Servant of God Thomas Cardinal Cooray, an epoch making Shepherd of the Church

His Lordship Rt. Rev. Dr. Winston Fernando, SSS

Servant of God Thomas Cardinal Cooray was an epoch making Shepherd of the Church, who led the flock towards sanctity in following the footsteps of Jesus. Using his inimitable language filled with compassion, His Eminence true to His Episcopal Motto “to serve, not to be served” brought about a renewal of the Church at the time”, said His Lordship Rt. Rev. Dr. Winston Fernando SSS, Bishop of Badulla and President of Catholic Bishops’ Conference in Sri Lanka in his homily at the 30th Commemorative Holy Mass of the Servant of God Thomas Cardinal Cooray celebrated at the Basilica of Our Lady of Lanka, Tewatte on October 27, 2018.

The Holy Mass was presided over by His Eminence Malcolm Cardinal Ranjith, Archbishop of Colombo and concelebrated by His Lordship Rt. Rev. Dr. Maxwell Silva, Auxiliary Bishop of Colombo, His Lordship J. D. Anthony, Auxiliary Bishop of Colombo,

"Servant of God Thomas Cardinal Cooray, an epoch making Shepherd of the Church"

CR Dickson Anthony and Roshan Pradeep

CARDIJN DAY 2018

Chief Guest: His Lordship Rt. Rev. Dr. J. D. Anthony Jayakody, Auxiliary Bishop of Colombo.
Venue: St. Joseph’s College, Colombo 10.
Date: November 10, 2018
Time: 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Organised by: YCS Chaplain and Archdiocesan YCS Committee.

Rev. Fr. Ranjith de Mel
Parish: Bakmeegolla, Kurunegala (First Diocesan Priest Son)
Ordained: July 16, 1981
Pastoral Ministry: Assistant at Polonnaruwa; Parish Priest at Kekirawa, Nochchiyagama, Anuradhapura and Palugasandana; Dean of Polonnaruwa; Diocesan Director of Lay Apostolates, Youth, Catechetics, Family Apostolate and Kristu Shanthi Foundation; Vicar General, Procurator and Consultant Member of Diocese of Anuradhapura
Died: October 27, 2018
Burial: St. Joseph’s Cathedral grounds, Anuradhapura on October 30, 2018

May he rest in peace.
World Food Day at CARITAS/SEDEC

The World Food Day was celebrated at the Auditorium of CARITAS Co-lombo. Minister of Agriculture, Hon. Mahinda Amarawansa was invited to the event as Chief Guest by Rev. Fr. Mahendra Gunatilleke, Director CARITAS/SEDEC. The Diocesan Directors and officers of CARITAS made presentations on their field work.

Hon. Minister, addressing the gathering, lauded the valuable Community Services of CARITAS extended to farmer families and low income families. The Norwegian Ambassador and his team too participated in the event which ended with a Video presentation on the activities of the CARITAS/SEDEC.

H. A. Caldera

The Radiance of Blessed Virgin Mary is Everlasting

“The Radiance of the Blessed Virgin mother is forever and will never fade. Michael Angelo who sculpted the PIETA depicted a Younger Lady keeping the Body of Our Lord at 33 years of age on her lap, taken from the Cross. When queried why he sculpted Mother Mary so young the Famous Sculptor replied that Our Lady, born a virgin, would keep her Radiance forever.” said Rev. Fr. Sanath Fernando, CSSR, Rector of Sancta Maria Institute in Kandy, in his homily during the 123rd Annual Festive Holy Mass of St. Mary’s Church at Yatiyantota. Continuing Rev. Fr. Sanath said that they should give thanks to God for the immense blessings bestowed on the Parish and to the Blessed Mother for Her Maternal Protection given to the Parishioners during a period of 123 years.

The Festive Holy Mass was presided over by Rev. Fr. Anselm Shiran, Rector, St. Nicholas’ International School, Negombo and was concelebrated by Rev. Fr. Anton Sreyan, Director, Sethmini Ratnapura Diocese, Very Rev. Fr. Damian Fernando, Vicar General of Ratnapura Diocese, Rev. Fr. M. Sawariraja, Assistant Parish Priest, Kegalle and Rev. Fr. Jesuraja Silva, Assistant Parish Priest, Yatiyantota.

Edward Kumaranagan

SVP Silver Jubilee of Ragama Deanery

The Silver Jubilee of St. Vincent De Paul Society of the Ragama Deanery was held recently at the Church of St. Andrew’s, Kadawatha. The Silver Jubilee Holy Mass was concelebrated by Rev. Fr. Sarah Tiririmamane, Dean of the Ragama Deanery, Very Rev. Fr. Bertram Ranjith, Episcopal Vicar for the Archdiocesan Apostolates (Charity) and Rev. Fr. Shanthisagar Heetiariachchi, Parish Priest of Kadawatha. Rev. Fathers and SVP Members appeared for a group photograph on the occasion.

C.R. Dickson Anthony

Requiem Holy Masses

Holy Family Convent, Bambalapitiya

Requiem Mass in remembrance of Rev. Sisters, Teachers, Support Staff and Families who passed away will be held at the School Chapel, on Saturday 10th November 2018, at 7.00 a.m.

C.R. Dickson Anthony

Bharatha Ladies Forum AGM

AGM of Bharatha Ladies Forum is scheduled on Saturday November 10, at 4.00 p.m. at the YWCA, Rotunda Gardens, Colombo 3.

Those interested may reserve seats by calling 0777289750 or 0773000716. Entrance free.

November 4, 2018

117th Feast of Holy Rosary Church, Andiambalama

The 117th annual Feast of Holy Rosary Church at Andiambalama was celebrated recently, presided over by Rev. Fr. Ruwananda Mendis, former Parish Priest of Kimbulapitiya, currently engaged in Missionary work in the United States. In the picture Rev. Fr. Ruwananda Mendis is being received at the Church by Rev. Fr. Ruwan Reid Liyanage, Parish Priest, Andiambalama, on the former’s arrival.

Pic. T. Sunil Fernando

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Pic. T. Sunil Fernando

Peralanda Elders’ Society on Tour

The 2018, one day annual Tour and Pilgrimage of St. Joseph’s Elders’ Society of Peralanda to Tanjantenna, took place recently. The Catholic members participated at the Holy Mass celebrated at St Mary’s Church, at Tanjantenna whilst the Buddhist members participated in religious observances at Tanjantenna Temple.

C. R. Dickson Anthony

Negombo Christmas Zone

The Negombo Catholic Rights Protection Committee, presided over by Very Rev. Fr. Ciswan de Croos, Episcopal Vicar, Negombo Region, decided to conduct a Christmas Zone at Green’s Park, Negombo during the period 20th to 22nd December, 2018. It will include Carol Singing, Christmas Chorographic dance items and Instrumental Music by the Army Band. All members of the Negombo Municipal Council will assist.

Meenyn de Costa

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“...and keep, throughout the days of your lives, all his statutes and commandments” (Deuteronomy 6,2)
The canonization of Archbishop Oscar Romero of El Salvador who was shot and killed while he was celebrating the Eucharist brings to mind the similarity of circumstances under which he was martyred and that of Fr. Michael Rodrigo of Madagascar who was shot and killed while celebrating the Eucharist brings to mind the similarity of circumstances under which he was martyred.

The canonization of Fr. Michael Rodrigo of Madagascar was celebrated on November 4, 2018. I am indebted to the blog from which I obtained the following information to mark his 31st death anniversary which falls on 10th November. Although the Catholic Church has not officially proclaimed him as a saint, I believe whoever suffers martyrdom for his or her faith stands worthy of being immediately made so, by virtue of this Cause in Thomistic language. We are responsible for the effect of our actions. If the action is based on goodness, it will churn out only goodness in the long run, if the action has been evil, the outcome also tends to be evil.

Goodness is, in other words, the child of good deeds and misfortune and calamities are the children of evil. If we do good, even if it doesn’t yield proper results immediately, we can certainly expect good outcome of it in the future. This wants us to check our actions whenever they tend to be evil or harmful to others. Before we act, let us window with a clear conscience, thus making our lives smooth and cheerful. In short, goodness will always bear goodness in our life, in the wonderful plan of God, who turns potentiality into actuality.

To buttress our point further, we shall now turn to an example from the world of politics, which stands in stark contrast to that of Fleming and Churchill. That’s Herod the Great. He is known in history as a builder as well as a killer. It was true that he, as King of Jews, carried out colossal and ambitious building projects throughout Judea, including his expansion of the Second Temple in Jerusalem (i.e. Herod’s Temple for which he employed 1,000 priests as masons and carpenters to comply with the Law), the construction of the Temple Mount, the port at Caesarea which used the latest technology in hydraulic cement and underwater construction, the fortresses at Masada, Herodium, Alexandrium, Hircania and Machaerus and the Gentile cities like Sebaste.

Nevertheless Herod has also garnered criticism from scholars and historians as a tyrant and brutal killer. In the language of Jewish Encyclopedia: “He was of commanding presence, he excelled in physical exercises; he was a skillful diplomatist; and, above all, he was prepared to commit any crime in order to gratify his unbounded ambition.” The Gospel of Matthew records this as a crime, namely the Massacre of the Innocents (2,16-18).

Other than the Infants, Herod had executed several members of his own family, including his wife Mariamne I (whom he married to secure his position) and his brother-in-law, three of his sons, 300 military leaders, and many others, as recorded by the Jewish historian, Flavius Josephus in Antiquities of the Jews.

Let us meditate on some of his thoughts:

“... which I enjoin on you, and thus have long life” (Deuteronomy 6,2)

**to a time the country is at sixes and sevens, we must admit that I have not had the privilege of living for my father, he had saved. “I want to repay you,” said the nobleman. “You saved my son’s life.” “No, I can’t accept pay-ment for what I did,” the Scottish farmer replied proudly. “I’ll make you a deal. Let me take him and give him a good educa-tion. If the lad is anything like his father, he’ll grow up to be a man you can be proud of.” And Farmer Fleming agreed.

As it turned out, in time, Fleming’s son graduated from St. Mary’s Hospital Medical School in London as a doctor. One day the nobleman’s son stepped out and introduced himself as the father of the boy he had saved. “I want to repay you,” said the nobleman. “You saved my son’s life.” “No, I can’t accept pay-ment for what I did,” the Scottish farmer replied proudly. “I’ll make you a deal. Let me take him and give him a good educa-tion. If the lad is anything like his father, he’ll grow up to be a man you can be proud of.” And Farmer Fleming agreed.

What happened at the end to this para-noid killer who removed all his opponents, both actual and potential? Herod died in Jericho. But prior to this, he underwent an excruciatingly pain-ful, purifying illness of uncertain cause, known in Employee Morale as “Herod’s Evil”. Josephus states that the pain of his illness led Herod to attempt suicide by stabbing, though the attempt was thwarted by his cousin: “When he had got the knife, he looked about, and had a mind to stab himself with it. And he would have done it, had not his first cousin Achiaurus prevented him, and held his hand, and cried out loudly:” He also suffered with the feeling that none would feel his death (Josephus states that Herod was so concerned that no one would mourn his death, that he commanded a large group of distinguished men to come to Jericho, and he gave an order that they should be killed at the time of his death so that the displays of grief that he craved would take place; but his son Archelaus and his sister Salome did not carry out this wish). This was the legacy Herod had left behind of him-self: “A man he was of great barabbary towards all men equally; and a slave to his passion: but above all the consideration of what was right” (Antiquities, Josephus). What goes around comes around! Accordingly it is high time that all leaders and politicians of the country get hold of these moral values and political interests and abide by the Constitution of the country, as rightly appealed by the Catholic Bishop’s Conference. Let them learn from the proverbial story and respect the moral values and political interests of our culture. Since what goes around comes around, it is better that we, leaders and citizens alike, be guided by the Golden Rule: “Do to others whatever you would have them do to you” (Luke 6,31).

Our actions whenever they tend to be evil or harmful to others. Before we act, let us window with a clear conscience, thus making our lives smooth and cheerful. In short, goodness will always bear goodness in our life, in the wonderful plan of God, who turns potentiality into actuality. It is better that we, leaders and citizens alike, be guided by the Golden Rule: “Do to others whatever you would have them do to you” (Luke 6,31). If we act in this manner, then we shall be able to better the lot of the peasants, awakening the poor to a consciousness of their worth and the possibility of their salvation. While we have been suffering from this, the most brutal killer of them all, Herod, was assassinated while celebrating an evening Mass in his little chapel, on November 10, 1983. From a window behind the altar; an unknown gunman shot him dead at point-blank range.

Let us meditate on some of his thoughts:

- I am a Buddhist by culture and a Christian by religion.
- My mother died when I was very young. I did not know what to do. I was just going around. I felt lost and directionless. I did not know where I was going and I was lost in the abiding love and respect. This is an incident that cannot be forgotten but is worthy of being held in high esteem in the depths of our hearts as there is no better place to suffer martyrdom and be the Ahakai Sacrifice during which we commemorate the death of our Blessed Savour who gave himself for us with the words “Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends” (Jn 15:13).

31st Anniversary of Death

“... which I enjoin on you, and thus have long life” (Deuteronomy 6,2)
The Bible is the most read Book among Filipinos

I

n predominantly Catholi
c Philippines, the Bible remains the most widely read book. A readership survey by the government’s National Book Development Board revealed that 72 percent of those surveyed said the Bible was their most read book in the past year. A similar survey done by the agency in 2012 showed that 58 percent of respondents claimed that the Good Book was their most read book. It was also the top choice in all age brackets.

Evangelical Bishop Op. Noel Pantoja, chairman of the Philippine Bible Society, welcomed the “good news.” It reveals the news “is very positive,” said Bishop Bastes of Sorso

philippines is “a God
cial Churches. He said the prelate of the Philip
try and around the world,” read Duterte’s Procla

mation No. 124. The Philip

pple leader said history bears witness to the “pro
dound impact of the Bible on the life of nations.”

The result of the readership survey, which was released late last month, also revealed that Filipinos still love reading, with 80 percent of those polled saying they read books. Among read

ers, however, the price of books is a concern, with most respondents saying they prefer to spend only about US$4 for a book.

The dead are to be prayerfully remembered throughout the year

C

ertain months of past years are usually named with some attribu
tions; the month of May is called the month of flowers. The recitation of the Rosary is associ

ated with the month of October. December is the month of Our Lady of Rosary. February

is considered the shortest due to its number of days compared to other months in the year, sometimes it is obvious that people (includ

even the Christian faithful) do not intend to decide to have the impor

tant events in their life’s journey in that month due to a kind of pessimis
t mentalty.

In this process of things, November is considered a month as a month of the dead. The departed dear ones in a special way re

curred down the earth and thus it invites us to ponder over the dead more than any other months in the year. November is coupled with certain other aspects such as Almsgivings in remembering the dead, the act of giving to the cemetery is thou

g of and a number of holy masses we offered for them. Surprisingly, a sort of devotion in rela

tion to their deceased dear ones is generated at once. Comparatively the number of holy masses would increase unusu

ally, yet the unique char

acteristic of the holy mass is to be marked since it is the sacrifice and the summit of Christian life. Thus, through the active participation in the Holy Eucharist, the Christian vocation derived from the sacrament of Baptism could be more and more strengthened. Sometimes, the month of November is made related to the daily routine of the faithful as if it is not related at all with the gift of faith. Almsgiv

ing in honour of the de

cased is a noble act, yet the same act could be sur

pressed if it is done with due respect and love shown to them in their earthly career. Perhaps there is no harm of interpreting Almsgiv

ing as the effort made to console their voice-out and troubled hearts. Their purposefully neglected duties toward the deceased would echo in their lives. Almsgiv

ing could be also another turning-point to a great function which attracts people to make merry with eating and drinking. When it occurs, the sole purpose of the act would be in vain, thereby the same can be question

able.

If the genuine intention in the process of the act of almsgiving is solely based upon the need of the recipient, then undoubtedly it would be a pleasant offering before God the Father. A good deed of this sort is not expected to restrict only to the month of Novem

ber, it has to be exercised throughout the year. A Catholic cemetery simul

taneously becomes the centre of attention es

pecially in November. In fact, this is a pathetic situ

ation, people are expected to pay their due respects to their deceased dear ones very often, yet, it is not prohibited to be approached in other months too. Frequent vis

to its grave-yard of the near and dear ones with a new approach towards the due respect and love to the departed. The ten

dency is quite visible to neglect and abandon the cemetery in all months other than November.

What is out

wardly visible in a way leads us to ponder over our spiritual strengths at certain moments in life. Strictly speaking, death reaches always a real meaning in the Victorious Resur

rection of Jesus Christ. The Resurrection is fur

ther approved and certi

fied not with the mere empty tomb but with the solid Heavenly Message.” …

“...He has been raised, he is not here” (Mt 28:6).

Resurrection is indeed a mystery of faith, Jesus’ Resurrection is not the life given back to his dead body, yet undoubt
edly it is the Glorious Body which surpasses Time and Space (Catechism of the Catholic Church No.645), it invites the faithful to the Eternal Life (Jn 6:51, 1 Cor. 15:12-14). John Don

an suggests, “Death one day you have to face. Undoubtedly this expression is situated in the context of Jesus’ Resurrection. Death is a true phenomenon of life, yet in our faith, it is not the ‘full stop’, but only a comma’, since it is the Gate-

way to the Life-Eternal. For a Christian anointed with the Sacrament of Baptism, death is very op

timistic since it combines us to the Divine Presence (Catechism of the Catholic Church No.1610). “For me the living is Christ and dying is gain” (Phil. 1:21).

Concluding remark:

It could be no
tably recommended that the dead are to be remem

bered with the due re

spect throughout the year though they are given a special attention in No

vember.

“Then he called his son Tobias, and when he came to him he said, ‘My son, when I die, give me a proper burial, not only for your mother and do not Abandon her all the days of her life’ (Tobit 4:3).”

It could be culti

vated as a regular custom/ part and parcel of life. Prayerful rememberance is indeed vital and thus it is utmost important that it is given a special recogni

tion.

This is a picture taken in front the wonderful magni
ces chapel was initiated and completed within one year in 2010 within his most appreci

ated and admired tenure as the RECTOR of St. Sebas

tian’s College, Moratuwa by Fr. Bonnie. This chapel was built with the main intention of uplifting the charcters of the students by the spiritual growth of these young children of the College.

Assunta Mendis
Past Senior Teacher of St. Sebastian’s College

UCANews

November 4, 2018

The Messenger

Church in the Modern World

Picture of the Month

Rev. Fr. Bonnie Fernandopulle, of revered memory, with some students of St. Sebastian’s College, Moratuwa

COMMENTS

The picture of the month reminds me of a hymn from the Philip Neri’s Hymn book - Songs for Worship No. 103.

“We are One in Worship No. 103. Hymn book - Songs for Worship No. 103. the RECTOR of St. Sebas
tian’s College, Moratuwa by Sr. Ernest Alles

Dr. Maxie Fernandopulle

Rev. Fr. Indra Ratnasiri Fernando

"Hear then, Israel, and be careful to observe them …" (Deuteronomy 6,3)
Physical maturity or development is broadly dependent on environmental and hereditary factors. We cannot alter the hereditary factors. North Americans are tall and bigger made and we Sri Lankans are short and smaller made. Environmental factors can be physical and psychological which are dependent factors and they can be changed. Our growth will depend on adequate nutrition and care. Our children need adequate nutrition, good health and being free from recurrent illnesses. There should be adequate shelter, proper exercise and adequate rest, relaxation and communication between and among family members. His/her senses should be functioning normally. There should be good security and safety from dangers. Love is an essential component. It is called provision of proper “TLC” which stands for tender loving care. Lack of this factor has been established to make children shorter. Prevention of infectious diseases should be achieved by complete vaccination against infectious diseases. Bodily hygiene which includes genital hygiene is very important to remain free from disease in order to achieve good physical growth. A daily bath is a very useful way of remaining clean. A warm nose is not an infection and bathing should not be stopped. Remember there are dangers associated with food. Quite a number of food items that we buy are contaminated or spoilt or contain harmful materials or chemicals that hurt us and impede the physical growth and maturity. The other end of the nutritional scale is over-eating leading to obesity, that with the growth and acquiring of diseases of vital organs interfere with the maturity process.

Sexual development
This forms a very important part of the physical development when a child becomes an adolescent. This stage of physical maturity is called pubertal development. Puberty is the transitional period of development during which an individual matures from childhood to sexual and reproductive maturity. The major characteristics are which are the growth of hair around the sex organs, enlargement of breasts, growth of genital organs with the growth of groin hair.

2. Development of secondary sexual characteristics are which are the growth of hair around the sex organs, enlargement of breasts, growth of genital organs with the growth of groin hair.
3. Dramatic physical spurt of growth called the puberal spur of growth which takes place in many between 11 to 13 years. The earlier spur of growth is around 5 years.
4. Psychological changes leading to mental and emotional maturity.

Changes in a girl
The maturation of external genital organs of the female due to hormone oestrogen are seen as an increase in the thickness and the size of folds of the lips covering the genital opening; the labia majora under which lies the labia minora. The hymen or the virginity membrane of the vagina, the clitoris which is the little muscular structure lying above the internal genital opening enlarges and there are glands on the inner aspect of the vagina called vestibular glands starting to secrete mucoid material. Development of pubic hair starts in some areas especially around the pubis and the buttocks giving rise to the typical female shape, and her way of walking changes. There is also an associated change in behaviour. Her behaviour changes, she becomes conscious of her body appearance, spends extra time in front of the dressing table mirror. It is very important to remember that she is now fertile and the ability to get pregnant has to be reduced in mind, because the liberation of an egg or the ovum from her ovarian gland takes place about 14 days before the next first day of menstruation. The “attaining of age” or the menstruation where blood comes out of the female sexual opening starts to occur. This takes place monthly but at the beginning specially the date on which menstruation occurs can vary and the duration of the bleeding too can vary. There may be some discomfort, Menstruation is a normal event and not a matter to get worried or scared. The girl has to dress appropriately. Bathing is permitted.

Changes in a boy
There is the enlargement of his testicles with the growth of hair around the genital organs and the groin around 10 to 14 years. The growth spurt too takes place but at an age later than a girl. The male organ can get firm and erected and nocturnal fluid emissions is seen which is normal and not a reason to get worried. But purposeful causing to expel seminal fluid, what is referred to as masturbation is wrong and should be avoided. Remember a male from this age can make a female pregnant.

Another occasion when Christ gave the disciples the power to forgive or not to forgive (retain) sins.

Clear Teaching on Forgiveness
Jesus Christ not only taught about the forgiveness of sins, He even made it a point that one of the chief objectives of His mission (coming) was to forgive sins and to redeem sinners. When the Pharisees accused Jesus of eating with the tax collectors and sinners He told them, “I came not to call the righteous, but sinners”.

Pope Francis has also encouraged priests who are the administrators (ministers) of this sacrament to learn from this Sacrament of Reconciliation. “Often, we are also called on to witness genuine miracles of conversion. People who for months, sometimes years have been under the dominion of sin and who, like the prodigal son, come to their senses and decide to arise and return to the Father’s house (Luke 15:18), to implore His forgiveness. How beautiful it is to welcome these contrite brothers and sisters with the sanctifying embrace of the merciful Father, who loves us so much and holds a feast for every child that returns to Him with all his/her tears and merciful face. It makes it clear the joy of the father to receive his wayward son who is asking for reconciliation. “Let us eat and make merry for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found” (Luke 15:23-24).

Pope Francis says: “The Sacrament of Reconciliation is not only a means of obtaining pardon for our sins, it also gives us the grace and the strength to combat temptations to sin. The act of receiving the interior peace of assurance that our sins are forgiven and that we have been strengthened to combat temptations to sin in the future. The act of speaking our guilt and brokenness has a cathartic effect on our conscience. Pope Francis says: ‘...The sacrament of Reconciliation shows us the merciful face of God...once more let us place the Sacrament of Reconciliation at the center of our lives in such a way that it will enable people to touch the grandeur of God’s mercy with their own hands. For every penitent, it will be a source of true interior peace’”.

The quotations from Pope Francis were taken from his General Audiences and his writings in “Misericordiam Vultus.”

Rays of Hope singing alleluia!
Their earthly stains eternally spotless shine,
On every brow in light divine,
The gathered glories of His wounded love,
Rays of hope fill our gloomy days,
On every slanting hill.

We turn to our faith traditions to run our race,
For, on every brow in light divine,
Our race is not a fleeting scene,
Rays of hope fill our gloomy days,
Rays of hope fill our gloomy days.

On every brow in light divine,
On every brow in light divine,
The gathered glories of His wounded love,
Rays of hope fill our gloomy days,
Rays of hope fill our gloomy days.

The Crosses and challenges they withstood their test
Sealed with His Precious blood and won the promised rest.
*Cloud of witnesses* who accepted the Godly realism,
They shared their lives with others on Earth,
Now so now before the throne of God in heaven
They are linked with us to intercede for us here below,
Forever singing the glory of God – Alleluia Ame and

Rev. Sr. Fatimayani A.C.

*Concluded*
POPE FRANCIS: “MOTHER CHURCH SHALL NOT BE DIRTIED”

Rev. Fr. Daniel Icatlo

31st SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME: MEDITATION (Mark 12:28-34) Year B

By Rev. Fr. Nilindra Gunasekera sss

A special way. That is the reason why I said that he was not far from the kingdom of God. Peter says, “Master, this scribe was different from the other scribes whom we have encountered thus far. For, I recall how the scribes in Capernaum accused you of blasphemy when you healed the paralytic who had been lowered from the roof (Mark 2, 1-7). Then there were the scribes who came down to Capernaum from Jerusalem and had it said about you ‘You are the one who is teaching in the midst of demons’ (Mark 3:22; also cf. Mark 2,1). Thaddeus interjects, ‘At Capernaum some scribes joined the Pharisees and disputed with us for eating with defiled (Mark 7:1-22). There were others who disputed with us at the foot of the Mount of Transfiguration (Mark 9:14). Those here in Jerusalem have questioned your authority (Mark 11:27-28) after you cleansed the temple. Peter formulates the question, ‘Master, why do you act like this?’ (Mark 11:15). Jesus, unlike the scribes who will join the elders and the chief priests and condemn me to death (Mark 8:31; 10:33) as a blasphemer. There will also be many Gentiles who will love the Church then by comparison to be faithful children of hers. If some members are sick, we come to their aid. We do not lambast them but criticise them.”

(Contd on Pg. 15)
The Medieval Anchoress
The Recluse Living in Entombment

As a reaction to the increasing secularization in many developed countries, a growing interest in the studies that probe into the history of the Church is noticeable. This is especially in search of spiritual, intellectual ideals that can stimulate modern man’s thinking and living—which are otherwise not only by using criteria that are positivistic and scientific in nature. Among the most unique historical ideals of spiritual and intellectual significance, anchorism has become outstanding in arousing curiosity in contemporary scholarship. There are many possible reasons for it; among the ideals that characterize the anchoritic life as a deliberately solitary life of contemplation seem to perplex the anxious souls of the modern world whose absolute ideal is freedom and libertarianism. To this modern world of social networking, electronic media, cybernetics and robotics, the radical solitude of an anchorite is literally incomprehensible and unfathomable. Equally for those in search of the medieval woman’s philosophical prowess, the anchoress—her life, ideologies, texts and practices, form an indispensable source of information as evidence for radical paths of feminine freedom and wisdom.

Radical Solitude
What was an Anchoress? What sort of life did an anchoress lead in the Middle Ages? An anchoress was a woman who was walled into a cell to live a life of prayer and contemplation. Eymymologically anchorites, in Greek means the one who is attached, was retired from the world, usually consisting of a single small cell. The anchorites or anchorettes were similar to confinements of the hermits but rather than living alone in forests or caves, the anchorites lived within populated communities. The anchoress was often situated to the wall of a church and had no way to get out. As Sharon Connolly explains, to a modern liberalistic world like ours the life of an anchorite would appear strange if not horrific as a solitary existence in which the person was physically cut off from the world, while still being a part of it. It was not a way of life that was taken lightly by the Church since not only was it opposed to that way of life. A person wanting to profess oneself as an anchorite had to go through a rigorous process to be assessed of that suitability which was verified through an interview with the bishop. Of particular concern was firstly the anchorite’s mental capacity and stability to deal with the solitude and limitation of human contact and then the person’s financial stability to support oneself. Many anchorites or anchorettes cut off all ties which was no more than a 12 feet square, contained three windows. One of these would open onto a parlour where a servant would be able to bring food and take away waste. Another, known as the ‘output’, was a small window that opened onto the church, allowing the anchoress to observe the Mass and partake of the Eucharist. The third window would open onto the outside world.

Once the Church endorses a person’s suitability, a specific ceremony was held to signify the end of the life they had previously known. An anchorite was effectively dead to the world. As they were led towards enclosure, a Requiem Mass would be sung for them and they would receive extreme unction reserved for the dying. They would be sprinkled with dust, to signify their burial, and then soon upon their entry into the cell the door will be bolted from the outside or walled up. Despite how extreme this may seem to us today, the anchoritic way of life seems to have been remarkably popular in the medieval period. Scholars have found that there were around 100 in England in the 12th century, and the figure swells to 200 from the 13th to 15th centuries. Breaking these numbers down by gender, we see that anchorities outnumbered anchorors from the 12th to 16th centuries: there were around twice as many female recluse in the 14th and 15th centuries and around three times as many in the 13th century. According to Mary Wellesley during the medieval period, hundreds of women have chosen this radical life of prayer and contemplation, shut up alone in a cell. Medieval textual evidence such as the anonymous Ancrene Wisse, Revelatia of Divine Love by Julian of Norwich and the Book of Margery Kempe can tell us quite vividly about the veracity of this unique way of life.

The Solitary Sages
Anchoresses were different from hermits, because they were attached to a church and thus were at the centre of community life. As shown in the epistle from Margery Kempe’s Book quoted above, anchorites and anchoresses often gave spiritual guidance to visitors. The word ‘anchoress’ means ‘to withdraw’, in many ways, they were not withdrawn because of how they were attached to their churches. The anonymous author of the Ancrene Wisse mentioned above is a guide for anchoresses—plays on the disparity between the word ‘anchor’ and ‘anchoress’. ‘The anchoress is called an ‘anchor’, and anchored under the church like an anchor under the side of a ship to hold the ship, so that waves and storms do not capsize it. Similarly Church (which is described as a ship) should anchor on the anchoress, for her to hold it so that the devil’s blasts, which are tempestations, do not blow it over.’ To choose the life of an anchoress was to choose asceticism – choosing to endure physical hardship in order to better contemplate God. Hence they saw the physical body primarily as dead to the world thus a sinful vessel that needed to be controlled through self-denial and discipline.

Enclosed Scholars
The majority of the day for anchoresses was taken up with prayer, reading and contemplation, thus giving them tremendous depth of introspective thought and insight on life, scripture and written texts. Even though their life was such due to their desire for solitude, their contemplative sagacity and stationary stay hardly allowed the outsiders leave them alone. Anchoresses would often receive visitors at their windows mostly requesting prayerful intercession. This was bad but also guidance, advice and counsel on matters pertaining to life, spirituality and morality. Aelred of Rievaulx in his De Institutione Inclusorum which he wrote as a guide for his sister who was an anchoress, “… in the 13th century guide for anchoresses Speculum Inclusorum advises that ‘Manual work, for its part, can lessen the fear of being left alone, and makes such anchoresses included the learned who did reading and writing spending considerable time in scholastic endeavours having access to books and even possessing them in their cells while being enclosed.

To choose a life of such restriction and such priestly life is grimly fascinating to us today, but what is particularly intriguing is why so many recluse were female in the period. Anchoresses would probably be of noble birth, and they were probably educated, so given the apparent opportunities which such women had, why were so many drawn to the enclosed life? Was a life in the solitude, freedom, high moral standards, and associations of childbirth, too frightening for some? Did they see the enclosed life as a route to some kind of spiritual authority at a time when women were not given prominence? (To be continued...)

All of Your Troubles will Vanish like Bubbles

I. Joe was a little boy, his birthday was two weeks away, he was longing for a mountain bike. He told his mother, “Mamma, please give me a mountain bike for my birthday”. “We’ll see” she said. The next day he was longing for a mountain bike. The next day he was longing for a mountain bike. He thought, I must not write lies to God. He crushed the letter put into the waste paper basket, ran down stairs and asked his mother “Mamma, may I go to church?” She thought he was getting better, and said “Go, don’t be so angry, and said “You are not a good boy, I am very obedient, I said “Nuns are not spinsters, they are married to God”. The Rev. Sister was very angry, she answered “I don’t have any rich relations, or brothers or sisters?” He asked “Have you any rich relations, or brothers or sisters?” He asked “Who is going to pay your hospital bill?” He did not answer her question. She asked him the next question. “Have you money in the bank?” He replied “No”. For she asked “Have you any rich relations, or brothers or sisters?” He answered “I have a sister, she is a nun, she is a spinster. The Rev. Sister was very angry, she said “Nuns are not spinsters, they are married to God”. The man said “That is good news. Ask your brother-in-law to pay the bill”.

R.S. Jesuthasan

“Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD alone!” (Deuteronomy 6,4)
Saint Charles Borromeo

By Rev. Fr. Maximilian Silva, Auxiliary Bishop of Colombo

Jesus, by the following words, empowered the Apostles who were His main disciples: “All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit” (Matthew 28:16-20). It is no secret that the Mission of Jesus thus undertaken by the empowered disciples has borne fruit throughout the entire world. This holy mission prevails and in the future will continue to spread by numerous means through the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Catholic Church takes forward that sacred mission entrusted to His Apostles by Jesus from that time onwards. It is indeed a non-challengeable certainty that the said apostolic mission will be achieved as per the divine will of Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit. It is no secret that during the Medieval Period in 1517 AD, the Protestant Reformation launched by Martin Luther brought about a division in the Catholic Church. It is also true that different religious sects and schisms were started beginning with the Reformation in the Church. In that background, His Holiness the Pope summoned all Pastors of the Church to the Tridentine Council to protect the Church from the Western Schism.

The Primary objective of the Council was to protect and strengthen the “Catholic faith” in the face of the Protestantism. Though the Council was convened twice, once due to events of nature and on another occasion due to human failings, it did not succeed. During that period, a Prince emerged from the city of Milan in Italy. He was none other than St. Charles Borromeo. St. Borromeo was born as the third child of the Aristocratic Borromeo family in the city of Milan in Italy. His father was Gilberto Borromeo and mother was Margarita de Medici who had many relatives in the Medici family of Milan. He was a gift of God to his parents. Born into a religious background, Charles followed the footsteps of his maternal uncle Giovanni Cardinal Angelo Medici (Later Pope Pius IV) and dedicated his life to the Church. In 1595 Cardinal Giovanni Angelo Medici was elected, and selected the name Pope Pius the IV. The Pope in consideration of the efforts of his nephew Charles, elevated him to the post of Cardinal at 22 years of age. Franciscans, Carmelites and Maltese Guards were then brought under his authority.

As the Tridentine Council had not achieved any success on two previous occasions, the Young Cardinal Charles was given responsibility to steer it to success. St. Charles spent 20 hours of the 24-hour day on his new responsibility and brought the Tridentine Council to a successful conclusion during the period 1562 to 1563 AD as per the wishes of Pope Pius IV. As a sign of allegiance to all segments of the Catholic Church, there was a solemn concurrence at the Tridentine Council, to use Latin as the language of the Church. As per the consensus of the Tridentine Council, Tridentine Catechetics was adopted.

Saint Borromeo was ordained a priest on September 4, 1563 and in the next year (1564), he was elected Archbishop of the Diocese of Milan at a very young age. The Diocese of Milan has a Roman Catholic Population of 800,000 in Milan with 3,000 Priests serving in the Diocese. To re-power the Catholic Church the necessity to elevate the spirituality of Priests and Religious was felt and the honour of starting seminaries goes to St. Charles Borromeo. Encouraging the painting of Biblical themes inside Churches was yet another initiative of the Saint. The contemporary paintings inside Churches in Sri Lanka in the 21st Century is also a result of St. Borromeo’s far-sighted initiatives. The present-day Sunday schools for Catechists is also a result of St. Borromeo’s dream becoming a reality. Yet another special event in the Diocese of Milan was the commencement of “Mission Sunday” in the 16th Century. He bravely declared that it is an obligation on the part of all Christians to take the Good News to all nations. The Sunday Schools he started in his Diocese were an indication of his conviction for the need of Christian living by the faithful.

During the major famine in Italy in the year 1576, there was an acute shortage of food and agricultural land became desolate and those who were in power deserted their people. Yet Arch-bishop Borromeo continued to stay with the people sharing his great accumulated wealth that he inherited with suffering people, made by being a living example of the Sacrificial Life of Jesus. His efforts in caring for the sick and feeding 60,000 to 70,000 is highly commendable. At the end he sent messages to all rulers who had abandoned their land and people and succeeded in bringing them back. He distributed all his inherited wealth to the poor and destitute with only what he was wearing left for him.

Though the name of St. Charles Borromeo is known in all countries of the world, in Sri Lanka it is not a popular name. Special consideration should be given to the Feast of St. Borromeo on 4th of November. The Church at Wilbawatta in Moratuwa is dedicated to this Saint. It is the tradition of the Church to nominate Saints for special tasks. He is the Patron Saint of students in the Seminaries and Spiritual Directors. He is also known as the Saint to whom those suffering from diseases of the intestine and throat/epiglottis pray for divine healing. There are Churches at Badagama and in Jaffna dedicated to the Saint.

Marcosri Homes

By Rev. Fr. Prasanna Christopher Perera

Marcosri Homes were started with the benevolence of Mrs. Rita Perera of Kalutara. After the death of her husband, she resorted to works of mercy, which turned her house "Marc- sri" (derived from Marc and Rita) to a shelter for the poor and the needy. She visited the poor in hospitals, took them home and cooked the meals for the poor of the Holy Spirit.

One day a man who had been discharged from the hospital and had no place to go or no one to take care of him sought her help and she offered him shelter in the porch of her house and this was the opening of the first "MARCISRI HOME" in 1983. With the news of her benevolence and charity spreading around, more and more destitute started coming in and she never turned them away.

Bloomed with Rev. Fr. Julian Tissera, the Good Samaritan

Rev. Fr. Julian Tissera who was the Parish Priest of Katukurunda, Kalutara helped Rita to cope up with the work. She and others to help with the extension facilities to accommodate the inmates who were occupying some cadjan sheds and helped in several other aspects of the same opening several other homes in and around the Kalutara area. His untiring and devoted work made him the Chaplain of Marcosri Homes.

Fr. Julian served the Marcosri Homes for more than four decades, i.e. much of his priestly ministry. Concrete principles were the driving force of his priestly mission. He did the right thing at the right time. He became a father to the inmates, while Rita, a mother to them.

A Huge Tree Today

The pioneering work of Mrs. Rita and Fr. Julian has grown into a huge tree today with its branches extending all over the Archdiocese of Colombo:

- Marcosri Institute,
- 26, St. Sebastian’s Road, Katukurundu, Kalutara for disabled children, adults and elderly inmates
- Cardinal, Cooray Home, St. Sebastian’s Road, Katukurunda, Kalutara for disabled young males
- St. Theresa’s Home, 38, St. Sebastian’s Road, Katukurunda, Kalutara for disabled young females
- Marco Home, Arthur Gunathilaka Mawatha, Kalmulla, Kalutara for young disabled females
- Mama Papa Home, Wadugoda Road, Kalmulla, Kalutara for disabled children
- St. Mary’s Home, St. Mary’s Road, Kuda Payagala for elderly home
- St. Albert’s Home, Polokotuwa Gall Road, Beruwala for elderly
- St. Anne’s Home, Mervyn Cooray Mawatha, Waddawala for elders
- St. Martin’s Home, Caithan Mawatha, Kotugoda, Ja-ela for disabled young females

While we praise and thank God for His Providence, we solicit your prayerful help of every kind to care for the inmates.

"Therefore, shall you love the LORD, your God, with all your heart, soul, and mind.”

By Rev. Fr. Joseph Leopold
and with all your soul, and with all your strength” (Deuteronomy 6,5)
A P P R E C I A T I O N

G.E.E.Noeline de Silva - nee Perera
She Led a Graceful Life

The Messenger
November 4, 2018

Affectationally known as Noeline teacher to her beloved students, the lovable erudite English teacher par excellence who was an inspiring individual and a leading light to many of her students, passed away on 2, November 2017.

An old girl of Good Shepherd Convent Nayakkanda, she joined the tutorial staff of St. Anthony’s College, Wattala when she was selected to do the English Training Centre at Teacher Training College, Maharagama. After passing out her first appointment was at Ruwanwella Central College. Later she served in various other schools up to G.C.E. MV Panumungama, Jinaraja MV Nilamanda and later got a transfer to her home town Mahoale, Wattala and taught at St. Mary’s MV, until her retirement.

Mr. Bandula Nonis has time and again referred to Catholic Assisted Schools, which I consider, it is not correct. All Grade III Assisted Schools “run” by the ‘Church’ were “taken over” by the State in 1962. Even since, they come under the category of State Schools. The retaining of the original name of the school is in no way a Criterion that it is a Catholic School. The “Church” has neither “owns” any such school even though it may bear a Catholic name.

Mr. Nonis still continues to have a wrong no-sentiments expressed by His Eminence, which are completely unfounded. As such, the protest and subsequent paved the way to the Indian Catholic Influence’ that was this threat and the “Indian Catholic Influence” that put paid to the protest and subsequently paved the way for the “handing-over.”

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Dr. H. C. De Silva
"Messenger" opened pages for debate

I cannot recall in contemporary times, any Debate going for this length of time, with participation of Church educationists, scholars and the academia in this manner since it may be due to the significance of the subject matter which may affect the Catholic population. Surprisingly the small Catholic journal “The Messenger” has been opening pages to this lengthy debate since these topics are not discussed in the open media. As Martin Luther King Jr, puts it “We shall repent not so much for our evil deeds but the total appalling silence of the wise in their Chambers” I am personally enlightened by the message in the storms in the brains on education which has been the cardinal wetlands for ploughing the faith.

The land of the Poet S. Mahinda who taught us to love our motherland was looted by the invading Revolutionaries and uprooted the religious instructions in the Tibet revolution which broke the soul of the nation. Education is the central nerve to nationhood. When it is reformed it leads to anarchy. What our so called funded Catholic schools need to do is to introduce multicultural curriculum in the study programmes to train students who become later adolescents organized for Peace because already those who perpetuate war and terror are in the war games already. Weeramantry laments that Children need to be protected from the tools of the evil, hence the child’s mind is already imbued to violence which keep us in suspense reminding the need for a curriculum for Peace Education and Reconciliation which is the need of the hour: May the Debate end with happy tidings for the stakeholders on areas surfaced by the Debate.

Banda Nonis

"Take to heart these words which I enjoin on you today" (Deuteronomy 6:6)

A few words to the parents of the modern society:

Once parents asked their kid what he wants to become as an adult, they were quite surprised to hear the answer: “A smart phone”.

In fact the lovely student must have noticed the smart phones of parents are their "life-line" and they do not have enough time to interact with the kid. The kid must have noticed the parents are engrossed in conversation with someone than the kid, with their cell phones preferring their ears, as if their life depends on this little "rectangular jewel."

In fact many snobbish parents of the modern society provide all the material things needed for their kids except the much needed time to love and show affection to their kids.

Actually, the smart phone is the most popular electronic device among the populace, including kids who are addicted to the use of modern technology.

“Take to heart these words which I enjoin on you today” (Deuteronomy 6:6)
Inscriptions on the tombs set into the walls became shrines for pilgrims. 

Let us briefly look back on the Tradition of the Catechism for us. This is the nature of the Union of Christ with the dead; and the angels and the saints too can intercede for us. In this way we are able to pray for the living, must include not only the living, but also the dead and for the dead the Catechism also gives us a doctrine of prayer for the souls of the faithful departed is confirmed in the Sacred Scriptures (2 Mac. 12:46). It has been said that praying for the abandoned souls yields a bountiful reward. These souls will never fail with us or their prayers when it comes to our turn in Purgatory. St. Alphonsus Liguori says "though these souls cannot help themselves, they can obtain for us great graces, astounding favours and deliver us from evil, sickness and dangers of every kind." Thus we on earth seldom realize the advocates we have in the form of the Holy Souls. On reaching the Beatific Vision, they will pray for all their benefactors with so great a fervour, so intense and so constant, so much so that God can re-use them "nothing."

St Gertrude the Great in one of her visions of the Lord, was told that He longs for someone to ask Him to release the souls from Purgatory, just like a king who imprisons his/her friend for the sake of justice, hoping that someone will plead for clemency for this friend, Jesus ended this vision thus, "I accept with highest pleasure, that which is offered to me for these poor souls as I shall, having paid so much for you, I am induced to free a soul from Purgatory, as often as you move your tongue in uttering a word of prayer. Besides, prayer can offer us acts of charity in the form of Almsgiving and sacrifices for those Holy Souls languishing in Purgatory. 

Purgatory has often been misconstrued as a "place" of punishment. It is not so. Instead it is a "place" of preparation to enjoy the Beatific Vision with God. Our human weaknesses have tainted our souls and in such a condition we are unworthy of enjoying Heavenly bliss. Hence, the need to be purified, like gold in a furnace in order to be rid of any impurities. The Sacred Scriptures provide, a wealth of information of the departed souls and how we can assist them in their hour of need. 

1. "Those of our people who have died, will live again."

2. "I am the Resurrection and the life, whoever believes in me will live even though he dies and whoever lives and believes in me will never die" (John 11:25)

3. "Have pity on me, have pity on me, oh you my friends, for the hand of God has struck me:. (Job 19:21)

4. "In the eyes of the unwise they seemed to die, but they are at peace" (Wisdom 3:3)

5. "When our earthly tent is folded up, there is a house built by God - not made by Human hands". (2 Corinthians 5:1)

6. "For me to live is Christ and to die is gain". (Philippians 1:21)

7. "Death is swallowed up in victory - oh death where is your sting" (1 Corinthians 15:55)

8. "Whoever keeps my word will never see death". (John 8:51)

9. "After a day or two, he will bring us back to life, on the third day he will raise us to live in his presence" (Hosea 6:2)

10. "I shall rise from the earth on the last day and be clothed again in my skin and in my flesh - I shall see my God. (Job 19:25-27)

11. "He who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies, through his spirit living in you" (Romans 8:11)

12. "In truth I tell you, you will not get out until you have paid the last penny" (Matthew 5:26)

13. "The time is coming when all the dead will hear his voice and come out of their graves, those who have done good will rise to live, while those who have done evil will rise and be condemned". (John 5:28-29)

14. "All who see the Son and believe in him should have eternal life and I will raise them up to life on the last day" (John 6:40)

15. "I have run the full distance of the race and I have kept the faith. Now, there awaits for me the Prize of Victory, which the righteous judge will give me on that day, not only to me, but to all those who wait with love for him to appear" (2 Timothy 4:7-8)

"They will grow not old, as we that are left grow old; Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn."

At the going down of the Sun and in the morning Will we remember them in Prayer.

**PURGATORY**

Bryan Landsberger

"May the martyrs Januarius, Agathopus, Felicissimus obtain refreshments for us. "Brothers, I beseech you when you meet here for prayers, and send up supplication to the Father, and the Son, so that you should remember me at the Altar of the Lord where ever you may be." And so, says St. Augustine, "When she died the sacrifice of our redemption was offered for her, while the body lay by the grave before it was actually buried." Listen to St. John Chrysostom (AD 344-407)

"Help the dead as far as possible not by tears but by prayers, supplications, alms and offerings. Not unmeaningly have these things been devised; in vain do we mention them to the course of the divine mysteries and approach God on their behalf, beseeching the Lamb who is before us, who taketh away the sin of the world. Nor in vain doth he that standeth by the Altar cry out" when the tremendous mysteries are being celebrated, "for all that have fallen asleep in Christ".

Our Blessed Lord Himself spoke of the sins which might be forgiven in the next life: "he that shall have fallen asleep in Christ, shall not be condemned, neither in this world, nor in the world to come". (Matthew12:31). Also in Matthew 5:26, our Lord has clearly said: "Then, I say to thee, they shall not come out from it until thou has paid the last farthing". The last farthing refers to sin - even venial sins. This is our Lord's warning of the judgement and His reference to personal zoning and蝇 cannot be tampered for, if not here then in the next life. There are some who die in the prison sentence. All sins must be atoned for, if not in this life then in the next. There is darkness in them as well as light. There is uncleanness in them as well as purity which is why St. John reminds us nothing unclean can enter the heavenly city.

Such souls then will be thankful to God that after death there is the opportunity for them to be purified, as gold is purged of dross in the furnace. That place is called Purgatory. What is the nature of the suffering in Purgatory? The chief suffering in Purgatory is the loss of the divine vision of God. The Christian after death knows now that he can find happiness only in the vision of God because he is no longer distracted by the pleasures of this world and his mind is no longer darkened by falsehood. And so he now loves God more than ever before and yearns more intensely to see Him. 

This causes intense suffering which purges him of the dross of sin. St. Thomas and others have said that the flames of Purgatory are real fire, but on this point nothing certain has been laid down by the Church. It would be quite wrong to think of Purgatory only as a place of pain. It is also a place of hope because man sees himself as he really is. All faults are revealed in the light of God, as specks of dust are revealed in a sunbeam. This helps man to know God more fully and more deeply than he ever did on earth. Man also knows that he is saved and he accepts willingly and lovingly whatever pain God sends him. This is very much like those sufferers in hospitals who are most patient and happy, for they know that the pain they suffer is the pain of a wound that is healing.

In just these few words Archbishop Sheen says: "Purgatory is where the love of God tempers the justice of God".

*“One of the scribes, when he came forward and heard them disputing and saw how well he had answered them”* (Mark 12:28)
Unforgettable incidents of Priestly life
Mary, Mother of God and the mother of all Christians

By Rev. Fr. Athanasius Samarasinghe

November 4, 2018

A little bird told me

Jesus’ Victory on the Cross

Jesus chose and carried the Cross to Calvary To redeem us all from sinful shame of slavery You did accept willfully the cross of our salvation To deliver us from the threat of damnation The cross you carried uphill was God’s will to To deliver us from the threat of damnation The cross until then a symbol of shame The cross the powerful portrayal of glory The cross you carried uphill was God’s will To deliver us from the threat of damnation To redeem us all from sinful shame of slavery The cross until then a symbol of shame The cross you carried uphill was God’s will to deliver us from the threat of damnation The cross until then a symbol of shame The cross the powerful portrayal of glory

Rita Irene Fernando

Shepherd of Love

Shepherd of love gentle Jesus hear my cry Shepherd Divine, in your arms let me lie Lead me a’right lest my feet may go astray Guide me dear Lord, Loving Shepherd She show the way When overwhelmed and crushed with grief You speak to me so lovingly When racked with pain I seek relief O wounded Lord you strengthen me When grooping in the dark with fear You flood my way with wondrous light When foes assail and danger’s near You shield me through the dark’ning night When of I tend to drift and roam Your gentle voice call out to me When lost and wandering far from home You bring me back so tenderly Rita Irene Fernando

Michael Angelo Fernando

“... asked him, ‘Which is the first of all the commandments?’” (Mark 12,28)
Neyali Abeyratna
Sunday School, St. Sebastian’s Shrine, Kandyana

"Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us."
— The Lord’s Prayer

Hey there Young Evangelizer,

You would have heard and experienced how hard it is sometimes to utter a two syllable word, Sorry. We would have made the mistake or at times just to maintain peace, we apologize. Accidentally the word might come easily, but to acknowledge it and genuinely feel sorry and apologize is a task.

What is even more difficult is to forgive and thereafter forget. Let bygones be bygones.

Have you ever been hurt by any of your loved ones, a best friend? Were you able to forgive them when they apologized? Or have you forgiven them even if they did not realize they hurt you and did not apologize to you?

It takes more courage to be able to forgive a loved one whom you would lay down your life for, even if they do not apologize. In addition to forget what they did to you and will continue to love them immensely as you did earlier requires a selfless heart.

Jesus calls us to have such love, which is selfless and sacrificial. Despite how hurt you have been to continue loving those who have hurt you, percuted you and put you down in life. When we recite the very words of the Lord’s Prayer, we request God to ‘forgive our trespasses as we have forgiven those who trespass against us.’ We request God for a conditional forgiveness for ourselves. We run the risk of asking God to forgive us in the same way we forgive others.

Most often we mumble the words of prayers without realizing the gravity of what we are saying. Careful what you wish for. Now, do not think of changing the words of the Lord’s Prayer. Instead have a change in your attitude towards life. Learn to forgive and forget those who have hurt you, are hurting you and will hurt you in the future.

MJ & AJ

Smile a While

Sunday School Jokes

Noticing Dennis disturbing the boy seated next to him, the teacher wanted to draw his attention;

Teacher: ‘Dennis, if you have ten toffees, and the boy next to you takes five away; what would you have?’

Dennis: ‘A fight’.

Neyali Abeyratna
Sunday School, St. Sebastian’s Shrine, Kandyana

Computers

Computer is one of the modern inventions in the field of technology. It was invented by Charles Babbage in 1812. Computers have become an essential item in the 21st century.

My Pet

My pet is a fish. Its name is Vioo, and he likes to play. It has rocks in his tank. It is a Fighter Fish. Vioo is blue and red in colour. He is awesome.

My Mother

My mother’s name is Christine. She is the best cook. She is the best mother in the universe. She teaches me to succeed in my studies. My mother is the prettiest. I love her very much she loves me too.

S. Ashwenth Kevin,
2E’, St. Peter’s College, Colombo 04.

Dennis: “A fight”.

Solution for the Sudoku puzzle published on 28th October, 2018

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“Jesus replied, ‘The first is this: ‘Hear, O Israel! The Lord our God is Lord alone!’” (Mark 12:29)
By Rev. Fr. Don Anton Saman Hettiarachchi

1. A certain scribe is impressed by the way Jesus in which He has conducted Himself in the previous controversy over the resurrection (12:16-27). He compliments Him for being a Jew. He asked Him in what commandment with due reverence to God. He has to love God with all available resources. The people are to love their God with all their hearts, with all their soul and with all their might.

Second Reading: Hebrews 7: 28-34

The prime duty of a priest is to offer sacrifices to the hon-our and glory of God. This flows as a result of the love that we have towards God, and the second, love for the neighbour. These two are inseparable.

Reflection

Today’s Readings tell us that we should love a blameless life so that our lives too would be like that of Christ. A total sacrifice for the glory of God. We should be concerned about two things; first the relationship that we have with God, and the second the relationship that we have with our neighbour.

In Baptism we share the priesthood of Christ. The First Reading teaches us the commandments which bring out the total dedication to God. Moses goes on to explain it at length. He tells the Israelites: “Fear the Lord your God, you and your son and your grandson, by keeping all his statues and his commandments, which I command you, all the days of your life.” And he goes on to explain what the Lord’s commandment is. “The Lord your God is one Lord, and you shall love the Lord, thy God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.” Such is the love we have to offer to the Lord in our daily lives.

The Gospel extends this love in the same form and depth to our neighbour as well when it says, “hear O Israel; the Lord our God, the Lord is one; and you shall love the Lord your God with all your strength. The second is this you shall love your neighbour as yourself” thus making us responsible for the wellbeing of our neighbour as well. This shows that, we are to love not only the Lord our God but also our neighbour.

These two find their fulfillment in the life of Jesus the high priest about whom we hear in the Second Reading today. Christ was holy, blameless, unstained, separated from the sinners and therefore exalted above the heavens. He had no need, like the high-priest of His time, to offer sacrifice daily, first for His own sins and then for those of the people; he did this once and for all when He offered Himself up on the Cross. The sacrifice on the Cross is the peak expression of His love towards God and towards mankind. For this reason His priesthood goes on forever and is permanent. We too are expected to live a life filled with love, a love that extends towards God and also embraces the neighbour.

Aid Story 1

A King who had no son to succeed him posted a notice inviting young men to come along and apply for adoption into his family. The two qualifications were love of God and love of neighbour.

A poor peasant boy was tempted to apply, but felt unable to do so because of the rags he wore. He worked hard, earned some money, somehow bought clothes and headed off to try his luck of being adopted into the King’s family. He was half way there, when he met a poor beggar shivering with the cold. He felt sorry for him and gave him his coat. When he went to the palace, despite the snubs and jibes of the courtiers, he was finally admitted into the presence of the King. Imagine his amazement to see the king was that old beggar to whom he gave his clothes and was wearing the same clothes he gave. The king got down from the throne, embraced the young man and said, “Welcome My Son.”

Aid Story 2

Johnny was going off to church one morning with several of his friends. His mother gave him two nick-els, “one for you and one for God,” she said. As Johnny and his friends walked along, he was flipping a nickel up in the air and catching it, over and over. Finally, one time he missed it, and it rolled down the sewer. “Oops! He said. “There goes God’s nickel!”

Saying: CHRIST the INVISIBLE HEAD of THE CATHOLIC CHURCH. POPE the VISIBLE HEAD of THE CATHOLIC CHURCH. BISHOPS the VISITING HEADS of the LOCAL CHURCH. PRIESTS the AVAILABLE HEADS of the PARISH CHURCH.

Very Rev. Fr. Ciswan De Croos

Liturgical Calendar Year B

4th Nov. - 11th Nov. 2018

Sun: 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time
Deut. 6: 2-6; Heb. 7: 23-28; Mk. 12: 28b-34

Mon: Phil. 2: 1-4; Lk. 14: 12-14

Tue: Phil. 2: 5-11; Lk. 14: 15-24

Wed: Phil. 2: 12-18; Lk. 15: 25-33

Thu: Phil. 3: 3-8a; Lk. 15: 1-10

Fri: Feast of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica
Ex. 4: 12-17; 8-9, 12; or 1 Cor. 3: 9c-11, 16-17

Sat: Memorial of St.Leo the Great, Pope & Doctor
Phil. 4: 10-19; Lk. 19: 4-10

Sun: 32 Sunday in Ordinary Time
1 Kgs. 17: 10-16; Heb. 9: 24-28; Mk. 12: 38-44 (or 12: 41-44)

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength” (Mark 12:30)
and mass media are not the proper ones.

Leaders, as some actually do against the Pope and the Church from the snares of the devil. Rev. Fr. Ignatius Warnakulasingham preached in Tamil.

The rally started at the Old Grotto at 7.30 am, where the then Archbishop of Colombo His Grace Jean Marie Mason made his vow to the Blessed Virgin Mary in 1942 to protect Lanka from the ravages of the Second World War. The procession with a large number of devotees then vended its way to the Basilica where the Rev. Fr. de Silva, when Holy Eucharist was celebrated. The items collected from the Curiae and participants at the oratory procession were handed over to Marciut Homs.

The consecration prayer to Our Lady was made by Rev. Fr. Ronnie Ponsius Perera, Archdiocesan Chaplain of the Legion of Mary and the Convenor of the Rally.

Much less do we cast aspersions against Church leaders, as some actually do against the Pope and the Archbishop of Colombo. When we disagree with some Church leaders, it is a necessary recourse to legitimate channels to air out our sentiments. Definitely, social networks and mass media are not the proper ones.

Rev. Fr. Prasad went on to say that at the present times, there is a compelling need for the recital of the Holy Rosary to safeguard our Faith, family, Church and the Church from the snares of the devil. Rev. Fr. Ignatius Warnakulasingham preached in Tamil.

Rev. Fr. Michael...

Surely try in many places in Sri Lanka to lead the people to the living out of the Dhamma in practice. Every day learn from the people, farmers and peasants, specially, patience, remuneration of duties or the lot, suffering, hope in solidarity and what are generally called the Saradharma, virtues of sharing, brotherhood, rejection of greed (thana, or animalism, avarice).

* Never fear studying and reflecting on the culture of others. Dip into other religious beliefs strongly attached to Jesus.

* Love all equally and each one more than the other.

* There should be constant renewal in life. Like the river— the same river but not the same.

Jesus went to death because of His position in life. Our constant question should be: “Why did He die?”

Whatever you do, ask yourself how this is going to help the coming of the Kingdom.

Jesus had compassion for the poor who are either abandoned, the oppressed.

Ridley Casie Chitty

Todav we have four different sets of decades for the Holy Rosary: 1. Joyful Mysteries; 2. Sorrowful Mysteries; 3. Luminous Mysteries; and 4. Glorious Mysteries. First set is recited on Mondays and Saturdays; the second on Tuesdays and Fridays; the third on Thursdays; and the fourth on Wednesdays and Sundays. I propose that three more sets of decades be added to the Holy Rosary based on significant events of Jesus’ life. I call these the ‘Miraculous Mysteries’ (based on significant miracles performed by Jesus) to be recited on Tuesdays and have the set of Sorrowful Mysteries recited only on Fridays; the second set to be called the ‘Reflective Mysteries’ based on His teachings, (for example the Sermon on the Mount), to be recited on Wednesdays and have the set of Glorious Mysteries recited only on Sundays; and the third set of decades will be my personal rousing call, saying on family life, prayer life etc., called the ‘Familial Mysteries’ to be recited on Saturdays. (This would complement the recitation of the rosary as a family unit).

In this way there could be a different set of decades based on Jesus’ life for each day of the week, which will no doubt help refresh the memory of the person reciting the Holy Rosary of the wonderful and glorious events related to the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit; and the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Monday…… Joyful Mysteries (To remain the same)

Tuesday……. Miraculous Mysteries (New set of mysteries)

Wednesday ….. Reflective Mysteries (New set of mysteries)

Thursday ……. Luminous Mysteries (To remain the same)

Friday …….. Sorrowful Mysteries (To remain the same)

Saturday ….. Familial Mysteries (New set of mysteries)

Sunday ……… Glorious Mysteries (To remain the same)

The Holy Rosary with More Mysteries ...

**Familial Mysteries for Saturdays:** By the following Jesus teaches the significance of prayer, especially when praying together as a family...

1. Where there are two or three gathered in my name, I am in the midst of them.
2. You must pray without ceasing (St. Luke 18, 1); whatever you ask in my name, my Father will give it to you.
3. Seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened; ask and you shall be given.
4. Living waters— water within the wall
5. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my word shall not pass away.

M. Joseph A. Nihal Perera

“the second is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself’” (Mark 12,31)
The Fourth Church at Pamunugama

During the time Oratorian Priests, Otheos Cajetan, served as a priest in Pamunugama in the year 1844, everyone got together and built a sturdy Church at Pamunugama in the same place. The Church had no roof but a shelter was placed on trusses. The spacing for the trusses was 6 feet. The walls were made out of strong masonry bricks and the doors were also made strong, capable of withstanding vandalism. The Church with the Foyer at the front and the Statue of St. Joseph inside, was built on the Church architecture at the time. It was indeed very pleasing to the eye. Vapa Appamahilage Don Juan Arachchi Vidane, a renter by trade, from Dungalpitiya was the person who made the major financial contribution to build this church. This was the fourth Church at Pamunugama. In 1859 in this place Rev Fr. Papili founded the Precious Blood Society and the devotion and the Feast of Precious Blood in 1868.

That Church is now located in the Sacristy of the present Church. Till recently it was known as Small Church. The trusses of the old Church that projected from the walls of Sacristy are visible inside the current Sacristy. The location in the old Church where the Statue of St. Joseph was placed just above the Altar is still seen. When a deep excavation is made on the northern compound adjoining the current Church, one can see an old foundation beneath the current Church. The old foundation had been made out of sea stones bonded with clay at that time cement was not used. The sturdiness of the ancient foundation provides strong evidence of the marvels of the architecture of manual labour and the strong dedication of villagers to their faith in yesteryears. With the propagation of the Catholic faith, the power of the revered Church dwindled gradually and disappeared completely.

In 1834 Ceylon, which was part of the Diocese of Kochin, was made an independent Diocese. In 1847 Ceylon was divided into Southern and Northern Apostolic Vicariates by the Propaganda Fidei of the Pontifical act of the Propagation of Faith and Unification in Rome. Gradually Dioceses and Parishes came into being. Accordingly the geographical area from the Kelani Valley, the Negombo Lagoon that stretched across Muthurajawela was carved into a Parish, and St. Joseph’s Church at Pamunugama was made the main Church of the Parish.

Hendala, Nayakaakanda, Nedurupitiya, Kalageya, Wewala, Weligampitiya, Karonawana, Tudala, Delatula, Dundagama, Dehiyagatha villages belonged to the old Parish of Pamunugama. Along the coast and inland, Pamunugama was included Hendala, Pallywattuwa upto Pitipana. The missionaries using the waterways available at the time, engaged in their missionary work.

Later the Syllestro Benedictines took over the Southern Vicariate after the Oratorians. We are indebted to the Oratorian Reverend Fathers forever for implanting, protecting and propagating the seed of the Catholic faith in our village during the Dutch period and thereafter. As the priests who were at the Pamunugama Church, went for services in other Churches, the liturgy at the village Church was conducted by the Parish lay leader known as Muhuppara and Zonal leader known as Annavi. When the priests who were at the Pamunugama Church, went for services in other Churches, the liturgy at the village Church was conducted by the Parish lay leader known as Muhuppara and Zonal leader known as Annavi. When the priests who were at the Pamunugama Church, went for services in other Churches, the liturgy at the village Church was conducted by the Parish lay leader known as Muhuppara and Zonal leader known as Annavi. When the priests who were at the Pamunugama Church, went for services in other Churches, the liturgy at the village Church was conducted by the Parish lay leader known as Muhuppara and Zonal leader known as Annavi. When the priests who were at the Pamunugama Church, went for services in other Churches, the liturgy at the village Church was conducted by the Parish lay leader known as Muhuppara and Zonal leader known as Annavi. When the priests who were at the Pamunugama Church, went for services in other Churches, the liturgy at the village Church was conducted by the Parish lay leader known as Muhuppara and Zonal leader known as Annavi. When the priests who were at the Pamunugama Church, went for services in other Churches, the liturgy at the village Church was conducted by the Parish lay leader known as Muhuppara and Zonal leader known as Annavi. When the priests who were at the Pamunugama Church, went for services in other Churches, the liturgy at the village Church was conducted by the Parish lay leader known as Muhuppara and Zonal leader known as Annavi. When the priests who were at the Pamunugama Church, went for services in other Churches, the liturgy at the village Church was conducted by the Parish lay leader known as Muhuppara and Zonal leader known as Annavi. When the priests who were at the Pamunugama Church, went for services in other Churches, the liturgy at the village Church was conducted by the Parish lay leader known as Muhuppara and Zonal leader known as Annavi. When the priests who were at the Pamunugama Church, went for services in other Churches, the liturgy at the village Church was conducted by the Parish lay leader known as Muhuppara and Zonal leader known as Annavi. When the priests who were at the Pamunugama Church, went for services in other Churches, the liturgy at the village Church was conducted by the Parish lay leader known as Muhuppara and Zonal leader known as Annavi. When the priests who were at the Pamunugama Church, went for services in other Churches, the liturgy at the village Church was conducted by the Parish lay leader known as Muhuppara and Zonal leader known as Annavi. When the priests who were at the Pamunugama Church, went for services in other Churches, the liturgy at the village Church was conducted by the Parish lay leader known as Muhuppara and Zonal leader known as Annavi. When the priests who were at the Pamunugama Church, went for services in other Churches, the liturgy at the village Church was conducted by the Parish lay leader known as Muhuppara and Zonal leader known as Annavi. When the priests who were at the Pamunugama Church, went for services in other Churches, the liturgy at the village Church was conducted by the Parish lay leader known as Muhuppara and Zonal leader known as Annavi. When the priests who were at the Pamunugama Church, went for services in other Churches, the liturgy at the village Church was conducted by the Parish lay leader known as Muhuppara and Zonal leader known as Annavi.

The Rosary Beads

In the stormy years of married life
With its ups and downs and joys and strife
The family Rosary keeps them bound
To one another, in a link profound
When the children have gone their several ways
The Rosary beads keep them near always
Fingering the beads, the parent prays
For their children night and day
When old age takes over as it inevitably must
What a comfort the Rosary, an inherent trust
And when death approaches at God’s behest
The Rosary’s entwined as one is laid to rest
A life-time charm the Rosary beads
In times of stress, in times of need
To honour Our Mother; to honor what It remains with us, even as we return to dust.

Emilda S. Douglas

The Holy Spirit

And kindle in our hearts the flame,
Of God the Father’s and Jesus’ undying love
The Holy Spirit unfolds the mysteries of heaven.
Speaking to the sinner not to fear
That by God the Father and Jesus our sins are forgiven
And helps us to love God the Father and Jesus and also to live a life full of prayer.

The Rosary Beads

![Image of a rosary]

A Birthday Prayer.

O God thank You for giving me another year of life.
I thank you for all the people who have remembered me today, and who have sent me cards, good wishes, and presents. I thank you for all the experiences of the past year. For times of joy when the Sun was shining, when times of sorrow which drove me to you and to my Lady, Lord to make this the Best year, to bring credit to myself and happiness to those who are dear to me and Joy to you. I ask this in Jesus’ name. Amen.

Naomi Croos Dalbrera

The Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit comes as a dove and spreads its wings,
The wings of peace, justice, and love
He is our guardian and our light,
Who brings comfort and light from above.
The Holy Spirit convinces us of our sins,
And lead us to Jesus and God the Father Our Lord.
And to our minds He shows
The secret of the love of Jesus and God
The Holy Spirit revive our drooping faith,
And our fears of God and doubts remove.

J. A. Dulcie Pereira

And to love him with all your heart, with all your understanding, with all your strength” (Mark 12:33)
“... and to love your neighbor as yourself is worth more than all burnt offerings and sacrifices” (Mark 12,33)

Young World

Family Day at St. Sebastian’s College, Moratuwa

The Family Day and friendly cricket encounter for family members of middle grade students were held recently. Students studying in grades 6 to 8 and their parents joined the numerous events during the full day, ending with a musical show.

Rev. Fr. Ranjith Andradi, Rector of the College in his address said events of this nature help in developing young minds.

Rev. Fr. Indunil Samapth and Teachers in the Middle grades, parents of the students organized the Day.

Asika Priyadharshana

World Children’s Day and Teachers’ Day at Katukurunda

To commemorate World Children’s Day, an exhibition of items of creativity by Children, a Children’s film, and an Ice Cream treat for children were held at St Mary’s College, Katukurunda, Moratuwa. The day’s events commenced with Holy Mass celebrated and followed by blessing of all children by Rev. Fr. Rasika Lawrence, Parish Priest of Katukurunda. Then on the Teachers’ Day the children reciprocated their gratitude to teachers by giving them tokens of appreciation. Both these events were organized under the guidance of Mrs. Melshani Dias, Principal of the College. The celebration of this year is unique, since many children got through the Grade Five Scholarship Examination as a tribute to teachers.

Asika Priyadharshana

Silver Jubilee of Salani

The Silver Jubilee celebration of St Anne’s Children’s Home at Thummodera, popularly known as SALANI, was held recently. His Lordship Rt. Rev. Dr. Valence Mendis, Bishop of Chilaw was the chief guest on the occasion. The event included a children’s handicraft exhibition and many other items. The event was organized under the guidance of Rev. Fr. Frank Tissera, Parish Priest of St. Theresa’s Parish at Talwila, who is also the founder of the Children’s Home.

Tecla Caldera

Fault

“Good morning! How are you today?” said Uma.

“I am fine. How are you?” asked Benedict.

“Well, I am angry because my brother has taken my little girl for an ice cream when I told him not to give her sweets” said Uma.

“Younger brother means well. I know that there is diabetes in your family so you are wise to be careful. Only don’t find fault with your brother. I think that there are many people who find fault with others and even keep grudges” said Benedict.

“Well, I suppose I also find fault with others. It is easier than blaming myself if anything goes wrong” said Uma.

“I am glad that you are being honest. I think that is what Jesus meant when He said that people look for the mote in your their brother’s eye without looking at the beam in their own eye!” said Benedict, adding, “So most people sometimes cannot even see their own faults and are busy picking on the faults of others.”

“So maybe we should stop finding fault and start looking at the positive side. There has to be a positive side just as much as there is a negative side. But you have to look hard sometimes to find something good. It’s like your brother’s caring for your daughter when he took her for an ice cream” said Benedict.

“I suppose so. Anyway, I should stop being so possessive of my daughter. She belongs to the whole family. But I think it was okay for me to tell my brother about not giving his niece sweets, explaining the background of there being diabetes in the family” said Uma.

“Yes in a democratic family set-up, people are free to say and do what they want. Only make sure there is not too much fault finding. Let’s pray about it” suggested Benedict.

Vocation Camp - 2018

170 students from various parishes participated in the Vocation Camp held at St. Aloysius’ Minor Seminary, Colombo recently. In the picture His Lordship Rt. Rev. Dr. J. D. Anthony, Auxiliary Bishop of Colombo is addressing the children.

Courtesy: Koinonia- Archdiocese of Colombo

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By Sirohmi Gunesekera

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DEEPAVALI You be a spark of Light

Deepavali is a festival of lights. It is celebrated by Hindus. The word ‘deepam’ means lamp in Tamil. Many lamps are lit on that day to dispel darkness and bring in light. We live in a world of darkness, “what human nature does is quite plain. It shows that we are immoral, selfish and indecent actions; People become enemies and they fight; they become jealous, angry and unkind. When they are envious, get drunk and do other things like these...” (Galatians 5:19-21).

What are we as Christians doing to dispel this darkness? We can be a spark of light.

Well! there are people living in poverty too. People with love, patience, kindness, goodness etc. People who go out of their way to light up the lives of others.

One Deepavali day, to be exact on October 26, 2011, Madam Padmini the then manageress of the National Bank Pettah Branch and her staff together with Mr. K. Senaratne and Mr. A. P. Gunaratne, lit up many faces of the Senior citizens, by taking them on a spiritual and enjoyable trip to Kandy.

As soon as we reached the Dalada Maligawa before I even saw the shrines, relevant to the Readings of the day. Long homilies I noticed, resulted in a very rushed celebration of the Liturgy of the Eucharist, almost participating breathlessly in a marathon. So much beauty of the celebration is scanty attention. Neither the celebrant nor the faithful has time to savour each part of the Liturgy which does great dishonour to the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

4. Surround yourself with a team of committed Catholics. Numbers do not matter, quality does. Let those in Parish Councils and other committees be made to understand that you as Parish Priest, lead and direct meetings and due respect should be given to this at all times. Overzealous members only kill what the Holy Spirit wants to do. Encourage new members to be part of the committees. Do not recycle old ones, time and time again, as sometimes they are not open to new ideas and prefer not to introduce them. Harmony and disunity stifles the renewal of a parish.

5. Do not let choirs lead the Holy Mass in those moments when you as the Celebrant lead the faithful. It is painful to see priests sometimes standing at the altar waiting for an endless Entrance or Offertory Hymn to conclude, for him to continue with the Eucharistic celebration by you or by a well formed Liturgy Committee.

6. Sometimes the way fruitful kneel, sit or stand, is like a Mexican wave: done at different times and not in unison. It is not right to expect the Celebrant to say “Please sit... please stand...etc.” A member of the choir could be asked to direct the faithful in this, at those times where confusion seems to reign, till the faithful begin to be one in these actions.

7. As far as Catholic weddings are concerned, there is much that needs to be done to restore the sanctity of such celebrations. The current trend is the utter disregard of the sacredness of the Liturgy in some instances, which is really sad. Lack of modesty in dress, disrespectful behaviour in a holy place, where chanting aloud and laughter goes on unabated inside the church, which is rampant; choirs singing more like a concert than at the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass; selection of hymns that are inappropriate for the Solemn celebration etc. Perhaps there should be a small advisory committee where members have been trained well in the Liturgy and will be helping in laying down the format for Nuptial Masses. When a couple approaches the Parish priest to book the church for the celebration, they should be directed to this Committee before confirmation of the availability of the church.

The Committee could help the couple prepare well for the Nuptial Mass, through regular meetings. They will make the couple aware of the need to maintain the sacredness of the celebration, select hymns planned together that enrich the Liturgy, etc. This will certainly help in setting the tone for a well planned Liturgy that glorifies the Lord. Once this has been done to the satisfaction of the Committee and approved by the Parish Priest, then the confirmation of the use of the Church can be given.

Thank you for your patience and time in reading this letter. I trust that it will be acted upon, as the Holy Spirit leads you.

Marianne Johnpillai

By Emidio S. Douglas giving one’s point of view, agreeing, disagreeing etc.

One person’s spark of light lit up the whole bus. So much so that we did not realise that we had waited for nearly an hour. When the youth turned up apologising, everyone in the bus welcomed them with cheers, They in turn bought hot hoppers and tea at the next stop.

You too can be a spark of light and make the world a better place to live in.

“And when Jesus saw that (he) answered with understanding, he said to him, “You are not far from the kingdom of God”” (Mark 12:34)
A prayer to St. Joseph

Dear Reverend Father,

I pray for you to protect me and my family. We see an erosion of spiritual values and we are moving fast towards destruction. Please protect us from the snares of the evil spirit and unite us in body and spirit. Give us strength and blessings to lead our lives pleasing to God Almighty and grant us blessings to settle our immediate problem [mention your problem] at hand. Show us the path of how to settle this problem that worries us so much. Amen

Learn the delicate shades of meaning of the following words and read the prayer once again.

Intercession - intervention, mediation
Homage - reverence, worship
Weary- exhausted, tired
Contemplating - thinking, expecting
Breathe - grasp, pant

Let’s learn adverbs

Task 1 - Read the following adverbs aloud with the teacher

actively accurately boldly bravely cruelly carefully dangerously, dearly, efficiently eagerly, fast, fatally generously, greatly happily, honestly interestingly joyfully, jealously kindly, keenly loyally, fairly madly, magically neatly, nastily obediently openly patiently, purely quietly, quickly rudely, roughly seriously, sadly tactfully, tentatively usefully, ultimately violently, verbally, wickedly, wildly, slowly simply gladly luckily zealously anxiously cleverly, carelessly decently, dreadfully

Task 2 - Study the adverbs given above in pairs and read them aloud

Task 3 - Be familiar with the three language frames given, use as many adverbs as possible and make sentences.

I'm Mary. I'm neat. I do my work neatly.

I'm Sumaga. I'm efficient. I work efficiently.

Rasika is quiet and he does his work quietly.

Task 4 - Write as many sentences as possible using the substitution table given.

I / We / You / They / work / works

well / honestly / cleverly efficiently / actively / hard / wisely / carefully / systematically/

Task 5 - Use the structure given and describe the manner in which Somaratne worked using adverbs.

Somaratne worked very hard, e.g. Somaratne worked quickly

Task 6 - Read the story and underline the adverbs

Two cats and a monkey

After a feast, two cats see a piece of cake and start fighting for it angrily. A monkey sees this as an opportunity for gain and offers willingly to help them.

The monkey divides the cake carefully into two parts but shakes its head thoughtfully saying they are unequal. He quietly takes a bite off one piece and then the other, but still finds them unequal. He continues doing so until there is no more cake left, leaving the poor little cats disappointed.

Moral: When you quarrel amongst yourselves, someone else gains from it.

Task 7 - Read the story and answer the questions. Give short answers.

1. What do the two cats see after a feast?
2. Underline the adverb in the first sentence.
3. How does the monkey offer to help the cats?
4. How does the monkey divide the cake?
5. How does it shake its head?
6. How does it take a bite off one piece?

Writing task - You are going to another country to study. You would like to do a part-time job while you are studying, so you want to ask a friend who lives there for some help.

Write a letter to this friend. In your letter

(i) give details of your study plans
(ii) explain why you want to get a part-time job
(iii) suggest how your friend could help you find a job

Dear Anne,

I am writing this letter to inform you that I will be visiting your country at the beginning of next year with the intention of continuing my higher studies. I was fortunate enough to gain admission to the University of Melbourne as a post-graduate student to read for a Master’s Degree in International Studies.

The Master’s programme will be conducted for a two-year period starting from January 2019.

The time table has already been sent to me and accordingly I’ll have lectures from 9am to 2pm. I am currently being a part-time job during my stay in Australia to cover the expenses for my course fee. Further, my family is not in a position to finance me fully during my stay in your country.

Since I have very limited time to spend on a job with my studies, I would like to seek your assistance in finding a proper job which would not clash with my academic calendar. I would greatly appreciate if you could help me in this regard.

I would like to meet you there in Melbourne as soon as I arrive there.

With love,

Sanji

Inspirational quotes

With love,

Sanji

Phrasal verb - Bear up (endure) You should bear up while longer

Verb Meaning Example
blow up explode The terrorists tried to blow up the railroad station
bring up mention a topic My mother brought up that little matter of my prison record again
bring up raise children It isn’t easy to bring up children nowadays
call off cancel They called off this afternoon’s meeting
do over repeat a job Do this homework over

Idiom - With open arms – with a warm welcome

‘Once in a blue moon’ an event that happens infrequently
In Sri Lanka, we experience an earth tremor once in a blue moon.

‘See eye to eye’ agreeing with someone.
“You finally saw eye to eye on the business deal.”

Thought for the day - “Practice kindness all day to everybody and you will realize you are already in heaven now.”

“And no one dared to ask him any more questions” (Mark 12:34)