brought Holy Communion. This safe place is the tabernacle. That is why you will often see people praying to the Blessed Sacrament in the tabernacle, and it is the reason why we go down on one knee (genuflect) when we pass in front of it and when we enter or leave the church. The red or white



What is the value of Eucharistic Adoration?

Most of us lead busy and pressurised lives. A church building offers a place set apart where we can find some peace and quiet, some 'space', because we know that in the tabernacle Jesus Christ is present in a unique way, a church is the best possible place to seek some tranquility and to listen to what God may be saying to us in our lives: That is why we try to keep our churches open all day.

All over the world, every day, thousands of people are praying quietly, all the time, to Jesus present in the Blessed Sacrament in the tabernacle. A famous 19th century French saint, Jean Marie Vianney (known as the Cure d'Ars) once described praying before the tabernacle in these words, 'He just looks at me and I just look at him.' Closer to our own day, Cardinal Basil Hume said 'It is a wonderful practice just to sit or kneel in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament'.

Remember what Jesus said at the Last Supper: 'This is my Body ... This is the cup of my Blood' It is because of these words that we know that he is with us in the Blessed Sacrament.

Visits to the Blessed Sacrament

The opportunity to adore Jesus Christ who is truly present in the Blessed Sacrament 'in his Body, Blood, soul and divinity' as the food and life of our souls, is always there. Many come to visit the Blessed Sacrament altar in a church, for say 10 to 15 minutes, even longer, sitting or kneeling in quiet prayer and reflection, often assisted by a book of prayers or scripture.

Rite of Exposition and Benediction

There are other times when we may show Jesus how much we love him and value the gift of his Body and Blood. In this Rite a large consecrated host is placed in a special vessel for adoration. This is known as a monstrance, often decorated with shining rays, which draws our attention. In this act of worship we are able

to grow particularly close to Jesus and there is time for prayers, hymns and silent meditation of him.

At the end of this service, at Benediction, the priest or deacon blesses us with the monstrance containing the host. In many churches the Blessed Sacrament is regularly exposed in this way for an hour or so during the week, giving people an opportunity for prayer and reflection, to grow closer to Jesus.

The Rite

1. Exposition

First of all, the priest or deacon exposes the Blessed Sacrament (in the monstrance) while a hymn is sung. During this hymn, he incenses the Blessed Sacrament. This reminds us that God is truly present and that our prayers go up to Him. A Eucharistic hymn is sung.

2. Prayers and Scripture

Then there is time for silent prayer, readings from the scripture, litanies, the Rosary or other prayers or hymns. The priest or deacon may give a homily.

3. Eucharistic Hymn

After the prayers, there is another Eucharistic hymn. Once again the priest or deacon incenses the Blessed Sacrament. A hymn to the Blessed Sacrament may be sung. The priest then says or sings a prayer to the Blessed Sacrament.

4. Benediction

The priest or deacon puts on the "humeral veil" as a mark of special reverence. He lifts the monstrance containing the Blessed Sacrament and makes the sign of the cross over us. We receive the Blessing of Jesus Christ, truly present. The servers may offer incense and ring the bell. As the Blessed Sacrament is reposed in the tabernacle, there is a concluding song.



(Catholic Truth Society)

Love of the Cross

The Cross - is an instrument of Salvation and Sanctification. Our union with God can only be accomplished through suffering. Total Mortification is required to scrape out the depths of our soul and purify ourselves to the state that allows God to move our soul.

Active Suffering

(suffering inspired by our own initiative - sacrifice, penance etc) is not sufficient. "Passive Suffering" (suffering caused by the intervention of God - sickness, death of a loved one, financial losses, injustice and those that are beyond our control) causes us to suffer in body as well as soul and brings on total purification.

To plunge us into 'passive suffering' is therefore an 'act of love' - God's greatest work of mercy. When God does this, it is because He wants us to reach high perfection. He wants this for each one of us, but many of us find it hard to accept suffering as a task of purification and thereby let go of the opportunity.

Suffering and interior desolation alone, enlarge the power of the soul and make it capable of embracing God. Suffering is not only for the good of the soul, but it also glorifies God and proves our love for Him. We must not aim for perfection in order to enjoy it - for the perfect soul does not think of itself - but our aim should be to let others see the glory of God through our perfection.

Participation in the Passion of Christ should not be merely sentimental. There must be true compassion that

Nilanthi Arasaratnam

leads us to suffer with Jesus and Mary. Suffering with Jesus and Mary is to suffer our daily trials with joyful, willing acceptance, patient endurance and for the sole purpose of purifying ourselves for the glory of God and offered for the salvation of mankind.

God loved His Son above all others. When Jesus asked God to accomplish His Will in Him, God fulfilled that wish by giving Him up to all kinds of sorrows, insults and persecutions, leaving Him finally to die on the cross.

As long as we are in this world, these are our gifts. God gives them to us proportionately according to His love for us. He gives more to those who love Him more. He gives less to those who love Him less. He gives according to the courage He finds in each of us and according to the



SOULS

Souls in purgatory are yearning
Souls for our prayers are waiting

O! how much pain they are undergoing
In our prayers they are solely depending

Until we pray, sacrifice and release
Unlike us they'll have no peace

Luckily we can cleanse by confession
Let's not wait to ease their depression

Souls released will help us in turn,
So Let's pray for the souls that burn.

Emilda S. Douglas

love we have for Him. If we love Him much, we will be able to suffer much for Him. That is why we often hear people saying that the closer we are to God, the more we suffer!

Let us embrace our crosses with joy and gratitude, for they simply mean that God loves us so much and has blessed us

in a very special way!

"Blessed are those who suffer and are persecuted because they do the Will of God - great is their reward in heaven" (Mathew 5: 10-11)

"It was to this that God called you, for Christ Himself suffered for you and left you an example, so that you would follow in His steps" (1 Peter 2:21)

Appreciation: God chooses only the best

On the sixteenth day of July nineteen hundred and thirty, there was joy and excitement in the home of the famed journalist, showman and sports promoter, the late Benjamin Donovan Lorenz Andree. He had received the great news of the birth of his Eldest Son, whom he named after himself as Donovan Lorenz Andree, who was to bring pride and joy alike to him.

The late Donovan Lorenz received his primary and secondary education at St. Joseph's and St. Thomas' Colleges respectively, where he excelled in sports in keeping with his dad's love and dedication to sports. After his schooling, Lorenz took up to journalism following in his father's footsteps he also played a key role in his father's show business and sports promotion.

Lorenz was a hard and dedicated worker, patient kind and loving, a man of honour who kept to his word. He had his father's warm large heart for generosity and caring for people's needs, this was proved when he donated the press given to him by his father 'Lorenz Press' to the Bishop's House' which is now known as the Catholic Press, this was just one of such deeds.

Lorenz married the girl of his dreams and was happily married for just 45 days less to completing 60 years of marriage, which is very rare in this age and time.

A father of seven children, Lorenz was a devoted loving husband and father, gentle, kind and caring. He loved children, his own or not, children were very special to him and every child who came his way would get drawn to him. Lorenz always had a kind face with a loving smile which drew children and adults to him.

Donovan Lorenz Andree

Lorenz was a fair man who hated injustice and wrong. He always stood up for righteousness and was a man of his word. He taught his children the same. 'Keep your word don't give false hopes or promises, it is wrong' these were Lorenz words to his children.

Although Lorenz was the son of a famed man, he showed no airs of mightiness or pride, he was the most down to earth, simple and humble human ever, who treated everyone alike, he mixed with the high ranking politicians of yester year and even with the humble worker alike. He was loved by all, who knew him, for his simplicity, lovely smile and gentle kind words. He never kept/held grudge over anything or anyone. An incident if any, which was not right, was soon forgotten and the persons concerned forgiven. It was never spoken about again.

Lorenz was a devoted Catholic whose trust and love for God, Jesus and Our Blessed Mother was immense. He would never lose hope and would always advise us at a time when we did lose hope due to some heartache or problem we faced, saying 'Man proposes but God disposes for he knows what's best for you and at the correct time'. He was a loving husband and a great dad, we know that so because he was our dad.

'God bless you Darling dad, for overlooking the many faults in us, for loving us for ourselves and for the things that we could be, for your tender heart and thoughtful ways that brought so much pleasure to our days.



You darling Dad, you'll be a special part of all that's treasured in our hearts,
Your loving children.

God looked around his garden and saw an empty space,
He then looked down upon this earth and saw your lovely face.

He lifted you up with loving hands and took you there to rest,
And Gods' garden must be beautiful for he chooses only the best.

Your loving wife Therese.

She strived hard to get the best out of worst student

Winifred Adlene Perera (Adlene Guruthumi)

I had to take courage to write the appreciation and sing the praise to the memory of my mother-in-law Winifred Adlene Perera (Adlene Guruthumi), Vice Principal of St. Anthony's Mixed School, Panadura because this appreciation I feel is beyond the well established norms.

Adlene upon her completion of her studies at the 'Teachers' Training College began her carrier in the remote schools of Maggona, Beruwala, and Katukurunda and finally ended up in the Urban School in Panadura.

All these schools were Catholic Schools assisted by the Government and finally they were taken over by the Government.

She also married her Training College Sweet heart Robert which resulted in eleven children. (10 girls and a solitary son being born). I came to know her better when she was a teacher in a nearby school in the vicinity of my residence in Panadura and had seen her walking to and from school sometimes accompanied by her school going children and sometimes whisked off in her brand new Two Tone Hillman Minx Car. Her abode was a Walauwa a very spacious home in the outskirts of Panadura.

I was in my early twenties and developed a very innocent attachment to this family.

My friendship with this family finally brought me my life partner when I got married to one of the girls with parental blessings. I came to know her better specially in the field of education. To her daughters and son she was a beloved and a highly esteemed mother who inspired their various achievements in their chosen carriers. To her sons-in-law she was a much loved and highly respected mother-in-law who shared their ups and downs. To her grandchildren she was an affectionate grandmother who was very proud of their school achievements. She was a very obedient wife to Robert her husband.

She strived hard to get the best out of the worst student that came her way. She was also blessed to give generously to those in need irrespective of their status in society.

She participated in church activities whenever she got the opportunity to do so without neglecting her family commitments. She also did well in the teaching of her religion to the Catholic students in the school.

Adlene was a close associate of the Buddhist Clergy and offered alms and assistance when ever the need arose. Her children were sent to the temple near her home to learn Sinhala and Pali.

Her capacity to find the right tone and delivery whenever she conversed with her sons-in-law because they were different from one another was highly appreciated. She had a real balance in dealing with family.

I salute her for her dignity and strength and for her life time service for her country and religion. While my grief of loosing her is great, I celebrate her life and treasure in my mind the image of her, and in my heart the memories of her.

She passed away leaving everything she achieved and taking only the merits of her deeds. I decided to sing her praise in public to commemorate her passing away 35 years ago. I lost her but her genius will remain with me for ever.

Amma, you are in a better place now. I and your loving daughter Noeline will continue to love you.



Turin Fernando

First Holy Communion at St. Joseph's Branch School, Kadolkelle



One hundred and forty five children from St. Joseph's Branch School, Kadolkelle received their First Holy Communion last month at the Church of the Risen Lord, Kadolkelle.

The main celebrant at Mass was Very Rev. Fr. Francis Nicholas Senanayake, Judicial Vicar.

All arrangements and supervision for the day was done under the guidance of Rev. Fr. Sudath Gunathilake, Principal of St. Joseph's Branch School, Rev. Fr. Gayan Prasantha and class teachers of Grade Four.

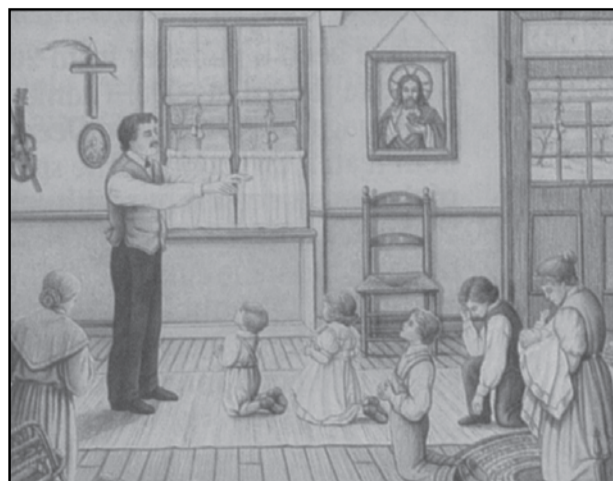
First Holy Communion at St. Theresa's Church, Batapattala



The First Holy Communion of St. Theresa's Church Batapattala, Katana in the Kandawela Parish was held recently. Thirteen students (girls and boys) received their First Holy Communion on this day.

Picture shows the First Holy Communicants with Rev. Fr. Sarath Tirimanne, Parish Priest of Kandawela, Rev. Fr. Jude Perera, Asst. Parish Priest, Rev. Sr. Sepalika Tirimanne and Rev. Sr. Gertrude Peiris of Holy Family Convent of Kandawela and Daham teachers.

Cecil Danicius



CHILDREN BLESSED BY PARENTS ARE BLESSED BY GOD!

prayers. It may be given oftener; when the child leaves the house for school or on a journey. It should be given solemnly on the day of First Holy Communion, on the wedding day, on a child's entrance into Religion or to a son about to ascend the Altar for the first time.

Finally, dear parents, bless your children when lying on your death-bed. You may not be able to bequeath any great possessions to your children, but one thing you can give them: the heritage of your blessing. It is better to be blessed than to be rich!

Fathers! Mothers! Bless your children daily, most especially in these present times when the dangers surrounding the youth threaten their innocence and their Eternal Salvation! **I BLESS YOU, IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, AND OF THE SON AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, THAT GOD MAY BLESS YOUR**

(Courtesy: Dedicated Decades)

The parental blessing is as old as humanity. Priests have the authority to bless all the faithful; thus, too, parents have the right to bless their children. Dear Parents, every time, you raise your hands in benediction over your children, you draw down upon them the blessing of God for the good of their bodies and souls.

The early Christians, daily, blessed their children with the Sign of the Cross. Your happiness and joy does not consist in wealth, but in having good children. The Sign of the Cross which you make upon your children's forehead will never be effaced. The blessing will never be lost. No passion will be able to obliterate it completely. The parental blessing effects another great good; it is a sacred bond which unites the father and mother in everlasting fidelity, in perfect love and harmony. The Sign of the Cross, daily,

reminds them of the solemn obligation taken before the Altar to remain faithful even unto death.

THE BLESSING: Have your children kneel before you; place your right hand on the head of each as you repeat: **GOD BLESS YOU, MY CHILD!** Then, you may take holy water and, with the thumb of the right hand, make the Sign of the Cross upon the forehead and lips and breast of the child, saying: **IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, AND OF THE SON AND OF THE HOLY GHOST.** The child may answer: **GOD REWARD YOU!**

You may send your blessing to those away from home. The parental blessing may extend over hill and vale, and will rest on the children wherever they may be. Post your blessings in a letter: "Your father and mother bless you." The blessing may be given in the evening after night

Small is Beautiful



Small is beautiful and so are the Children. This classical dance (Kavedi) as seen in the picture is performed by the Good Shepherd Montessori House of Children, Yatiyantota, at its Annual Concert held at the Yatiyantota National School recently.

The Chief Guest at this function was Rev. Sr Juliet (Superior)

(J. Anthony)

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(011267163)

What it says in
the Readings

Blessings on him who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessings on the coming kingdom of our father David! (Mk. 11:10)

LITURGICAL - CALENDAR YEAR A
20th Nov. - 27th Nov. 2011

Sun: 34TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
FEAST OF CHRIST THE KING
Ezk. 34, 11-12, 15-17,
1 Cor. 15, 20-26, 28, Mt. 25, 31-46
Mon: Zac. 2, 14-17, Mt. 12, 46-50
Tue: Memorial of St. Cecilia, Virgin & Martyr
Dan. 2, 31-45, Lk. 21, 5-11
Wed: Memorial of St. Clement I, Pope & Martyr,
& St. Columban, Abbot
Dan. 5, 1-6, 13-14, 16-17, 23-28, Lk. 21, 12-19
Thu: Memorial of St. Andrew Bung - Lac,
Priest & Companions, Martyrs
Dan. 6, 12-28, Lk. 21, 20-28
Fri: Memorial of St. Catharine of Alexandria,
Virgin & Martyr
Dan. 7, 2-14, Lk. 21, 29-33
Sat: Dan. 7, 15-27, Lk. 21, 34-36
Sun: FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Prayer of the Faithful

Response: May your Kingdom come.

That for the coming of God's Kingdom among us, a kingdom of holiness and grace, a kingdom of justice, love and peace. We pray in faith.

Response: May your Kingdom come.

That all government leaders may work to ensure that the naked are clothed and the homeless sheltered. We pray in faith.

Response: May your Kingdom come.

That the sick may be cared for, strangers made welcome, and prisoners visited. We pray in faith.

Response: May your Kingdom come.

That we never forget that what we do to others we do to Christ our King. We pray in faith.

Response: May your Kingdom come.

Praying Always and Everywhere

Be Yourself

It is really important during conversational prayer to be yourself. Be you! Talk to Jesus as you, as the 'who you really are.' Yes, Jesus wants you to be a Saint. So often, after reading a life of a Saint, we strive to be holy just like that Saint. Sometimes this attitude misleads us. For we have our own mission and vocation. In reading the lives of the Saints we should allow their inspiration to help us fulfill God's will for us. This reading should also help us to fulfil our duties. And when you have a conversation with Jesus be sincerely you!

Listening

Of course, a conversation involves listening. During our time of conversational prayer there should be periods of silence, too. After talking to Jesus for a while we should listen. Ask Jesus what He has to say to you and then listen. Do not try to hear, just listen. What is the difference? When we try to hear, like when the radio is on too low, we strain, we concentrate, we make an effort to hear. But when we just listen we do not try so hard. We listen to the waves, the seagulls, the wind. Noise of nearby traffic we do not hear. Somehow we have tuned it out. We are listening but without strain. That's how we should listen during conversational prayer.

Your spiritual life

Another subject for conversational prayer is

Serving the King

People's basic material needs have to be taken care of before any kind of higher life is possible. But in many countries these needs have been taken care of. Does this mean then that the words of Christ about feeding the hungry or clothing the naked are no longer relevant? No indeed.

In Mother Teresa's memorable words: 'The worst disease in the world today is the feeling of being unwanted, and the greatest evil is lack of love. What the poor need even more than food, clothes, and shelter, is to be wanted.' Hence, the words of Christ are as relevant today as ever. We might put them as follows.

The King will say to those on his left: 'Depart from me, for I was hungry, not for food but for a smile, and all I got from you was sour looks. I was hungry for a word of encouragement, but all you did was criticize me. I was hungry for a word of appreciation, but you didn't give me so much as a crumb.

'I was thirsty, not for drink, but for a word of recognition, but all you did was nag and give out to me. I was thirsty for a sign of friendship, but you ignored me. I was thirsty for a little

companionship, but you never gave me a drop. 'I was a stranger, and you refused to have anything to do with me.

I was a child and you forbade your children to play with me because my clothes were dirty. I was a neighbour, and you wouldn't allow me into your club because I wasn't in your class.

I was naked, not because I lacked clothes, but because I lacked self-worth, and you refused to cover me. I was stripped of self-confidence, and you made me feel the chill wind of disapproval. I was naked from the loss of my good name through a story that wasn't true, and you refused to clothe me with the garment of truth.

'I was sick, not in body, but with doubt and worry, and you never even noticed. I was wounded by failure and disappointment, and you couldn't care less. I was sunk in depression, desperately needing the medicine of hope, and all you did was blame me.

'I was a prisoner, but not behind iron bars. I was a prisoner of nerves, and you shunned me. I was a prisoner of loneliness, and you gave me the cold shoulder.

I was a prisoner of guilt, and you could have set me free by

forgiving "me, but you let me languish there to punish me.

'I was homeless, not for want of a home made of bricks and mortar, but for the want of tenderness and affection, and you left me out in the cold. I was homeless for the want of sympathy and understanding, and you treated me as if I was a block of wood.

I was homeless for want of Christ the Kings love and acceptance, and you locked me out of your heart. Then the King will say to those on his right hand:

'Come, you who have been blessed by my Father. For I was hungry for a smile, and you gave it to me. I was hungry for a word of encouragement, and you praised me. I was hungry for a word of appreciation, and you thanked me.

'I was thirsty for a word of recognition, and you took notice of me. I was thirsty for a sign of friendship, and you wrote me a letter. I was thirsty for a little companionship, and you stopped to chat with me. 'I was a stranger, and you made me feel welcome. I was a young person from a bad area, and you gave me a job. I was socially inferior to you, but by your acceptance you built me up.

'I was naked for

the want of self-esteem, and you covered me with self-worth. I was stripped of self-confidence, and you dressed me in the cloak of confidence. I was naked from the loss of my good name through a story that wasn't true, and you clothed me in the garment of truth.

'I was sick with doubt and worry, and with your cheerful attitude you lightened my burden. I was wounded by failure and disappointment, and by your supportive attitude you healed me. I was in a pit of depression, and by your patient attitude you gave me hope.

'I was a prisoner of nerves, and through your attitude of calm you set me free. I was a prisoner of loneliness, and through your friendship you released me. I was a prisoner of guilt, and through your forgiveness you broke the chains of my guilt.

'I was homeless for want of tenderness and affection, and you embraced me. I was homeless for want of sympathy and understanding, and you listened to me. I was homeless from want of love and acceptance, and you took me into your heart.'

your spiritual life. By having a conversation with Jesus about your spiritual life you can grow in holiness. Talk with Jesus about those wonderful virtues, such as humility, meekness, simplicity, being little, being kind and about being very, very gentle and compassionate. Talk with Jesus about how much you trust Him and how, each day, you want to grow in confidence. Let Jesus guide your spiritual life. Let Him mould you. Open your heart to Jesus during these conversations.

Ask Jesus to lead you to the heights of holiness by way of childlike trust and confidence. Too many people try to be holy by way of scruples and fear. By frequent loving conversations with Jesus you'll be guided away from avenues of doubt and worry and you will be carried in the arms of Jesus to holiness and Heaven.

Mementos

Things or objects can be used to aid us during conversational prayer. Especially things that are truly mementos, really bring back pleasant memories. It might be a letter or a picture from an enjoyable holiday. You could take this reminder or memento in your hand and talk to Jesus about the memories it brings. Learn to reminisce with Jesus. Older people might find this especially pleasant as they walk down memory lane with Jesus. You could use a favourite painting or print. Maybe a special figurine, perhaps a Hummel or something like that. After all, it is something you cherish and surely you are thankful to God for it. Take it in your hands or just look at it and talk to Jesus about it.

Music

You might find that listening to music helps you with your conversational prayer. Keep the music a little low so that it is background music. I would like

Chamber Music. I have other favourites, too. Sue Ann Pinner and the Santa Barbara Regional Choir produced a marvelous Ave Maria CD4. One side has ten versions of the Ave Maria and the other has various Marian Hymns. It is like being in Heaven. Other types of music I enjoy are those of flute music or the harp. I have a tape of several piano solos that makes me feel very calm. The music you choose could be listened to and discussed with Jesus.

Films

Though good films are hard to find, when one does find a really enjoyable one it can help conversational prayer in two ways. It can be a subject of conversation during the film and after. When I watch a good film I talk to Jesus and Mary as I watch it. Having watched it, now, it can be a topic of conversation.

When you are watching a video or enjoying a really good film talk to Jesus about it. After it is over, rather than let it be a distraction to prayer, have it be a help to prayer.

Letters

Letters and letter writing can be a very real part of conversational prayer. If you write letters and receive them and enjoy doing so then you could talk about them with Jesus. Letters that are truly part of a real correspondence between friends can really give you things to talk about during conversational prayer. Newsy letters with much information will give you lots to talk about. You can talk about both the letters you receive and the ones you write. You could read them to Jesus. You could write Jesus a letter! That would be a written conversation.

Those who keep a journal might find it helpful to use the journal during conversational prayer for ideas. I only recently started keeping a journal. I found it took a while to get the 'swing' of journal-writing. But I am enjoying it. Read to Jesus from your journal or talk about it. Or write in the journal by writing to Jesus.

The idea is to bring all your interests to Jesus and bring Jesus to all your interests.

(Catholic Truth Society)

Conversational Prayer



By Bro. Craig