

FR. AGNEL

ASHRAM NEWS

August 2023

*Freedom is my
Birthright !*



Freedom is being you without anyone's permission !

AUGUST 2023

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BIRTHDAY OF MOTHER MARY - BANDRA FEAST



Dear Friends and Well-Wishers,

Come September and it fills our hearts with joy to celebrate the birthday of Mother Mary, our help and hope.

Our little Agnelite angels, the Balbhavan children across all centres of the Agnel Region, also look forward to the day.

We appreciate your contribution in assisting us in caring for our children. Your financial assistance will be very special, on this occasion.

We wish you a Happy Feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary and assure you of our daily prayers for your special intentions by our children.With a grateful heart,
Fr. Superior
Fr. Agnel Ashram

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THE DAWN OF A NEW ERA

THE SOCIETY ADOPTS THAT THE PROMOTERS OF 1939 RECEIVED THE INSPIRATION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT TO ESTABLISH/REVIVE/RE-ORGANIZE THE SOCIETY

The Holy See, after the II Vatican Council, desired that all religious institutes, should renew their Constitutions, by returning to their sources, so that they remain faithful to the inspiration received by the Founders. In preparation to the promulgation of the Code of Canon Law in 1917, Pope Leo XIII, issued several Decrees, later codified as the authentic law of the Church. In his Apostolic Constitution 'Conditae a Christo,' he laid down clear norms that stated which religious societies/associations could be approved by the Church, with these three core requirements; (i) internal authority (non-interference by the Bishop) to follow their own stated goals, expressed by the Founders, as inspired by the Holy Spirit; (ii) permanent nature of the members and (iii) means for self-sustenance. The theological development behind this decision that forbade the interference of the Bishops in the internal affairs of the religious groups, was that the Church, is being continuously guided by the Holy Spirit, through individual inspiration, calling for living lives of perfection within the Church. Thus the Church gave canonical approval to religious societies, after due diligence, that the inspiration received by the Founders, was genuine, and allowed them the status of different 'charisms', within the Church. As a result, all approved societies acquired their internal authority to follow their own 'charism' (call of the Spirit).

The Society of the Missionaries of St. Francis Xavier, founded by Fr. Bento Martins in 1887, maintained its original Constitutions given by the Patriarch in 1891 (during Fr. Bento's life), and reiterated 18 years later, in 1909 which clearly stated that the members were secular priests, completely under the control of the Patriarch and they remained so till 1939, even 22 years after the

Code of Canon Law was promulgated. It is obvious that such was their choice, because the Patriarch on his official visits to Rome, clearly speaks about the Society to the Pope. Such Societies did not comply with the Universal Law of the Church, and ceased to exist, by force of Can 5. It did exist merely an Association/Society under the Bishop and could have a moral entity (could exist if the Bishop approved it), minus, a 'strict' "canonical (juridic) entity in the Church."

THE HOLY SPIRIT'S INSPIRATION FOR A MISSIONARY SOCIETY

In 1931 and 1934, two young deacons, students of the Diocesan Seminary, Conceicao Menino Rodrigues and Francisco Jasso Sequeira, independently of each other and clearly on two occasions, felt inspired to establish a missionary society. They approached the Patriarch with their plan, and discussed it with several others. During this process of 1931-1938, the Society of the Missionaries of St. Francis Xavier (1887) existed and there is not even an iota of documentary evidence that they were in any way connected. In 1935, the Patriarch suggested to this group, known now as the "LIGA XAVERIANA" to meet with the only surviving member of the Society founded in 1887, Fr. Remedios Gomes, to examine if the draft of the Constitutions they had prepared had any similarity with the old Society (1887). (Note that the Society is no longer canonically existent as indicated above).

The promoters listed several major errors and even pointed out that some of the statutes of the old Society were contrary to the Canon Law. After several discussions, their draft was approved 'ad experimentum' and after the Patriarch had appointed the Superior General

and the Novice Master, on June 2, 1939, the New Society was born on July 2, 1939, and approved formally, by the Church on June 30, 1946, with the Decree of Approval and the formal approval to the text of the Constitutions, wherein the '*the Society is Constituted*', as per the Code of Canon Law. These Constitutions were diametrically different from those of the Society of 1887.

THE AVOIDABLE CATAclysmic PITFALL

The Chapter of the Renewal of the Constitutions was held in 1975, simultaneously with the Chapter of Elections (The elections held in a religious society every 5/6 years is known as Chapter), after a gap of 13 years (was due in 1967), because the Holy See has intervened to stop major irregularities in the Society. It is obvious that several members did not like the Holy See's intervention, that saved the Society from sure disaster. The wedge was sharp and clear, between those who had requested the Holy See to intervene, and those who opposed it. Obviously, time was not appropriate for the Chapter of Renewal, but the Holy See ordered it to be held. Among those who were spearheading the movement for setting right the gross irregularities, was one of the Re-organizers, of the new Society in 1939.

Traditionally, the 2nd of July, 1939, the day of the establishment of the New Society, was celebrated as RE-ORGANIZATION DAY. By stating that the Society was the one established in 1887, would render the main promoter of the New Society (the one who sought to correct the irregularities), irrelevant to history. Thus, partly because of insufficient knowledge of law and scientific analysis, as well as prevailing animosity, the General Chapter of 1975-79 declared "**the Re-organised Society is canonically the continuation of the same old Society.**" The decision of the General Chapter itself has little or no canonical weightage, as the Society has no powers to make a 'canonical declaration about its own validity,' both as per the Code of Canon Law, and as per jurisprudence "*nemo iudex in causa propria*" (no one can be a judge in his own cause). However, as a resolution of the General Chapter, it becomes spiritually binding on the members. As a

result of that decision, the Society was pitted into a crisis that lasted more than 30 years of separation between two groups.

THE CRISIS THAT WAS NOT TO BE

The General Chapter considered 3 issues, as crucial for the resolution that led to the 30-year crisis; (i) there was no written record that the Patriarch had consulted the Holy See, prior to the erection of the new Society; it was also suggested that the Society of 1939, was a development of the old society and **not** a new entity; (ii) It was alleged that because both the Societies (of 1887 and 1939) had the same name, the same society cannot be erected twice; (iii) the 'Acts' signed by the original members on July 2, 1939, described the Society as the 'continuadora' (succeeding) the old Society and the Patriarch's forwarding note describes the 'new' Constitutions as modifications of the existing Constitutions of 1891.

(i) The provision in the Code of Canon Law, that the Bishop is to have a prior consultation with the Holy See, before erecting a new Society, has never been considered as required for validity of the erection. It is only in 2016 that Pope Francis categorically stated that henceforth, i.e. from 2016, prior permission is required for validity. This clearly indicates that before 2016, prior consultation was not required for validity.

(ii) It has already been stated that the old Society ceased to exist 'canonically' after the promulgation of the Code of Canon Law in 1917, because it was contrary to the Code, therefore the society established in 1946, was not the old society as the old did not exist 'canonically', and the same name, did not render it as 'same' society; finally, the theory advanced by some that the same Society cannot be erected twice, is unfortunately not correct and here is how: the Chapel of St. Anthony was erected as Chapel in 1950 and in the year 2000, the same was erected as Church. The same building with the same name was erected twice but each time it was a different entity, and thus even if the same society was revived and re-organized as a new entity, it would still be a new Society, since both were substantially different from each other.

(iii) Finally, the word '*continuadora*' used by the Founding Fathers in the official 'Acts' (record) of the foundation on July 2, 1939: (i) The 'Acts' are historical record and not a canonical declaration and therefore not a documentary proof of the 'sameness' of the society; (ii) The Canonical document was issued by the Patriarch and it states: ***"It is constituted in this Archdiocese of Goa, the Society of the Missionaries of St. Francis Xavier.....", thus stating that a Society is constituted;*** (iii) In the forwarding note (announcement/portaria), he describes the '*NEW Constitutions, as 'modifications' of the Constitutions approved by his predecessor in 1891;*

The holding on to the word '*continuadora*' in the Minutes of the establishment of the Society on July 2, 1939, which simply stated, means that they are continuing the name of the old Society (not the Society, since this is diametrically different), or the 'word '*modifications*' in the forwarding note of the Patriarch, is looking for straw when one is drowning. For illustration, the Patriarch ordains Fr. Anthony Cardozo, Priest; in the official note forwarding the certificate to the priest, he puts the ordained priest's name as Anthony Pegado. Who was ordained Cardozo or Pegado? The new Society is a religious society, and the old one is a diocesan association of secular priests, the difference is like chalk and cheese. Can we say that the cheese is the continuation of the chalk? Further if the 'new' society is a complete rejection of all that is old, how can it be called 'continuation', except in the chronological sense, coming in time in 1939/1946, after the old society of 1891/1909?

THE WAY FORWARD – THE SOLUTION PATH

The Society approved by the Church in 1946, has a (a) **NATURE** (religious society, with private perpetual vows, lived in common), (b) **STRUCTURE** (internal authority, no interference of the Bishop), (c) **LEGAL** (established as per the norms of Canon Law), and (d) **UNIVERSAL** (recognized the universal Church), all of which are the opposite of the old Society. From 1939 to 1975, for 36 years, the Foundation Day of the New Society on July 2, (the

day the new society was established) was celebrated as a the Re-organization day, but the feeling, the belief and the emotions, were that of Foundation Day.

The still more radical problem is: a Religious Society is established when the Church states and gives approval to the 'inspiration by the Founder/s'. Which 'inspiration' did the Church approve when it issued the Decree in 1946? That of 1887 or 1939? The Founding Fathers of 1939 have never even by passing referred to the inspiration of Fr. Bento Martins, on the contrary there is contemporary documentary evidence that the "founding fathers" were inspired. The key issue is: ***when the Church approves/erects the new Society on June 30, 1946, it declared that 'the inspiration received by the Founders, Fr. Conceicao Rodrigues and Fr. Francisco J Sequeira, is from the Holy Spirit and is an approved way to live a life of perfection.'*** Which inspiration was he referring to? (i) to that of 1887 that declared its members in their constitutions of 1891 and 1909, as secular priests of the Goa Archdiocese? or (ii) to the Society that was sought to be established after the inspiration received by the two promoters in 1931 and 1934, who presented their plan to the Patriarch? ***Finally, whose inspiration did the Church approve as the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, that of 'new' missionary society with members professing evangelical counsels and living life in common, or of being secular priests?*** The Canonical evidence is undisputed, in the Decree of the approval of the Constitution on June 30, 1946. What the Society has to decide is: (i) ***who approached the Patriarch?*** (ii) ***who presented the document?*** (iii) ***what was the 'inspiration' conveyed by the Promoters, to the Patriarch, as received from the Holy Spirit, as a reason for the establishment of the Missionary Society?***

THE DECISION OF THE SOCIETY OF THE MISSIONARIES OF ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

On October 22, 2022, the Superior General of the Missionary Society formally promulgated the 'Acts of the 20th General Chapter' of the Society (the Chapter is the highest legislative and administrative body), which states on page 28, "The

House was very delighted to have the presence and guidance of **the Facilitator of the Holy See to the Society, His Eminence, Oswald Cardinal Gracias who proposed to the Capitulars a paper on 'Further Clarifications on the Document of Reconciliation' of 2006 which the Capitulars unanimously adopted.**"

Further, on pages 3-38 the Superior General, reproduces the text of the of above unanimously adopted **"The Final Statement"** which states:

(i) **"The Foundation of the Society of the Missionaries of St. Francis Xavier (1887) and its Reorganization (1939) are two distinct events separated by time, both resultant from an impulse of the Holy Spirit" (Statement of difference).**

Further, the 'Final Statement' continues (ii) **"It was during a pilgrimage to the relics of St. Francis Xavier at Old Goa (Exposition on 1931) that Conceicao Menino Rodrigues and Francisco Jasso Sequeira, both seminarians in their second year of theology at the Rachol Seminary, Goa, independently felt inspired to dedicate themselves to work in the missions. As a consequence of this, the two started a prayer group in the Seminary, "the Liga Xaveriana" to foster a spirit of intense prayer life and to promote love for the missions" (Statement of the inspiration received).**

(iii) **"Two years later, at the feet of St. Francis Xavier at Old Goa (Nov-Dec 1933), Fr. Conceicao Rodrigues and Fr. Francisco Jasso Sequeira, again independently had an inspiration to start a Missionary Society for the spread of the Gospel in our country. They shared their dreams with the Patriarch of Goa and Daman, Dom Teotonio in August 1934. Fr. Conceicao Rodrigues led the discussion with the Patriarch Archbishop and his representatives." (Statement of presenting to the Patriarch their plan of a missionary society, as a result of the inspiration received).**

(iv) **"The response of the Patriarch was that he desired to have "an Association of Secular Priests" like the Old Society and he was willing to**

promote the vision of these two if they revived the missionary thrust. At the suggestion of the Patriarch, Fr. Conceicao Rodrigues and Fr. Francisco Sequeira got in touch with Fr. Baltazar Remedios Gomes, the Auxiliary Superior of the Old Society, and after study and consultations proposed modifications to the Constitutions of the Old Society. Challenges there were, but Fr. Conceicao Rodrigues and Fr. Francisco bravely led from the front and thus were clearly the principal agents for the Reorganization of the Society." (Statement of difference from what the Patriarch wanted 'secular priest' to what the new Constitution states, religious society).

(v) **"These two moments, distinct moments, the Foundation and the Re-organization give the Society its identity. In this process of reorganization, the leadership role of Fr. Conceicao Rodrigues and Fr. Francisco Sequeira is acknowledged and hailed. They, with their companions revitalized the Society and made what it is today." (Statement about the Promoters / Founders / Leadership role).**

Thus the General Chapter of 2022, finally undid what the Chapter of 1975 had stated, thus re-establishing the true religious nature of the Society of the Missionaries of St. Francis Xavier.

J.A. Carvalho

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INDEPENDENCE DAY

- Tony Menezes

*After tears and years of freedom struggle,
Between fasts, protests and provoked squabbles,
Our brave men and women faced the wrath,
But a united, free India we finally got!*

*This Independence Day, with hearts held high,
We salute our heroes - as our tricolour flies,
For in their courage, there's a legacy,
That shaped a nation proud and free.*

*In the richness of cultures that we all share,
Unity in diversity is embedded there,
Our beloved nation has a vibrant soul,
May 'freedom forever' be our cherished goal.*

*On this glorious day, we proudly stand,
Honouring the heroes who shaped our land,
Through years of turmoil, their vision was strong,
For a united India where dreams belong.*

*Hail to our martyrs who pledged their lives,
To the citizens with hope that forever thrives,
Our Independence Day is a symbol of pride,
A time to unite and live side by side!*



Tony Menezes is a writer, aspiring poet, hospitality management professional and animal lover.

MOTHER MARY – AUGUST QUEEN OF HEAVEN

-Jacqueline Kelly

For hundreds of years, Catholics observed the two chief feasts of Mary, her Immaculate Conception (December 8) and her Assumption (August 15).

Among all the saints, the most Holy Virgin Mary stands in the first place. God raised Mary to a dignity above that of all the angels and saints and filled her soul with grace. She is the mother of His Son and the Holiest of all women. She is also our mother and continually prays to God for us. That is why we honour Mary, in an altogether special way. It was her privilege to give her help to God at the incarnation of His Son. As Jesus was offering Himself for us on the Cross, Mary stood near Him and took part in His sacrifice.

Because Mary was so closely bound up with her Son in His passion and death, she was to be like Him also in His Heavenly Glory. Her body was preserved from corruption because she remained always free from sin. At the end of her life on earth, Mary was glorified by being taken up body and soul into heaven. This is called the "Assumption."

Mary's Assumption into heaven was not through her own power, but she was lifted up by the Power of God. Through the Assumption, she is redeemed by God, that is her body and soul, share in the glory of God.

In ancient liturgy this feast was called the Dormition (Falling Asleep) or Repose. Roman Catholics believed that it was right that the body of one who was entirely free from sin should not be left to decay in the earth.

In 1568, Pope Pius V declared the Feast of the Assumption a holy day for the entire Church. Pope Pius XII on November 1, 1950, in an Apostolic Constitution, declared the Assumption to be a dogma (a teaching which the Church declares is true and which must be accepted in

faith by all Roman Catholics).

Mary was consumed with the desire to be united with her Divine Son in heaven, her soul departed from her body and united itself to Him, who, out of the excessive love He bore for His Mother, whose virginal body was His First Tabernacle, took that body into heaven and there amidst the acclaims of the angels and saints, reinfused into it His soul. Upon being taken up to heaven, she was triply crowned as the August Queen of Heaven by God the Father as His beloved daughter, by God the Son as His dearest mother, and by God the Holy Spirit as His chosen spouse.



As a Christian, the feasts of Ascension and the Assumption are important reminders for us, that death is not the meaningless end of our existence. Jesus by His suffering and death, redeemed mankind. His Resurrection and Ascension into heaven gives us Christians new hope. Mary's Assumption into heaven gives us an assurance that what God did for Mary, He will do for each of us. The Feast of Mary's Assumption therefore is the Feast of Hope, where we believe

that we will also be redeemed, with our bodies and souls and will enjoy forever the Eternal Glory of God.

And now she is reigning in heaven as Queen over all the angels and saints. She reigns with Christ, her Son, over all the earth. With a merciful mother's love, she embraces all the brothers and sisters of her Son. She is our Lady, our Heavenly Mother; she prays for us and obtains graces for us. She is the *Mother of Christians*.

Jacqueline Kelly is a regular contributor of articles to different publications.

WHO IS A CHRISTIAN?

-Fr. Fio Mascarenhas SJ

Christianity is first of all '**spirituality**,' more than just a 'religion.' Followers of a religion can be identified by their keeping well-defined religious rules and practising time-honoured rituals, and they can be registered (in a census) as followers of this or that religion. On the other hand, Christianity is *primarily a spirituality which invites the disciples of Jesus Christ* (and eventually all human beings) *to focus on achieving and fostering four fundamental relationships*. Jesus demands "*interiority*" rather than just "external observance" of customs and rules, his followers must "**worship in spirit and in truth**" (John 4:23, 24).

I am often surprised at the poor and incomplete answers I get from even committed Catholics when I ask questions like, "Why did Jesus Christ come into this world?" Vague answers like, "to save us," "to teach us to love one another," etc., are common. Here therefore I offer (only very briefly) six non-negotiable *essentials* of what it means to be a Christian.

1. A true Christian is a man/woman blessed with a *personal relationship with Jesus Christ, leading him/her to a personal relationship with the Father of Jesus Christ, and to a personal relationship with the Holy Spirit*. These graced relationships with the *three Persons* who constitute *one God* are the starting point of Christianity! St. Paul sums it up best with the familiar greeting:

"The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you" (2Cor 13:13).

Grace, love, and communion are not three commodities, but each connotes a *relationship* with the concerned Person. Notice that Paul mentions "*the grace of Jesus*" first. This is because as Christians, our relationship with *God* is always "*through Christ, with Christ and in Christ*." And only through sharing in Jesus' saving death and resurrection (John 7:37-39) can a human being

receive the love of God and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

2. St. Paul puts the "*love of God*" next. This "God who loves" is not only the Creator, Master, Provider, etc., but as revealed only by Jesus, he is truly a *Father*. Jesus encourages his disciples to *dare* to call God, "Father," in the personal sense of "Abba" (Papa, Dad). Jesus himself related intimately with God as his beloved Son, and he wants us to do the same, hence the Father gifts us with Jesus' own "*spirit of sonship*" (Rom 8:15).

The first permanent action on a Christian of God's Spirit is to transform him/her, by a new birth (Jn 3:3), into a brother/sister of Christ, even a "*co-heir with Christ*" (see Rom 8:15-17). The Christian's prayer-life must reflect this gratuitous "father-

son" / "father-daughter" relationship by consisting primarily of praise and worship of a good and mighty Father God "*who has done great things for me, holy is his name!*" Mary is the model in this (see Lk 1:49), for Christianity is not firstly about what *we* must do for God, but about what *God* in Christ has done for his People (that is why it is

called *Good News*).

3. St. Paul next mentions the "*communion of the Holy Spirit*." Communion, or *fellowship*, or *companionship*, is the Spirit's finest relationship-gift to a Christian. Without the indwelling presence and continuing action of the Holy Spirit, the Christian would neither be able to profess "*Jesus is Lord*" (1Cor 12:3), nor experience "*the love of God poured into our hearts*" (Rom 5:5), nor become a member of the Church (1Cor 12:27) to draw power from its sacraments, nor experience the word of God as "*spirit and life*" (Jn 6:63), etc.

The Holy Spirit, who from the moment of baptism indwells every Christian, is called a *Paraclete*, that is, "one who is sent to stand with us," sent **to encourage us**. Scripture assures us, "*He who is within you is greater* (more powerful and active) *than he who is in the world*" (1Jn.4:4). Another text



reminds us that this Spirit is constantly at work in us, “transforming us degree by degree into his image” (2Cor.5:18), which means, God's Spirit is constantly and powerfully at work developing our Christian self-identity.

4. St. Paul addressed 2Cor 13:13 to the Church of Corinth, and not to just an individual person (e.g. to Titus or Philemon), hence the context of his words “be with **you**” (2Cor 13:13) is *membership of the Church*. The triple relationship with the Blessed Trinity must be nurtured by each Christian within the Community of Believers. Jesus did not wish his followers to remain independent individuals or anonymous Christians but to become members of an integrated Body (with him as “the Head” – Col 1:18).

Thus, Jesus' own Incarnation would be extended in time and space throughout human history. A sincere belonging to and involvement in an ecclesial community is therefore an essential element of Christianity. [The need for the Eucharist and sacraments is included here].

5. Also, a Christian is one who draws spiritual nourishment daily from *the word of God*. Many Catholics are still lacking in this characteristic, though the Second Vatican Council and recent Popes have all stressed that the word of God, being “spirit and life” (Jn 6:63), is an important source of grace. Vatican II assured all Christians, “**Just as from constant attendance at the eucharistic mystery the life of the Church draws increase, so a new impulse of spiritual life may be expected from increased devotion to the word of God**” (Dei Verbum, n.26). So we must conclude that a Christian who practices a daily *Lectio Divina* (a faith-filled daily reading of especially the New Testament) will be continually strengthened in his/her self-identity, and receive grace to “be like Jesus.”

6. Likewise, a Christian is one who has made Jesus' new commandment of love the habitual and constant driving factor in his/her life. “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one

another; even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another” (Jn.13:34,35). Jesus' new commandment is an essential, **non-negotiable sign of the Christian self-identity**! Consequently, the humility to forgive 70 times 7 is an essential virtue for a Christian. A Christian grows by taking many initiatives of love daily, at home, at work, and in leisure-time, showing that the fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5:22) rather than “of the flesh” is the wellspring of all one's words and actions.

Each time I offer a smile of encouragement or a kind word to family members or to neighbours, and strangers as well; each time I offer forgiveness willingly and cheerfully to those who have “hurt” me; and each time I protest and take small or big steps to fight against injustice, poverty, discrimination and other ills in civic and church

life, I am showing the fruit of the Spirit active in me. (One cannot claim to be a follower and lover of Jesus Christ if at the same time one shows no evidence of personal interest in extending the Kingdom of God in this world).

To conclude this brief article, a true Christian is a disciple

who obeys Jesus' demand for “interiority” rather than for mere habitual external observance of rules, customs and pious devotions. (Jesus condemned such behaviour in the hypocritical Pharisees – read carefully Matt 5:20 - 6:19, and especially Matt 7:21). Finally, please note that a Christian's four special relationships are not gained through personal merit or worthiness, but are gratuitously *gifted* to him/her in baptism. It is only and always “*through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ*” that a Christian finds his/her self-identity!



Dr. Fiorello Mascarenhas SJ has authored 23 books on biblical and Catholic spirituality, and is available for talks and retreats: frfiomas@gmail.com

SACRIFICE, COVENANT, BANQUET

-Leon Bent

The Eucharist is a Person! The Cross is a Person! Christianity is a Person! The Kingdom of God is a Person! The Super-substantial Bread is Jesus in his Eucharistic form. Jesus, our Messiah is our New Passover Lamb. He took the sin of the whole world upon himself and he willingly became our sacrificial lamb (1 Cor. 5:7; Mk. 14:12). Jesus will always be with us in our pain. When a tear falls from our eyes, Jesus cries too! We are alone with Jesus in our pain, besides, suffering will take us to heaven, as we tingle with the vitality of grace!

The *Treasure of Heaven*, Jesus, is crucified ... worthy is the Lamb (Rev. 5:12-13). Jesus speaks to our wounds from the Cross. The Eucharist helps us embrace our human frailty and brokenness and transform it.

Isaiah says: "On this mountain the LORD Almighty will prepare a feast of rich food for all peoples, a banquet of aged wine - the juicy meats and sparkling wines (Isa. 25:6). The Wedding Feast of Cana depicts the wild excess of divine life, Jesus offers those who "Do what he tells them," "Six stone jars transformed into 180 gallons of sparkling wine" (cf. Jn. 2:1-11). A sure symbol of True Love in Catholic marriage that, takes time to mature, and an early symbol of the Eucharist. The Sacrament of Matrimony and the Eucharist offers us the fullness of grace.

The Road to Emmaus is Eucharistic

Now, on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem (Jn. 24:13). Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures (Jn. 24: 25-27). When he was at the table with them, he "took bread, blessed and broke it," and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him, and he vanished

from their sight. They said to each other, "*Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?*" (Lk. 24: 30-33). This is an extraordinary symbol of the Eucharist: The recitation of the Word and breaking Bread, is, indeed, the Eucharist.

Sacrifice

Although Melchizedek is a subject of much speculation, this enigmatic historical figure and his royal priesthood serve as a model for Jesus. He brought out bread and wine to offer sacrifice. This is why we have altars to offer sacrifice, in atonement for our sins. When the lamb is offered we are offered. This is why we have altars, where the priest offers sacrifice, which is joined to the one sacrifice of Jesus, our sinful selves are joined to that of Jesus.

Covenant

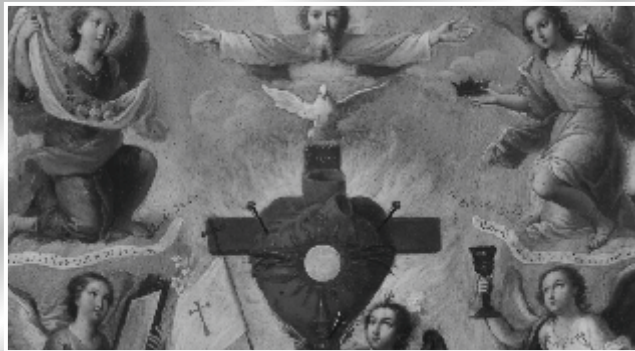
For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you that, the Lord Jesus on the night he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way he took the cup

also, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. As often as you drink this cup, do it in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes (1 Cor. 11:23-26).

I will make a covenant with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people (cf. Jer. 31: 31-33).

Banquet

Jesus wanted to feed his people. And the Lord God commanded the man, in the Garden of Eden, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden, but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die" (Gen. 2:16-17). God wanted humankind to have fullness of life (Jn.10:10), and wanted to have "open table fellowship with saints and sinners" (cf. Mk. 2:13-17). Jesus wanted to give



his followers and disciples sumptuous food – his very own life. Transubstantiation – the idea that during Mass, the bread and wine used for the Offertory, Consecration and Communion, become the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ – is central to the Catholic faith. Indeed, the Catholic Church teaches that, “The Eucharist is the source and summit of the Christian life” (CCC 1324:1327; Also: *Sacrosanctum Concilium*, article 47; See also: *Lumen Gentium*, 11), through a Banquet”: The Eucharist! This means that it is the nourishment our spirits need, and it is the closest we can be to Christ while we live our human existence.

The Bread of Life Discourse

If you cannot believe (faith and trust) in Jesus' divinity you cannot believe in the “Real Presence”: John 6:35-47 Part I (Believing in the Bread), and John 6: 48-58, Part II (Eating His Body). These two parts of John's Gospel are central to Catholicism.

For the Bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world. They said to him, “Sir, give us this bread always.” Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.”

Brant Pitre says, “The word Eucharist appears for the first time in the Bible as *Eucharistes*, in Greek (Lk. 22:1).

1. *It is an act of Thanksgiving in the Last Supper* (1 Cor. 11:20-22)
2. *When the early Christians met as a Community:* All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (Acts 2:42-47)
3. *The Breaking of the Bread:* The earliest Christian name (Acts 2:41-42)
4. *A Memorial:* Luke 22:19 – To Remember....It makes the Last Supper present.
5. *The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass:* Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name (cf. Heb.: 13:9-15; Phil.2:9-11).
6. *Holy Communion:* 1 Cor. 15:17: offers fellowship, *koinonia*, camaraderie, participation, communion, profound union. How to prepare for Holy Communion: establish a Personal and Covenantal relationship with Jesus.
7. *The Medicine of Immorality:* We receive supernatural – eternal life. (a) We have received the Body, Soul, Mind, Heart and Divinity of Jesus (b) Go forth the Mass is ended – We are sent forth as Missionaries, Evangelizers and Proclaimers to broadcast the

“Good News” of the Gospel to the whole world. Archbishop Fulton Sheen says: “Come” to the Eucharist, and “Go”: Breathe out the Spirit of Jesus across the seven seas.

Conclusion: The substance of ordinary Bread and Wine is transubstantiated into the “Real Presence” of the Body and Blood of Jesus. God said to Moses, ‘*I am who I am.*’ He said further, ‘Thus you shall say to the Israelites, “*I am* has sent me....” I am always present to you! “God's Providence extends to all Creation” (St. Augustine).

The downward trajectory of the Son of God, the acrobatic tumbling down to his death on a cruel Cross, saved humanity from sin and death. “Therefore, God highly exalted him and gave him the Name that is above every name, so that, at the Name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that, Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father” (cf. Phil. 9:2-11).

The reason why the daily Mass is the greatest event on planet earth, each and every day, is because, it makes present to us in time and space, the ever-living prayer within the heart of Jesus Christ ascended into Heaven. St. John Paul II, described the Mass as “Heaven on earth,” explaining that, what “we celebrate on earth, is a mysterious participation in the heavenly liturgy.”

“Wait a minute! That's heaven! No, it's the Mass. No, it's the Book of Revelation. Wait a minute, it's all that is mentioned above” (Scott Hahn). Yes! The Mass is the Revelation of Heavenly Worship to St. John (Rev. 4, 5, 21).

St. John Paul II, described the Mass as “Heaven on earth,” explaining that, what “we celebrate on earth, is a mysterious participation in the heavenly liturgy.”

The *Treasure of Heaven*, Jesus, is Crucified....worthy is the Lamb (Rev. 12-13). The Eucharist helps us embrace our human frailty and brokenness and transform it. Jesus speaks to our wounds from the Cross.

May we see the Mass with new eyes, pray the Liturgy with a renewed heart, and enter into the Eucharist more fully, enthusiastically, intelligently and powerfully, than ever before.



Leon Bent was awarded the “Silver Pen Award,” in the year 2000, for Published Writings on Social Issues, at the hands of Ivan Cardinal Dias. He also won “The Cardinal Dias Award for Research in Mariology,” in 2018, at the hands of Oswald Cardinal Gracias. Leon contributes Articles on a regular basis, to various Journals in India and Overseas, and Digital Platforms around the world.

AGNEL HAPPENINGS - ASSAGAON

AITD conducts its Annual Technical Festival: Tech Urja 2023

Agnel Institute of Technology & Design, Assagao, Goa conducted the third edition of its National Level Technical Fest – Tech Urja 2023 on 16th and 17th May 2023, in the college campus. The objective of this fest was to encourage students across the nation to come and exhibit their technical and tactical skills. Seven technical events, six non-technical events were conducted as a part of Tech Urja 2023 with a prize pool of Rs. 1,12,000.

The chief guest for the event was **Mr. Shekar Sardessai**, Founder & Group Managing Director, Kinco Pvt. Ltd. The Guest of Honours were **Mr. Sairaj Dhond**, Founder of Wakao

Foods and **Ms. Ramandeep Kaur**, Sub-Editor, *The Navhind Times*.

Honourable Minister for IT & Tourism Shri Rohan Khaunte was the special guest who unveiled a GO-KART, developed by AITD students for Automobile de Goa.

Tech Urja 2023 had participants from Goa and its neighbouring states. With its positive impact on networking, and knowledge sharing, the technical festival left a lasting impression on participants, motivating them to continue their pursuit of innovation and personal growth, in the ever-evolving world of technology and beyond.



Dignitaries at Tech Urja 2023.



Hon'ble Minister for IT & Tourism Shri Rohan Khaunte unveiling a Go-Kart developed by AITD students.

YOUTH ICON CRICKETER JEMIMAH RODRIGUES INSPIRES ON NATIONAL SPORTS DAY

August 29 marks the birth anniversary of Major Dhyan Chand, the legendary hockey wizard who made India proud by winning gold medals in the Olympics multiple times and is celebrated as National Sports Day. Its objective is to inculcate the value of sports and the importance of being fit, active, and healthy. India is doing well on the international stage in different disciplines such as hockey, badminton, weightlifting, gymnastics, javelin throw and other sports

Sunil D'Cruz catches up with all-rounder Jemimah Rodrigues, part of India's women's cricket team and a national youth icon from Bandra, Mumbai. She is now playing her third season of The Hundred in England. She will also represent India at the 19th Asian Games at Hangzhou, China, from 23rd September to 8th October 2023. Excerpts from an interview:

How did you balance your studies and represent India in women's cricket?

I would give credit to my mum and dad. They would say yes, play cricket and make it big but give equal importance to your studies. After a whole day of training, I would return home and study. During my Xth Std. Board exams, my mom would travel with me to the hotel. The team would leave at 7 in the morning and return by 6 pm. My mom would be waiting for me. After freshening up, we would sit together in a corner of the lobby and she would take up my studies. That's how I balanced it.

Traditionally, parents want their children to be doctors, pilots, engineers and lawyers. Can children take up competitive sport as a career?

Children can definitely take up competitive sport. Now if you see sport has taken a whole new meaning in our country. People are giving it a lot of priority and at the same time, the pay is good too if you play sport and do it professionally. I think it's a good option to take it seriously and make it big in sports.

How can parents spot a talent in their children and encourage them? In your case, your encouraging parents even relocated from Bhandup to Bandra in Mumbai.

My parents have played an important part in my career. Being where I am today is thanks to them. They spotted my talent at a very young age. We come from a middle class family and they shifted from Bhandup to Bandra, so that I can get more opportunities and practice more efficiently

Parents should be aware of what their child is good at and encourage them. It's not just sport, it can be anything. If parents pick it up early, who knows your child can be India's next big star.

What was your experience playing in the inaugural Women's Premier League (WPL) for Delhi Capitals and making it to the finals. Will WPL be a game changer for women's cricket in India?

The WPL was an amazing experience. I have played in foreign leagues like WBBL and The Hundred but there is nothing like having your own premier league at home in India. What made it big is the fans. We had a full stadium for every game. That's where sport and especially cricket in India has gone to a whole new level. Everyone is loving it. Fans just love to watch a good game of cricket. It doesn't matter if a girl

or a guy is playing. Delhi Capitals has been a great franchise and I was the vice-captain. We had a good bunch of girls and there was lots of learning. Every experience teaches you something.

What was your experience playing in the Women's Big Bash League (WBBL) in Australia and The Hundred in England? How does it compare with WPL?

One good thing about playing in the WBBL and The Hundred is that I get to travel around the world and get to know the conditions. In India, I know the pitches since I have played there all my life. When you come to England, you understand



the pitch, the conditions, the different strategies the team has, so there is always a lot to learn.

You are also sharing the dressing room with the legends of cricket all over the world and there is so much to learn. I keep eating their brains about how they go about their training and practice. The biggest thing is to travel across, play good, competitive cricket at different stadiums all over the world. Imagine the kind of confidence I will have coming into the Indian side and using that experience there.

What makes Australia a predominant force in the Women's ODI World Cup and T20 World Cup, having won the title 7 and 6 times, respectively.

The Australian team plays a different brand of cricket and have the attitude of dominating that sets them apart. But India and other teams are doing well. In the recent Women's Ashes ODI and T20 Series, England beat Australia, so other teams are coming up and it's not just Australia.

India has reached 3 Women's World Cup finals in both formats and narrowly missed out on a Women's T20 World Cup by 7 runs against England in 2017. How do you take such close matches?

It's always hard, playing the World Cup and making it to the finals or semi-finals and losing by just 9 runs or just 5 runs. It hurts badly. At the same time, it shows a lot of promise in the Indian women's cricket team that we are there and we are knocking on the doors. We know that something big is coming and it's on the way. We have to keep working hard, keep following the process, keep doing what we need to do. We know that at the right time, when God gives, he will give us something big, something massive.

How important is prayer in your life?

Prayer has become a part of me. Initially it was forced on me by my parents. The rule in the Rodrigues family was that you have to pray first and then only you get to play. Now even without realising it, I end up praying. It has helped me

massively. As a cricketer, you are playing at the international level, you have a lot of ups and downs, you have a lot of challenges. Especially during the low phases, prayer is a good thing to fall back on. You know the creator of heaven and earth is holding you in the palms of his hand, during your low phase. You don't have to get out of the low phase on your own, he will get you out and he promises that he will get you out and make it special. I travel a lot around the world. Though my parents are just a phone call away, there is one person who is always there with me wherever I go and he is Jesus. He has said that he will never leave me or forsake me. That is the level of confidence I have that I am never alone in life. Whenever I am down, he is there to pick me up and take me higher.

You seem to be fond of music, taking your guitar on all cricket tours.

While growing up, I always had headphones on, going to the supermarket. I loved listening to music. I got inspired by Jaison in our church who used to play the guitar, so I also wanted to play the guitar because it looks real cool. Now I love playing the guitar even on cricket tours.

On National Sports Day (Aug 29), what would be your message to the youth of India, especially women?

On National Sports Day, I would say if you dream big, anything is possible. Sometimes our vision is too small, so dream big and do whatever it takes to achieve that dream because dreams do

come true. At the same time, don't forget to enjoy, while you are working hard towards realising your dream.



Sunil D'Cruz is on the Editorial team of Fr. Agnel Ashram News.

AGNEL HAPPENINGS - VASHI

Ishaan Vivrekar – A Beautiful Mind

Ishaan Vivrekar from Fr. Agnel Multipurpose School and Jr. College, Vashi, Navi Mumbai, is no ordinary boy and the exceptional story of courage, conviction, teamwork and collaboration that helped him to score 63.83% in HSC Examination this year.

Ishaan is a boy like no other. He has a rare genetic medical condition called Tuberous Sclerosis

Complex that causes tubers in different parts of the body including the brain. This medical condition has left Ishaan completely non-verbal (no speech) from birth and has drastically impacted his fine motor skills. Physical stress numbs his limbs and then he needs support. His lungs function only at around 50% and his kidney health is affected too. Together, with these challenging physical conditions, Ishaan is also on the Autism Spectrum.

But his medical conditions have not been able to constrain or limit him. He has an exceptional intellect powered by logical reasoning and an amazing memory. He joined Fr. Agnel's, an Inclusive school, in Nursery in the year 2008. Ever since then, with the help of special educators and teachers in school and his mother at home, his academic journey has been an eventful learning process for all crossing small hurdles, creating new paths and adjusting to Ishaan's needs of physical safety without compromising on learning outcomes.

At school, Ishaan took his exams on his laptop with the support of a special educator and he scored well in every exam. But in Std. VIII, he found it increasingly difficult to type for 3/4 long hours at a stretch without someone supporting his elbow. In 2021, the SSC Examination was cancelled and on the basis of internal school exams Ishaan scored 85.6%.

Ishaan joined the Science stream in Fr Agnel Jr. College in 2021. He loved his Physics and Math classes and even though he sat through his lectures without a word or movement, his beautiful mind was at work processing what he had heard and read. In January 2022, to complicate matters further, Ishaan was infected with Covid and grew weak and frail.



In view of his precarious physical condition and the fact that he was on autism spectrum, the Divisional Secretary of Mumbai Board Mr. S.R. Borse took great initiative to pass a historic decision in February this year – just on the eve of the HSC Examination. The Maharashtra Board of Secondary and Higher Secondary Examination allowed Ishaan's mother to be with him in the exam hall to physically support his elbow while he typed his paper under the vigilance of the invigilator and the permitted support of a reader.

Ishaan took his HSC exam from ICL College, Vashi. The Principal was very supportive and made all necessary arrangements to keep Ishaan comfortable in a medically safe environment.

Ishaan's story is the story of his grit and determination, his parents' persistent efforts, his inclusive school's sensitive

support system and the deep empathy and understanding of the high ranking officials of the Maharashtra Board.

It is yet another testimony to the truth that the right kind of educational support, empathetic understanding, persistent effort and effective collaboration from all the stakeholders can empower every child to learn and succeed.

But above all, it is the story of Ishaan's amazingly vibrant and beautiful mind.

ST. MONICA AND HER SON ST. AUGUSTINE

- Christine D'Sylva

"Nothing is far from God." – St. Monica

"Take care of your body as if you were going to live forever and take care of your soul as if you were going to die tomorrow." – St. Augustine

Female saints are often not married ladies, however, there are a few popular exceptions like St. Monica and St. Rita.

St. Monica was raised in a Catholic family in North Africa. She was married to a pagan official named Patricius who had a violent temper. She persisted in her faith and she raised her children to be Christians. One of her children was Augustine who gave her plenty of trouble.

Her relationship with him was a difficult one for he was a rebellious youth who led a hedonistic life. However, Monica was a very devoted mother. She loved her son deeply and wanted him to change his ways. She understood no amount of pleading would change his life. She understood that only prayer could change his heart. So she never tired of praying for him and prayed ceaselessly.

She was widowed at the age of 39 and brought up her three children, two boys and a girl alone.

There must have been times when she despaired and felt that her prayers were not answered. But her faith in God was too strong to give up. She persisted and is a great example of how prayers can work miracles. Since she was a devout Christian, she wanted Augustine to embrace Christianity but he always refused. Once when she was talking to a priest and pouring out her troubles, he urged her to remain steadfast in her prayers and told her that it was impossible that a child of so many tears and prayers should perish.

St. Monica passed away in A.D 387, shortly after St. Augustine was baptised. Her feast day is 27th August. Some of her last words to her son, Augustine were, "There was only one thing that made me want to stay here...to see you as a Catholic Christian at last before you died. My God has greatly satisfied me for I even see you despise earthly happiness to serve him. Why do I tarry here?"

She fell ill soon after this and breathed her last at the age of 56. **She is venerated as a patron saint of mothers.**

What can we learn from this saint?

We learn that our children are given to us by God as a gift. We must never give up on them despite

their troublesome way or lifestyle that is not spiritual.

We must understand that it is our duty as parents to pray for our children and to place them in the hands of God. Often it is not our own efforts that make them turn to Christ and lead good lives. Rather, it is our prayers that are heard by God and He changes their hearts with his special touch and deep love. Only God transforms hearts, thus our prayers are essential.

St. Augustine

As a young man, Augustine of Hippo began a long time affair with a woman whom he did not marry. They had a son, Adeodatus.

He abandoned his Christian faith and led a hedonistic lifestyle, uncaring about spiritual values. He was a very intelligent man. He took up a position teaching rhetoric in Milan. This led him to have more engagement and connection with Christian literature and other believers.

On a hot summer afternoon, in 386, he heard a childlike voice calling him to, "Take up and read."

He took this as a divine command, picked up the Bible and began to read. The words he read were "Let us conduct ourselves properly as in the day - not in orgies and drunkenness, not in promiscuity and licentiousness, not in rivalry and jealousy. But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ and make no provisions for the desires of the flesh." - Romans 13:13-14.

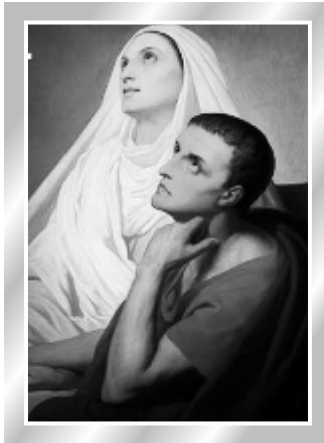
He was cut to the heart and his conversion began rapidly. The Holy Spirit began to work in his transformation. He and his son were baptised at the next Easter vigil by St. Ambrose.

St. Augustine is one of the most profound spiritual teachers and bishops of Western Christianity. In Roman Catholicism, he is formally recognised as a doctor of the church.

What lessons can this saint teach us?

Firstly, we learn nobody is too far from redemption. There is hope for everyone to turn over a new leaf. We learn the lessons of faith, hope, persistence and the need to have a personal relationship with God. We must look to him as our guide and saviour.

Today, let us comprehend that hope is in each of us and miracles happen even when things seem impossible. Let us never lose heart despite our difficulties but truly believe in our hearts - ***Nothing is impossible unto God.***



BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

-Norma Kamath

John the Baptist was the first person to refer to the Baptism with the Holy Spirit, "I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire" (Mt 3:11-12). After Jesus resurrected from the dead during the forty days he was on earth, he charged the Apostles not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which he said, "You heard from me, for John baptized with water, but before many days, you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit" (Acts 1: 4-5). "You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth" (Acts 1:8).

The Apostles gathered in the upper room with Mary, the mother of Jesus, and the disciples, about one hundred and twenty persons, and devoted themselves to prayer. On the day of Pentecost a sound came from Heaven, the rush of a mighty wind, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues. Peter explained this, as what was spoken by the prophet Joel, "And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh..." (Acts 2:17).

In 1967, a group of students from Duquesne University in America gathered together to pray for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit, as the apostles did at Pentecost. They received a powerful anointing, the Baptism in the Holy Spirit, with its spiritual gifts and graces.

Explanation

People began to get confused whether they need to open their lives to the Baptism in the Holy Spirit, as they were already baptized at birth, and received the Holy Spirit with the graces (Isaiah 11:2-3) when godparents stood proxy. The baptism of the Holy Spirit is a renewal of the same baptism.

Catholic theology recognises that an individual personal response of faith is needed in order for the grace and power of the sacrament to flow into one's life. The flame dies down in the case of infant baptism. Observe a housewife blowing into the dying embers, and fanning it into a flame and a fire. At the baptism in the Holy Spirit, the Spirit breathes, and unleashes the Holy Spirit that is already present in our infant baptism, revitalising the graces we have received earlier, and equips us with spiritual gifts for service, mission, discipleship and for life (1 Cor 12: 4-11).

At a live-in Charismatic retreat, the retreatant experiences deep repentance through the word of

God, individual counselling, prayer, Confession and Mass. The Baptism in the Holy Spirit is administered by priests and laymen in the renewal with the laying of hands and the retreatant receives a powerful anointing, the Baptism in the



Spirit with the manifestation of the nine gifts (1 Cor 12: 8-10).

Recommendations

Cardinal Raneiro Cantalamessa, the Spiritual Preacher and Counsellor of the Papal Household, strongly recommends the Baptism in the Holy Spirit for priests, religious and lay persons. Cardinal Suenens describes it as a current of grace, a renewing breath of the Spirit. Fr. Marcellino Iragui, a Carmelite theologian explains he had head knowledge of God, but after the Baptism in the Holy Spirit, he received heart knowledge. Mother Teresa and thousands of priests would attend the Retreat at Pentecost in Rome, with Pope John Paul II. Pope Francis invited lay persons and even a few Protestant Pentecostal leaders at Pentecost.

The Vincentian Congregation are foremost in India and abroad, in conducting live-in retreats (at cost and even free) at their retreat centres, Tabor

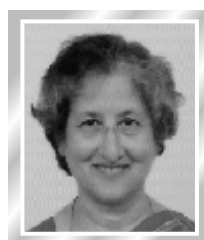
Ashram in Mumbai, Logos Retreat Centre in Bangalore and the Divine Retreat Centre in Chalakudy, Kerala, the largest in the world, where thousands have received the Baptism in the Holy Spirit weekly, for the past thirty years. Their mercy ministries care for mental patients, the abandoned sick, and widows. Bible courses and retreats online on Divine U.K., Divine Colombo, Goodness TV, Shalom TV have strengthened the faith of Catholics through the Word of God.

Benefits

- Ongoing repentance for sin, which grieves the heart of God. Appreciation of the Father's love for us, his sacrifice of his son, Jesus for our salvation. Role of Mother Mary in our salvation.
- Blocks are removed and we experience a release of our burdens and are filled with love, peace, joy and righteousness, through the Holy Spirit.
- The mind, heart and senses are opened inwardly to see, hear, smell, touch, speak, and to understand the truths of our faith, and the gifts of the spirit.
- Receive a revelation of our true identity in Jesus, as sons and daughters of the Father, and can call him Abba.
- Easier to pray, read the bible, desire to attend daily mass, sacraments, adoration, and to

grow in holiness.

- Awareness of the Trinitarian Presence within, and can relate deeply to the three persons through daily personal prayer, led by the Spirit.
- Growth in faith and surrender to the Lordship of Jesus.
- Receive power and boldness to share the good news and to reach out in love.
- Order and right priorities in our lives through renunciation of false gods, and worship of the Trinity.
- Encouraged to attend a prayer meeting and guided in the use of the spiritual gifts and charisms.
- Understanding and growth in our calling as priests, religious and lay persons.
- Families, communities are blessed and become a blessing to the church for the spread of God's Kingdom.



***Norma Kamath** lives in Bangalore. She experienced the Baptism of the Holy Spirit in 1983 and was called to serve in the intercessory, counselling and healing ministry.*

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SAINT BARTHOLOMEW THE APOSTLE

-Ibonio D'Souza

Saint Bartholomew was an important figure in Christian history and is celebrated in the Roman Church on 24th August of each year. He rose to fame through his preaching skills, miraculous works and martyrdom.

"Here is a true Israelite in whom there is no deceit," are the words with which Jesus described this apostle. He is one of the pillars of the Church and one of the twelve apostles of Jesus.

St. Bartholomew was born in the 1st century AD in Cana of Galilee, not far from Nazareth, as a descendent of a poor Israeli family. Bartholomew is mentioned in the Gospel of John by the name of Nathanael of Cana. He was led from the circle of the disciples of John the Baptist at the Jordan River by Philip to Jesus.

Although Philip was the one who brought Bartholomew to Christ, Jesus had already seen him and immediately recognised him as a "true Israelite", as a simple, honest, well-meaning and sincere man. In encountering Jesus and hearing His words, he found himself face-to-face with the Truth Himself, and, like John the Baptist's leap in his mother's womb at the Lord's presence, Nathanael's words leapt out of his own heart in a clear and simple confession of faith, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!"

Jesus, in Mathew 5:8, says, "Blessed are the pure of heart, for they shall see God." In Nathanael we have an example of the pure man who sees - recognises - God when confronted with Him, and on seeing Him believes in Him, and upon believing in Him, follows Him.

He became a disciple of Jesus, strengthened his faith, and loved Jesus with ever-increasing love. Legend says that he also witnessed the first miracle of Jesus after his death, namely at the end of John's Gospel. Nathanael is one of the disciples to whom Jesus appeared on Lake Tiberius after the Resurrection.

Not long after, Bartholomew embarked on a missionary journey to preach and guide people to Jesus. His love for Christ knew no bounds and with his sermons, he converted many to Christianity. He preached in Asia Minor, India, and Armenia. His love for Jesus drew the hatred of pagan priests. According to apocryphal records, St. Bartholomew's life ended with a terrible martyr's death.

It is believed that he healed the daughter of King Polimius of Armenia from madness. Thereupon the royal family and their people converted to Christianity by burning an idol, causing it to show its evil spirit. Then, out of jealousy and malice, the king's brother crucified the apostle Bartholomew, skinned him, and cut off his head.

His relics were transferred first to Benevento and then to Rome. Today a part of his relics is kept in Rome in the church of St. Bartholomew on a small islet of the River Tiber. Interestingly, in pagan times on this islet was a shrine to the god of Aesculapius, the god of doctors and medicine. This association with medicine in the course of time

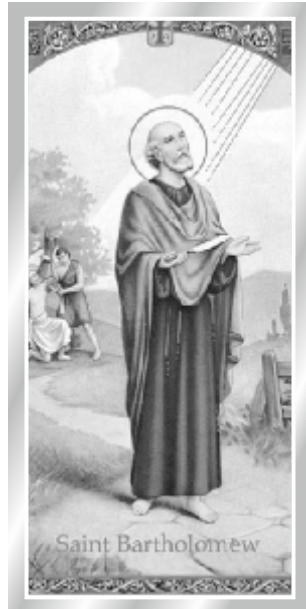
caused Bartholomew's name to become associated with medicine and hospitals, especially when they are in the grip of skin and nerve diseases. The rest of the relics are in the cathedrals of Frankfurt and Canterbury in England. In the 13th century, the monastery of St. Bartholomew was built at the place where he is believed to have died. The monastery is located in southeastern Turkey.

Michelangelo immortalized the unprecedented martyrdom in the Sistine Chapel by showing in his painting The Last Judgement of this saint holding his skin in his hands. The artist portrayed himself on the skin of the saint. Particularly beautiful paintings of this saint painted by Rubens and Jusepe de Ribera are kept in Madrid. He is depicted as a saint, with a knife in his

hand, a tool of his torment.

Saint Bartholomew is the patron saint of fishermen, miners, farmers, winegrowers, shepherds, leather workers, tailors, bakers, butchers and bookbinders. He is called against skin and nervous diseases, demons and spirits. Many churches, villages, settlements proudly bear his name as a protector.

He is remembered today as a symbol of unwavering faith, dedication to one's beliefs, and courage in the face of adversity.



Ibonio D'Souza is the author of the widely read motivational tome 'Rise And Shinethe lotus way', columnist, and a social activist.

NEWS

People of different walks of life in India show solidarity towards Manipur victims



To show their solidarity towards the victims of the ethnic clashes which erupted in the beautiful north eastern state of Manipur, on 3rd May 2023, candlelight prayer services for peace are being held throughout India.

In Madurai, over 100 professors and 800 students of Fatima College formed a human chain.

In Mumbai, a prayer service for 'Peace in Manipur' was held by the Prarthanalaya Sisters, Bandra at their Chapel on 12th July, 2023.

Friends of Manipur organised a meeting on 28th July at St. Joseph's High School Hall, Hill Road, Bandra, to stand in solidarity with the survivors and people of Manipur. A host of prominent personalities spoke on the occasion. Bishop Allwyn D'Silva, presided over the well-attended meeting.

-Sunil D'Cruz



There is no Joy Greater than the Joy of GIVING

Sandra Colaco, Marine Lines, Mumbai

I have transferred an amount of Rs. 15,000 for Full Sponsorship of a boy in your Balbhavan home. Many thanks for all the good work done by your Society.

Nilesh Parmar, Ahmedabad, Gujarat

Please accept my donation of Rs. 25,000 which I contribute on a regular basis for the needs of Fr. Agnel Ashram and the Balbhavan orphanage.

Thomas George - Grace Techno Links, Navi Mumbai

I wish to continue my donation of Rs.15,000 towards the Balbhavan orphanage, for the maintenance expenses and needs of the boys, under your care.

Parag Ved, Andheri (West), Mumbai

I am pleased to offer my donation of Rs. 24,000 for the boys of your Balbhavan home, especially for

their Education and Maintenance in the Ashram.

Carlton Alvares, Bandra (West), Mumbai

Please accept my cheque of Rs.14,000 for the kids of Balbhavan orphanage. I have regularly been donating towards their upbringing and good care that Fr. Agnel Ashram provides to the children.

Gulnar/Sanjay/Anoush Kataki, Bandra (West), Mumbai

We wish to sponsor one boy of the Balbhavan home for a period of one year. We furnish a cheque of Rs.15,000 which is the yearly sponsorship amount for a boy.

Jimmy Dubash, Peddar Road, Mumbai

We offer an amount of Rs. 2,700 to Fr. Agnel Ashram and Balbhavan home this month, for the good work done by the Ashram Fathers, with regards to the upbringing and training of boys in your care.

JUST FOR FUN

-Christine D'Sylva

The month of August is an important month for us because India obtained its independence from the British rule on 15th August 1947.

Of course, August is also a month of rains, so essential for our country. We take rain for granted till there is a scarcity of rain. So this August, let us continue to pray for a good rainfall.

On that hopeful note, let's begin...

The value of Prayer for Rain



Prayer moves mountains and prayer also gives us rain.

Thus, when there was a scarcity of rain in Goa, people would set out in prayer for rain. Prayer for rain was deeply rooted in the Goa state's agricultural background and the people's religious beliefs. There would be penitential processions held to pray for rains.

St. Anthony was devoutly prayed to and people would sing, "Dear Anthony, intercede to God and send us rain." This was because he was a popular saint who wrought many miracles.

However, while such traditions are fading fast today, yet we can learn that faith is a powerful thing and it does make mountains move and rain pour from the skies.

Interesting facts about our Freedom Fighters



When our beloved freedom fighter Mahatma Gandhi's wife Kasturba was stricken, with pneumonia, the British doctors told Gandhi that she should be injected with a shot of penicillin and this would heal her. However, Kasturba refused to have an alien medicine injected into her body and this resulted in her death.

Mahatma Gandhi was not a brilliant student. He was good at English but weak in Geography. A friend of his encouraged him to eat goat's meat because Gandhi had been feeling weak. He agreed

to do so. But that night in a dream, he saw the goat crying in his stomach. Since then, he never ate goat's meat again.

Tilak had his own newspaper called Kesari which is still active today. The British called him "Father of the Indian Unrest." He gave us the slogan - 'Swaraj is my birthright and I shall have it!'

Bhagat Singh was highly fluent in many different languages like French, Swedish, English, Arabic, Hindi and also Punjabi. You could say he was a multi-linguist. He was a voracious reader.

Quiz Time



Our Freedom Fighters

1. Who is India's first freedom fighter?
2. What is the most popular name attributed to Mahatma Gandhi?
3. Who was the first Indian woman to be President of the Indian National Congress?
4. Which freedom fighter used the slogan - Jai Hind?
5. Which freedom fighter is known as the Father of Indian Economics?

Smile Please



1. Boy: What sort of books are you interested in?
Girl: Cheque books.
2. Boy: Hey, mom I got a hundred in school today.
Mom: That's great. What in?
Boy: Well, 40 in Reading and 60 in Spelling.
3. A small boy reciting the Our Father prayer ended, "and deliver us from people, amen."
4. Mom: My son had to give up his career because of fallen arches.

Friend: He is an athlete?

Mom: No, he is an architect.

Riddles



1. Why is Europe like a frying pan?
2. I am a number. Take away my first letter and you get even. What am I?

3. What gets broken without being held?
4. What is at the end of a rainbow?
5. What kind of tree can you carry in your hand?

What's the Good Word?



1. The Nightingale of India.
2. Navy blue with spokes at the centre of the Indian flag.
3. Mahatma Gandhi's first son.
4. The first Prime Minister of India.
5. Father of Indian Economics.

Brain Teasers



1. No matter how little or how much you use me, you change me every month. What am I?
2. What rocks but does not roll?
3. How many times can you subtract 5 from 25?
4. Five people were eating chocolates. A finished before B but behind C, D finished before E but behind B. What was the finishing order?
5. If you count 20 houses on your right going to work and returning home you count 20 houses again. How many houses did you count?
6. If $A - B = 40$
 $A + C = 80$
 $C + B = 40$
Then what is the value of C?

The Merchant and Rain



Once upon a time there lived a rich merchant. He was walking home through a deep forest and suddenly it began to rain. He was carrying a big bag filled with money. There was thunder and lightning in the sky. The merchant had no umbrella or raincoat. He took shelter under a tree for a while but yet his money got wet. He cursed the rain as he walked home and suddenly saw a robber in front of him. The merchant ran towards the bushes with his money bag. The robber chased him, pointed his gun and tried to shoot. But since the gunpowder was wet, the gun did not work. The merchant managed to escape and realised it was because of the rain he was saved. He thanked God for the rain that saved his life.

Moral - We must never forget that there lies some goodness in every act of God, although at first we may not see it positively.

That's all for this month. Take care. Till next month...

Answers

Quiz

1. Mangal Pandey. 2. Mahatma Gandhi. 3. Sarojini Naidu. 4. Subhash Chandra Bose. 5. Justice Ranade.

Riddles

1. Because it has Greece (grease) at its bottom. 2. Seven. 3. Promise. 4. W. 5. Palm

What's the Good Word?

1. Sarojini Naidu. 2. Ashoka Chakra. 3. Harilal Gandhi. 4. Jawaharlal G. Nehru.

Brain Teasers

1. Calendar. 2. Rocking chair. 3. Only once because once you subtract it, it is no longer number 5. 4. CABDE. 5. 20. 6. 30



Christine is an author of over 30 books available on Amazon worldwide in paperback and Kindle. She also enjoys playing the piano and has a YouTube cooking channel Christine D'Sylva's fusion kitchen.



FR. AGNEL'S BLESSINGS

THANKSGIVING FOR BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS

BANDRA: I am thankful to Ven. Fr. Agnel for blessing my children Melissa and Anderson Cardoz on their birthdays. I have come to the Ashram and made an offering.

-M. Cardoz

THANKSGIVING FOR THE GIFT OF A CHILD

ANDHERI: We have been blessed with a child through the kind intercession of Ven. Fr. Agnel. An offering has been made to the Ashram.

-O. John

THANKSGIVING FOR FAVOURS RECEIVED

CHEMBUR: Through the kind intercession of Ven. Fr. Agnel, my family and I have been blessed with good health and other favours. With a grateful heart, I have made an offering at Fr. Agnel Ashram, Bandra.

-R. Fernandes

THANKSGIVING TO FR. AGNEL

VASAI: I am very much thankful to Ven. Fr. Agnel for helping me at all times. I have come to the Ashram and made an offering.

-P. Carvalho

THANKSGIVING FOR ANSWERING PRAYERS

KERALA: My prayers have been answered. I have received many favours, through the kind intercession of Ven. Fr. Agnel. A thanksgiving offering has been made at the Ashram.

-E. Varghese

BLESSINGS ON FAMILY

KURLA: Through the kind intercession of Ven. Fr. Agnel, our family has been blessed abundantly. With a grateful heart, I have come to the Ashram and made a love offering in thanksgiving.

-B. D'Cunha

THANKSGIVING FOR FAVOURS RECEIVED

KERALA: Through the kind intercession of Ven. Fr. Agnel, I have received many favours. With a grateful heart, I have made a love offering to Fr. Agnel Ashram, Bandra.

-S. Chacko

THANKSGIVING FOR GIFT OF A BABY

UTTAN: Ven. Fr. Agnel has blessed us with our heart's desire, a child we have always yearned for. We are indeed grateful for this big favour received and have made a thanksgiving offering to the Ashram.

- Cynthia S.

THANKSGIVING FOR GOOD HEALTH

KERALA: Through the kind intercession of Ven. Fr. Agnel, I have been blessed abundantly. A thanksgiving offering has been sent to the Ashram.

-P.M. Chacko

THANKSGIVING FOR PRAYERS ANSWERED

UTTAN: Through the kind intercession of Ven. Fr. Agnel, I have received many favours. A love offering has been given at Fr. Agnel Ashram, Bandra.

-Gandole

THANKSGIVING FOR BEING BLESSED

ANDHERI: Through the kind intercession of Ven. Fr. Agnel, I have received several favours. A thanksgiving offering has been given to the Ashram.

-C. Fernandes

THANKSGIVING FOR GOOD HEALTH

VASAI: Ven. Fr. Agnel has blessed us immensely. We are indeed grateful for all the favours received and have made a thanksgiving offering at the Ashram.

-V. Rodrigues

THANKSGIVING FOR BLESSINGS RECEIVED

VASAI: I am thankful to Ven. Fr. Agnel for showering me with his blessings. With a grateful heart, I have come to the Ashram and made a love offering.

-S. Dabre

THANKSGIVING FOR BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS

ANDHERI (EAST): Ven. Fr. Agnel has blessed me on my birthday. A thanksgiving offering has been given to the Ashram.

-V. Fernandes

OUT OF THEIR BOUNTY

Dinaz/Rohan	Telangana	25,000	L. Jerome	Thane	2,000	S. Stephen	Tamil Nadu	1,000
J. Kumar	Mumbai	15,000	M. Colaco	Vasai	2,000	V. Correa	Thane	1,000
B. Pires	Canada	12,266	M. Mathew	Kerala	2,000	W. Quadros	Mumbai	1,000
I. Mehta	Mumbai	12,000	P. Carvalho	Vasai	2,000	S. Rane	Mumbai	940
J. Patel	Mumbai	12,000	P. Hendricks	Tamil Nadu	2,000	N. Tanna	Mumbai	900
A. Jude	Mumbai	11,000	R. Francis	Kerala	2,000	M. Gaikwad	Thane	800
D. Oliver	Mumbai	10,000	S. Tel	Mumbai	2,000	R. Pachickara	Kerala	800
I. Pinto	Mumbai	10,000	U. Martings	Mumbai	2,000	G. Fonseca	Mumbai	750
R. Coutinho	Mumbai	10,000	V. Pachchigar	Gujarat	1,800	Kurina/Vazhavara	Kerala	715
B. Fernandes	Mumbai	8,000	A. Honavar	Mumbai	1,500	Alexander K.	Kerala	600
N. Mehta	Mumbai	8,000	A. Jadhav	Kerala	1,500	V. Badge	Mumbai	551
A. Karunaker	Canada	6,095	A. Kuttikadan	Thane	1,500	G. Veeramani	Tamil Nadu	501
M. Lucien	Tamil Nadu	6,000	M. Gand	Palghar	1,500	K. Thakkar	Mumbai	501
Philomena	Mumbai	6,000	R. Bandya Fly	Mumbai	1,500	M. Kurian	Bangalore	501
R. Thakkar	Mumbai	5,201	S. Carvalho	Mumbai	1,500	Sawant/Revankar	Mumbai	501
P. DaCosta	Goa	5,200	M. D'Mello	Thane	1,250	A. Attara	Mumbai	500
A. Thoppil	Kerala	5,000	R. Patel	Mumbai	1,250	A. Fernando	Tamil Nadu	500
G. Pandian	Mumbai	5,000	D. Singh	Karnataka	1,200	A. Gaikwad	Thane	500
J. D'Souza	Mangalore	5,000	Parag K.	Singapore	1,002	A. Raj	Tamil Nadu	500
K. Kapadia	Pune	5,000	A. D'Costa	Mumbai	1,000	A. Sarjerao	Ahmednagar	500
L. Antony	Kerala	5,000	A. Doshi	Mumbai	1,000	A. Selvan	Mumbai	500
L. Fernandes	Oman	5,000	A. Fernandes	Mahim	1,000	B. D'Cruz	Kerala	500
N. D'Cruz	Mumbai	5,000	A. Santhappan	Tamil Nadu	1,000	C. Nariman	Mumbai	500
P. Fernandes	Thane	5,000	Antony M.O.	Kerala	1,000	C. Soul	Mumbai	500
P. Mathai	Karnataka	5,000	B. Dutt	Kolkata	1,000	C. Thopolya	Mumbai	500
P. Sitlani	Mumbai	5,000	B. Mathew	Mumbai	1,000	Cyrus/Persis	Mumbai	500
R. Colaco	Vasai	5,000	C. Bardolwala	Mumbai	1,000	D. Mankar	Vasai	500
S. D'Almeida	Mumbai	5,000	C. Pinto	Mumbai	1,000	D. Momya	Thane	500
S. Modi	Gujarat	5,000	Daisypolly	Kerala	1,000	G. Gotren	Mumbai	500
Subramaniam R.	Mumbai	5,000	Darragh Smail & Co.	Kerala	1,000	G. Makeshwar	Maharashtra	500
Y. Mehta	Mumbai	5,000	Dr. Mathai	Kerala	1,000	G. Sardhara	Mumbai	500
E. D'Sylva	Mumbai	4,000	G. Arputharaj	Tamil Nadu	1,000	H. Fernandes	Mumbai	500
Fittech Inds.	Mumbai	4,000	J. Coutinho	Vasai	1,000	I. Dabre	Vasai	500
G. Patel	Mumbai	4,000	J. Fernandes	Pune	1,000	J. Baptist	Tamil Nadu	500
P. Mary	Tamil Nadu	4,000	J. Saldanha	Mumbai	1,000	J. D'Silva	Karnataka	500
E. Surti	Mumbai	3,000	J. Thomas	Kerala	1,000	J. Mascarenhas	Mumbai	500
F. Fernandes	Mumbai	3,000	Jairaj Fly	Mumbai	1,000	K. Fernandes	Mumbai	500
G. Marques	Goa	3,000	K. Carvalho	Mumbai	1,000	M. Gregory	Kerala	500
H. Sawant	Mumbai	3,000	K. Ghoshal	Mumbai	1,000	Machado & Sons	Tamil Nadu	500
J. De Almeida	Mumbai	3,000	L. Ekka	Nasik	1,000	N. Amolik	Ahmednagar	500
M. Cardoz	Mumbai	3,000	M. Antony	Kerala	1,000	N. Borse	Mumbai	500
M. Dias	Mumbai	3,000	M. D'Mello	Karnataka	1,000	N. Cyclewala	Mumbai	500
M. Mody	Mumbai	3,000	M. D'Souza	Pune	1,000	N. Monteiro	Mumbai	500
R. Radhakrishnan	Tamil Nadu	3,000	M. James	Kerala	1,000	N. Tribhuvan	Pune	500
S. Inigo	Tamil Nadu	3,000	M. John	Kerala	1,000	N. D'Souza	Mumbai	500
Techno Prod.	Chennai	3,000	M. Parmar	Gujarat	1,000	P. Joseph	Kerala	500
A. Joseph	Kerala	2,500	M. Silvera	Vasai	1,000	R. Dhote	Amravati	500
R. Macwan	Gujarat	2,500	P. Bhandari	Thane	1,000	R. D'Souza	Mumbai	500
V. Naik	Nagpur	2,004	P. Patel	Mumbai	1,000	R. Gilaxco	Tamil Nadu	500
A. Elavia	Mumbai	2,000	P. Thakker	Thane	1,000	R. Matla	Mumbai	500
A. Raval	Mumbai	2,000	P. Tony	Kerala	1,000	R. Pereira	Vasai	500
A. Thomas	Kerala	2,000	R. Johnson	Kerala	1,000	R. Saldhana	Karnataka	500
A. Wilfred	Tamil Nadu	2,000	R. Menon	Maharashtra	1,000	R. Sebastian	Kerala	500
B. Figer	Palghar	2,000	R. Parikh	Mumbai	1,000	R. Victor	Tamil Nadu	500
C. Engles	Punjab	2,000	R. Skariah	Palghar	1,000	S. Dabre	Vasai	500
E. D'Abreo	Mumbai	2,000	S. D'Mello	Vasai	1,000	S. Fernandes	Vasai	500
F. Quadros	Mumbai	2,000	S. D'Souza	Mumbai	1,000	S. Gandhi	Mumbai	500
H. D'Mello	Mumbai	2,000	S. Iyer	Thane	1,000	S. Garea	Palghar	500
H. Gupta	Mumbai	2,000	S. Kanojia	Mumbai	1,000	S. Hiralal	Daman & Diu	500
Irudayaraj M.	Tamil Nadu	2,000	S. Misquitta	Gujarat	1,000	S. Mody	Mumbai	500
J. Alex	Mumbai	2,000	S. Pandrick	Mumbai	1,000	S. Vazhappillil	Kerala	500
J. Dalby	Orissa	2,000	S. Rajeev/John P.J.	Kerala	1,000	Sagaya	Tamil Nadu	500
J. Doshi	Mumbai	2,000	S. Sales	Tamil Nadu	1,000	T. D'Costa	Goa	500
J. Panchal	New Zealand	2,000	S. Sandhu	Mumbai	1,000	T. Jalka	Mumbai	500
Jose T.K.	Kerala	2,000						

Bob's Banter

by Robert Clements

The Man At The Well..!

This happened two thousand years ago when a Man rested at a well.

A woman walked wearily to the same well outside the city. Her body ached and her mind cried out for peace. Her man had taunted her again this morning: "Five husbands, woman, and you want me to be the sixth? Ha, ha, ha!" She had loved each and every one of the five, but when she turned to them for something deeper than what they gave, they left frightened.

She saw the man at the well. She had seen enough men to be curious any more. Nor was she afraid of them. "Woman, may I have some water?" he asked.

She slowly lifted her eyes to see the man. "God has a wonderful gift for you," he said and she saw him smile and felt a strange sense of security. "If you

The stranger sat by her side at the well. "True," he said as she felt a strange peace coming over her, "You have had five husbands but are not married to the one you are living with..."

"You are God?" the woman whispered as she felt His love.

She left her pots at the well and ran back to her man, who saw the look in her eyes, "You have met another man?" he asked.

"Yes," she whispered triumphantly. "A man who has filled me with a living water: A perpetual spring within me. I will not be afraid any longer even if you leave me. I know I am loved by one far greater than you or all my husbands put together. A God who was even willing to come and sit next to a used, loose woman and fill her with a security none of you could give!"



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only knew who I was, you would be asking me for living water to drink."

"Without a rope or bucket?" she asked playfully. "This is quite a deep well you know? And let me tell you, there's very few wells that can get you better water than what's down there."

"Yes," said the man, "But this water will make you thirsty all over again, but the water I give is one in which you won't thirst any longer."

"Give me that water," she cried, staring at him and knowing he was no ordinary man.

"Call your husband," said the stranger suddenly.

"I don't have one," she said sadly.

The woman walked back to the well with the whole village following. There were many like her, used, abused, broken, forlorn and lonely.

They began feeling a peace and happiness they'd never felt before.

And now the same Jesus, the Man at the well, turns and stretches out His hands to others like her..!

Robert Clements is a newspaper columnist, whose column has graced over 80 newspapers and on certain days has a readership of over 6 million. He can be contacted at bobsbanter@gmail.com

FR. ROB GALEA - LIVE IN PILAR, GOA

9TH SEPTEMBER 2023 AT 6 PM



In celebration of the **136th Foundation Day of the Society of St. Francis Xavier, Fr. Rob Galea** will be performing live on **9th September, 2023** in Pilar, Goa. The event has been organised by the Pilar Music Academy and is an initiative of the Pilar Fathers.

Fr. Rob Galea is a Catholic priest, musician, singer, songwriter, and author who connects with people across the globe through the medium of music.

Maltese by origin, Fr. Rob later moved to Australia and rose from the brink of addiction and depression in his teens to become a Catholic priest, who uses music to reach out to people. He has recorded eight music albums and has chronicled his journey in his

book '*Breakthrough.*'

He performed at events before Pope Benedict XVI in 2011 and an estimated 500,000 pilgrims in Sydney. He has also recently performed at the World Youth Day 2023 in Lisbon, Portugal.

After more than a decade of live gospel music performances in Australia, Europe, North America and Asia, Fr. Galea will now perform in the picturesque state of Goa.

It will be a great time of worship, music and reflection where God is going to move your heart. Bring your family and friends for a truly unforgettable evening.

**Tickets are available in Goa,
or you can contact the following phone numbers**

9067780628 / 9067780601

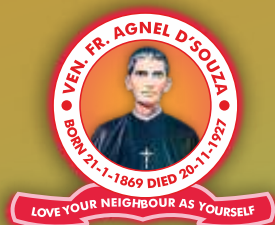
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The 42nd apostolic journey of His Holiness Pope Francis to Portugal



Pope Francis with President of Portugal Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa
in Lisbon, Portugal. The Holy Father attended
the 37th World Youth Day festival from 2nd to 6th August 2023.



If not delivered please return to

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