



Marian Year

“If you wish to convert anyone to the fullness of our Lord and of His Mystical Body, then teach him the Rosary. One of two things will happen.

Either he will stop saying the Rosary or he will get the gift of Faith.

- Most Reverend Fulton J. Sheen

Messenger

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Holy Father's Visit to Sri Lanka

'Abide in Love'

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Spiritual preparation for the forthcoming visit of our Holy Father,

Pope Francis to Sri Lanka.

Special intentions for the Sunday Liturgy

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His Lordship Winston Fernando sss, at Ordination of Deacons

“Prepare for Priesthood, not for Ordination”

As the Church celebrated World Mission Sunday last week (October 19), 26 Brothers were ordained as Deacons in a ceremony held at the National Seminary of Our Lady of Lanka, Ampitiya, Kandy reminding us of the Great Commission of Christ in Matthew 28:19, where He tells His disciples to “go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”

Presiding at this ceremony His Lordship, Rt. Rev. Dr. Winston Fernando SSS, Bishop of Badulla in a thought-provoking ad-



dress told the newly ordained deacons that the ministries of the Presbyterate (diaconate, priesthood and episcopate) should not be considered as mere ritualistic functions because a deep and beautiful spirituality underline and sustains this ministry and the life of a deacon.

“Ministry is life,

not careers, getting promoted from one to another or stepping stones for a higher position. This upward mobility and climbing the ladder should be shunned in the Priesthood. Every state of ministry has to be lived out as if there is nothing more to look forward to,” His Lordship said addressing the large gathering of clergy, religious, seminarians and families of newly ordained deacons.

Referring to the lives of deacon martyrs like St. Stephen, one of the first seven deacons (Acts 6:5), His Lordship said that the Diaconate should not be looked upon as transitory,

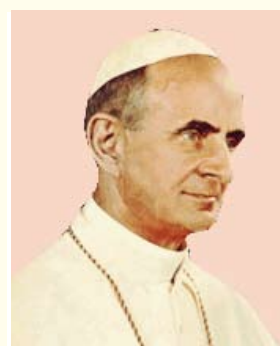
prior to priestly ordination but as ministry entrusted by the Lord Himself to be carried out faithfully even at the risk of ones own life, like the deacon martyrs.

“Priesthood is going to last your life time. Therefore, prepare for PRIESTHOOD not for the event of ORDINATION,” His Lordship advised.

His Lordship explained that, “Sacramentally Deacons are at the first level of hierarchy upon whom hands are imposed – not for Priesthood but for Ministry. They serve the People of God in the three areas of ministry,

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Pope Francis Beatifies an Earlier Reformer, Paul VI



VATICAN CITY — Pope Francis on Sunday, October 19 beatified Pope Paul VI, who died in 1978 after shepherding the Church through a period of internal reform amid an era of social and political change and growing

challenges to the Church's traditional teachings.

The ceremony closed a two-week assembly of bishops, known as a synod, convened by Francis to discuss how the Church can best offer guidance to its flock in light of the complexities faced by many families today.

In his homily last Sunday, the Holy Father quoted Pope Paul VI, who concluded the work of the historic Second Vatican Council that introduced significant reforms and changed how the Church communicated with other faiths - as well as nonbelievers, the faithful and the modern world.

“By carefully surveying the signs of the times, we are making every effort to adapt ways and methods to the growing

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Services for All Souls' Day



Colombo North Deanery together with all faithful will be celebrating “All Souls Day” on Sunday November 2, at Madampitiya Catholic Cemetery. The Holy Eucharistic Celebration will commence at 4.00 pm, presided by His Eminence Malcolm Cardinal Ranjith, the Archbishop of Colombo.

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Fostering a culture of inclusion



The Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue in a statement issued on the occasion of the festival of Deepavali reflecting on the theme “Fostering together a culture of ‘inclusion,’” has said that in the face of increasing discrimination, violence and exclusion throughout the world, ‘nurturing a culture of inclusion’ can be rightly seen as one of the most genuine aspirations of people everywhere.

It is a project involving those who care for the health and survival of the human family here on earth and which needs to be carried out amidst and in spite of the forces that perpetuate the culture of exclusion.

As people grounded in our own respective religious traditions and with shared convictions, may we, Hindus and Christians join together with followers of other religious and with people of good will to foster a culture of inclusion for a just and peaceful society.

cmessenger@sltnet.lk OR cmmessenger2014@yahoo.com

Louis: Journalist, friend, mentor

The ‘Messenger’ is happy to acknowledge and appreciate the invaluable services of veteran Catholic Journalist, Mr. Louis Benedict particularly in the services that he has extended to the ‘Messenger’ in recent times.

Mr. Benedict who is Deputy Editor of the ‘Sunday Times’, counts 48 years in the field of journalism beginning at the Sun/Weekend Newspapers of the now defunct Independent Group of Newspapers Ltd and later the ‘Sunday Times’ and ‘Daily Mirror’ of the Wijeye Group of Newspapers Ltd.

“Louis,” as he is affectionately referred to



Mr. Louis Benedict receives his award from Rev. Fr. Lal Pushpadeva OMI. Pic: St. Benedict's College, Media Unit.

by friend and family has indeed been a great source of inspiration to us at the ‘Messenger’, silently exhibiting much patience and tolerance as he listens to us and gives vital insights to the work of the paper. Louis visual handicap has in no way been an obstacle to his work, in fact he sees much more and

Contd on Pg. 3 >>>



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Election of New Office Bearers to the C.N.A.L.

The new office bearers for the C.N.A.L. (Catholic National Association of the Laity) for the next three years were elected at the Annual General Meeting held on October 11, 2014, under the chairmanship of His Lordship Rt. Rev. Dr. Norbert Andradi OMI, with the outgoing President Justice Priyantha Perera presiding. Members to the C.N.A.L. have been selected from professionals and businessmen in each diocese by the respective Bishops.

President: Dr. Maxie Fernandopulle, Vice President: Eardley Perera, Secretary: Crescentia Fernando, Asst Secretary: Cedric Foster, Treasurer: Shiran Dissanayake
Council members: Ignatius Canagaratnam, Luxman Ponweera, Frank Marcus Fernando.

The objectives of the C.N.A.L. is to act as a consultative body on all matters of national interest and current importance to the Bishops' Conference. It may represent the Catholic Community before the State or other forum when called upon by the bishops' conference.

Dr. Maxie Fernandopulle

New Mission House for Thannamunai Parish

A new mission house for St. Joseph's Church, Thannamunai was blessed and declared open recently by His Lordship, Rt. Rev. Dr. Joseph Ponniah, Bishop of Batticaloa. The day (October 12), also marked the birthday of His Lordship.



Closing of the Year of Human Rights 2014

The Diocese of Batticaloa proclaimed 2014 as the Year of Human Rights. During the year topics on HR were taken up for novena preaching, religious seminars and discussions. The Closing of the Year was held recently with a Thanksgiving Mass presided by the Bishop of Batticaloa, His Lordship, Rt. Rev. Dr. Joseph Ponniah.

Rev. Fr. Ramesh Christy

Kalutara Catholic Lawyers' Union condemns assault of devotees in prayer

The Catholic Lawyer's Union of Kalutara District has issued a statement condemning the troubles and tortures suffered by the devotees what were in prayer after placing a statue on 21st last month at the junction near St. Phillip Neri's Church, Katukurunda, Kalutara. The name "St. Phillip Neri's Road" had been given to this road leading to the church dedicated to St. Phillip Neri which is over 400 years old. It is also clear to us that placing this statue at the above

place does not cause any harm or inconvenience whatsoever to any person. We understood that the Catholics had to face an unfortunate incident due to improper conduct of several extremists.

A person can follow any religion he wishes. This fact has been confirmed even by the Constitution of Sri Lanka. Though a majority in the island has admitted to this fact, due to unwanted elements raising their heads in recent times has there been cause improper activities.

It should be mentioned that

the manner followed by Rev. Fr. Lawrence Ramanayake of the Kalutara Deanery at this unfortunate incidence is very much appreciable. We appeal to the Catholics of the area to act patiently in this regard. It should be borne in mind that Our Lord is with us and shall never desert us.

President: Onil R. Perera

Attorney-at-Law

Secretary: Lalanthi Siriwardene

Attorney-at-Law

Treasurer: Michael Dias

Attorney-at-Law

Prepare for

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namely in the DIACONIA of the LITURGY, of the WORD OF GOD and of CHARITY. As a Minister of the Altar the Deacon will proclaim the GOSPEL, Preach the Word of God, Prepare the SACRIFICE and distribute the Lord's body and blood to the faithful."

While taking Holy Communion to the sick, confined to their homes, the Deacon will also preside over public prayer, administer baptism, assist and bless marriages, bring VIATICUM to the dying and conduct funeral rites. By works of charity performed in the name of the Bishop or the presbyter a deacon will give outstanding witness of love for Christ and the brethren.

Referring to Pope Francis words, "You can become a priest, a bishop, even Pope but not become a disciple of Christ," His Lordship reminded that the Promise of Obedience should not be made into a pretence and in the same way, the state of Celibacy is a gift of God "which you accept in renunciation of what is legitimately yours, that is to marry and raise a family, for a higher cause and service of the human family in the name Christ."

He also reminded that the Prayer of the Church also called the Divine Office or the Breviary, is a "valued spiritual help to sustain you in your state of life and to be in union with the People of God in prayer."

The *Messenger* Congratulates the 26 Deacons who have left their boats to follow the Lord.

Archdiocese of Colombo

Bro. Niroshan Sumith Perera,
Bro. Nalin Kumara Fernando
Bro. Chamil Sameera,
Bro. Amila Wickrama,
Bro. Ravindra Kumar Peiris,
Bro. Jude Heshan Sachithra Perera,
Bro. Ravin Dharshana Fernando,
Bro. Anton Suranga Warnakulasuriya,
Bro. Sebastian Sudarshan,
Bro. Dilshan Lakmal Gunawardane,
Bro. Manoj Kumar Fernando,
Bro. Ranga Shehan Andradi,
Bro. Dilip Sampath Charles,
Bro. Prashan Dilantha Fernando

Diocese of Chilaw

Joseph Jesus,
Jeewan Dushantha Fernando,
Dhanushka Hishan Hettiarachchi
Pramesh Swarnasiri

Diocese of Kurunegala

Bro. Niroshan Jayakody

Diocese of Batticaloa

Bro. Jino Sulaxon,
Bro. Jeriston Vincent,

Diocese of Kandy

Bro. Daniel Surendra Pragash,

Diocese of Ratnapura

Maria Joy

Congregations

Bro. Benedict Jayamanne O. Cist,
Bro. Saviri Jesuthasan CMF,
Bro. Roshan Peiris CMF

*"Guide me O Thou Great Redeemer
Pilgrim through this barren land
I am weak but Thou art mighty
Hold me with Thy Powerful Hand"*

Pope Francis....

Contd. from Pg. 1

needs of our time and the changing conditions of society," the Pope said, quoting from a 1965 apostolic letter written by Paul VI.

Giovanni Battista Montini, Cardinal of Milan, was elected Pope Paul VI in 1963 following another reformist Pope, John XXIII, who became a saint this year along with Pope John Paul II.

Paul VI was a pope of many firsts. He was the first Pope to stop wearing a Papal tiara to show that the authority of the Pope is not tied to temporal power. When he sold the tiara to raise funds, he gave these to the poor, a sign of his commitment to social justice.

Aside from the reforms instituted by the Second Vatican Council, he cleaned house, abolishing the pontifical court and simplifying the Curia, the Vatican's administrative arm, which Pope Francis is also trying to reform.

Paul VI understood the importance of the arts for the Church and inaugurated the Vatican Museum's collection of modern art. He promoted Christian unity and ecumenical dialogue. He was the first Pope to travel to Israel before the Vatican officially recognized the State and the first Pope to visit six continents during his 15-year papacy.

He is also remembered for his 1968 encyclical *'Humanae Vitae'* ("Of Human Life"), which reaffirmed the Church's opposition to artificial birth control.

The beatification followed the certification in May of a miracle attributed to Paul's intercession: The

Retreat - 3

Date: Monday, November 3 - Saturday, November 8 - 2014

Venue: Retreat Houe, Tewatta

Preacher: Rev. Fr. Bob Brisson

1. Rev. Fr. Linton Joseph
2. Rev. Fr. Weragoda Sunil
3. Rev. Fr. Anton Dinesh
4. Rev. Fr. Anton Ranjith Jn.
5. Rev. Fr. Appuhamy J.B. Dinesh Prasan
6. Rev. Fr. Aruna Sri Kamal
7. Rev. Fr. B. Anslem Shiran
8. Rev. Fr. Candappa Malcolm Edward
9. Rev. Fr. Cooray M. Chaminda Laknath
10. Rev. Fr. D. Jayantha Nimal Vidanaarachchi
11. Rev. Fr. D. Don Geethaly Annesley
12. Rev. Fr. Dassa Shiran Nilosha
13. Rev. Fr. De Silva Sunil
14. Rev. Fr. De Zoysa Rohan
15. Rev. Fr. Don Alexis Benedict
16. Rev. Fr. Don Anthony H.
17. Rev. Fr. Don Benedict Joseph
18. Rev. Fr. Don Crispin Leo
19. Rev. Fr. Don Jude Denzil Lakshman
20. Rev. Fr. Fernando Clariyan Haiyens
21. Rev. Fr. Fernando Cyril Gamini
22. Rev. Fr. Fernando Elmo Raj
23. Rev. Fr. Fernando Joseph Benedict
24. Rev. Fr. Fernando Manjula Niroshan
25. Rev. Fr. Fernando Quintus
26. Rev. Fr. Fernando Samith Rangana
27. Rev. Fr. Fernandopulle Augustin
28. Rev. Fr. Fernandopulle George Ananda
29. Rev. Fr. Fonseka Suranga Niroshan
30. Rev. Fr. Gunatilake Sudath Melwin
31. Rev. Fr. Gunatillake Mahendra
32. Rev. Fr. H. Naleen Suraj
33. Rev. Fr. Jayakody D. Anthony
34. Rev. Fr. Jayamanne Darshana
35. Rev. Fr. Jude Suresh Rangana
36. Rev. Fr. Madurawela Don Ranjith
37. Rev. Fr. Martyn Tony
38. Rev. Fr. P. Don Sampath Thushara
39. Rev. Fr. Palihawadena Hugo
40. Rev. Fr. Pathum Samidu
41. Rev. Fr. Perera Cecil Joy
42. Rev. Fr. Perera Gihan Ridley
43. Rev. Fr. Perera Hyacinth
44. Rev. Fr. Perera Indunil Sampath
45. Rev. Fr. Perera Leo
46. Rev. Fr. Prasanna Rohan
47. Rev. Fr. Priyan Subashana
48. Rev. Fr. Rasika Evans
49. Rev. Fr. S. Kasun Inshara
50. Rev. Fr. Saparamadu Reginald
51. Rev. Fr. Silva Rasika Lawrence
52. Rev. Fr. Solangaarachchi Thusitha Gayan
53. Rev. Fr. Thirimanne Kithsiri
54. Rev. Fr. Tissera Julian
55. Rev. Fr. Varnakulasingham Ignatius Loyola
56. Rev. Fr. Wilathgamuwage Bernard Nishan
57. Rev. Fr. Winston Gayan

*Rev. Fr. Lalith Expeditus
Coordinator - Priests Retreat*

healing in 2001 of an unborn child whom doctors expected to be born with a number of birth defects. The boy, now 13, is a healthy American teenager whose identity is being withheld at the request of his parents. A second miracle would be required for Paul VI to become a saint.

In his papacy, Paul VI tried to find common ground between the Church's progressive and conservative elements and after the Second Vatican Council he instituted the Synod of Bishops to foster continued dialogue among clerics and the Vatican.

Beyond a personal affinity with Pope Paul VI, the current Pope has chosen to bring closer to sainthood a man "who had the ability to open a climate of important discussion" on many issues, said Alberto Melloni, a Vatican expert and Church historian.



Church in the Modern World

One Christian killed every five minutes

(CNA) - More than 200,000 people have signed a petition asking European leaders to offer "real help" for persecuted Christians and other religious minorities around the world.

Luca Volonté, a board member of CitizenGo and President of the International Foundation Novae Terrae, told CNA that the petition seeks to address the "critical plight of

Christians and other religious minorities in the Middle East and in many other parts of the world."

Volonté urged "the Council of Europe, the European Union's foreign ministers and the European Parliament to put into action policies of asylum and humanitarian aid, to bring this horror to an end."

The petition drew re-

newed attention when a Pakistani court on October 16 upheld the death sentence of Asia Bibi, a Christian mother of five who has been sentenced to death for "blasphemy."

"According to the International Society for Human Rights, 80 percent of all acts of religious discrimination in the world today are directed at Christians," the document observes. "The Centre for the

Study of Global Christianity in the United States estimates that 100,000 Christians now die every year for their faith - that is one every five minutes. Many other religious minorities are suffering because of violence and persecutions in several countries."

The plight of Christians in the Middle East, especially in light of the rise of the Islamic State, was a focus of the Octo-

ber 20 consistory of cardinals meeting at the Vatican and earlier this month, the Vatican Secretariat of State set a meeting with several nuncios to Middle Eastern nations.

In addition, Pope Francis may tackle the issue of religious freedom in his speech at the European Parliament of Strasbourg, scheduled for November 25.

New universally understandable translation of the Bible now out

The United Bible Societies has sent Francis the latest inter-confessional version of the Bible. At the meeting with the United Bible Societies, Pope Francis praised the inter-confessional translated version of the Bible in colloquial Italian and ended the audience by praying the Our Father.

The Pope then moving away from his prepared speech to describe his own personal experience said, "The translation of the Bible in colloquial Argentinian did and continues to do a lot of good: It is a good idea because ordinary people can understand it, because the language used is real, it's the language used by the people, it's close to the people.

The Holy Father said that the preparation of an inter-confessional version is a particularly significant effort, if one thinks of how many debates on the Scriptures have influenced division, especially in the West. "I hope that this



text, that we receive with the blessing of the Conference of Italian Bishops and the Federation of Evangelical Churches in Italy, may incite all Christians of Italian language to meditate, to live, to bear witness and to celebrate God's message."

"It is my wish that all Christians be able to get to know 'Jesus Christ's sublime science' (Phil 3: 8) through the reading of the Word of God, because the sacred text is the nutrient of the soul and the pure and eternal source of our spiritual life," Pope Francis observed.

Formation for marriage cannot end at the wedding, Catholic couple says

As the Church continues to reflect on the pastoral needs of the family following the recent Synod of Bishops, there has emerged the need for marriage formation lasting well beyond the day a husband and wife take their vows.

Marriage preparation was one of many topics on the agenda for the Extraordinary Synod on the Family, which concluded on October 19, with the Synod Fathers acknowledging the importance of improving marriage formation.

"There is a real need for the creation of a standard for the preparation and formation for marriage," said John Noronha, a PhD candidate in bioethics at the Pontifical Athenaeum Regina Apostolorum, in an email interview with EWTN News.

He noted how the marriage preparation which is currently available "can range from non-existent to substantially formative," depending on

one's diocese or parish. "Since the Church is universal there needs to be uniformity," he said, "but also using the wisdom of subsidiarity and solidarity, certain fundamental norms and guidelines ought to be developed and followed to ensure that the couple



is in fact ready, informed and fully prepared for the important and sacred sacrament of marriage."

Services for...

Contd. from Pg. 1

The Holy Rosary will commence at 3.30 pm

Rev. Fr. Victor Silva - In charge of the Cemetery

All souls Day Mass at the Borella Cemetery will be at 4.30 pm. The Rosary will be recited at 4.00pm. The blessing of the cemetery will take place after Mass.

Louis: Journalist...

Contd from Pg. 1

further than many of us - a visionary. Many are his prophetic utterances which the readers of the 'Messenger' have appreciated and even written to us in the 'Letters to the Editor'. Thank you Louis.

Louis' charisms are manifold from being a loyal husband to his loving wife, Marie, to a faithful friend and brother to the many of his colleagues and a loving uncle to his nephews and nieces.

He has time for all and sundry. One could never find an instance where one was turned down for want of time - whatever the time - day or night.

Louis' capacity to listen was both human and Christian. Yet, one wonders whether the above would describe a person of Louis' calibre, for, he walks, talks and shares in the context of the spirit.

As a journalist who is the voice of the voiceless people, Louis has played an active role to bring about a just and fair society. For the past 15 years, he has been the founder President of the 'People's Movement for the Rights of Patients', which has been working for the implementation of Professor Senaka Bibile's, "Essential Medicines Concept," to provide quality drugs to all peoples at affordable prices and restore a health service where the well-being of the patient is given top priority. Louis has also been actively involved in the campaign to revive organic agriculture so that the people could get nutritious food at affordable prices. He has also been actively involved in the campaign to revive dairy milk industry and the campaign against climate change and global warming.

The 'Messenger' truly rejoices with Louis and his family on his having been awarded the trophy for the 'Best Writer for the Messenger.'

SUNDAY PUNCH

by Camillus



THE CATHOLIC WEEKLY SRI LANKA
Messenger
SINCE 1869

EDITORIAL

October 26, 2014

IS: Is it the Incarnation of Satan

With the world war against the terrorist group ISIS centred on the Turkish Iraqi border city of Kobane this week, the brutal slaughter and merciless laws of ISIS also known as IS are raising questions whether it is an 'Incarnation of Satan' twice over.

The Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) also translated as the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) and self-described as the Islamic State (IS) is a Sunni, jihadist, extremist, unrecognised State in Iraq and Syria.

The terror group had its small and little known origins in 1999 and then operated under various names. Some years ago it linked up with the notorious Al-Qaeda but early this year even Al-Qaeda found that ISIS was too brutal and cut links with it. From April 2013, the ISIS grew significantly under the leadership of Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, gaining support in Iraq as a result of perceived economic and political discrimination against Iraqi Sunnis. After entering the Syrian civil war, ISIS established a large presence in the Syrian areas and by June 2014, ISIS had at least 4,000 fighters in its ranks in Iraq. The CIA estimated in September this year that ISIS had 20,000-31,500 fighters in Iraq and Syria including hundreds of young people from Western countries such as the United States, Britain and France. These young people had been brainwashed online using modern technology to persuade them to join ISIS in its brutal terrorist war to conquer the world. The group's original aim was to establish an Islamic State in the Sunni-majority regions of Iraq. Following its involvement in the Syrian civil war, this expanded to include controlling Sunni-majority areas of Syria.

It proclaimed a worldwide caliphate on June 29 this year, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi - known by his supporters as Amir al-Mu'minin, Caliph Ibrahim - was named as its caliph, and the group was renamed the Islamic State. In its self-proclaimed status as a caliphate, it claims religious authority over all Muslims worldwide, and aims to bring most Muslim-inhabited regions of the world under its political control, beginning with the Levant region, which covers Syria, Jordan, Israel, Palestine, Lebanon, Cyprus and part of southern Turkey.

Pope Francis, whom the Holy Spirit is leading for a new Pentecost to transform the Church and the world has said world conflict resolution is one of the Church's goal. On a lightning visit to the Muslim majority State of Albania early this month, the Pope emphasised the successful inter-religious coalition government there marked another important expression of the Vatican's soft power diplomacy at work in the global confrontation of radical elements within Islam.

In his speech at the Presidential Palace, the Pope said the religious amity in diversity stood as a contrast to what was taking place in Iraq and Syria. There, he said, religion was being used as a shield to support violence and repression.

These words bring to mind Pope Benedict's address at Regensburg in September 2006, whereupon he delivered the most clear and striking critique of radicalised Islam and the use of religion as an excuse for violence and mayhem. Pope Francis is in some ways picking up where Pope Benedict left off, drawing the Vatican directly into the global search for solutions to radicalised Islam and religiously inspired terrorism.

He is using the soft power voice of the Vatican and its moral authority in the world to leverage and support the efforts of other like-minded nations around the globe. It has been announced that Pope Francis will make a State visit to Turkey next month.

As with Pope Benedict's visit there in 2006, a Papal visit to the secular Islamic nation will garner the attention of everyone who is concerned about the violence and civil wars in the Middle East. Like the Albania visit, the Pope's very presence will symbolise hopes for genuine religious amity and inter-religious dialogue, while drawing the clear distinction between religion and lawlessness and murder.

The good wine of the family

The Synod of Bishops is the outcome of the Conciliar years and is to the farsighted courage of Paul VI, who instituted it half a century ago, shortly before the end of the Second Vatican Council. Since then, there have been many Synod Assemblies and they have indeed contributed to the maturation of that episcopal collegiality envisaged by the Council. In Christian Tradition, however, the path of the Synod and collegiality are ancient and have never been abandoned despite the vicissitudes that have deeply marked the history of the Church.

Pope Francis has decided to continue on this path, proceeding at a faster pace. Thus, it was most significant that he personally greeted every participant in the Extraordinary Assembly of the Synod on the Family before the start of their work. Of even greater significance were his words of welcome, with which he emphasized the "spirit of collegiality and synodality," adding that they are "for the good of the Church and of the family."

For this reason the Pontiff spoke about how to choose those who will for the most part bear the weight of the Synod work, and he highlighted that, for the designation of President Delegates, of papal appointment, he has chosen to follow the recommendations of the Post-Synodal Council elected by the participants at the last Assembly. "You bring the voice of the Particular Churches," he said, and "you bring this voice in synodality": speaking with honesty and listening with humility.

To this unequivocal invitation Francis immediately added his equally clear and firm reassurance: "And do so with great tranquillity and peace, so that the Synod may always



unfold *cum Petro et sub Petro* and, the presence of the Pope is a guarantee for all and a safeguard of the faith." Within this framework, he then repeated, it is necessary that everyone collaborate "so that the dynamic of synodality shine forth," illuminated by the Spirit given by the "Lord Jesus, Son of the Holy Family of Nazareth."

In his homily during the opening Mass of the Synod and also during the prayer vigil for the success of the Assembly's work, Francis spoke about the family with words that penetrated the heart of countless people. They were words born from meditation on Scripture, on the image of the vineyard as a symbol of the People of God, on the prophecy of Isaiah, on the parables of Jesus and on those of wine, the fruit of the grapevine and sign of the unending feast.

Thus, with simple words, the Pope explained the profound need for the "good wine" of the family that lives in the heart of today's women and men. And thus the interest aroused in many circles during this long Synodal journey announced at last February's Consistory, will also continue until next year's Ordinary Assembly. Indeed, the deeper the roots of the family are, Francis said, "the more possible it is to go out and go far in life without getting lost."

Courtesy: L'Osservatore Romano

— Make Repose for All Souls —

The Catholic Church celebrates All Soul's day on November 2, every year. During ordinary Mass all of us proclaim; 'Dying you destroyed our death, rising you restored our life.' Christ's victory over death is a victory that should be shared with everyone. We must always be less fearful when approaching the moment of our own death. We should not be afraid of death, or we should not be afraid of living. We should be mindful of death while we live out our life but not in any morbid sense, but makes us live with greater care and responsibility watching those opportunities where love can triumph and we can improve the quality of life for others. Awareness of death can give life immediacy and depth.

Prayer can be a vital and effective tool to make repose for all Souls. We often speak of the final judgement in terms of God putting us on a scale to decide if we have been good or bad throughout our lives. Here are other ways to look at the final judgement. God's love for us is so great that he invites us to share heaven or eternity. If we have learnt to trust others and accept their love then we will lovingly accept God's invitation to live with Him. If on the

other hand we have always lived for ourselves, if we have tried not to depend on others for anything, if, in other words we have become our own God then we will turn down God's invitation.

Jesus Christ abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the Gospel - (2 Tim. 1:10) What is the foundation of our Catholic faith? An empty tomb? Yes! The cornerstone of the Gospel is that grave which held no corpse on that first resurrection morning. Even from the time of the foundation of the Church the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass was celebrated for the departed. Tertullian in the 3rd century writes, "we celebrate the anniversary of the triumph of the Martyrs and according to the tradition of our fathers we offer the Holy Sacrifice for the departed on the anniversary of their death" (De Corona c5).

St. Augustine writes; 'It cannot be doubted that the prayers of the Church, the Holy Sacrifice and alms distributed for the departed relieve those holy souls and move God to treat them with more clemency than their sins deserve.'

The fear of purgatory is salutary and conformable

to the spirit of Jesus Christ. "Fear ye not them that kill the body but rather fear him that can cast both body and soul into Hell" (Mk. 10:28). Yet it is not the intention of our Lord that we should have an excessive and barren fear, a fear without confidence. He wishes that our fear should be tempered with great trust in His mercy. The infinite mercy of our Heavenly Father must be the firm foundation of our confidence.

Why would anyone decide not to go to heaven? The answer to that lies in the fact that many of us have a distorted view of heaven. Our after life is seen as an eternal Disneyland where angels satisfy our every need and desire. Yet that is not what God teaches us. In heaven we become like God, so make repose for all souls. What does it mean to be like God? Jesus teaches us that it means to be a totally loving person. It means to trust totally in the love of the Father and to love others as God loves us. Thus when God offers us heaven for all eternity it is not that God is offering us an eternal vacation. He is offering us the opportunity to trust and to love totally.

Miran Perera

110th Birth Anniversary of Very Rev. Fr. Peter Alacantara Pillai, O.M.I.

The 110th Birth Anniversary of the late Very Rev. Fr. Peter Alacantara Pillai, who carries the name of his Patron Saint St. Peter Alacantara, fell on Sunday October 19, 2014. He was the fifth Rector of St. Joseph's College Colombo and the first Sri Lankan (Ceylonese), to adorn this hallowed seat of learning which is the premier Catholic College in Sri Lanka. (Incidentally his elder brother, Rev. Brother Luke Gregory was the first Ceylonese Director of St. Benedict's College Kotahena). This College was established in 1896 with Fr. Charles Collin as Rector (Frenchman), followed by Fr. Charlee Lytton (Englishman) Fr. Emil Nicholas (Frenchman) and Fr. Maurice Legoc (Frenchman) The latter, while being Rector of St. Joseph's College, was also responsible for setting up St. Paul's College, (present St. Paul's Balika Vidyalaya) and St. John's College, Dematagoda. Very Rev. Fr. Peter Alacantara Pillai was an intellectual giant, a brilliant scholar, whom the International Media of that era (late 1930s) named as the "Most brilliant Man in the British Empire - where the sun never sets." Fr. Peter Alacantara Pillai received his early primary education, in a Tamil School at Wennappuwa, where his father was the Principal.

At the age of 10 years in 1914 (a century ago) he was admitted to St. Benedict's College, Kotahena. At the age of 14 years he passed the Junior Cambridge Examination with distinctions in eight (8) out of the nine (9) subjects.

At The age of 16 he passed the Cambridge Senior with Honours and distinctions in all the subjects, which was considered to be a record for all

countries in the British Empire and wherever the examination was held. In 1922 he passed the London University, Intermediate Science Examination. In 1923 he passed the B.Sc. London University Examination with a Double First in Mathematics at the University of Ceylon. He was awarded the Government Scholarship to study at Cambridge University. At Cambridge university he passed the B.A. in Natural Science Tripos.

Later he obtained an M.A at Kings College and an M.Sc in Mathematics with Distinctions. At Cambridge he attended the Catholic University Pax Romana Congresses and was a prominent debater at the Fisher House Conferences. He also studied the Social Justice Movement.

In June 1928 he joined the order of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate and he was sent to the Roman International Scholasticate. There he was enrolled in the Dominican University Angelican, where he obtained a Doctorate in Philosophy (Phd), and a Doctorate in Divinity (DD).

He was ordained a priest of God on the July 7, 1936. He returned to Sri Lanka (Ceylon) in 1936 and was appointed to the staff of St. Peter's College, Bambalapitiya (Excerpts from "A Tradition of Excellence" by Rev. Fr. Stanley Abeysekera former Rector St. Joseph's College.

A very commendable and enlightening article by one Mr.D.C.Jayasinghe appeared commemorating the fiftieth (50) death anniversary of Fr. Peter A Pillai in the 'Daily Mirror' of September 27 and the 'Messenger' of Sunday September 28 on the Life and Times of Fr. Peter A Pillai. This

article however, unfortunately contained two paragraphs that were both factually inconsistent and historically misleading. This anomaly needs rectification by a person with a comprehensive knowledge of the early history of St. Joseph's College and Aquinas University College. I therefore felt it obligatory to correct this misrepresentation of facts in the record.

I was the first Vice - President and the 2nd President of Aquinas in its inaugural year of 1954. My name was transferred from the St. Joseph's College registers to Aquinas in 1954 by Fr. Peter A Pillai. I was the Secretary of the Board of Prefects at St. Joseph's College in 1953. I had interacted very closely and cordially with Rev. Fr. Peter Pillai at his request and even "Organised, Produced and Presented" a professional Musical extravaganza in 1954, with the co-operation of the students of Aquinas called Musical Cavalcade and raised funds for the proposed Aquinas Building fund. The first inaccurate paragraph asserts, that "at the sudden and very unfortunate death by a motor accident of Rev. Fr. Legoc that Fr. Peter Alacantara Pillai was appointed as Rector of St. Joseph's."

This certainly is not the case as Rev. Fr. Peter Alacantara Pillai, OMI was Rector of St. Joseph's College from the year 1940. The year in which I gained admission to St. Joseph's College, that is five years before the death of Rev. Fr. Legoc, who died on Sunday March 17, 1945 at the Ward Place, Junction, while on his way to St. Bridget's Convent for



A Picture of the 1st set of office bearers of Aquinas Undergraduate Department of St. Joseph's College taken in the inaugural year 1954 Seated: L/R: Late Mr. Lucien Fernando (President first half), Late Rev. Fr. Peter A. Pillai, founder and first Rector, Late Rev. Fr. Tissa Balasuriya; First Registrar and T. Don Augustine, (Vice President First half) and President 2nd half 1954). Standing: L/R: Mr. Hilary Ferdinandez (Presently Hilary Rajakarananayaka), late Mr. Darnly De Sousa and Mr. Joe Gunawardana, Mr. Gratien Amirthanayagam, Secretary, is not in the picture.

a Benediction Service.

The Second historically misleading paragraph in this article states "As he retired from St. Joseph's College in 1960, he founded the Aquinas University College."

I can personally vouch for the fact that Aquinas University was not founded in 1960 on his retirement from St. Joseph's as Rector nor was it called Aquinas College or Aquinas University College in its inaugural year, which was in January 1954, but was named as the "Aquinas undergraduate Department of St. Joseph's College" and housed in the College premises at Darley Road, Maradana.

We Josephians and Aquinians both past and present thank God, for giving to this world an intellectual Colossus on October 19, 1904, but for

whom we in this country would have been the poorer.

Josephians of all ages in particular, will extend their undying gratitude for the 'Value Based' education that Fr. Peter Pillai promoted, nurtured and imparted by precept, example, and action, which has been emulated by the successive Rectors of St. Joseph's and Aquinas University College to this day, which is to the eternal credit of this UNIQUE SCHOLAR, EMINENT EDUCATIONIST a man of righteous thought and conduct, and above all a simple and humble holy Priest of God.

T. Don Augustine
President Aquinas
Undergraduate Students
Union Inaugural Year 1954

A Saint's Last moments in Kandy

It was the 15th of January 1711 in Kandy. Blessed Joseph Vaz had but a few hours to bid farewell to this world. His physical condition was very feeble in spite of which he sat down and wrote his last Letter to his Superior in Goa. It read thus:

Kandy, 15th January, 1711.

My Very Reverend Spiritual Father,

From the rapidity with which my strength is ebbing away, I think that the time has come when I shall have to quit this perishable body. Let your Reverence therefore take upon yourself the Superiorship along with the care of the whole Mission and settle all things as you think best, but me, you can only order to pray to the Lord to give you and the other fathers strength of body and soul to labour in the service of God and to bless your labours so that they may become fruitful, a thing which I will do as well as I can. But other things, I cannot do and it is only with great effort and by reading the whole day, a little at a time, that I get through the Divine Office. I can-

not even fix my mind properly on what is read out to me by another, nor speak, for my head is weak owing to the pains and heaviness on the right side where I had or still have the wound in the ear.

I beg you all to pray to God to grant me the grace to live holy, die a holy death and receive a happy eternity. I beg you also to offer in suffrage for my soul three Masses each and to recite the Office once either singly or in common, over and above what is obligation, without being shocked by my importunity for I know the charity of my brethren. I also beg them to offer for my soul the labours of three days.

*May God keep your Reverence,
Your Reverence's unworthy servant and
very obedient subject,
Sgd. Joseph Vaz*

After having written this letter, an old woman came shivering to his doorstep and pleaded for any warm clothing. Blessed Joseph Vaz had only one blanket with which he would cover himself. He requested permission from

the other Fathers to hand over this, his last earthly possession to this woman. This permission was granted and this "Sammanasu Swami" - Angelic priest performed his last act of charity on earth by gladly handing over his only blanket to this needy woman. Now, he was fully prepared for death, having got rid of all his earthly possessions.

With nightfall, his physical condition deteriorated and his temperature began to rise. He begged his Fathers to leave him alone for a short while in his room. Here, in the silence of the night he spoke to the Lord after which he called the Fathers back to his room. The Fathers quickly recited the "Office" of the dying to which he responded very clearly in Latin. He made two last wishes. One, that he be laid on the ground - to die as a sinner and the other, that his crucifix be sent to his home in Sancoale, Goa (Today, this is enshrined in his room in Goa and thousands of pilgrims venerate this crucifix).

As his last moments approached, he requested a lighted candle which he

held together with his crucifix and clearly recited the "I Believe" and repeated the Acts of Faith, Hope and Charity. Then he made a request for the fathers to be silent. His temperature soon began to drop and with it he dropped the lighted candle - a signal he had earlier foretold, for his end. The fathers however gave back to him the lighted candle. He received it joyfully and clearly sounded the name of Jesus and opening his eyes towards heaven he breathed his last shortly after midnight - 16th January, 1711. Thus ended twenty-four glorious years of Apostolate in Ceylon, at the Lord's vineyard.

Thousands filed past his body as the King of Kandy declared three days of mourning. The city of Kandy resembled a sea of white flags and he was laid to rest in front of the Altar of his Chapel on 19th January. Fr. Jacome Gonsalves delivered a fitting funeral oration.

Roggy Corera



Illusive Infatuation

"I am in love. I have never felt like this before. This is the correct person for me. I have decided to spend my entire life with him/her."

This type of saying coming from a male or female client triggers a "red alert" in the minds of the marriage counselors, psychotherapists and psychologists. These clients may be going through a sexual hormonal surge which has been put into the mind and body of any creature irrational or rational for the perpetuation and the propagation of its species.

In common parlance the word that is used in the animal kingdom is "he/she is in heat." We have heard about mahouts who have been attacked or killed by an "elephant in

heat." It is the same case in a household pet who is facing a surge of testosterone and adrenaline and goes "out of control" and even harms its owner or the loving master or the mistress. They are only urging to find a partner to fulfill its sexual drive. In no way are we using derogatory terms for the human love-experience as purely animalistic.

Psychologists such as Robert Sternberg who have done research on this "feeling of love" call it infatuation. It has mere passion as a component. This type of "love" is idiotic and vacant.

Dr. Dorothy Tenov has done extensive research on this in-love phenomenon. She calls it a "romantic obsession". She is of the opinion that "this

obsession lasts only for a period of less than two years. "Eventually we all



descend from the cloud and plant our feet on the ground. Our eyes are open and we see the warts of the other person ... We realise some of the personality traits of our "lover" really irritating. His/her behaviour patterns are annoying. Those molehills that they overlooked when they are in love, now have become mountains."

This is the period in a relationship where we face a reality-crisis. If they are committed to mar-

riage at this period this is the time that they look for separation or divorce. The partners do not learn any lessons from their previous experience. They look for an extra-marital partner who gives him/her the same surge of feelings. After a contentious divorce they may start a relationship or even decide to remarry. But if they have not learnt from their previous "mistakes" they may repeat the same erroneous patterns in their lives.

Dr. Scott Speck, another psychologist who has done research on this phenomenon has written extensively on this infatuation. He calls this unreal. He calls this feeling "a stereotype response of human beings to configuration of internal sexual drives and external

sexual stimuli, which serves to increase probability of sexual pairing and bonding so as to enhance the survival of the species."

Psychologist Carl Jung, a contemporary of Sigmund Freud, warns about "withdrawal periods" in this type of "illusive infatuation" He calls this attraction of men towards women "anima projection" and the attraction in women towards a man "animus projection" And he warns the couples about the withdrawal periods of this projection. This is the time when the couples come down from the clouds of illusive "love" experience and set their feet on reality. He warns couples to understand this phenomenon and not to take hurried unilateral or

bilateral decisions leading to separation or divorce. They need to be aware of this phenomenon and find a mutual solution. It may even be the time to look for a good marriage counselor and consult her/him.

The above phenomenon is not the only reason for family break-ups. There are causes such as alcoholism, drug addiction, physical abuse, adultery and many more causes for separation and divorce which have devastated the family, the smallest cell of our society.

The Archdiocese of Colombo is going to declare the next liturgical year as the Year of the Family. It is critical that we find causes and solutions for the dissolution of family life.

Coming Home

The two tall candles flickered in the sombre atmosphere of the funeral parlour where the man lay in his last repose, arrayed in a simple white trouser and shirt and tie ready for his final departure. Crimson curtains formed the back-drop and a crimson posy of carnations lay at his feet with the simple tag 'From Clara son and daughter'.

A lone woman clad in a grey saree in the traditional style, hair combed back and tied up in a simple knot stood pensively by the coffin. One could not detect any sign of tears or anguish or misery written on that face but a marked pensiveness, even a tinge of compassion or sympathy as she tried to scan every feature of that immobile form. And as she gazed,

She saw herself as a bride of eighteen walking up the isle promising 'to love and obey till death do us part. The glamour and fascination of her grand wedding had worn off pretty fast and had left her in three years, a son and daughter later, a divorcee - a term she found utterly repulsive. Life with him had been intolerable. He had left the house; she had waited for him for two years and had found shelter in her parental home.

The maintenance he paid her was a mere pittance which dwindled off as the years went by. She had tried her hand at various jobs but for the most part she was dependent on her father. Her mother had not got over the slur of this wrecked marriage for so it was considered in the days gone by and had gone to an early grave. All too soon the children had grown up, married and had children of their own. Her needs had been met by them, Yes it was with their consent and cooperation that he was getting these final rites now.

But he? What of him? Wandering from one chummery to another forsaken by his own kith and kin, he had walked through the world, a lone figure. The attempts of the children to see him in chance places had been rebuffed. He had turned out to be rather eccentric. Locked up one day in the room of the chummery he lodged in, he was seized with a violent grip of the heart causing him to fall off the bed and there he lay writhing and struggling, when the owner of the chummery having missed him at meals forced open the door to find him in this deplorable condition.

The chummery owner had made a frantic search for some clue of his relatives or whereabouts. He came upon nothing and had given up hope when he chanced upon a feeble scrap of paper dated years back bearing an address. It was a quirk of fate or destiny that the address should be that of his former wife. The chummery owner was clueless as to whose it was but traced it and conveyed the news of the death. The wife who had been estranged for thirty one years heard the news with mixed feelings and having contacted the children decided on a decent burial for him. His relatives when contacted backed out anticipating expenses to be borne.

In the mortuary the man had looked a sorry sight, clothed in a much soiled and discoloured sarong, bare-bodied he had seemed every inch a pauper. Here lying in the coffin he looked quite presentable, not a vestige of his former condition. "For somewhere in his youth or childhood he must have done something good."

Her reverie was broken by the footsteps of

people arriving for the final rites. The priest, the choristers, her children and their families, her siblings and their families, neighbours. After all he was not getting a pauper's burial. The priest spoke on, of the duties of a husband and father. She could hardly repress a smile! He had come home at last! After thirty one years of waiting, when all was said and done, when all the responsibilities were over, he had come. He had not done his duty but destiny had decreed that she should perform hers. She had shown mercy as she expected mercy to be shown to her."Whatsoever you do to the least of my brothers that you do unto me."

*"Coming Home! Coming Home"
Never more to roam
Open are thy arms of love
..... I am coming home"*

The plaintive strains of the hymn rose and fell as he was laid to rest.

Jeanette Cabraal



Food as well as maintenance

Essentials for both the Human Body as well as the Human Soul. Just as much as fuel is required for running a motor vehicle, food is needed for the human body for organs to function. But maintenance in the case of both motor engine as well as the human body is today simply taken for granted and not given the attention that they deserve.

Maintaining the organs of the human body is absolutely necessary for effective functioning and for a disease free body. Adequate physical exercise provides the maintenance needs of the physical body. Worry free mind, peace, meditation, tranquility etc., maintain effective mental functions.

The soul which is an intangible and an imaginary part of the human being usually is not considered seriously in our life. However billions of people in the world profess a religion which can be interpreted as food for the soul. As Catholics we feed the soul by receiving the Sacraments (Confession, Holy Communion), attending Holy Mass, reciting the Rosary etc. One wonders how we can maintain our souls. Kindness, charity, love, humility, gratefulness, meekness, compassion, obedience, honesty, generosity and a host of other caring deeds, help to maintain our souls.

I am aware of a Catholic who attends Holy Mass daily, who raises his hands high up to heaven during Mass, kisses the ground at elevation and prays fervently with outstretched hands inside the church but the moment he leaves the church premises he has been observed to be a reserved person. He is also said to be harsh and unfair to his employees at work, etc.

Once a Catholic priest ended his sermon. "Katholica NAMA neme wedegath Katholica KAMAI" (It is not important that by name one is a Catholic, what is important is that in practice one reflects Catholic actions).

Damascene Abeysekera



By Sirohmi Gunasekera

Going Along

Shalini was at her wit's end. She had till the end of the month to vacate her house and she had to find an apartment soon. She prayed about it and told her friends to find a place while also looking in the newspapers and on the Internet.

One morning she woke up and was saying her prayers and reading the day's Gospel when she realised that she must stop worrying and leave everything in the hands of God. "I must just let go and let God plan my day. He will tell me where to go and what to do by the power of the Holy Spirit," she thought.

What about the money for everything? "That also I must leave in the hands of God. I must just live for the day and be satisfied with some small things while working towards my goal. After all, the Bible says that we will dwell in the house of the Lord forever. So why am I worrying?" she told herself.

Looking back on her life, she thought of how God had helped her to cope with her divorce. "It was by God's grace that I was able to raise my two children alone. He helped me to cope with my loneliness and the problems I had, including financial difficulties. So why should I think that God won't help me now?"

She decided to count her blessings. "I can get out of bed without assistance when I wake up in the morning. I can have a shower and there is enough water. I also have enough money to have breakfast, lunch and dinner. I even have a little money in my bank account. Paying rent is expensive but I have faith in God. During my divorce, my daughter obtained hundred marks for Christianity in her school test and to me that was a sign that God is watching over us."



Pope Saint John Paul II's first feast day

Pope Saint John Paul II's first feast day was celebrated this 22nd in Rome and Poland. He was an amazing gift from God for our time, and his mission begun on earth now continues from heaven. His feast day is October 22nd, the anniversary of the liturgical inauguration of his Papacy in 1978. Pope John Paul II who was a saint by popular acclaim, was known as the "Pope of Records" with his 26-year pontificate, 104 trips outside Italy and the fastest canonization in history becoming a saint only nine years after his death on April 2, 2005.

Famous memorials

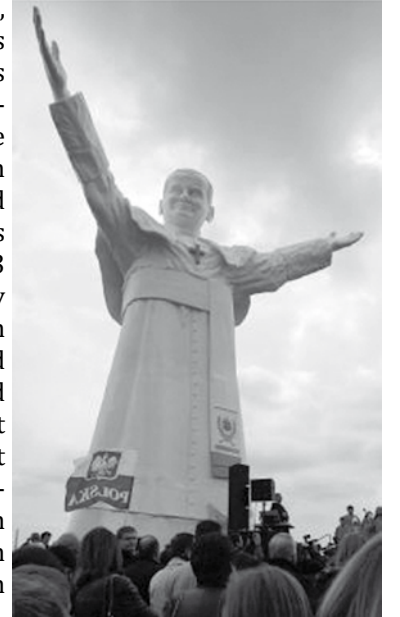
Mexico: The statue at Mexico City's Zocalo Plaza of Pope Saint John Paul II with an image of the Virgin of Guadalupe is made entirely of metal keys symbolizing Peter's successor, donated by the Mexican people.



Australia: The bronze statue erected in 2008 is about 6 ft and stands on a concrete base. He is wearing his papal robes and a mitre hat. The pallium on the bronze statue reveals three nails that represent his suffering and stalwart courage. His mitre portrays a Risen Christ in the Aboriginal tradition. The crown of thorns perched on his head recalls the ultimate act of sacrifice. He is barefoot like St. Francis of Assisi who preached peace and he strides confidently into the after-life towards God without fear. The face on the sculpture beams warmly, he holds up a palm in his left hand while the right hand is outstretched in a welcome gesture. The statue was sculpted by Italian sculptor Fiorenzo Bacci.



Poland: The statue, is 45ft tall and weighs five tonnes and is made of white fibreglass. It shows the Pope standing with outstretched arms and a gold cross around his neck. Unveiled in 2013 on a hill above the city of Czestochowa in southern Poland and bags the world record for the world's tallest statue of Pope Saint John Paul II. Businessman Leszek Lyson funded the statue in gratitude to Pope John Paul II because he believes the former Pope intervened in saving his son from drowning during a family holiday in Croatia in 2010.



India: This statue of the Pope Saint John Paul II stands in front of India's first church dedicated to Pope John Paul in K Channasandra of Horamavu in the outskirts of Bangalore in 2011. The bronze statue is 8.5 ft tall and weighs 375 kgs and was manufactured in Bangkok. This is the fourth statue of Pope Saint John Paul II in India. At the base of the statue are the impressions of a peacock being the national bird of India and the lotus flower being the national flower of



India. The late Pope had visited India twice.

Poland: In 2012 a statue of former President Ronald Reagan and Pope John Paul II, honoured the two men widely credited with helping to topple communism. The statue stands in Gdansk, the birthplace of Lech Wale-sa's Solidarity movement, and was unveiled in the presence of about 120 former Solidarity activists, many of whom were imprisoned in the 1980s for their roles in organizing or taking part in strikes against the communist regime. The bronze statue was inspired by an Associated Press photograph Scott Stewart had taken in 1987 on John Paul's second pontifical visit to the U.S.



Chile: A huge statue in honor of Pope John Paul II was installed in 2014 in John Paul II Square, located in one of the poorest districts in Santiago the Bajos de Mena district. The bronze statue of 42 ft (Figure 24' and 19' base) donated by the University of San Sebastian, was installed here five years after authorities refused to install it in the prominent area of Santiago's Bellavista district which was rejected by the National Monuments Commission, who was of the view that it was too tall and would not look good despite 30 thousand signatures of neighbors.



Rome: The arty green figure with a curious curved hollow is the official statue in honour of the late Pope John Paul II. The 12 ft bronze statue by artist Oliviero Rainaldi stands on its own enclosed pedestal in front of Termini Station, in Rome. The statue was redesigned in 2012 after the first one was criticized by the public and the Vatican.



Singapore: The life-size bronze statue of Pope John Paul II was installed in the courtyard of the Cathedral of the Good Shepherd to mark the visit of Pope John Paul II to Singapore in 1986. He was the only Pope who had visited Singapore. The base of the statue is richly decorated with cultural symbols of Singapore such as merlion and orchids. The Cathedral is the oldest Roman Catholic church in Singapore built between 1843 and 1847.

Philippines: The statue stands at the entrance to the John Paul II tower where the Pope held a mass in February 1981 in Bacolod City Philippines. This is an 8 ft synthetic bronze and fiberglass created by Brother Tagoy Jakosalem in 2000. The 8 story glass tower houses personal possessions of John Paul II, religious paintings and mementoes like the Papal chair used as the pontifical throne by the Pope during his pastoral visit to Bacolod.



Chicago: A four sided shrine at Maryhill Cemetery dedicated in 2014, has two sides honoring St. John Paul II, one dedicated to Our Lady of Czestochowa and one to Our Lady, Mother of the Americas (also known as the Virgin of Guadalupe). The granite shrine, a 32 ft tall tower which is 4 ft by 4 ft wide, marks Pope John Paul's visits to Chicago. The two sides of the shrine depicting Pope Saint John Paul II are mainly carved in stone, with colorful swaths of mosaic near the base.



Poland: In 1983 a monument was placed in the courtyard of the Catholic University of Lublin, portraying a moment made famous by a photograph of Poland's Primate Cardinal Stefan Wyszynski greeting Karol Wojtyła following his election to the Papacy by the conclave of the cardinals on October 16, 1978. The Cardinal knelt in front of the Pope who bent over and raised him up. The moment was rendered all the more poignant because Cardinal Wyszynski is said to have been himself nominated at the conclave but to have declined to be a candidate, advancing instead the candidacy of Cardinal Wojtyła. The bronze sculpture rests on a granite base and rises to a height of 6 ft. The sculptor is Jerzy Jarnuszkiewicz of Warsaw.



Dili, the place where Pope John Paul II celebrated Mass on Oct. 12, 1989 during the Indonesian occupation. Tasi Tolu was notorious as a site where Indonesian soldiers allegedly dumped the bodies of many young people during the independence struggle.

The Franciscans and their Financial Allowance

Rev. Fr. Vito Perniola sj

King Dharmapala had left the Franciscan Friars well supplied with Buddhist temples and properties. When the war between Mayadunne and Rajasingha of Sitawaka and the Portuguese came to an end and the ancient kingdom of Kotte was unified under the Portuguese, the Franciscans came forward with the documents by which King Dharmapala had willed all the Buddhist temples and their properties to them. The Franciscans were now trying to find reliable people to administer all those properties and give the profits to the Franciscans.

In the meantime the Portuguese officials of Ceylon reported this matter to the King of Portugal who consulted experts in the matter. The experts pointed out that the Franciscans, by their rule at that time, could not possess any properties. So the King of Portugal took over all the Buddhist temples and properties and fixed a definite allowance to every Franciscan working as a missionary in Ceylon, in charge of a church or of a definite work.

Payments to the Franciscans in other parts of the island-1599:

- 100 xerafins (coin used by the Portuguese) to the Friar residing at the Church of Our Lady of Victories at Matara.

- 200 xerafins to the Friar residing at the Church of the Immaculate Conception at Galle.

- 100 xerafins to the Friar residing at the Church of Saint Anthony at Aluthgama.

- 100 xerafins to the Friar residing at the Church of our Lady of Health at Kalutara.

- 100 xerafins to the Friar residing at the house of the catechumens at San Thome.

- 100 xerafins to the Friar residing at the Church of Saint John, Mutwal.

- 100 xerafins to the Friar at the Church of Saint Francis at Negombo.

- 120 xerafins to the Friar residing at the Church of the Mother of God at Negombo.

- 100 xerafins to the Friar residing at the Church of the Portiuncula at Kammala.

- 150 xerafins to the Friar residing at the Church of Saint Anne at Kelaniya.

- 150 xerafins to the Friar residing at the church of St Jerome at Navagamuwa

- 150 xerafins to the Friar residing

ing at the Church of Saint Anthony at Palansena.

- 100 xerafins to the Friar residing at the Church in Malwana.

- Six xerafins to the Friar residing at the Church of the Garrison at Batugedara and half a candil of rice per month.

- Six xerafins to the Friar residing at the Church of the Garrison of Sitavaka and half a candil of rice per month

- Six xerafins and half a candil of rice per month to the friar who resides at the Church of the Garrison of Menikadawara.

- Six xerafins and half a candil of rice to the Friar who resides at the Church in Etgaletota.

Payments to the Franciscans in Mannar – 1597:

The Friars of St Francis who reside in the Fort will be paid every month two pardaos (Portuguese currency made out of silver) per person, and a candil (an amount equal to about 500 lbs) of rice. This maintenance allotment to them for their work for the native Christians and for the inhabitants of the Fort, will be paid only for those who reside in the monastery of the Fort and in the churches of their jurisdiction. The rice will be paid to them in money according to the



cost prevailing in the land. If anything more is spent in this, it will be put to the account of the Factor and will be duly entered by the clerk of the factory and, an official receipt will be given by the sindic (person who managed the business affairs of the Franciscans) of those Friars (Instruction given by the Viceroy Matias de Albuquerque, 1591-1597).

Fr. Perniola will be happy to receive from his readers critique and comments of his articles appearing in the Catholic Messenger to enable him later to publish them in a book. Email: sri.provincesj@gmail.com.

The Family that Prays Together...

To contemplate with Mary the face of Christ: Pope John Paul II in his apostolic exhortation, 'Rosarium Virginis Mariae' on October 16, 2002, makes the following observation regarding the recitation of the Holy Rosary.

The Rosary is to contemplate the face of Christ in union with and, at the school of, his Most Holy Mother. To recite the Rosary is nothing other than to contemplate with Mary the face of Christ. The Rosary is by its nature a prayer for peace, since it consists in the contemplation of Christ, the Prince of Peace, the one who is "our peace" (Eph 2:14). Thus, by focusing our eyes on Christ, the Rosary also makes us peacemakers in the world. As a prayer for peace, the Rosary is also and always has been a prayer of and for the family. We need to return to the practice of family prayer and prayer for families, continuing to use the Rosary.

The family, the primary cell of society, increasingly menaced by forces of disintegration on both the ideological and practical planes, so as to make us fear for the future of this fundamental and indispensable institution and, with it, for the future of society as a whole. The revival of the Rosary in Christian families will be an effective aid to countering the devastating effects of

this crisis typical of our age.

The family that prays together stays together. The Holy Rosary, by age-old tradition, has shown itself particularly effective as a prayer which brings the family together. Individual family members, in turning their eyes towards Jesus, also regain the ability to look one another in the eye, to communicate, to show solidarity, to forgive one another and to see their covenant of love renewed in the Spirit of God.

Families seldom manage to come together and the rare occasions when they do are often taken up with watching television. To return to the recitation of the family Rosary means filling daily life with very different images, images of the mystery of salvation, the image of the Redeemer, the image of His most Blessed Mother.

To pray the Rosary for children and even more, with children, training them from their earliest years to experience this daily "pause for prayer" with the family, is admittedly not the solution to every problem, but it is a spiritual aid which should not be underestimated.

Tips about how to Pray a Family Rosary:

- *Personalize it:* Each family member should have their own Rosary. Children



may play with it. Girls may wear it as a necklace. Boys will try to use it as a lasso. That is fine. It helps them become familiar with a Rosary. Eventually they will learn and grow in reverence for their Rosary.

- *Create a habit:* Set a time that is comfortable for your family and that works without adding stress. When it does not happen, don't give up entirely; just pick it up again the next day.

- *Create a space:* Set the tone for prayer so young children understand this is different to other family activities. If possible, light a candle and play some soft, background, instrumental music.

- *Start small:* Be patient. Do not try to complete an entire Rosary the first time

you gather together in prayer, particularly if you have young children. Start with a decade and build over time.

- *Keep it simple:* The Rosary is a great way for young children to learn the Hail Mary, Our Father and Apostle's Creed and to learn about the lives of Jesus and His Mother Mary.

- *Involve all family members:* If children have a role, they will participate more fully and be more attentive. Let them lead a reflection or the prayers depending on their age.

- *Opportunity to teach:* Use the Rosary as a starting point to teach children about other aspects of their faith. Children are curious and will ask questions. Pause in prayer as necessary to answer their questions. As they get older,

you can hold their questions until prayer is complete.

- *Just start:* There's no time like the present and no place like home.

"O Blessed Rosary of Mary, sweet chain which unites us to God, bond of love which unites us to the angels, tower of salvation against the assaults of Hell, safe port in our universal shipwreck, we will never abandon you. You will be our comfort in the hour of death: yours our final kiss as life ebbs away. And the last word from our lips will be your sweet name, O Queen of the Rosary, O dearest Mother, O Refuge of Sinners, O Sovereign Consoler of the afflicted. May you be everywhere blessed, today and always, on earth and in heaven."

Rev. Fr. Uthayadas Arulanantham

A "Living Mobile Monstrance" on receiving Holy Communion

First Holy Communicants are always well instructed and trained and thus receive Holy Communion very fervently and respectfully. They do so for a few months or years and thereafter gradually 'slide down', receiving Holy Communion becomes a habit. The hands that were clasped in reverence fall down with many even swinging their arms when returning back from the communion rails. Their inner pride and false status supersede reverence to God Jesus who is now within them physically in Flesh and Blood. Unfortunately the vast majority of the laity have not fully comprehended the 'magnitude' in the act of receiving Holy Communion. The fault does not rest on the laity. If the students in a class are ignorant about a subject matter, they are not at fault. The blame rests elsewhere. Similarly, if the laity are ignorant about a spiritual matter, the blame rests elsewhere. The laity have to be REPEATEDLY INSTRUCTED about spiritual matters.

According to the teaching of the Catholic Church, at the words of consecration, the Hosts truly become the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ. This momentous transformation is known as TRANSUBSTANTIATION:- change of substance. Thereafter the Sacred Hosts are given the adoration that is reserved for God alone. The highest form of veneration is known as LATRIA.

Transubstantiation, the miraculous transformation of the Bread and Wine into the Body and Blood of God Jesus is beyond human understanding. God has performed many Eucharistic miracles around the world to prove and to make us humans believe in the miraculous transformation. An Eucharistic miracle occurred in our own motherland in 2013, when vandals having entered St. Francis Xavier's Church, Angulana, Moratawa, desecrated the sanctuary by breaking open the Tabernacle and trying their best to burn the sacred Hosts but failed. The Church 'played down' the incident to prevent religious unrest. Unfortunately we could not make use of a very very rare miracle to increase our belief in the Holy Eucharist.

When the Blessed Sacrament is exposed for veneration, the sacred Host is taken from the Tabernacle and placed inside the Monstrance. Is there any difference between the Host that is placed in the Monstrance and the Host that we receive? The only difference is in its size. The

Host that we receive is smaller in size, but it is Jesus Himself fully in Flesh and Blood. The size of the Host does not matter. Even the tiniest particle of a consecrated Host or the smallest drop of consecrated Wine is Jesus. Jesus is not divided.

The fact that even the tiniest particle of the Sacred Host or a drop of consecrated Wine is fully Jesus was proved by the Eucharistic miracle at Lanciano, Italy in the year 700 A.D. in a monastery named for St. Longinus. A monk of the Order of St. Basil was celebrating the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. "Having suffered from recurrent doubts regarding transubstantiation, he had just spoken the solemn words of consecration when the Host was suddenly changed into a circle of flesh, and the wine was transformed into visible blood.... The flesh remained intact, but the blood in the chalice soon divided into five pellets of unequal sizes and irregular shapes. The monks decided to weigh the nuggets... It was discovered that one nugget weighed the same as all five together, two as much as any three, and the smallest as much as the largest (Eucharistic Miracles by J.C. Cruz).

Thus on receiving Holy Communion our body becomes a vessel 'containing' Jesus in Flesh and Blood. In other words our body becomes a MONSTRANCE carrying Jesus. It is a miracle of all miracles. It is also the most nourishing 'meal' of all meals.

Further according to the teaching of the Church our Lord is present within us as long as the presence of 'bread' remain, until the Sacred Host is digested and no longer has the appearance of bread. According to Church teaching. "Our Lord is present in a communicant for about 15 minutes and we should ADORE Him within oneself as long as He is sacramentally present. A famous story is told about St. Phillip Neri who saw a woman who had received Holy Communion leave the Church right after Mass disregarding Christ within her. The Saint sent two altar boys with lighted candles to accompany her, as she was still a living Tabernacle of the All - Holy God." (Eucharistic Miracles by J.C. Cruz),

Thus it is imperative on our part to be consciously mindful that we are a LIVING TABERNACLE or a LIVING TABERNACLE for about 15 minutes after receiving Lord Jesus and as such to conduct ourselves in a respectful manner with reverence and decorum and



"Thus on receiving Holy Communion our body becomes a vessel 'containing' Jesus in Flesh and Blood. In other words our body becomes a MONSTRANCE carrying Jesus. It is a miracle of all miracles. It is also the most nourishing 'meal' of all meals"

to ADORE, WORSHIP, PRAISE, THANK, GLORIFY and very specially to SPEAK to God Jesus who is physically present with us.

According to the present Liturgy, Mass is over after a few minutes after Communion time and we rush out as if the 'Show is over,' some even rush out as if to 'catch a bus' and invariably become a WALKING, TALKING, JOKING, LAUGHING "LIVING MONSTRANCE" indulging in idle talk outside the Church. Some may even become a SCOLDING "LIVING MONSTRANCE" if they happen to meet an unfriendly person. All this quite oblivious to the fact that Lord Jesus is still physically present within us. There are as many LIVING MONSTRANCES outside the Church after Mass as the number of communicants. Only a very handful are inside the Church 'in communion' with the Lord.

Holy Communion is a "Union" which is made Holy. The word COMMUNION refers to a 'COMMON UNION'. To be in 'UNION' means 'being united' with... COMMUNION also means "to have fellowship" with. So in a "Communion" we are 'being

united' with and 'have fellowship' with someone. In Holy communion, this 'other person' is none other than Lord Jesus and therefore this communion becomes a 'Holy Communion.' In Holy Communion, Lord Jesus who is 'infinite love' with unconditional love humbles Himself and enters our frail sinful human body to 'commune' with us. If we too sincerely love Him, we too should commune with Him. It then becomes a communion of two lovers.

The vast majority including some 'religious' after receiving communion, pray only for a few seconds or minutes. Thereafter they sit, look around and chat or join a hymn that is sung. They are fully ignorant that Lord Jesus is still within them in Flesh and Blood. On the other hand, we should close our eyes, join hands and with due respect and reverence ADORE, WORSHIP, PRAISE, THANK and SPEAK to Jesus who is within us. For instance we could repeat many times. 'I adore you, I worship you, I praise and thank you Lord Jesus who is dwelling within me now.' We should commune and have fellowship with Him as in a communion.

We should also prepare ourselves before receiving Holy Communion. If an important V.I.P. is to visit our home, we would definitely prepare our house and ourselves to receive him. How much more should we prepare ourselves to receive Almighty God unto ourselves.

* Our minds, thoughts and hearts should be clean. Our mouth and stomach should be clean with at least the 1 hour fast from food. We should fast for a longer time. The Pre Vatican fast was from Saturday midnight until the Mass is over on Sunday morning without even water.

* There should be preparatory prayers before Holy Communion in the Church.

* 'Communion time' should be a time of silence to enable communicants to speak to the Lord.

* There should be thanksgiving prayers after Holy Communion in the Church. A handful of 'inspired' priests already do so.

* We should when possible, in all humility, at least when receiving Holy Communion obey God's command to Moses, "Moses Moses do not come any closer. Take off your sandals because you are standing on Holy ground (Exodus 3:4-5) and the command to Joshua "Take your sandals off, you are standing on Holy ground..." (Joshua 5: 15). Surely God was not joking for us to disregard His commands, with audacious pride. It is a sign of total humility and total surrender. Sometimes we prostrate ourselves before the Lord but retain our inner pride in our footwear. Kings Saul and David discarded everything in total humility before the Lord. Adherents of all other major religions pay homage to their deity barefooted in all humility. Its only we Christians who retain our inner pride before God Almighty.

Some non-Christians have an admirable custom. When they return from a pilgrimage, they greet and share the merits they have acquired, with those at home and the village. We too could, having received Holy Communion, share Lord Jesus with those on the way and at home with a greeting 'God Bless.'

M. V. Noel de Silva

The historic statue of Our Lady from Sathkorale found at St. Anthony's Church, Pellandeniya

It is appropriate to recall during this Marian year the discovery of this Historic statue of Our Lady. There is no doubt at all, that this statue of our Lady once belonged to the first Church dedicated to God in honour of our Lady of the Assumption (Nostra Senhora Aурpauss) built in 1611 on the 13th of January at Metiyagane in Sathkorale. The inscription on the reverse of the statue bears the year inscribed on it as 1616 – A historic object of veneration that goes back nearly 400 years. This statue is a great treasure of Historic value and bears witness to the fidelity of our forefathers to the faith they professed in Christ Jesus even to the shedding of the blood of Martyrs. Therefore this statue where-ever it is repositied now, has to be preserved and safeguarded for the veneration of the faithful.

1611 is a memorable year for it was in that year on January 13th that the new Church of Our Lady of the Assumption at Metiyagane was blessed by the Rector of the Jesuit College in Colombo and the first solemn High Mass was offered by him with the assistance of other Jesuit Fathers. On that blessed day 150 were baptized – among them were 1 Bandara, 3 Mudaliyars and many arachchies and a few Lascarins. (This Church was later destroyed by rebels during the uprising that took place under the leadership of the chief rebel Nikepitiya Bandara in 1616 December 6th – by virtue of the fact that the Statue bears the inscription of the year 1616 on its reverse side evidently proves beyond any doubt, that it belonged to the above Church at Metiyagane). That year there were three other Jesuit Priests

whose memory goes down to History – They were Rev. Father's Ludovicus Matheus Pelingotti, Antonio Fredrosa and Johannes Mitella – all three who laid down their lives with a few others for the Catholic Faith they professed – Hence the Martyrs of Metiyagane are fondly remembered and cherished today.

The Mission of Metiyagane they ministered to, was very vast extending to the foothills of Kandy beyond Kurunegala numbering about 4000 faithful. In a Jesuit annual letter dated "Cochin 15th December 1618" mention is made of Metiyagane where hostilities first broke out with the murder of our Fathers, we have not yet rebuilt any of the Churches that were burnt down. However the Father who ministers to the Portuguese army at Makandura (Mahakandavura) visits the faithful living there"

It has not been possible to identify the location of the first Church at Metiyagane, but miraculously we are in possession of this Statue of Our Lady which once adorned the Church in 1616. Let us pray to our Lady of Sathkorale venerated with such devotion by our forefathers even to the point of laying down of their lives for Jesus Christ the Blessed Fruit of her womb".

The writer is much obliged to Very Rev. Fr. Don Linus Kurukula Arachchi – Dean of the Kurunegala Diocese (Retired) who is now the resident Priest at St. Philip Neri's Church Metiyagane, for providing the material for this article.

**Ridley Casie Chitty
Nugegoda**

TRIBUTE TO AUNT BUBSY

After reading the tribute to Aunt Bubsy by her three nieces Nilmini, Shiromi and Chrisanthi on her Birthday, I was inspired to write few words about her to confirm what the three sisters have written about their aunt. Yes, it is true that she is a rare and special character that our good Lord Jesus has placed among our families. Being the eldest son of her first cousin Celestina she went the extra mile to find me a job in 1968 soon after my O-levels in Jaffna, even before my results had come in. She did this to help my mother out of the difficulty of bringing up 4 boys and a girl. Although the job was not attractive sitting behind a rickety old typewriter for a pittance of Rs.80 a month in 1968, it paved the way for me, a man today, holding a responsible position in Toronto, Canada. Between then and now, I have rolled into many offices in various industries in different parts of the world but the praise and honour go to my Lord Jesus and her for the start that she gave me in my life. I remember that she not only helped me but also my brother who was immediately younger to me and came out as a fresher from school. As her nieces have written she truly walked the extra mile to uplift the oppressed by finding jobs and match making to many of her cousins and relatives to keep the family ties. When I look back, it would never have been easy for her as she had to swallow

her pride to ask help from others for the upliftment of her loved ones which she never stopped until she became immobile. I would boldly say that she was a well used instrument in the hand of our Lord Jesus for the betterment of others.

I truly admire her capabilities and pushiness that built up the many families around her. Although I chose my own wife, when my wife gave birth to my son in November of 1987, in my absence, she gave immense help to her by sending food and assisting her with everything she needed at that time. Every time I visited Sri Lanka, I had the pleasure of visiting her and Uncle Benny. My family and I also had the opportunity of praying with both of them on our last visit. Today I know that Aunt Bubsy is not there for me to meet her physically when I visit Sri Lanka, but I know that we all can be rest assured that she practiced a true Christian walk and had gone to receive the crown that our lord Jesus has been eagerly waiting to crown her with. We all too will have the opportunity of seeing her, if we accept the Lord Jesus as our Lord and personal Saviour and obediently live by His word. God bless those who read this little article about my aunt Bubsy (Mrs. Constance Sattrukalinghe).

by Eric Joseph, Toronto, Canada

Bernice Fernando - My Darling Granny

It has being six months since my grandmother passed away. Yet, it still feels like yesterday, when I hugged her for the last time and waved goodbye. When I think of my grandmother, my darling Granny, the feelings and emotions that wash over me cannot be expressed by words or actions. Granny was a wonderful wife to my grandfather, until the end. She was a great mother to her daughters, my mother and Aunt and an adorable grandmother to her grandchildren. My grandfather, Papa, used to always tell us, that Granny was told to be one of the most beautiful women in Negombo. Although Granny was beautiful and elegant in her ways, she was always modest and reserved. I am yet to find anyone with such graceful character. Granny would never seek to be in the limelight but would always be in the shade, never commanding any extra attention on her.

To me, my grandmother was an Angel sent from above. I have no doubt that it is her prayers and constant novenas that helped myself and my sister cope with living so far away from home, studying and working overseas, for years. We were always strengthened and motivated by Granny's prayers. She was always the first person we would call before going into an exam. She would then light a blessed candle for us and would impatiently guard the phone until the call comes from us, to say that we have finished the exam. My sister was able to teach my grandmother to SMS and then began the regular SMS conversations between the three of us. She would worry my mother in the event that a SMS did not go through until the problem was fixed! I know I speak for my sister Cheroni, and my cousins, Ishan and Dinu, when I say that Granny has always instilled faith in us. She always en-

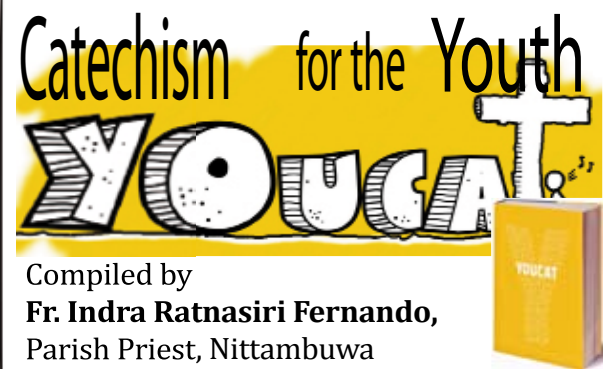
couraged us to trust in God, even if everything else fails. If there was any obstacle or hardship that we would face, Granny would always tell us to do our best and leave the rest to God.

The day that Granny passed away, a part of my heart became empty. I knew then that life would never be the same again. I will forever hold a special place in my heart for my grandmother and forever cherish the memories I have had with her. I was always sweet 'Cheri Bud' to her. She was my confidant and my advisor. I am blessed and grateful to God that she was there for some of the most important periods of my life and that she was able to encourage and advise me in my decisions. She could see through people and situations which helped me to make life altering decisions, that I'm now very proud to have made. Granny was a large part of my life and I will miss her each and every day. She was every-

thing I could ever ask for in a grandmother and much more. I know I speak for my mother, my aunt, my sister, my cousins and Granny's loving sons-in-law, when I say that Granny touched each of our lives in one way or the other and will forever be missed. The annual Christmas gatherings at Granny's house would be no more.

I am still yet to come to complete terms with her passing. Having lived next door to Granny all my life, I now look over towards her house and hope I could see her once more. If only, to say a 'good-bye', I never got the chance to. My only solace and comfort, is that you, my darling Granny, is now in the loving arms of God, and the hope that I will see you again. Until then, I know that I will have my very own Guardian Angel above, watching over me and guiding me every step of the way.

Cheri Pullenayegam



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

What Does the Nicene (Nicene Constantinopolitan) Creed say?

*I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.
I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,
and became man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.*

Saint Joseph Vaz of Sri Lanka Canara and Goa

At long last after years of praying, longing and waiting in hope, the Holy Father Francis I, has decided to Canonize the Beloved Apostle of Sri Lanka, Canara and Goa. Thanks be to God who has a time for everything - His own good time. Do you, who read this, realize, that today someone who walked the length and breadth of our country, bare-footed - sometimes beset by so many dangers, is now looking on the face of the Father, whose son Jesus, he served so faithfully, and fruitfully, the Holy Spirit who he trusted so fully, the Lady of the Rosary, his Queen and Mother. The imprint of his foot prints have borne fruit and today in spite of so many problems, we have a vibrant church in Sri Lanka.

This is the priest who was not afraid to pray before a cross in the public square when, there was a drought. This is the priest who stood in the swollen waters of the Deduru Oya, which was in spare, till his companions passed over to safety, this is the priest who worked with the sick, together with his two priest-companions, when Kandy was a death trap - raging with small pox, buried the dead, fed and saved many.

Would we today profess our faith so boldly if we had not had him to save the faith of our fathers - we have the Martyrs of Mannar, thanks be to his work and his example of faith in the Lord.

St. Joseph Vaz, had been blessed by the Lord, he had power over the wild animals, which never harmed him. He has been known to say that no serpent will ever harm priest in Sri Lanka?

So now he stands before the Lord. St. Joseph Vaz of Sri Lanka!

When the Holy Father comes to Sri Lanka next year, we will with much joy, praise God in His Saints.

Thank you St. Joseph Vaz.

Pray for all of us in Sri Lanka.

(Mrs) Clivee Dassanaik Taylor

Monstrous gap between the rich and the poor:

Cardinal calls for simple and humble lifestyle



Pope Francis, whose simple and humble lifestyle along with his servant leadership is transforming the Church and the world and has said, world poverty alleviation should be one of the priorities of the world.

We are told in the Acts of the Apostles that the disciples of the Early Church came together daily for the breaking of bread in fellowship to hear the teachings of the Apostles and share everything in common so that there was no one in need. Acts 2: 42-45. Lord Jesus gave up all He had when He began His ministry. He willingly and voluntarily became poor to identify with the poor. The early apostles also did that and it may be one of the reasons why we saw so many miracles, wonders and signs in the Early Church. What is the situation now?

October 17 was the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty and we need to reflect on the fact that poverty cannot be alleviated or eradicated by just giving money or subsidies to the poor. Instead world leaders in the political religious social and other fields need to identify, challenge and break down the structures of unbridled capitalism.

Britain's Guardian

newspaper in a report last week quoted some startling figures from Credit Suisse, a Switzerland-based multinational financial services holding company. The report headlined 'Richest 1% of people own nearly half of global wealth' says the richest 1% of the world's population are getting wealthier, owning more than 48% of global wealth. It warns that growing inequality could be a trigger for recession or perhaps a revolution.

According to the Credit Suisse Global Wealth Report, a person needs just \$3,650 including the value of equity in his or her home to be among the wealthiest half of world citizens. However, more than \$77,000 is required to be a member of the top 10% of global wealth holders, and \$798,000 to belong to the top 1%. Taken together, the bottom half of the global population own less than 1% of total wealth. In sharp contrast, the richest decile hold 87% of the world's wealth and the top percentile alone account for 48.2% of global assets, the annual report says.

The report, which calculates that total global wealth has grown to a new record – \$263 trillion, more than twice the \$117 trillion calculated for 2000 – found that Britain is the

only country in the G7 to have recorded rising inequality in the 21st century. The findings were seized upon by anti-poverty campaigners Oxfam which published research at the start of the year showing that the richest 85 people across the globe share a combined wealth of £1 trillion, as much as the poorest 3.5 billion of the world's population.

These figures give more evidence that inequality is extreme and growing and that economic recovery following the financial crisis has been skewed in favour of the wealthiest. In poor countries, rising inequality means the difference between children getting the chance to go to school and sick people getting life saving medicines, Oxfam's Inequality Unit Chief Emma Seery said. China now has more people in the top 10% of global wealth holders than any other country except for the United States and Japan, having moved into third place in the rankings by overtaking France, Germany, Italy and Britain, the report says.

In the Daily Mirror yesterday, the Centre for Poverty Analysis (CEPA) says the United Nations views October 17 as a moment that can both empower people to eradicate poverty and allow them to recognize the role

the poor play in these efforts. The theme for this year is 'Leave No One Behind: Think, Decide and Act Together Against Poverty.'

The article by CEPA analyst Mira Phillips says incorporating the voices of the poor has become increasingly emphasized in poverty-related research and development initiatives.

We have often heard that there are three types of lies – lies, damn lies and statistics. The third type is the worst because it includes white lies such as growth rates, inflation and unemployment figures, Gross Domestic Products and per capita income. The Central Bank and Treasury reports are often quoted by ruling party leaders to paint a picture of Sri Lanka becoming the economic hub or the miracle of Asia. Opposition leaders and independent analysts have often questioned whether what is emerging is a miracle or a muddle – in pithy Sinhala 'ashcharyakda awulakda.'

For thousands of years, Sri Lanka's hallowed civilisation and culture have clearly shown us the answer to poverty alleviation and a more equitable distribution of wealth and resources. The answer is 'alpekchathawaya' – a simple and humble lifestyle. For this to work effective-

ly, it must begin at the top with our political, religious, business and social leaders living in a simple and humble way. If they do it, the people will follow the example of learning to live with basic needs. Unfortunately what we see at the top often is super luxury and vulgar extravagance. This poverty alleviation day will have meaning if our leaders change their way of life, identify with millions of poor people and build the superhighway for a just and fair society.

Happily the Archbishop of Colombo, His Eminence Malcolm Cardinal Ranjith in a message last Sunday called on Christians and all the people to live in a simple and humble way as Pope Francis is doing. The Cardinal speaking at the Catholic National Cultural Festival at the Paul the VI Centre recalled two events after the election of Pope Francis.

On the day after the Pope's election all the Cardinals at the conclave were requested to come to a nearby church for a Holy Mass to be celebrated by Pope Francis. There was a large bus for the Cardinals and in front was a Mercedes Benz car surrounded by six Swiss guards. The Cardinals had presumed that Pope would come in the Benz.

His Eminence said that he was the last to get into the bus and as he took the first step he noticed someone was behind him. It was the Pope. The Cardinals had told the Pope that they thought the new Pontiff would be coming in the Benz. Pope Francis quietly replied, "My position may have changed but I have not changed."

So His Eminence had stepped down and allowed the Pope to get into the bus and he had got in. They all had travelled together – simplicity and humility. His eminence also related another event. After he had celebrated Holy Mass at a church in Rome people came to see him. One of them said please tell Francisco that he has stolen my heart.

His Eminence then urged Christians and others to live in a simple and humble way so that we could save more and share more with the poor.

Hela and Helaya from Where?

Is Hela-basa the Mother tongue of man? Controversies are numerous about this linguistic primacy regarding the mother tongue of man. This is an age-old question. There are several pre-historic theories, sources which are not in keeping with the traditional ideas.

The pre-historic native name for the country of Greece in Greek is HELLAS - HELLADOS. Mind the word HELLAS and its similarity to our HELA. Look at our own word SIU-HELA (SI-HELA). Could our pre-historic descendants have come from Greece? The people of Hela (Greece) were Helanese much similar to our own Helayan (fy<hka). These people of Greece then were called by the foreigners as Hellanese. Is it not close to our own word for the people of Hela-diva?

Is this not referring to our four tribes or clans of pre-ancient inhabitants in Sri Lanka namely the *Sura, Asura, Yak and Na*. These four tribes or clans of the pre-historic

people, when brought together we have the word SIU-HELA (isō+fy<) which becomes SI-HELA (isfy<) the ancient name for our motherland. These four clans came to be known as HELAYAS. These people are none other than human beings like any of us.

They are not gods, demi-gods, devils (yakha) nor cobras (naga). For example we have in our own history, the kings of the Pea-cock clan (uhqr jxYh). These do not refer to the bird, it is just a name of a tribe or clan. We have still in the North of Sri Lanka the Naga-deepa or Naga-tivu. We are certain the people there, are not cobras. It is only an epic of conception of the nation regarding its past history. It is said that the clans of Naga were close relatives of the yakha clans.

The languages like Latin, Greek, Sanskrit and Pali are of the Aryan or clan? Thus we Sri Lankans Helayas belong to the Aryan clan. These languages have been the source of origin and history of

words and the vocabulary of the related languages. There is the proposition that many maintain *Hela* (the language of the people of Hela) could be the fountain from which very many languages have derived and are being etymologically affiliated.

Thus *Hela* (the language) has the roots for our languages like Sinhala and Tamil. The Sinhala word 'Elu' descending from Hela (language) seems to have a significant connection to the Tamil word *eludu* meaning to write. In the same way when the British people called our country as Ceylon it looks it has some connection to the word *Hela* or *Hela-island*.

Now there is enough evidence necessary for clear proof from various sources of history, geography, science and study of human races, their characteristics, even from facts, fiction and legend that man's mother tongue is *Hela*.

D.C. Jayasinghe

The Rosary a Powerful Weapon

I cannot from a pulpit preach! Neither am I qualified to teach! Neither can I write brilliantly!

But from my heart these words I pen sincerely:

Pray the rosary every day - it will help you immensely along life's way,

You'll experience for yourself Mary's motherly care - if your rosary offered is a sincere prayer; On you her blessing she will shower - and protect you from danger every hour;

She'll counsel and-guide you every day - so you can be assured of going the right way! When in trouble - with faith - you call on Mary - she'll come to your aid immediately! Mary prays along with each bead we say - and draws us closer to her Son each day,

Remember, there is power in the 'Hail Mary' - for Mary prays for us 'now' and at the end of life's journey;

The rosary in times of suffering acts like a soothing balm - and Mary protects us from all evil and harm;

The rosary is a powerful weapon which shields us from our enemy - Satan!

So carry your beads with you every where - and above all make the Rosary your daily prayer! The family that gathers together and the rosary prays - will experience God's blessing in countless ways;

And whatever problems there be - big or small Mary has the power to solve them all!

So be it sunshine, rain or stormy weather - Mary's mantle will protect and keep them together; So let us all hearken to Our Mother's plea - and offer our rosaries - willingly!

Ralph Alles



The Book of Our Destiny

We all know that the bible consists of a number of books. But in it, we come across about some other books which are maintained in heaven. Let us examine the following verses with regard to these books. (Hebrews 10-7) "Then said, I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do thy will, O God."

[Psalms 40-7] Then said I, Lo, I come: in the volume of the book it is written of me,

[Revelation 5-4] and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God, sent forth into all the earth.

7-And he came and took the book out of the right hand of him that sat upon throne.

8-And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four and ten I wept much, because no man was found worthy to open and to read the book, neither to look thereon.

5- And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof.

6-And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne twenty four elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odors, which are the prayers of saints.

What a wonderful revelation that the All-Knowing (Omniscient) God also keeps records of our activities in books. When we are called to our final destination (our home and final destination) we would be confronted by all manner of books where imperishable records are diligently maintained by God's Angels.

The Bible names some of the books maintained in heaven:

Book of Prophecy

[Rev. 22-19] And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.

Book of Life

[Rev. 20-12] And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

Book of The Law

[2 Chronicles 34-15]; And Hilkiyah answered and said to Shaphan the scribe, I have found the book of the law in the house of the LORD. And Hilkiyah delivered the book to Shaphan.

Book of Remembrance

[Malachi 3-16] Then they that feared the LORD spake often one to another: and the LORD hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon his name.

Book of the Covenant

[2 Chronicles 34-30] And the king went up into the house of the LORD, and all the men of Judah, and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and the priests, and the Levites, and all the people, great and small: and he read in their ears all the words of the book of the covenant that was found in the house of the LORD.

Book of the generations of Adam

[Genesis 5-1] This is the book of the generations of Adam. In the day that God created man, in the likeness of God made he him;

Book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ

[Matthew 1-11] The book of the generation of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

Book of Nations

[Psalm 87-6] The LORD shall count, when he writeth up the people, that this man was born there.

The Bible is a book of books because many books are inside it. Now consider the following scripture:

[Hebrews 10-7] "Then said, I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do thy will, O God."

There is a book that contains the story of your destiny. When you find that book, your destiny will shine. Those who miss that book become destitute in life.

There was a young boy of 12 years old who found that book. He became lost to the world. By the time his 'parents' found him after three days search, he was a new person. He spoke with wisdom and authority, because he had found where it was written of him

in the volume of the book. All the adults gaped in astonishment. That 12-year old boy happens to be JESUS of Nazareth, our Lord and Master, the Son of the Living God. After he found the book, he was promoted from the midst of His playmates to the seat of professors, doctors of the Law and other educated people. He became a teacher to teachers.

Records in hell

While, God's angels maintain some books in heaven we can assume that Satan also must be maintaining his book about all evil done by us on this earth. But the Good News is when we repent and ask forgiveness, God forgives our sins because of the sacrifice our Lord Jesus Christ made on the Calvary cross. This makes Satan to eat his own books and to get perished with his books.

We need to pray that the book of our greatness which the devil and his agents have stolen to prevent us from reading be recovered and be restored unto us.

Some have found that book and are even carrying it about, everywhere they go. But the devil has besieged them with many distractions that they have never settled down to open the volumes of book and find where it was written of them concerning their glorious destinies.

Pray every distraction, every delay and every 'busyness' preventing you from opening the chapter of fulfillment of your divine destiny to collapse and clear away now in the mighty name of our Lord Jesus Christ of Nazareth.

Now the question is how do we find our book of destiny? How did Jesus get it?

We too will have to follow the same path, by reading the Holy Scriptures daily and the Holy Spirit will help us as given in the following two verses.

[Romans 8-26] Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

[1 John 2-27] But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him.

The destiny book for each and every one of us leads us to be like Christ Jesus.

Gerald Dissanayake

Open our heart, O Lord, to accept the words of your Son.

(Acts. 16:14)

LITURGICAL CALENDAR YEAR A
26 Oct. 2014 - 2nd Nov. 2014

Sun: 30TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME
Ex.22:20-26; 1 Th.1:5-10; Mt.22:34-40 Mon:
Eph.4:32 - 5:8; Lk.13:10-17
Tue: Feast of Ss Simon and Jude, Apostles
Eph.2:19-22; L.6:12-19
Wed: Eph.6:1-9;Lk.13:22-30
Thu: Eph.6:10-20; Lk.13:31-35
Fri: Phil1:1-11;Lk.14:1-6
Sat: Feast of All Saints
Rev.7:2-4,9-14; 1 Jn.3:1-3;Mt.5:1-12
Sun: ALL SOULS DAY

Papal Visit

SPIRITUAL PREPARATION FOR PAPAL VISIT AND CANONIZATION OF BL. JOSEPH VAZ SUNDAY MASS INTENTIONS Sunday October 26th

That during moments of difficulty and need, we take courage in the fact that we have Jesus standing before the Father interceding on our behalf.
We Pray to the Lord.

That we always remind ourselves "Christianity isn't a philosophy or guide to survival, good behaviour and peace, but a relationship with Jesus Christ, the One who arose from death."
We pray to the Lord.

That we may find the time to contemplate the true desire of our hearts and discover the thirst for God therein.
We pray to the Lord!

That we remember the way Blessed Joseph Vaz was able to influence those who wielded political, social and economic power through his simplicity and the way he lived his faith in God.
We pray to the Lord.

THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Ex. 22: 20-26.

God very clearly shows His concern towards the widow, the orphan, the poor and the helpless. He vows to destroy those that commit injustice upon them.

Second Reading: 1Thes. 1; 5-10.

St. Paul praises the Thessalonian converts for their life witnessing. They are an example and encouragement to the new communities in Greece.

Gospel: Mt. 22: 34-40.

At their request Jesus explains to the Pharisees about the greatest commandment. The first and the greatest is the love of God and the second is like it, the love of neighbour.

Reflection.

As we have it today, at the time of Jesus and for that matter even before that there were many laws that the Jews had to follow. There were many laws of the Levitical priest, Law of Moses. i.e. the Ten Commandments...etc. Each insisted that theirs was the most important. Therefore, the Jews had this problem of finding out the greatest of them all.

One of the Pharisees, a lawyer, put this question before Jesus: "Teacher which is the greatest commandment in the law?"

Jesus said, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your mind." He did not stop at that but said the second is like

it. "You shall love your neighbour as yourself" This itself shows the state of the law and the Christian life.

The Pharisees were requesting for the greatest commandment in the law. Jesus was supposed to state only the first but He also stated the second. Similarly, a person who loves God would not stop at that, but would love his neighbour. There could be men who love their neighbour but do not love God for different reasons. But there cannot be men who love God and do not love their neighbor. It does not mean that love of neighbour is more important than love of God. What it tells us is that from a person who loves God, essentially flows love towards all God's creation. Therefore he loves man his neighbour, who is the greatest of all creation. Though God is present in all creation He is not with us as a person. Hence we express all the love we have in the form of an image, but is a living God. Whether we do it in prayer, worship or in the life of holiness we have Him in our mind as an image. If we are to show this love to Him in concrete action in our day to day life the closest personification to God is man. For man is created to the likeness and image of God. Therefore whoever loves God ought to love his neighbour too.

Apart from all these we are bound to love our neighbour because God Himself loves man! Also as Christians, His chosen people we

have to bear witness to His love.

In today's Second Reading St. Paul praises the Thessalonians for their live faith; for they have become living examples of God's truth and love. This is the greatest charitable act that one could do to one's neighbour. That is you become an example of God's love and truth and your neighbour could come to the light of God following your footsteps. This is not just a phrase or a bundle of empty words but a demand as in the First Reading it is only a matter of God's compassion towards the widow, the orphan; the poor and the helpless for their cry for love and justice will not be unheeded. When it comes to judgment there is no question of compassion. You cannot be genuine in your love towards God if you have failed to love your neighbour.

Therefore, let us love God and also let us not forget that we ought to love our neighbour too.

Aid Story

Tradition has given us a touching story concerning the site of the temple of Solomon. Before the beautiful building was begun, the ground was occupied by two brothers, who had sown it with wheat. At harvest they gathered their portion in separate stocks. On the evening when the harvest was finished the elder brother said to his wife; my younger brother cannot bear the heat and burden of the day. I will take some of mine and place them with his; without his knowing it. That

same evening the younger brother, who was unmarried said to himself; "My elder brother has a family, and I have none. I will take some of mine and place them with his."

Next morning both noticed that their piles of wheat were undiminished. For several nights through the darkness they carried the wheat to each other's piles, but always in the morning each pile seemed to be the same in size. Unknown to each other they decided to solve the mystery that very night. They would watch closely. In the middle of the night they were caught with wheat carrying it to the other's pile. The mystery was solved. It was fraternal generosity and brotherhood is meaningless unless I go out of myself to do something for my brother.

Aid Story 2.

A wealthy man, noted during his life time for his selfishness and meanness, died and arrived outside the Pearly Gates. He was asked as to why he thought the he should be in heaven. St Peter was told that he had given two pence on a cold winter to an Old lady who was starving and on another occasion he had given a penny to a little boy whose parents had been killed in a revolution. St. Peter transmitted this information to Gabriel and inquired, "What shall I do with this applicant?" and Gabriel said, 'Give him his three pence back with interest and tell him to go to hell.'

Rev. Fr. Ciswan De Croos

"You shall love the Lord, your God ... You shall love your neighbour as yourself" (Matthew 22,34-40)

1. For a devout Jew, all the commandments are to be kept with equal care. But some are preoccupied with this question, 'Which is the greatest among 613 precepts of the Law?' Hence this is a topic commonly proposed to distinguished Jewish teachers. Jewish sources bear ample evidence. For example, once a proselyte standing on one leg interrogated Hillel the Pharisee 'Which is the greatest precept?' He then answered, "What you hate for yourself, do not do to your neighbour. This is the whole law; the rest is commentary. Go and learn" (b. Sabb. 31a).

2. Now it is Jesus' turn. A representative of other Pharisees tests Him by

asking, "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" Jesus, in His response, quotes Deut 6,5. As a pious Jew He would have recited this Deut 6,4-9 (along with Deut 11,13-21 and Num 15,37-41) twice daily. Now He employs this recital as His response.

Let us read Deut 6,4-5, the original source of Jesus' first reply: "Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD alone! Therefore, you shall love the LORD, your God, with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength." The LORD is the only God. "Therefore" He is to be loved. The command to love Him flows from His very nature as the only God. How

should He be loved? The love of God must engage the total person and all the available resources: i. "with all your LEVAV" (Hebrew word for 'heart, inner man, mind, will')

ii. "with all your NEPHESH" (Hebrew word for 'soul, living being, life, self, person, desire, passion, appetite, emotion').

iii. "with all your MEOD" (Hebrew word for 'muchness, abundance, force').

3. In The Nureyev Image, Alexander Bland, the author, describes Rudolf Nureyev's love for ballet in these words, "For its sake, he had fought and sweated, suffered, quarreled, insulted and borne

insults, schemed, dreamed and made bitter sacrifices. It takes priority in his life over everything and everybody; his loyalty to it is unquestioning. It is both the means of his living and the end." How closely does this famous Russian ballet dancer's love for God? Nureyev, this greatest male ballet dancer of 1960s and 1970s, once said in an interview in Entertainment Weekly, "Any time you dance, what you do must be sprayed with your blood." How committed am I to the love of God which involves my whole person and resources?

4. "You shall love your neighbour as yourself." Although only asked for

one commandment, Jesus adds a second, "The second is like it." Jesus goes beyond the extent of the question put to Him, "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" and joins to the first commandment a second, that of love of neighbour derived from Lev 19,18 "You shall love your RE (Hebrew word for 'fellow, friend, companion') as yourself."

5. Thus Jesus combines the two commandments of Deut 6,5 and Lev 19,18 and hails them as the two most important commandments of God. In this act of combination, Jesus hails as a Jewish teacher quite orthodox and fond of going to the biblical

root of things. For him, this double commandment is the source from which the whole Old Testament (represented by "law and prophets") is derived: "The whole law and the prophets depend on these two commandments."

The love of God cannot be isolated from but should be connected to the love of neighbour. "If thou neglectest thy love to thy neighbour, in vain thou professest thy love to God; for by the love of God, the love to thy neighbour is begotten, and by love to thy neighbour, thy love to God is nourished" (Francis Quarles, an English poet).

Rev. Fr. Don. Anton Saman Hettiarachchi

Our Lord Our God

"The Lord said to Abram, leave your country, your people, your father's household and go to the land I will show you" (Genesis 12:1).

Praise the Lord. God spoke to Abram and revealed His will and plan for Abram in his life. God showed him what he should do to in life and how he must serve the Lord. The same way God shows us my brothers and sisters. It may be hard to believe but God tells these words to us daily but we fail to hear His soft and gentle voice.

God tells us, to leave our homes, our loved ones (temporarily! our loved ones always remain in our hearts be-

cause that is where God resides in us), our comfort zone and go into the world, into the land He is showing us. What is this land my brothers and sisters? Our offices, workplace or our schools or campus or university or wherever the Lord leads you to go. It can even be when you go to a party or to a function (wedding, etc.), or to a relative's or neighbour's home!

These are the lands the Lord shows us to go to. For He wants us to take God into that place. When we do not resist and obey, then He promises;

"I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you. I will make your

name great and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you and all the people of the Earth will be blessed through you." (Genesis 12:2-3).

What more do we need! He promises to bless us, to take care of us and to watch over us. My brothers and sisters, ponder awhile on this. What is His blessing! It is not simply a material need. It is riches from the Kingdom of Heaven.

My brothers and sisters, Let me just say, GOD IS WITH US! He is real, He is alive and He is with us. Let him be your God, Let Him be your Friend, Let Him be your Lover, let Him be YOUR LIFE and



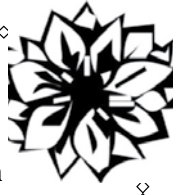
just as Abram became Abraham (Father of Faith) so shall you be a Child of God, an heir to the Kingdom of Heaven. Amen.

Haran Ignatious Gnanapragasam



The Twenty Mysteries of the Rosary

By Chandrani Warnasuriya



The Rosary is a beautiful garland
Offered to the Queen of Heaven
A string of roses thoughtfully gathered
And in beads to her name dedicated.

The Rosary is a bouquet of roses
To the Queen of Heaven in prayer we give
It is made of the many hued blossoms
Of her life we revere and praise.

The Rosary is a Crown of roses
Befitting a heavenly bride
Mary the Queen among all saints
That heaven ever gained of our kind

It is made of the joyful roses
Reminding us of her earthly sojourn
The mystery of the rose that obeyed the fiat
And blossomed supreme in Salvation's great plan

As God decreed in the Annunciation
The rose of Jesus rose to the occasion
"Mary the Rosa Vernans' of Creation
Now blossomed to the joy of our salvation.

The Visitation is a beautiful rose
In her life of charity and concern
For all whom she loved and befriended
In those days of hardship unparalleled

Braving the desert sands and wastes
She travelled on a mule's back
The Mother of God to be
The Incarnation the Rose of the Great Promise
Now perfumes the next decade of our beads

She presented the Lord to the Temple
In keeping with the customs of the day
Isn't Mary rose to be admired
For though now God's mother,
the Mosaic law she obeyed

With a heavy heart she looked for her Son
Frightened at what might have been
Her concern for Jesus a memorable rose
Reserved for her in a decade of our beads.

Somewhere in the story of the Passion
Was Mary in the Garden of Gethsemane
For she shared in the sorrows of a Saviour
In purple agony...

In heaven's high garden of paradise
Before the throne of God
A purple rose forever blows
Pleading for us sinners at the foot of the Cross

The beauty of the rose is unequalled
And in glory excelled by none
Mary the mystical rose of creation
Was assumed into heaven after her son.

As the Queen of heaven she now reigns
Wearing a crown of roses on her forehead
A bunch of roses' donning her feet
Isn't the rose a tribute to Mary indeed?

The Rosary she begs us to recite
Carrying it with her in her apparitions bright
With prayer, penance and sacrifice
She promised the conversion of sinners will be in sight.

May God be praised all luminous
As Light from Light descends
Transforming the waters of Baptism
To be a vessel of light and of grace.

Jesus was so bathed in the Jordan
At the hands of His Blessed forerunner
While God sent His Holy Dove
To proclaim His divinity in person.

The wedding at Cana was the first miracle

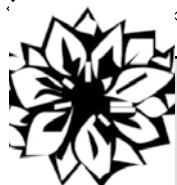


Jesus performed at His mother's request
"Do whatever He says" she told the servants
And this remains to us, her all time request.

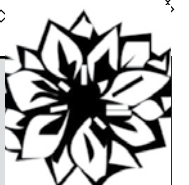
Behold the Kingdom of God is at Hand
Jesus proclaimed to His disciples
They will be blessed who believe in His Word
For He now reigns with God our Father.

The Transfiguration was a rare event
Where Jesus revealed His Divinity
As it was witnessed with amazement
By the Apostle who stood by His Side.

The Holy Eucharist Jesus instituted
Is the greatest miracle He performs in our midst
Bestowing upon us the promises
And the treasures of His Kingdom.



Perfection is attained by slow degrees; it
requires the hand of time - *Voltaire*



Young World

Champions after eight years



Good Shepherd Convent emerged champions after a period of eight years at the All-Island Schools' Basketball Championship held last month at St. Joseph's Girls' School, Nugegoda. The final was played between the teams of St. Joseph's Girls' School and Good Shepherd Convent, Kotahena.

The game was both exciting and tense. At the end of the last quarter the score was 56-56. With a further five minutes granted for play the final score was 64-61.

Nirma Sasanthi was adjudged 'The Best Player' of the tournament with 29 points.

Literary Festival at Bopitiya



The Kituyatra Writers' Association of Bopitiya, Pamunugama held a literary festival for the first time at Pamunugama Maha Vidiyalaya.

The Chief Guest was Rev. Fr. Shantha Sagara Hettiarachchi, Editor, *Gnanaratha Pradeepaya*. Picture shows a young winner receiving his certificate.

C. R. Dickson Antony

First Holy Communion at Katuwapitiya Parish



Twenty two children from the Sunday School of St. Sebastian's Church, Katuwapitiya (English Medium) received First Holy Communion recently.

The children are seen in a group photograph with the teachers, Principal Mrs. Manel Perera, Parish Priest, Rev. Fr. Srilal Fonseka, Assistant Parish Priest Rev. Fr. Nadeeka Manchanayaka and Rev. Fr. Ivan de Soya (OFM Cap).

Agnes Siyambalapitiya

First Holy Communion at St. Anne's Church - Miriswatta



Eighteen children, of St. Anne's Church Miriswatta received First Holy Communion recently. The Chief Celebrant was the Parish Priest Rev. Fr. Kirul Jayanath Silva.

Picture shows the First Holy Communicants with the Rev. Fathers, Rev. Sisters and the teachers of the Sunday School.

Thilina Nimalshantha

Talent Contest for Tiny Tots



Archdiocesan Catholic Education Commission organised a talent contest for tiny tots in the Archdiocese Catholic nurseries at St. Joseph's College Hall, Grandpass. Picture shows the winners of the dancing competition, Good Shepherd Convent, Panadura.

Kumara

First Holy Communion at Ragama Parish



Eleven children from the Parish of Ss. Peter and Paul English Catechism School Ragama received First Holy Communion on Saturday October 11, presided by Rev. Fr. Mahendra Gunatillake, Director Colombo Catholic Press, together with the Parish Priest, Rev. Fr. Francis Jayakody.

Carl Taylor

First Holy Communion at Kalutara Parish



Twenty Five children from the Parish of Holy Cross, Kalutara received First Holy Communion recently. The children are seen here in a group photograph with the Parish Priest and Staff of the Sunday School.

Surali Cooray

Promoting Spirituality in Children



On the initiative of the Principal of St. Thomas' College, Kotte, a statue of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, mounted on a specially-made pedestal was constructed in the College premises to promote the spiritual development of the students. This was blessed and declared open by His Lordship Rt. Rev. Dr. Maxwell Silva, Auxiliary Bishop of Colombo. The Principal, Rev. Fr. Nilantha Uduwaka while offering his grateful thanks to His Lordship also thanked Mr. Chamal, Director of Messrs New Anthony for their generosity in presenting the statue.

English with Fun and Entertainment

Dear Readers,

In our 49th lesson, we read a lot about St. Teresa of Avila, read the scene 11 of the visit to Sri Lanka and learnt some hints about punctuation marks.

In this lesson you will learn about St. Jude Thaddeus, do some punctuation exercises and role play the scene of the conversation of foreigners visiting Sri Lanka.

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

Activity 1: Read the text and answer the questions given



St Jude Thaddeus

St Jude known as Thaddeus was a brother of St. James the Less and a relative of Our (i)Saviour. He was one of the twelve (ii)Apostles of Jesus. Ancient writers tell us that he preached the Gospel in Judea, Samaria, Idumaea, Siriya, Mesopotamia and Lybia. According to Eusebius he returned to Jerusalem in the year 62 and assisted at the election of his brother St. Simeon as Bishop of Jerusalem. According to tradition Saint Jude suffered (iii)martyrdom about 65 AD together with the apostle Simon the Zealot. He was axed to death.

According to the New Testament, Jude was one of the twelve apostles of Jesus. He is identified with Thaddaeus is often called Jude of James, Jude Thaddeus, Judas Thaddaeus or Lebbaeus. He is sometimes identified with Jude the brother of Jesus but is clearly distinguished from Judas Iscariot the apostle who (iv) betrayed Jesus prior to his crucifixion.

The Armenian Apostolic Church honours Thaddaeus along with St. Bartholomew as its patron saints. The feast day of St Jude Thaddaeus falls on October 28 and he is the patron of Desperate Cases.



Saint Thaddeus Armenian Monastery

"O Holy St Jude!
Apostle and Martyr, great in virtue and rich in miracles, near kinsman of Jesus Christ, faithful intercessor for all who invoke you, special patron in time of need; to you I have recourse from the depth of my heart, and humbly beg you, to whom God has given such great power, to come to my assistance; help me now in my urgent need and grant my earnest petition. I will never forget thy graces and favors you obtain for me and I will do my utmost to spread devotion to you. Amen."

Task; Read the text above and answer the questions

- (i)What do the ancient writers tell us about St. Jude
- (ii)Why did he return to Jerusalem in the year 62?
- (iii)When was he killed?
- (iv)How was he killed?
- (v)From whom is Jude of Thaddeus distinguished?
- (vi)Learn words with delicate shades

of meaning to the words underlined in the text. Saviour - rescuer, redeemer, deliverer, protector

Apostles -advocates, supporters, promoters, champions

martyrdom death, killing, slaughter, torture execution

betrayed deceived, grassed, handed over, let down

intercessor intermediary, arbitrator, negotiator, mediator



Symbol of his martyrdom

Activity 2: English Punctuation

Punctuations are symbols used to organize sentence structures. They are standard marks and signs in writing to separate words into sentences, clauses, and phrases in order to clarify meaning. The most commonly used punctuations in the English language are:

- (i) period, (ii) comma, (iii) colon, (iv) semicolon, (v) apostrophe, (vi) question mark, (vii) exclamation mark,(viii) dash, (ix) hyphen, and (x) parentheses.

Period [.] full stop (.) The period is the most basic punctuation mark. Its function is to separate one sentence from another. It is used at the end of a complete sentence. It is also used in abbreviations.

Examples

- a) Paris is the capital of France.

- b) He was born in Hungary, but now he lives in England.
- c) The accessibility of the computer has increased tremendously over the past several years.

The period is also used to show that certain words are abbreviated.

- a) He works from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- b) There are a lot of places to visit in the U.K.

Activity 2: Read the text and mark the full stop at the end of each sentence. Begin the first word of each sentence with a capital letter.

punctuations are symbols they are used in various languages to organize sentence structures they indicate the vocal rhythm and emphasis of words, phrases, and sentences the most commonly used punctuations in the English language are period, comma, colon, semicolon, apostrophe, question mark, exclamation mark, dash, hyphen, and parentheses

2) Comma [,]: The comma is usually used to separate words, phrases, or part sentences. It creates separation and pauses in sentences. It indicates a break or pause. (,)

- a) Mary bought a t-shirt, a pair of jeans, and a handbag.
- b) He came home, changed his clothes, and went out with his friends.
- c) When he was driving to work, he realized that he left his briefcase at home

Activity 3: Insert the comma and the full stop where necessary.

- (i)Siripala the butcher is dead
- (ii)High and low rich and poor weak and strong all must die
- (iii)Captain with all thy faults I love thee still
- (iv)I know what you said why you said so and where you said so.
- (v)He has three sisters I none.

Activity 4: Mr. and Mrs. Stefans visiting Sri Lanka - Scene three- Read aloud with the teacher with correct stress and intonation and play the roles of the characters.

Anna : Is the car repaired?
Stefan: Yes. It is Mr. Marin Baas soon fixed it.
Upali : In Sinhala Mr. Stefans the word 'baas' is not a name.It is the term for a mechanic or a skilled worker.
Stefan: Oh! I see. I thought it was his name.
Anna: What was wrong with the car?
Stefan: Anna. It was a petrol block.
Upali : Mr. Stefan this is my sister Neetha. Akka this is Mr. Stefans.
Stefan: How do you do ?
Neetha : How do you do ? I was just going to offer Mrs. Stefans a cool drink. Would you like some 'Thambili'?
Stefan :Yes please I would love some .. thambili. That's the water of the young red coconut. Isn't it.
Neetha : Yes. That's right Ms. Stefan would you like some.
Anna : Yes. Please. Thank you.
Upali : I hear you are on your way to Arugam Bay. It's a nice place.
Anna : Yes we've heard about from some friends of ours
Derek : And we are looking forward to seeing elephants there.
Upali : You can see a plenty of elephants at Lahugala near Arugam Bay.I have seen herds of forty or more there.
Anna: I hope we'll be as lucky as you are.
Neetha : Where are you going to stay?
Anna : We hope we'll be able to stay at the rest house there.
Upali : The rest house is right by the sea. Do you like sea bathing?
Stefan : Yes. I hear it is sometimes dangerous there.
Upali :Yes. It is dangerous at certain times of the year. But I think it is safe now.
Stefan : Well I'm afraid we'll have to go now. Thank you very much for your help.
Anna: Yes. And thank you Neetha for your hospitality.
Neetha : We are pleased to have met you.
Upali :I hope you'll have a good holiday.
A &S: Good bye
U&N: Good bye

Activity 1 Answers: Ancient writers tell us that he preached the Gospel in Judea, Samaria, Idumaea, Siriya, Mesopotamia and Lybia. According to Eusebius he returned to Jerusalem in the year 62 and assisted at the election of his brother St. Simeon as Bishop of Jerusalem.) (ii) He returned to Jerusalem in the year 62 and assisted at the election of his brother St. Simeon as Bishop of Jerusalem) (iii) (about 65 AD) (iv)(He was axed to death. (v) ?(is clearly distinguished from Judas Iscariot the apostle who betrayed Jesus prior to his crucifixion

Activity 2 : answers Activity 2 - answer - Punctuations are symbols they are used in various languages to organize sentence structures. They indicate the vocal rhythm and emphasis of words, phrases, and sentences. The most commonly used punctuations in the English language are period, comma, colon, semicolon, apostrophe, question mark, exclamation mark, dash, hyphen, and parentheses.**Activity 3: answers** i)Siripala the butcher, is dead (ii)High and low, rich and poor, weak and strong, all must die.(iii)Captain, with all thy faults, I love thee still.(iv)I know what you said, why you said so, and where you said so. (v) He has three sisters, I, none.

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Spend time in learning the language

Rev. Fr. Gemunu Dias, addressing the English Day at St. Joseph's College, Colombo gave the children some very important tips to learning English. Excerpts of the speech follow:

Have your role models for learning English. There are some who can truly inspire us to take the correct track in life. They are the people whom we must emulate in life. This is not to blindly imitate anyone but by learning from others. You may not have to have Nelson Mandela or Martin Luther or Abraham Lincoln or Winston Churchill as your role model. There may be simple people who may touch your life. They may be from your community itself but it is essential that you are well conversant with the language. Winston Churchill, in fact, once said, "Of all the gifts bestowed upon man, none is so precious as the gift of oratory ..." Our intention is not to become world renowned orators but be able to comfortably converse, clearly and accurately.

Set aside some time to learn English. If there is no genuine effort on your side, it is rather impossible to learn a language that is alien to you. It may be just one hour a day. Spend that hour in serious immersion of

learning the language. Read a book or a paper. Listen to a good speaker. Learn new phrases and words. Go to the dictionary and learn different usages of the same phrase. Write them down in a book. Frequently refresh yourself for new learning. This will help you to improve your writing abilities.

Avoid intended and intentional mistakes in English. I refer to the art of sending SMS. We are living in a short message society. You want to send so many messages within a very short span of time and you have a way to write them in a double quick manner. When you want to say "Thank you," you have a way to say that. When you want to say, "I do not know," you have a way to say that. As a result of getting used to this type of habitual texting, you write the same type of wrong language in your answer scripts for the term test. I have seen some of you writing the same type of language in your note books. It is rather difficult for you to write Y-O-U, but you rather write something else. If you are a true lover of the English Language, you would never even think of distorting it. Give up this bad habit.

Take into account the opportunities given to you. St. Joseph's College is an oasis of opportunities to learn English. Having spent 13 long years in College, if you go back home empty-handed without learning English, you have only simply wasted your time and opportunities. Take into serious consideration every little opportunity that is availed to you to master the language.

Finally, before I conclude, I am reminded of the very last sentences I shared with you in my farewell speech. By that time, I had already spent a few days in my new assignment at the Wattala Branch and came here from there for the farewell ceremony. I was sharing my experiences with you and said that, that I saw the same uniform, same monogram, same College Crest and the same flag even in my new assignment. I told you that I heard the same College Anthem and the same hymn to St. Joseph. Having spent my time there for so few many months, I now realize one difference. The difference is not only between the two Colleges, it is a difference between you and rest of all the Colleges Most probably, you are the best.. when it comes to ENGLISH. Thank you, thank you very much and may God bless you!

It is Important that Young people receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, to spread the faith and live as true Christians - Pope Francis



"It is important that young people receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, through which one receives the Holy Spirit and is thus more firmly united to Christ and to the Church, to spread the faith and live as true Christians."

Pope Francis dedicating his General Audience to the Sacrament of Confirmation, said so in the third in the series on the Sacraments. He addressed twenty thousand people present at the General Audience, despite a cold and rainy day, about which he also joked. "In these past few Wednesdays we have been blessed from heaven half way through the audience, but you are brave, onwards!"

"Confirmation," the Pope went on to explain, "is to be understood in continuity with Baptism, to which it is inseparably linked. These two Sacraments, together with the Eucharist, form a unique salvific event - Christian initiation - in which we become part of Jesus Christ who died and rose again and in which we become new creatures and members of the Church.

"The term Confirmation," the Holy Father continued, reminds us that this Sacrament brings an increase of baptismal grace: It unites us more

firmly to Christ: It completes our bond with the Church: It grants us the special strength of the Holy Spirit to spread and defend the faith, to confess the name of Christ and never to be ashamed of His Cross. This is why it is important to take care that our children, our young people receive this Sacrament. We all take great care that they are baptized and this is good! But perhaps we were less concerned for them to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation: Thus they are stuck in the middle of the journey: This Sacrament is very important in Christian life, because it gives us the strength to go on! Let us think about this, each of us: Do we really care about our children and our young people and that they receive the Sacrament of Confirmation? This is important. If you have children at home, teenagers who have not yet received it and are old enough to receive it, do everything possible to bring this Christian initiation to completion, so that they may receive the power of the Holy Spirit. It is also important to offer a good preparation to those receiving it, which should aim to lead them to a personal commitment to faith in Christ and to awaken in them a sense of belonging

to the Church.

The Holy Father said that Confirmation, like every Sacrament is not the work of men, but of God, who takes care of our lives to mould us in the image of His Son, to enable us to love Him as He does us this by instilling in us His Holy Spirit, the action of which pervades the whole person and all of his or her life, as reflected by the seven gifts - wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety and fear of God".

When we welcome the Holy Spirit into our hearts we let Him act,

Christ makes Himself present in us and takes shape in our lives. Through us, Christ will pray, forgive, infuse hope and consolation, serve our brothers and sisters, be close to the needy and to the lost, create community, sow peace. Just think about how important this is: That through the Holy Spirit, Christ Himself will do all this in the midst of us and for us! So it is important that children and young people receive this Sacrament"

*Courtesy: Among Ourselves
Diocese of Kandy*

Match the first column with second
(Answers next week)

Quiz

Know your Bible

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. The brother God preferred | A. Sarah |
| 2. Will produce abundantly | B. Jacob |
| 3. Held court hearings | C. Sanhedrin |
| 4. Work of those chosen | D. Martha |
| 5. Where Samson died | E. Planned death of Uriah |
| 6. Secret disciple | F. Jerusalem's restoration |
| 7. Anxious and upset sister | G. Jesus Christ |
| 8. God's oath to Abraham | H. Philistine temple |
| 9. Foolishness in the eyes of God | I. who live in Christ |
| 10. Is better than sacrifice | J. Joseph of Arimathea |
| 11. Tobiah married her | K. obedience |
| 12. Respected teacher of law | L. land and descendants |
| 13. Took Mary into his care | M. Gamaliel |
| 14. Told in Book of Ezra | N. choosing whom God favors |
| 15. God's freedom | O. Jacob stole his blessing |
| 16. Esau's grudge | P. Israel's widowhood |
| 17. Told in Lamentations | Q. Israel's freedom |
| 18. Named our only salvation | R. Jesus' beloved disciple |
| 19. Recorded in Exodus | S. Wisdom of this world |
| 20. Displeased God | T. go forth and bear fruit |

Courtesy: Liguorian