

*We wish our Hindu brethren
a Happy and
Prosperous Deepavali!*

Messenger

St. Charles Borromeo



November 4

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Don't the Heads of Commonwealth need to visit their places of religious worship?

Commonwealth Heads of Government will meet between November 15 - 17. The three-day visit, also consists of visits to the locations of the two out-of-Colombo forums - the Commonwealth People's Forum (CPF) in Hikkaduwa and the Commonwealth Youth Forum (CYF) in Hambantota.

Many Heads of the Commonwealth are either practising Christians or Muslims. They generally practise their faith by visiting Churches or Mosques on the respective Sabbath or holy days which are Friday for the Muslims and Sunday for the Christians. So one wonders whether the need for these Heads of Governments to visit

their respective places of religious worship has been taken into account in drawing up the arrangements made for their stay here, which may also include Commonwealth graves maintained by the Commonwealth countries which are situated at cemeteries in Trincomalee, Peradeniya, Jawatte and Borella.



Church commemorates 25th Death Anniversary of His Eminence Thomas Cardinal Cooray OMI

In a ceremony that portrayed love and respect, the Catholic community gathered last Tuesday at the Basilica of Our Lady of Lanka, Tawatte for a Thanksgiving Mass, to commemorate the 25th Death Anniversary of His Eminence the Late Thomas Benjamin Cardinal Cooray OMI, the Servant of God.

Presiding at the ceremony was the Archbishop of Colombo His Eminence Malcolm Cardinal Ranjith together with Auxiliary Bishops Their Lordships Rt. Rev. Dr. Emmanuel Fernando and Rt. Rev. Dr. Maxwell Silva. His Excellency Archbishop Most Rev. Dr. Joseph Spiteri, Apostolic



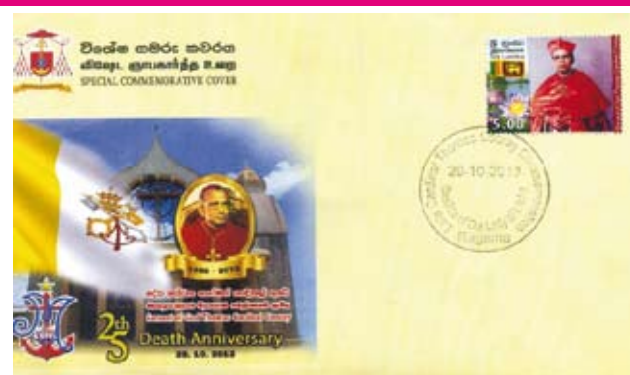
Pic: Rev. Fr. Sunil de Silva

Nuncio in Sri Lanka, Their Grace Archbishops Emeriti, Most Rev. Dr. Nicholas Marcus Fernando, Most Rev. Dr. Oswald Gomis, and Msgr. Renato Kucic, Secretary to the Apostolic Nuncio also

graced the occasion. Delivering the homily at Holy Mass, Very Rev. Fr. Cyril Gamini Fernando (Episcopal Vicar), said that His Eminence Late Thomas Benjamin Cardinal Cooray,

the Servant of God, was a perfect example of faith and a shining lamp of Christian living.

After the Eucharistic Celebration, His Eminence Malcolm Cardinal Ranjith



conducted the prayer service at the crypt of His Eminence Thomas Cardinal Cooray. The crypt was lined with beautiful flowers which symbolized the love and respect the people had

for the late Cardinal.

The Philatelic Bureau of the Department of Posts, Sri Lanka, issued a First Day Postal Cover to mark the occasion.

(Contd on Pg. 2) >>>

Best Writer of the Messenger - 2013

At the Catholic Literary Awards Day organised by Catholic Writers' Association held at Paul VI Centre, Colombo last Sunday, well-known Catholic writer Mr. Francis Madiwella, won the Award for the best writer of the Catholic *Messenger*.

Aquinas Rector calls for Education Commission

Rector of Aquinas University College, Colombo Rev. Dr. Placidus de Silva, called on the Government to appoint a Commission similar to the Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission to formulate educational reforms so that the habit of ministers taking temporary decisions to provide patchwork solutions will not occur.

The commission would focus on issues like School Admissions, University Curriculum changes, School Curriculum subjects, Vocational Education and Graduate unemployment crisis. Presenting the Annual



Report of Aquinas University College, Fr. Placidus pointed out that Education is a vital component of any society, but especially so of a developing

nation like Sri Lanka.

"A good education," he said, "is the beginning of wealth, the beginning of health, the beginning of spirituality and is where the miracle process all begins."

Fr. Placidus was addressing the General Convocation of the College, held recently at the Msgr W.L.A. Don Peter Auditorium where several students were conferred with Internal Degrees and Diploma certificates. The Chief Guest on the occasion was His Grace, Archbishop Emeritus Most Rev. Dr. Oswald Gomis, who is also the first Chancellor of the College.

(Contd on Pg. 2) >>>

Light and darkness in the Church



Picture shows His Eminence being welcomed to the Church by the Administrator of the Shrine Rev. Fr. Noel Nonis. (Pic H.A. Caldera)

Archbishop of Colombo, His Eminence Malcolm Cardinal Ranjith presiding at the feast of St. Jude's Shrine, Indigolla

told the gathering of faithful present that the 12 Apostles

(Contd on Pg. 2) >>>

FROM THE DIOCESES

Cultural Day at St. Aloysius' Minor Seminary

The 5th Annual Cultural Day of St. Aloysius' Minor Seminary was held last month. The Sinhala Literary Union of St. Aloysius' Seminary was started in 1948 by Rev. Fr. Nicholas Joseph and Rev. Fr. Sevarinus. The Literary Union celebrated its 65th anniversary with the distinguished presence of Music Maestro Dr. Pandit W.D. Amaradewa as the Chief Guest for the event.

This function was organised by the Seminar-ians under the guidance of Rev. Fr. Lalith Felix, Rector and Rev. Fr. Malin Samurdhka, President of the Sinhala Literary Union.

Ranesh Lakshan
Secretary of the Sinhala Literary Union



Sinhala Literary Day 2013 - Sinhala Sahithya Udanaya



The Annual Sinhala Literary Day of St. Benedict's College was held on Friday October 25.



The Day's proceedings enlightened with the presence of Maestro Sunil Edirisinghe.
Ashen S. Senarathna

Ballet performance at Balagala Church



A Musical Drama titled "Ape Daruwo" (our children) was staged at the Parish Church of Our Lady of Succour Balagala Parish by the Sunday School Children. It was a concept of the Parish Priest, Rev. Fr. Jude Raj Fernando, script by Very Rev. Fr. Cyril Gamini Fernando, Episcopal Vicar for the Missionary Region and Choreography by Ms. Thilini Tharanga Rodrigo, a student from the University of Fine Arts.

Thilina Allahakoon

Church Feasts



The Annual Feast of All Saints' Church, Seda Watte, Pamunugama will be celebrated on Friday 1st November. Festive Mass at 5 pm followed by blessing of boats. Concelebrants -Rt. Rev. Dr. Maxwell Silva, Auxiliary Bishop of Colombo and Very Rev. Fr. Shanthikumar Welivita, Archdiocesan Episcopal Vicar. Procession of boats carrying the Statue of Our Lady will proceed from Sebastian Place to the Church via the Negombo Lagoon at 4pm on this day.

The Annual Feast of the Church of Christ the Healer, Weligama (Galle Diocese) will be celebrated on Sunday 24th November. Festive Mass at 8.30 am, followed by blessing of the sick. Chief celebrant -Rt. Rev. Dr. Raymond Wickremasinghe, Bishop of Galle. Vespers Service on previous day at 5.30 pm presided over by Very Rev. Fr. Nihal Nanayakkara, Vicar General of Galle Diocese.

There is a light....

Contd from Pg. 1

whom Jesus chose were mostly simpletons who misunderstood the teachings of the Lord. Even until the end they failed to grasp His message.

St. Peter was so full of himself that he even denied Our Lord three times (John 18:15-27), but Jesus knew Peter would lead the Church one day. Thus we have St Peter as the first head of the Church which set the apostolic tradition and it is this tradition that is continued for over 2000 years and today the Catholic Church has as its head the 266 Pope.

Likewise, His Eminence said, that priests, religious and the clergy are the product of ordinary folk and are not angels. "As a Church we are all simple people hence there is light and darkness in the Church and we learn from that."

Text: Doreen Perera

Church commemorate...

Contd from Pg. 1

His Eminence Thomas Benjamin Cardinal Cooray was born on December 28, 1901 and hailed from the Parish of Periyamulla, Negombo. He was called to Eternal Rest in the Lord on October 29, 1988. He belonged to the Congregation of Oblates of Mary Immaculate and was ordained a priest on June 23, 1929.

On July 26, 1947 he became the first Sri Lankan Archbishop of Colombo succeeding Archbishop Jean Marie Masson OMI. In February 22, 1965 he became Sri Lanka's first Cardinal when Pope Paul VI conferred on him the titular office.

The winners of the Bible Quiz Competition conducted by our sister papers the *Gnanarthapradeepaya* and *Gnana Oli*, on the life of Thomas Cardinal Cooray, were awarded with medals and certificates.

Aquinas Rector....

Contd from Pg. 1

Stating that both higher education and secondary education lagged behind while the economy of the country developed on a global agenda which led to a mismatch of educational reforms to meet the needs of the labour market. Fr. Placidus said the reason for this was that reforms were introduced as ad hoc measures to bring about political benefits.

He also quoted from the inaugural newsletter of the University of Ruhuna in which the Vice Chancellor Professor Susirith Mendis had stated the following: "We are at a point in time when multiple events that can be called crises have developed within a short time. The trade union actions by the non-academic and academic staff for higher salaries, demand for higher public sector investment in education, the 'Z' score fiasco, the proposed amendments to the Universities Act of 1978 and invitation to the international private sector to invest in higher education in Sri Lanka by establishing 'private' universities are some issues that are prominent in the current debate." Professor Mendis furthermore poses a very opportune and pertinent question: Is Higher Education in Sri Lanka in crisis or at the Crossroads?

Church Feast at Hapugoda



The 88th Annual Feast of St. Mary's Church, Hapugoda was celebrated recently, presided over by Rev. Fr. Vimal Tirimanne, CSsR.

Picture shows the pandal erected by the youth at the entrance to the Church.

H.A. Caldera

Feast of the Church of Our Lady Queen of Peace Munhena



Annual Feast of the Church of Our Lady Queen of Peace, Munhena, Maggona, was celebrated recently.

The chief celebrant of the Festive Mass was Rev. Fr. Jude Asantha TOR, Director Franciscan Home, Maggona. Picture shows the Statue of Queen of Peace carried in procession.

All arrangements for the Feast were made under the guidance of Rev. Fr. Ishan Prameena Kannangara, Parish Priest Maggona and the Liturgy Committee.

D.A. Fernando



Church in the Modern World

Pope Francis receives Aung San Suu Kyi, Myanmar Opposition Leader

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Pope Francis called for inter-religious dialogue in Myanmar last Monday at an audience for Nobel Prize winner Aung San Suu Kyi in which the two also discussed her long campaign for democracy.

During the meeting Pope Francis “expressed his appreciation for the Opposition Leader’s non-violent engagement in the cause of peace and democracy,” Vatican spokesman Federico Lombardi said.

“The Pope said he would pray for Myanmar, for inter-religious dialogue in the country. He also said the Church

would be at the service of everyone in Myanmar without discriminating.”

This was the first meeting between Pope Francis and the historic Myanmar Opposition Leader, who has been criticised for not speaking out enough against ethnic and religious tensions in her homeland. Myanmar has been rocked by sectarian unrest in recent months, prompting growing international concern.

Around 250 people have been killed and more than 140,000 left homeless in several outbreaks of Buddhist-Muslim violence around the country since June 2012,

mostly in western Rakhine State.

The Vatican does not have diplomatic relations with Myanmar, whose overwhelmingly Buddhist population of 55 million is only 1 percent Catholic.

The Vatican spokesman, Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, called Suu Kyi “one of the most significant personalities in Asia in the area of peace, democracy and peaceful coexistence” and a “symbol of non-violent commitment to democracy and peace.”

“The Holy Father told me that emotions such as hatred and fear



diminish life and the value of the person.” Suu Kyi told reporters after the

20-minute meeting.

She said the Pope also told her “we need

to value love and understanding to improve the lives of people.”

US Ambassador to Vatican united with Pope Francis in care for poor

(CNA/EWTN News.- The new United States ambassador to the Holy See revealed his shared concern with Pope Francis for those who are subject to poverty, as well as his optimism on US relations with the Vatican.

The envoy’s remarks come as current US International Religious Freedom Ambassador Suzan Johnson Cook is allegedly set to resign. President Obama faced criticism during his first term in office for leaving the post vacant for nearly two and a half years before Cook’s appointment in June of 2011.

Ken Hackett was nominated in June by President Barack Obama to serve as the 10th ambassador to the Vatican, and was unanimously approved by the US Senate in August. In an interview with CNA, Hackett emphasized the significance of not just passing by “that individual who is homeless on the sidewalk,” but thinking seriously “about the policy and structural is-



US International Religious Freedom Ambassador Suzan Johnson Cook

sues that cause people to be poor.”

“The US Government,” Hackett added, is also concerned with the “persecution of minorities, particularly Christians and their constraints on freedom of religion around the world.”

Hackett addressed recent tensions between the Obama administration and US Bishops on the

Health and Human Services (HHS) mandate, which is a contraceptive mandate that requires health insurers, or employers that provide their employees with health insurance, to include contraception in their health insurance plans, even if in doing so it violates their religious beliefs.

Anglican scholar, Catholic theologian awarded Ratzinger prize



Participants gather for The Gospels, Historical and Christological Research conference in Rome.

CNA - At the conclusion of an international symposium in Rome, Pope Francis granted the prestigious “Joseph Ratzinger Award” to two professors for their exemplary scholarship in theology.

The winners were the Anglican Rev. Canon Professor Richard Burridge, Dean of Kings College, London, and Catholic Professor of Theology Christian Schaller, Vice Director of the Pope Benedict XVI institute of Regensburg, Germany.

Vatican brings sports into the heart of the Church

Vatican City, CNA/EWTN News.- The Vatican’s Pontifical Council for Culture held a conference on “believers in the world of sports” this week to discuss the role of the Church in the realm of athletics.

“We wanted to bring sports into the heart of the Church,” said Monsignor Melchor Sanchez de Toca, undersecretary of the council, “to remember that sports is important...for a sound and full Christian life.”

He told CNA that the group also wanted to remind “the world of sports that th

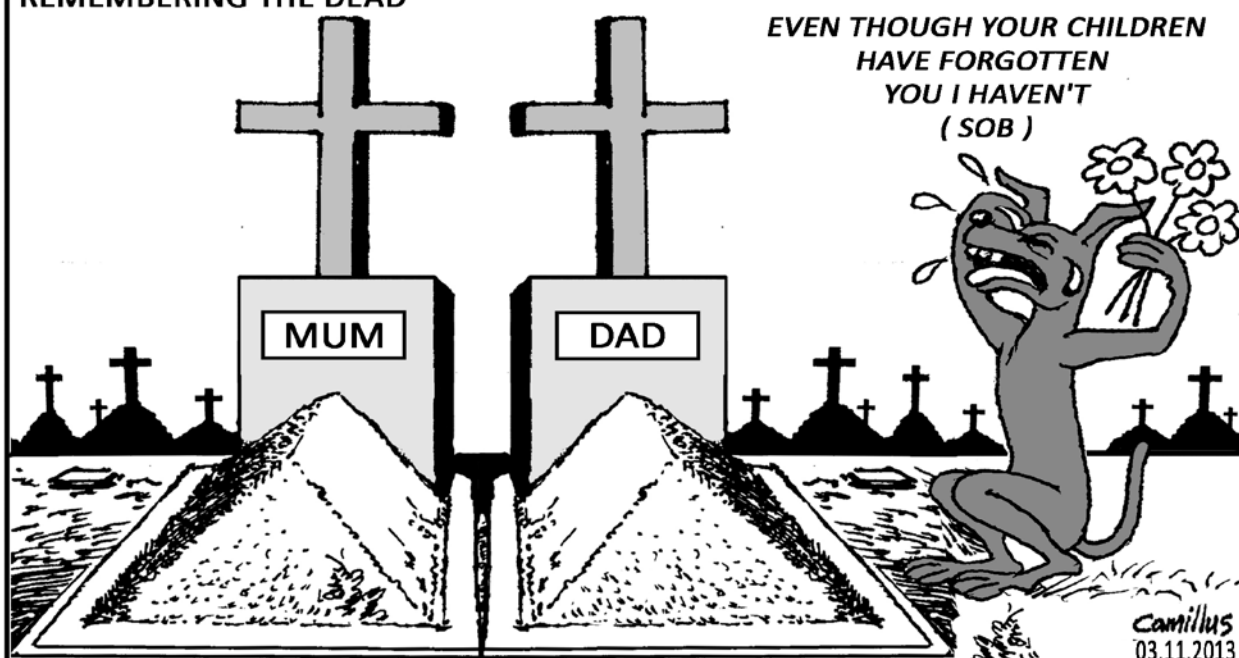
e Church has much to bring about, much to say, to a world that sometimes is rotten,” or that “has lost the values which are the foundation of sports.”

The conference was held during the celebration of the Church’s Year of Faith, and invited international professional athletes, heads of Catholic sporting associations, and representatives of bishops’ conferences involved in the pastoral care for sports to join in a reflection on the relationship between faith and athletics.

SUNDAY PUNCH

by Camillus

REMEMBERING THE DEAD -



Camillus
03.11.2013

November 3, 2013

Overcoming sin through the Grace of God

In Romans (3: 9-18) Paul referred to sin as a condition that plagues the human race both Jews and Gentiles. There are two very powerful forces in the world, which have been here ever since the time when Eve partook of the forbidden fruit in the Garden of Eden. Those two forces are sin and grace. A very great power is sin, a power dark, mysterious, but full of force. The sorrows of mankind, came from sin? Sin is the Pandora's Box from which all evil has come to mankind. We should have known no war, nor pestilence, nor famine, nor sickness or sorrow if the human race had not sinned and sown its evil seed in this earth. Sin must therefore be charged as the author of sorrow, disease, death, and hell. This is no mean power with which we come into conflict; Jesus never underestimated the power of sin. The force to combat sin is never described, in the Bible as the power of human endeavour to keep the law.

The only counter force against sin is grace not human will power. And what is grace? Grace is the free favour of God, the undeserved blessing of the ever-gracious Creator against whom we have offended. It is the generous pardon, from the spontaneous loving kindness of the God who has been provoked and angered by our sin, but who, delights in mercy and is ever ready to overlook iniquity and sin, and to save His people from all the evil consequences of their guilt.

The Holy Bible refers not only to individual acts of sin but also to the habits of sinning. There is no slavery compared to the slavery of ingrained habits. Our ordinary method of dealing with sin is to rely on our own will power and determination whether the sin is anger, gluttony, pride, alcoholism, sexual lust or anything else. We determine not to do it again, we pray against it, fight against it and set our will against it. But it is all in vain as we find ourselves returning to it. When we depend on our own will alone to attain the victory over sin we are depending on the strength of our will power alone and it is some sort of worship of our will. But will power alone will not help us to succeed in overcoming deeply ingrained habits of sin. As modern psychologists who have studied human behaviour point out; when we resist mentally any undesirable habit or unwanted circumstance we thereby endow it with more power which it will use against us. So as long as we think we can save ourselves from sinful habits by our own efforts we make the evil in us even stronger. So Paul says for what I will to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do. (Romans 7:14, 15 NKJV)

How then do we overcome a sinful habit? It is through God's grace for which we must pray constantly. The much needed change in us is God's work and we must let God do it by surrendering our will to do what is God's will through His grace. Only God can work in us from within. We cannot attain or earn this righteousness of the Kingdom of God - it is the grace of God that is given to a humble and repentant sinner. But the moment we grasp the fact that righteousness comes from God and not from our own efforts we may be tempted to believe that there is nothing more for us to do for ourselves. But that is not true either. We cannot just wait for God to come and transform us through his grace. We must practice certain spiritual disciplines like constant prayer and sacrifice. Consider the farmer who sows the seed in his field, but he cannot make it grow. All he can do is to make the right conditions for the seed to grow. Similarly as St. Paul says we must sow to the Spirit not to the flesh. (Gal 6:8) "He who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption; but he who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life"

It is very wonderful, but it is certainly true, that there are many persons in heaven in whom sin once abounded. In the judgment of their fellow-men, some of them were worse sinners than others. There was Saul of Tarsus, there was the dying thief, there was the woman in the city who was a sinner,—a sinner in a very open and terrible sense. These and many more of whom we read in the Scriptures, were all great sinners, and it was a great wonder of grace, in every instance, that they should be forgiven.

Eye Opener - 1- Tithe

By Sarath Ranasinghe

The meaning of 'Tithe' is one-tenth part of one's income. This includes income from salary, bonus, incentives, profit from any business, return from investments, interest received from deposits, realized capital appreciation of assets disposed (Capital gains), Dividends etc. etc. We being the followers of the Lord Jesus Christ, are required to donate the Tithe or 10% of our income, to support the Church, for the maintenance of clergy, for Missionary work of taking the Good News to people and related charitable work for the less privileged in the society.

An "Offering" is any amount you would give above the Tithe in free will.

Giving the Tithe goes way back to historical era, perhaps the time prior to Moses as indicated in Leviticus 27:30-33. "One tenth of all the produce of the land, whether grain or fruit, belongs to the Lord. If you wish to buy any of it back, you must pay the standard price plus an additional 20 percent. One of every ten domestic animals belongs to the Lord. When the animals are counted, every tenth one belongs to the Lord. You may not arrange the animals so that the poor animals are chosen and you may not make any substitutions. If you do substitute one animal for another, then both animals will belong to the Lord and may not be bought back."

This also explains that the Tithe is to be allotted out of the best produced and without any defects. Further it is similar to a commandment or law, not at all an option.

Whole Tithe

The Old Testament has many references in respect of Tithe and Christians are bound to offer 10% of the income for God's work; it is neither what you can afford nor what you want to, in accordance with Malachi 3:10, for which the reward is without boundaries. "Bring the WHOLE TITHE into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house."

What must be the vision of a Christian? A true follower of Christianity should have the vision of entering into the Kingdom of God to enjoy the eternal life in the company of Our Lord Jesus Christ. In order to achieve this, The manual of Christians, that is the Holy Bible has listed the commandments and the guidelines to be followed. It is mandatory for every Christian to adhere to the commandment in relation to Tithe and if anybody violates this means practicing



ing against two commandments. According to the Ten Commandments, Nos 7 and 10 says respectively, "You shall not steal" and "You shall not covet other's goods." So, a Christian who does not pay the Tithe is guilty of two offences: Firstly he/she steals what is due to God and secondly, covets what belongs to God. "Will man rob God? Yet you are robbing me. But you say, 'How have we robbed you?' In your Tithes and contributions. You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing me, the whole nation of you." (Malachi 3:8-9)

The New Testament states that Jesus Himself had Tithed as a follower of the Jewish Law as set down in the Torah which refers to the Five Books of Moses: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy. The Holy Proclamation of St. Matthew 17:27 quotes Jesus's saying, "However, not to give offense to them, go to the sea and cast a hook, and take the first fish that comes up, and when you open its mouth you will find a shekel; take that and give it to them for me and for yourself."

In the New Testament also, the idea of Tithing can be found in several instances. "So give back to King what is King's, and to God what is God's" (Matthew 22:21). Also, on various occasions describes the importance and the benefits derived by generous giving. In accordance with 2 Corinthians 9:7, "Each man should give what he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves and blesses a cheerful giver." This provides the option either to give 10% or less depending on the capacity or even more than 10% provided you have been blessed with many resources. Perhaps, you may give as you are able to donate. So, this invites those who have been provided with more wealth to donate more and more, with cheerfulness and generosity to receive further blessings from the Almighty Father.

For those who select the option of "we give what we can," that is less than 10%, Malachi 3:10 contin-

ues "Test me in this" says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not have room enough to store it." Also, the Holy Proclamation quotes Jesus saying "I tell you that this poor widow put more in the offering box than all the others. For the others put in what they had to spare of their riches; but she, poor as she is, put in all she had—she gave all she had to live on" (Mark 12:45-44). Do we have complete trust in God to give Tithe in its entirety to His storehouse? The Almighty God will honour the Tithe if we really search for Him with the fullness of heart and complete trust. God has never broken His promises and will not in the future too. Despite the hardships in the present environment, if committed to give the entire 10% of the Tithe cheerfully, God will stretch the balance 90% to provide benefits beyond the previous 100%.

Christians should have a very high degree of faith in God that He was the Rewarder of those who diligently look for Him. Therefore, when we Tithe with belief, not only we please Him but also we are subjecting God to test. "And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him must believe that God exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek him" (Hebrews 11:6). So, Tithing with faith will ultimately result in overflowing in your life. Every Christian, as a disciple of Lord Jesus Christ could experience the outrageous power of God while Tithe is paid by converting faith into action, which results in your overwhelming prosperity. Even the younger generation could be encouraged for Tithing with a long term perspective as they would receive strategic benefits and Blessings from the Almighty Father during the earthly sojourn.

As true Christians, if we honestly love God, our affection should truly be reflected in everything done and prime concern is, God to be the first of

(Contd. on Pg. 5)

Eye Opener.....

Contd. from Pg. 4

our lives. Sustainable commitment to honour the Tithe demonstrates our love for Him and also of our dedication to have God at the first place of the Blessings bestowed. "I am not commanding you, but I want to test the sincerity of your love by comparing it with the earnestness of others"(2 Corinthians 8:8). Equally important is to fully recognize the mandatory aspect of Tithing for our most essential spiritual growth. "So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches?"(Luke 16:11). Tithing is also an Investment for our eternal life as the Lord Jesus has said in Matthew 6:19-20. "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal."

Additionally, Tithe should be given with very clear other motives like , gratitude and a means of worship along with honour to God and also is a service to the sacrificial death on the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. Payment of Tithe displays our gratitude to God for everything He has given us and is a sacred privilege. God knows well our inner motives and we must not give Tithe with ill feelings but with respect and gratefulness to God. Perhaps, it may be better to give what you can afford rather than giving a lot and be angry about it.

Christians must, enjoy giving the Tithe and understand that it is a Blessing and trust when Tithe is given to God's work the person is not going to lose but gain. We are to understand, the greatest and the most generous giver in the world is Jesus Christ. Everybody should give like Jesus sacrificed riches and glory of heavenly kingdom selflessly. St. Paul has said "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts: 20: 35). Once we give more in service to the Lord, the return is also more and God guarantees of His watchfulness over generous people. "And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. As it is written: They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor; their righteousness endures forever." (2 Corinthians 9:8-9).

There are a number of inspiring revelations in the Holy Scriptures to become more and more cheerful givers. A few are:

- "Good will come to him

who is generous" (Psalm 112:5).

- "Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously" (2 Corinthians 9:6).
- "Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap" (Luke 6:38).
- "Honour the Lord with your wealth, with the first fruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing" (Proverbs 3:9-10).
- "One man gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty. A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed" (Proverbs 11:24-25).

The source of all our resources, either materialistic or spiritual, was God, inclusive of talents, abilities and the time etc. and each one must use these for the benefit of the others. We must not claim ownership of things which belong to God. " Each of you should use whatever gifts you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."(1 Peter 4:10).

In the present environment, perhaps, for a poor person giving 10% might hurt the wallet a lot, but for a rich it would be of no pain. The answer for those who are uncomfortable is to test the God with confidence. It is certainly unfortunate for Christians to think that God wants ten per cent and you can do what you like with the rest to the full, which is against the teachings of the Lord Jesus Christ. The correct interpretation and action have to be, as the God has richly blessed you with His love, mercy, grace, generosity etc. etc., then give very lavishly. There are Christians I know of today whom God has richly blessed who give a major portion of their income for God's work and live on the remaining minor portion, but they live abundantly well on that. Christians must realise, God does provide us resources in order not to enjoy benefits only upon ourselves, but to always display the uniqueness of a Christian by being generous to the deserved less privileged in the society while meeting our obligations in spreading the message of God.

Tithing fulfills certain needs in the Kingdom of God:

- Tithing provides support for the work of God in bringing the Good News to the mankind. Acts 4:32-35 says "All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had. With great power the apostles continued

to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all that there were no needy persons among them. For, from time to time those who owned land or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone who had need."

- Supports those who provide Human Resources in taking God's message. Galatians 6:6 records, "Nevertheless, the one who receives instruction in the word should share all good things with their instructor." Further, Corinthians 9:14 states, "In the same way, the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should receive their living from the gospel." This confirms that every Christian is under obligation to look into the well being of our clergy and those who are involved in related duties connected to the Kingdom of God.

- Assists less privileged people in the society. The Scripture makes it very clear that it was the responsibility of all believers to care for widows and orphans and to extend hospitality to strangers inclusive of all those who are under privileged. St. Paul's First Letter to Corinthians 6:1-2 says, "Now about the collection for the Lord's people: Do what I told the Galatian churches to do. On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made."

"For Macedonia and Achaia were pleased to make a contribution for the poor among the Lord's people in Jerusalem." (Romans 15:26)

There are many references, either in the Old Testament or New which emphasize the importance of generosity too. In Matthew 25:31-46 (The Final Judgment), Lord Jesus has stressed that every Christian was obligated to be generous with those in need. Generosity should NOT AT ALL A TECHNIQUE FOR PUBLIC RECOGNITION as sometimes it happens in the Society today. "Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven. Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you". (Matthew 6:1-4).

Regrettably, the mind-

set of majority in the society today is to concentrate more on acquiring materialistic things. Spiritual and Human values are gradually getting eroded amongst most in the world. To a great extent these are results of excessive Globalization and Commercialization. Could the present trend be acceptable for positive results at the Final Judgment? There is evidence, during the time of Prophet Haggai even the Israelites too were focused on minting money with hardly any time for God. "Is it a time for you yourselves to dwell in your paneled houses, while this house lies in ruins? Now, therefore, thus says the LORD of hosts: Consider your ways. You have sown much, and harvested little. You eat, but you never have enough; you drink, but you never have your fill. You clothe yourselves, but no one is warm. And he who earns wages does so to put them into a bag with holes. Thus says the LORD of hosts: Consider your ways. Go up to the hills and bring wood and build the house, that I may take pleasure in it and that I may be glorified, says the LORD. You looked for much, and behold, it came to little. And when you brought it home, I blew it away. Why? declares the LORD of hosts. Because of my house that lies in ruins, while each of you busies himself with his own house. (Haggai 1:4-9)

For our own good, the emphasis has to be, to reside close to good God who wants to provide the best for us. If you want God to make your house flourished, firstly you ensure that His house is flourished. If your wish for God to be interested in your house, primarily be interested in building His House. If you expect God to bless your house, be committed to bless His house. Tithing and Generosity are two of the most important techniques to become a shareholder in this process of building the Kingdom of God and spreading the Good News in the world and also are great investments for the eternal life.

While saluting and deeply appreciating the unique and great personality of the present Holy Father, the writer wishes to place on record that His Holiness Pope Francis too had always stressed Christians to be more sensitive towards the needs of the less privileged in the world. He himself has started practicing this model by giving up many privileges and luxuries entitled for Him to enjoy and setting up an example for all Christians to follow, while emphasizing the importance of fulfilling the Social Responsibility by the affluent towards the less privileged in the Society by being highly generous.

It is with deepest sympathies the writer of this article recollects the number

of Churches /Chapels (God's House) in our country which are in urgent need of either renovation or reconstruction but lacking funds, along with Social Institutions like Elder's Homes. Orphanages, Vocational Training Institutions for under privileged children etc.etc. which are under the purview of the Roman Catholic Church and, are badly short of financial resources for existence. Also some of the Parishes in remote outstation areas are in requirement of finances for maintenance. Catholics living in certain poor areas like Estates etc. do not have the opportunity to attend for Religious Services due to monetary constrains in travelling distances, arising the need to construct new Chapels in convenient locations. Most of these fund requirements are in the poorest Diocese in Sri Lanka, like Badulla, Anuradhapura and Ratnapura. Further, there are many more widows, destitutes and displaced brothers and sisters of Christians who are neglected and are in need of social support for survival. Also, there are many Catholic Religious Places of Worship and Missionary Institutions which are awaiting, either to be renovated or reconstructed in the areas affected by civil war. The Tithe we are to give to God and whatever the Freewill Offerings given displaying our generosity will support the building of the Kingdom of God and guide us towards a favorable Final Judgment.

So, while we prepare agendas to build up temporary Mansions and utilize God given resources to acquire all luxuries in the world for our own comfort, satisfaction, enjoyment etc.etc. by spending millions and millions of rupees, let us make certain sacrifices and fulfill our obligation of constructing the Poor but Everlasting House of God. Also, let us reflect on the Holy Face of Jesus while we see the needs of the poor Diocese in the country and the sufferings of less privileged.

In conclusion, I wish the dream of every Christian is to have his/her name written in the scroll of the God's chosen people. Therefore, Christians should not belong to the segment of "You have eyes but fail to see, and ears but fail to hear?"(Mark 8:18-21). While extending a great appreciation and saluting Christians those who already practice Tithing and are generous, let us all pray that the God would guide through the Holy Spirit everybody in his/her stewardship of the resources which the Most High God has mercifully given. Become a shareholder in the work of God's ministry here on earth. Start TITHING and be GENEROUS. It's a great investment for your eternal life.

The world celebrated the Mental Health Day a few days ago. Mentally-ill people are the most isolated and ostracized people in the world. If you catch pneumonia or influenza you are treated with antibiotics or analgesics and once you have recovered you can start your normal life. Your family and your employer are not going to refuse to take you back as a member of the family or as an employee of the firm where you were working.

But people who get mental illness are sometimes not accepted or welcomed by their family or employers. Mental illness like other physical diseases can be successfully cured with modern

drugs and psychotherapy. Mainly because of the stigma attached to mental illness family members do not want to keep a mentally-ill relative at home.



Depression is one of the most common mental illnesses. People can get depressed owing to a cause such as the death

of a spouse or the loss of a source of income. But within a few months they can get over this condition. If they persist having symptoms of depression for more than a year, they may need treatment with medications or psychotherapy or counseling.

Some people get depressed for no external reason at all. This may be due to imbalance in the chemicals in the brain such as serotonin or dopamine. They too could be treated with medications such as Prozac or Wellbutrin. Some people may reveal depressive symptoms because of depletion of the thyroid hormone. Psychiatrists who are certified physicians will test your blood and brain



to find out whether your mental health condition is caused by organic (physical) causes.

Increase in the secretion of thyroid hormone may cause symptoms of mania, an illness that makes you hyperactive. With medications the balance of thyroid hormone could be restored. But there are people who get hyperactive because of imbalance in brain chemicals. These patients too can be successfully treated with medications today.

Schizophrenia could be termed as the worst of mental illness-

es. People suffering with Schizophrenia may have auditory or visual hallucinations or delusions. Some of them constantly hear people talking to them or hear sounds. Sometimes schizophrenics have delusional thinking that they are related to an important personality such as the president or the queen. Schizophrenia too can be cured with medications. Modern medications such as Olazapine or Risperidone have almost no side-effects. There are tens of thousands of people in the world who are doing normal jobs and are breadwinners of families who have been cured of mental health diseases with medications and psychotherapy.

Dementia is another mental disease mainly in old age. This too may be caused by organic (physical) causes such as lack of oxygen into certain parts of the



brain. It may also be due to accumulation of certain proteins around the brain cells which hamper their functioning. Alzheimer's disease is caused by such a condition. This is an almost, incurable and progressive mental illness. Intensive research is done to find a cure for this dreadful disease.

Mental illness can be cured with modern medications and psychotherapy. People with mental illness can function as normal people in society with treatment and supervision. Researchers are finding causes and more medical treatments to keep mentally-ill patients in society rather than behind the walls of mental hospitals.

Remembering the Dead

Memories of loved ones gone before
November restores;
As in prayerful thought, in charitable deeds
We, merit to them bestow.
Helpless souls in purgatory
Awaiting release;
Depending on the prayers of the faithful
To obtain relief.

A candle, a rose, a sigh, a tear
Reach out to them in love,
remembrance and prayer.
Remembering in gratitude,
their contribution to our welfare
They touched our lives
Parents, grandparents, family members,
relatives, teachers, friends
They befriended us, our turn to
befriend them.
Thank God For those kindly souls
and lisp a prayer
That God's eternal peace
and rest be theirs.

Jeannette Cabraal



10 Terrific Benefits of Ginger

1. Haven't been feeling hungry? Eat fresh ginger just before lunch to stoke a dull appetite and fire up the digestive juices.
2. Ginger improves the absorption and assimilation of essential nutrients in the body.
3. Ginger clears the 'microcirculatory channels' of the body, including the pesky sinuses that tend to flare up from time to time.
4. Feeling airsick or nauseous? Chew on ginger, preferably tossed in a little honey.
5. Can't stop the toot-a-thon? Gas—oops—guess what? Ginger helps reduce flatulence!
6. Tummy moaning and groaning under cramps? Munch on ginger.
7. Reeling under joint pain? Ginger, with its anti-inflammatory properties—can bring relief. Float some ginger essential oil into your bath to help aching muscles and joints.
8. Just had surgery? Chewing ginger post-operation can help overcome nausea.
9. Stir up some ginger tea to get rid of throat and nose congestion. And when there's a nip in the air, the warming benefits of this tasty tea are even greater!
10. Bedroom blues? Try adding a gingery



punch to a bowl of soup. (Pss...the Ayurvedic texts credit ginger with aphrodisiac properties)

A CROSS The Way

By Sirohmi Gunasekera

Choosing to live

"Oh dear, my arthritis is troubling me. I wish I could die," complained Shalini, adding, "I am now eighty two years old. I think I have lived long enough."

"Well, we cannot decide when we are to die. It is the will of God. We just have to ready to go whenever He calls us," replied her daughter Nela.

"I think Euthanasia is a good thing. Why prolong a person's suffering?" commented Bess.

"That is a deep question. Sometimes, we live for others and a sick person may cause a family to come together. So it is not just a case of one person suffering but a whole network which is created to help out. The example of the patient and his or her patience and stoicism may result in others finding a reason to live," said Nela.

"Sometimes, I pray for strength to face the day and am just grateful that I am not bedridden. I used to be very independent so it is a lesson for me to let go and let others do things for me. Thank you, God, for helping me to cope each moment of the day," said Shalini.

"Yes, each one of us must learn to let go of pride and self-reliance and be thankful if there is someone around to help," observed Bess.

"I know. Even if someone else is impatient, we must learn to cope and be persevering. Each one has his or her failings and we must learn to live and let live," said Shalini.

"I think that you are growing and maturing each day of your sickness," remarked Nela, adding, "We can either just exist from moment to moment or choose to live a fruitful life with pleasant thoughts and thanks for being alive, counting our blessings."

The Prodigal Father

Imagine for a moment, the elder son of the parable of the Prodigal Son (LK.15:11-32) addressing us with these words.

"The way my father treated my younger brother was a slap on my face. My father could have taken him back as a servant, not as a son. I would then have seen that he got the dirtiest jobs so that he could prove his repentance. I would then have given him his former status gradually on condition that he walked the straight and narrow path. But what happens? My father runs out to meet him. He throws his arms around the waster, and hugs him—still smelling of pig manure! And as if that was not enough, my father orders that he be dressed in finery and arranges a big feast in his

honour! I mean, it doesn't make sense. My father was acting as if he had lost his senses.

What impressions would our servants get? That in this house, one could even commit murder and get away with it. Just how do you think my father made me feel? I was faithful to him. I returned tired doing my work and the work my brother would have had to do. I was exhausted from the heat and toil of the day. Was my father there to give me a pat on my back and say, "Well done my son?" No, he was not to be seen. It was surprising to discover my father running and falling over my waster and vagabond brother when he had returned after he had squandered all his possessions. Is that not unfair? If

Thoughts
that haunt me



this is not unfair, what is it? If this happened to you, would you put up with it?

What was wrong with my father? He had his divine way of looking at the whole incident. Who will forgive someone who takes his share of wealth, squanders the whole thing, then comes back and says, "Father I have done wrong?" Anyone else would have replied, "You got your share of wealth, now don't bother us, get lost." This father transcends all the human tendencies to crush the victim when fallen and instead embraces the prodigal.

Who will think of

turning the whole house into a place of merry-making, killing the fattest calf and enjoying it with the neighbours on the return of the wayward prodigal who tarnished his father's name since the time he left his home?

It is difficult to fathom the large heartedness of this father who would have been reviled and scoffed at by his neighbours for his magnanimity. If God, who is the father of this parable goes through all the ignominy for thirsting for the return of lost children, would it not be our binding obligation to return to where we belong, to his embrace where alone we can find solace and lasting happiness?

Ananda Perera



Last Sunday the feast of St. Jude was celebrated at Indigolla, Gampaha.



Mission of Christ

Behind the original Church built in 1952 at Indigolla, is a much larger new Church constructed to accommodate the ever increasing number of pilgrims to the Shrine.

The new Church is unique in many aspects. It is an architectural masterpiece in local Church architecture. Here art and architecture is used to remind us of our mission to witness to Christ at all times and all places, focusing on the resurrected Jesus and the promise of Eternal Life. This is achieved by profound Christian symbolism and a superb blend of local cultural motifs which are taken and baptized to give new meaning in Church liturgy.

Pillars of the Church

The façade of the Church is open and inviting. Several tall columns hold its front verandah and portico which are embellished with sculptors of the Apostles. The eleven Apostles and St. Paul are celebrated here as the pillars of the Church; to whom Jesus entrusted the mission of the Church; to spread the Good News; and on whose sweat and blood was built the universal Church. Each of the Apostles carry a symbol pertaining to His identity – usually connected to his martyrdom. Ahead of them all in the garden is a sculpture of their guru – Jesus who is seen with a boat and fishing net reminding us of His promise to the Apostles “Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men.”

Eternal Life

From time immemorial the Peacock has been used to symbolise Eternal Life. We first see its use in early Christian art of the 1st century in the catacombs of Rome. The peacock symbolism is used here on the main stained glass window in the sanctuary where stylized peacock feathers decorate the four ends of the cross. It is a unique. The peacock symbolism is again used on the entrance door – this time keeping to the local traditional.



The Holy of Holies

Immediately under this stained glass cross, stands a large box. The box is intricately carved and painted in gold. This is the tabernacle which is the focus and centre of worship in the Church. Take a careful look at this and one is surprised to find that this large sized box is but an antique *pettagama*. The *pettagama* of our ancients where household valuables or the produce of the

St. Jude's: Adding a traditional flavour to Christian symbolism

fields was stored. This *pettagama* has been carefully converted into a Tabernacle keeping to all the requirements of sanctity. As such we see that a door has been carved



on the front side of the *pettagama* to give easy access to the 'Blessed Sacrament' reserved therein. Further the carvings on the box show a host of angels dressed in oriental style in various stances of worship and motifs of stylized flowers including the indigenous na, nelum and pineapple. At the bottom centre of the *pettagama* is a carving of the full pot from which the creeper of life spreads out and overflow in a flamboyant profusion. It is a beautiful restoration work and a unique creation worthy of its novel use.

The Great Commission

On either side of the Tabernacle were line drawings of the eleven Apostles. Unfortunately these drawings are no more. The purpose of these drawings were once again to remind us of the great mission entrusted to the eleven Apostles when the resurrected Christ appeared to the eleven who were gathered together and commissioned them to teach and baptize all the nations of the world. The drawings are sadly missed and it is hoped will be replaced.

Angels

Angels always remind us of Eternal Life. On either side of the sanctuary are two line drawings of angels who stand tall and erect with hands clasped in worship and head bowed in reverence. The attire of the angels are very much oriental in design.

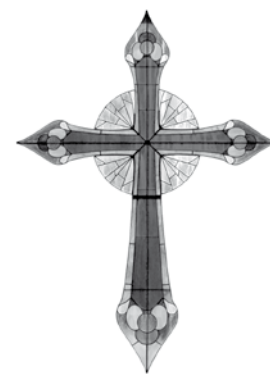
Artists have often depicted angels in accordance to their culture and tradition. And here in this Church - for the first time in Sri Lanka - we see angels depicted in local traditional attire. It is unique and beautiful! A concept for reflection and consideration.



A series of angels are also seen carved on the main door frame of the Church. These angels have been carved in panels intercepted with the stylized flower designs that we saw carved on the Tabernacle. The angels are dressed as local traditional musicians who are seen playing our traditional musical instruments. The music they make here may be different from the accepted form of angelic strains. Look at them carefully and you will hear in your mind the vibrant beating of drums: the *gata-bera*, *dawula*, *thammattama*, *rabana*, the clashing of cymbals and *talampata*. While the *hakgediya* and horns remind you that you enter into the presence of the Almighty.

The Evangelists

The four stained glass windows above the main doors at the entrance are exceptionally noteworthy for their vibrancy and mix of colours. These depict the symbols of the four Evangelists. The winged man dressed in oriental clothing and holding a lotus bud on a long stem is representative of Matthew. The ox represents Luke, the lion - Mark and the eagle - John. The symbolic figures here are also inspired by traditional local art. The Way of Light

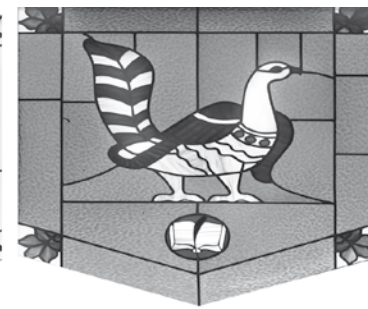
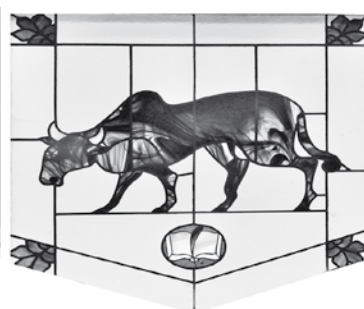
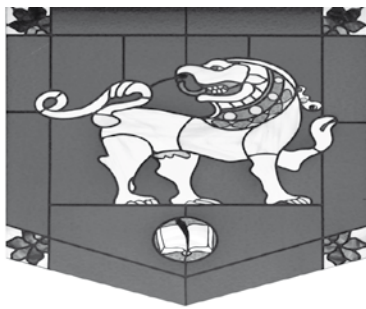


The rest of the stained glass panels over the 14 doors, seven running along each of the sides represent a devotion known as the 'Way of Light'. These are 14 joyful meditations on appearances of Jesus after His resurrection. They include scenes of the apparition of Jesus to Mary Magdalene, to the apostles, the 'Emmaus journey' and 'Pentecost'. This devotion has not been given prominence in a church anywhere else in the country.

The Main Entrance

On the main door of the Church are several traditional carvings which when interpreted through Christian symbolism will help on life's journey towards Eternal Life. The bottom panels of the door are carved with eight pineapple flowers representing the seven Sacraments and the Mother Church. It is interesting to note that the artist has used the pineapple flower here to represent Gampaha district's fame for the fruit. The middle panels are carved with four stylized crosses representing the four gospels that give the teachings of Christ. Note the centre of the cross comprising a Na flower traditionally associated with Mother Mary here reminding the devotee that the way to Jesus is through Mary. The topmost panels are carved with two peacocks – representing the two Great Commandments of love that will surely help to attain Eternal Life. Over all this is an intricate carving of a dove symbolizing the Holy Spirit. The carvings of the angels around the door frame remind the people that they are entering the house of the Almighty to praise and worship their God.

Finally stepping out of the Church, from its main doorway – and on the floor of the portico is embedded a granite star with its ends stretching out to mark the directions of north, east, south, west. Check with a compass for it is in perfect harmony with the ends of the earth to which the mission of Christ is to be preached.



The torch and the television

Vatican Television Centre (CTV) celebrated its 30th birthday last month. A Vatican conference held to mark the event, examines the television station that informs the world about the Pope, reflecting on the role of media in transmitting religious news - especially news directly related to the Pope - and the future of CTV. These themes are also addressed in the book: "Cameras on St. Peter's. Thirty years of Vatican Television Centre" (Milan, Vita e Pensiero, 240 pages, 25 Euros, in both Italian and English with DVD), edited by the Director Dario Edoardo Viganò. The following are excerpts from the book and an editorial by the Director.

If one goes back to its etymological origins, it is curious and interesting to notice how the term 'sacred' signifies 'separation', indicating that "sacred is something from which one must stay far from."

On the contrary, the word 'television', a strange mix of Greek and Latin, instead indicates 'approach', 'proximity': the possibility of watching even from afar. So if we believe in the words, then one understands how there is very little of sacred or spiritual in television and, generally, how very little there could be. If the god of contemporary television is called audience, one can well say that the expulsion of what is religious from the media constitutes a kind of scapegoat for modern thought. However, even within a world that, all things considered, is futile, like the world of television, one can apply Rene Girard's marvellous definition: "The Sacred is above all what dominates man more easily the more man believes he is able to dominate it". And here perhaps is the key to the difficult rapport between religion and television.

one most bound to its 'specificity', the capacity to cancel distances and temporal separations to allow the enjoyment of important events live. Thus the first experiments of satellite transmission in Europe (Eurovision) came about in order to broadcast the Pope's words. A blessing of this mission to cancel distances even "arrived from the Catholic Church, which elected St Clare (for her emblematic gift of ubiquity) as Patron Saint of television.

This attention carried on over the years, from broadcasting Sunday and holiday Mass to the religious figures in TV like Fr. Mariano, from the serials and TV films with Catholic themes to the important events broadcast on the news programmes - to name only a couple, the opening of the Vatican Council by John XXIII (with, on the evening news, the famous 'Moon speech') or the voyage of Paul VI through the Holy Land - are images that, thanks to television, became fixed in the collective memory of spectators all over the world. Then there was the constant counterpoint of the Catholic

Council alludes to the profound change in mentality, in the sense of the Church's opening to the world, and the Council's decree *Inter Mirifica* deals with the "instruments of social communication" (1963), specifying that man must use these instruments without letting himself be used, bending them to the message of the Gospel and facilitating their sharing in the Christian community. Television was increasingly central, and it could not be left apart.

A real turning point in the relation with television was then constituted by the Papacy of John Paul II, with Karol Wojtyla who rapidly became a media star: His figure was known and loved all over the world, made even more visible and central by hours and hours of video appearances, his apostolic voyages, his pastoral visits, the canonization ceremonies. With him, not only did "the Word become flesh" but also the image: By enchantment, television was transformed into an instrument of faith and one was at least a bit distanced from the average and opaque sensation of life. The world of communication is "the first Areopagus of modern times," the Pope said, "It has unified humanity: The media have attained so much importance as to be for many the principle instrument for information and learning, guidance and inspiration for individual, family and social behaviours" (*Redemptoris Missio*).

The presence of John Paul II in television lent itself to many interpretations. On one hand, the Pope, described as the Good Shepherd, but also as a curious, polyglot intellectual, was an icon of our times no one like him has ever had not so much coverage but also so much media consensus - still, he preached, always visible, continually shown, and constrained to take second place in respect to his simple presence. On the other hand, the Pope became even more of an icon the more he displayed his physical suffering, the pain of



his body, something which only Christianity among all the religions has taken upon itself. With his direct and often live testimony, the Pope renewed the mystery of the Cross.

Wojtyla's relationship with television did not cease creating unexpected scenarios, even with his death. John Paul II chose to die every day, before the eyes of all; signifying the fragility of the body, the force of resurrection and suffering as an extreme form of evangelization. Thanks to television, his funeral was transformed into a planetary ceremony that involved the world's most important networks. The eye of the TV cameras was able to frame and take into the homes of the entire world a supernatural moment, seen by at least three billion people: The wind that suddenly began to ruffle the pages of the Gospel placed on a bare wooden coffin. The farewell to the Pope represented the incarnation of a contemporary myth, the insertion of a fragment of eternity into the convulsive tale of poor everyday circumstance.

With the television's widespread diffusion, eye witnessing became a mass phenomena in an imitative multiplication that gave life to the media event; this because it broke the programming routines and was experienced by the spectator as a crucial occasion able to bring fundamental values into play. Until the media, John Paul II taught new ways of professing faith.

Thus it is not by chance that precisely during the papacy of John Paul II that the bases and roots of the Vatican Television Centre's experience were placed and that, then, its continual development was maintained with forms of representation, in professional expertise and in relationships with religious television channels and institutions all over the world. A legacy destined to last, and ex-

As Susan Sontag writes: "A society becomes modern when one of its chief activities is producing and consuming images, when images that have extraordinary powers to determine our demands upon reality and are themselves coveted substitutes for firsthand experience, become indispensable to the health of the economy, the stability of the polity, and the pursuit of private happiness."

pand, even during the succeeding pontificates of Benedict XVI and now, Francis, who is also inevitably at this point at the centre of the media storm.

As Susan Sontag writes: A society becomes modern when one of its chief activities is producing and consuming images, when images that have extraordinary powers to determine our demands upon reality and are themselves coveted substitute for firsthand experience, become indispensable to the health of the economy, the stability of the polity, and the pursuit of private happiness".

This applies to the Vatican Television Centre. As the Apostle Matthew warns: "Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it gives light." Today that source of light is inevitably the media, and in particular, television, beginning with the CTV.

(*L'Osservatore Romano*)



"The wind blows where it wants," John the Evangelist says. It sounds even better in the Vulgar Latin: "*Spiritus ubi vult spirat*." That is also what happens in the world of the media: The messages blow where they want. And it is complicated to analyze them, draw sure and efficacious conclusions and find order and reason.

Since its beginnings, in the world but above all in Italy, television has given special consideration to the Catholic Church, the Pope and the religious message. The most immediate form used by the RAI since its beginnings is the

reading of the media, seen as an opportunity to make the best use of it.

In the encyclical *Pacem in Terris*, John XXIII says that "the mass media satisfy man's right to objective information" (1963)' The Second Vatican



Message for the Feast of Deepavali - 2013

Dear Hindu Friends,

In a spirit of friendship, the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue extends to you best wishes and cordial greetings as you celebrate Deepavali on November 3. May God, the source of all light and life, illumine your lives and deepen your happiness and peace.

In this highly competitive world where increasingly individualistic and materialistic tendencies adversely affect human relationships and often create divisions in families and society as a whole, we wish to share our thoughts on how Christians and Hindus can foster human relationships for the good of all humanity through friendship and solidarity.

Relationships are fundamental to human existence. Security and peace in the local, national and international communities are largely determined by the quality of our human interaction. Experience teaches us that, the deeper our human relationships, the more we are able to advance towards

cooperation, peace-building, genuine solidarity and harmony. In short, the ability to foster respectful relationships is the measure of authentic human progress and essential for promoting peace and integral development.

Such relationships ought to flow naturally from our shared humanity. Indeed, human relationships are at the heart of human existence and its progress and naturally give rise to a sense of solidarity with others. Regardless of our ethnic, cultural, religious and ideological differences, all of us belong to the one human family.

Sadly, with the increase of materialism in society and a growing disregard for deeper spiritual and religious values, there now exists a dangerous trend to accord the same value to material things as to human relationships, thereby reducing the human person from a 'someone' to a 'something' that can be cast aside at will. Furthermore, individualistic tendencies engender a false sense of security

and favour what His Holiness Pope Francis has described as 'a culture of exclusion', 'a throw-away culture' and 'a globalization of indifference'.

The promotion of a 'culture of relationship' and 'a culture of solidarity' is thus imperative for all peoples, and calls for the fostering of relationships based on friendship and mutual respect for the benefit of the entire human family. This requires a common recognition and promotion of the intrinsic dignity of the human person. It is evident then that friendship and solidarity are closely related.

In the end, a "culture of solidarity means seeing others not as rivals or statistics, but brothers and sisters" (Pope Francis, Visit to the Community of Varginha (Manguinhos), Rio de Janeiro, 25 July 2013).

Finally, we wish to state our conviction that a culture of solidarity can only be achieved as "the fruit of a concerted effort on the part of all, in service of the common good" (Pope Francis, Meeting with Brazil's



Leaders of Society, Rio de Janeiro, 27 July 2013). Sustained by the teachings of our respective religions and aware of the importance of building genuine relationships, may we, Hindus and Christians, work individually and collectively, with all religious traditions and people of good will, to foster and strengthen the hu-

man family through friendship and solidarity.

We wish you a happy celebration of Deepavali!

Cardinal Jean-Louis Laurant
President

Father Miguel Angel Ayuso Guixot, MCCJ Secretary



The lay people guide and direct the Legion of Mary. They chair it and run it. They see, judge and act. They assess situations, assign work and discuss reports on work done. They make direct approach to people. They are not shy to share the faith with those who are ready and willing.

They learn to overcome human respect and to evangelize thus conforming to the second obligation as laid by the "Standing Instructions" read at the first meeting of each month. They listen to the allocutio of the Priest who gives them spiritual and theological nourishment which animates and nourishes the apostolate.

The Legion of Mary balances prayer and work. This is clear even in the order of events at a weekly presidium meeting. They are called to be men and women of prayer, since the two-fold objective of the Legion is self sanctification of its members and the sanctification of others as laid down in the Handbook which was greatly influenced by St. Louis Marie de Montfort treatise 'True

devotion to Mary" In this spiritual classic which provides guidance to the Legionaries Ven. Frank Duff stresses on Christian Perfection for his followers based on the Legion system which is inalienable. Achievement of Sainthood is stressed and encouraged by the founders booklet on "We can be Saints." Long before Vatican II where the Ven. Founder was a lay observer, the Legion incorporated some of its best directives on the different but complementary role of Priest and finally lay faithful.

The Legion of Mary, founded four decades before the Second Vatican Council, seems to incorporate some of the beautiful insights, teachings and directives of the Council on collaboration between Priest and Laity.

The Legion of Mary Handbook and practice spells out that Priest, Spiritual Director is expected to supply doctrinal and spiritual orientation to the Presidium or other Council. He gives the Allocutio and God's blessing. He is their link with the Bishop with whom ecclesial communion is appreciated as important.

To be a Christian, a legionary today is to bring abundance of life to a society that suffers physically and spiritually. To bring Jesus through the intervention of Mary to others the Legionaries

must find Jesus in their lives. Until the kingdom comes to an individual, they cannot come to a society or nation. They are advised to see Christ in whom they serve in a spirit of faith. Home Visitation for two hours forms integral part of the legion system. They include the sick, prisoners, homeless, orphans etc. They spread Gospel values among them and encourage them to live worthy lives. Legionaries arrange Holy Hours, encourage them to recite the family rosary, enthronement of the Sacred Heart in their homes.

Rectification of marriage too forms a part of their work. Accompanying Priests and Religious in distributing Holy Communion to the sick is an admirable aspect of the Legionary apostolate.

The Legion is for the lowly and under privileged as much as for the learned and powerful" (Rev. Fr. Thomas P.O. Flynn) Cardinal Ribert has echoed that "the Legion of Mary is a miracle of these modern times."

Pope Pius the XI, declared that the Legion represent "the face of the Catholic Church." Pope Paul the VI, in inviting Frank Duff to attend the second Vatican council as a lay observer recognized and affirmed the enormous work of the lay apostolate. He said, "The Legion of Mary is the Greatest Movement

which has been established for the Good of souls since the era of the great religious orders."

At present the Legion in Sri Lanka is saddled with an old age problem. Most of the member are aging. His Eminence Malcolm Cardinal Ranjith has also expressed concern about this matter. New blood (Youth) has to be infused for the continuation for the Legion recruitment drive is essential together with an extension drive.

Rev. Fr. Bede McGregor OP, Spiritual Director to the Legion of Mary opined that, "The Legion does not restrict its membership to the young, but the young must be specially sought for and catered for. If the Legion does not attract them, it is largely failing in its purpose, for the movement which does not appeal to the young will never exert a wide influence. Furthermore, the young are the key to the future. The reasonable tastes of youth must be understood and allowed for. Bright, generous, enthusiastic youth must not be kept out by setting up standards which are inappropriate to the young or which may be nothing else than kill-joy standards."

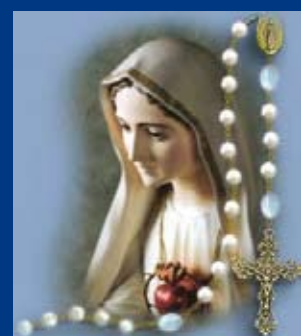
The Legion is the nursery for future Priests and Religious vocations and undoubtedly it is the "face of the Catholic Church."

At the "Acies Function" which is the most important event in the Legionary calendar held annually the Legionaries renew their consecration to Mary and express their fidelity to her.

May the Most Blessed Virgin Mary whose song of praise the "Magnificat" is recited by the Legionaries daily obtain for all of us the grace

to remain always faithful to God for the honour of being invited to do our part for the promotion of the kingdom of Christ. May we respond to this grace with faith, commitment, generosity and openness to co-operation in Her mothering of every soul, especially those who most need the experience of Her motherly heart.

Camillus Fernando



Glorious Mary

Admirable
Than reality
Pure than chaste
Cleansed
Immaculate
Conception
Impressive
Divine beauty
Brings glory
Beautiful
Evokes piety
Deep respect
Emmulate all
Pure in life
Divine every way

Miran Perera

A Tribute to late Rev. Fr. Timothy, a Franciscan

He was 70 years, a Franciscan at his death, at the age of 91. He also completed 24 years of his priestly ministry. Well-known Fr. Timothy was a lovable and strong personality. He was a historian and Sinhala Scholar.

Rev. Fr. Timothy Kola-munne was in the field of Education for 36 years, 21 years as a successful teacher in schools and for 15 years he was the Principal of Bolawatta and Katuneriya Maha Vidyalayas. From January 1946 to December 1981 he worked in schools in the Archdiocese of Colombo and the Dioceses of Chilaw and Ratnapura.

For the last 35 years Fr. Timothy was well-known for his publications of books in Sinhala on the Church History of Sri-Lan-

ka. He also promoted the traditional Sinhala prayer books published by the Maggona Franciscan Brothers, over one hundred years ago. He took a keen interest in the development of the Congregation which he belonged to. He was a councillor for 13 years and was the last Superior General. Fr. Timothy worked hard with Brother H. Thomas Tissera, his Superior General to amalgamate the Maggona Franciscan Brothers' Congregation with the TOR Order which is one of four main clerical Franciscan Orders. The union took place on November 13, 1982. In 1989 February, Fr. Timothy was ordained a priest and became the parish priest of Dummaladeniya. After a short period of time he became the chap-



Rev. Fr. Timothy

lain of the Good Shepherd Sisters who were in charge of Niripola Orphanage. From there he went to assist at the (Diocesan) Shrine of St. Anthony's, Kochchikade, Colombo.

He also taught A/L Christianity at the TOR Minor Seminary.

Fr. Timothy was born to Peter William and Annie Thelis of Batagama, Ja-Ela and joined the Franciscans at the tender age of 13. His first profession was in 1942. He passed out as a Trained Teacher in 1945 and was a graduate of the University of Kelaniya.

The burial of Fr. Timothy took place at the Franciscan cemetery, Maggona. Pupils and friends of Fr. Timothy paid their last homage to him at his burial on October 23, 2013. May you rest in the Lord dear Fr. Thimothy!

Rev. Fr. Jerome Fernando, TOR

Appreciation

A Tribute to my Darling Aunt

It is with grateful heart I pen these few lines as a tribute to my darling aunt Mrs. Theresa Fernando who passed away on October 2 at the age of 49. My aunt had been an important person in my life from the day I was born.

Until she got settled in life she took care of me as both my parents were employed. She was a mother who took care of me taught me to do the correct thing and always shared with me whatever she had and was a good friend to all her nephews and nieces.

When I look at the past, I can remember how she instilled in us the habit of praying and the devotion to the Eucharistic Lord. She always trusted in the Lord and the Blessed Mother and to the end she never failed to carry the crucifix and the rosary. She always advised



Mrs. Theresa Fernando

us that God will take care of us.

Despite her failing health she made it a point to visit the Madhu Shrine during the latter part of May and for the August festival. The Madhu Matha hymn was her favourite hymn and was fittingly sung after the Holy Mass on the day of her burial.

His Lordships Bishop Emmanuel Fernando and His

Lordship Bishop Norbert Andradi OMI, Rev. Fathers and Sisters paid their last respects to her at home as well as in the church. "Strength is nothing more than how well you hide the pain" Even though, my aunt had to face many hardships she never made it visible on her face.

Even during the last few months while battling with her illness she never complained of pain, instead suffered within herself. She was a simple lady always satisfied with what she had. She left behind memories of her. I Love you a lot Theresa Aththe and I miss you a lot and I will always remember you though you are not with me by my side.

*Rest in Peace my dear aunt,
Until we meet on that beautiful shore.*

Stephanie Fernando

Jesus A Graven image

*Death Steals
Flesh to dust
Buried beneath
Blessed graves
Jesus guards
In divine spirit
God carved out
Figure of power
Never fear death
A graven image
Joins eternal
All faithful
Abiding souls
Jesus protects*

M. Perera

PAST PUPILS' ASSOCIATION HOLY FAMILY CONVENT, BAMBALAPITIYA



A Holy Mass will be celebrated at the School Chapel on Saturday November 9, 2013 at 7.00 a.m, in remembrance of the dear departed souls of Rev. Sisters, teachers and pupils of the School.

All are welcome.

IN MEMORIAM

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE OF



ANTUNETTE
GUNAWARDANA

Fondly remembered by her Husband, Marcus, Children, Shanaka, Samantha, Subashani, and Grand Children.

146, Averiawatta Road,
Wattala

(N4268)

Joe Bee Perera completes fifty years of music

With the famous song 'Yakada Thallanna' (the village blacksmith) Joe Bee became a very popular singer among the Sri Lankans.

Joe Bee, the famous singer from Negombo completes fifty years as a singer and a musician this year. Joe Bee hails from Kurana, Negombo. His actual name is Joseph Benedict Perera. From his small days Joe Bee had a talent for music and participated in various Church activities at the Kurana St Anne's parish participating in the Church choir, Christmas carols etc. He used to sing with his friends in Kurana, and had a deep and pleasant voice. He studied at Maris Stella College Negombo and at the school too he actively participated in the concerts, and drama competitions etc.

Joe was an active member of the Catholic cultural group of the Archdiocese of Colombo.

Together with people like Hector Welgampola, Henry Amaratunga, Christie Perera and Aloy Jayamanna, Joe actively worked to develop the Christian cultural values in the Archdiocese of Colombo in the seventies.

Joe together with the singers like Sunil Perera, Clarence Wijewardene, Anton Jones, Dharmaratne brothers, Nalin Perera, Mariaselle Goonatilleke, Rukmani Devi, Ivor Dennis and Sunil Santha contributed immensely for the development of Sinhala music in the seventies and eighties.

During the sixties the Latin American Calypso music became very popular in Sri Lanka. Calypso music originated in West Indies and became very popular in the islands of Trinidad and Tobago. Later it spread across Latin America and became very popular in Sri Lanka in the sixties and the seventies. The famous groups

La Ceylonians, La bambas, Los Muchachos, Dharmaratne brothers and Moonstones took the initiative in spreading this in Sri Lanka.

Joe who started his career as a banker at the Bank of Ceylon with his talent and interest in the calypso style music joined the famous group in Negombo "Los Muchachos."

Later Joe formed his own musical group called Meemasso. I had the privilege of working with Joe at the Bank of Ceylon. One day I asked Joe why he named the group Meemasso. He said that because he is from Meegamuwa (Negombo) he wanted to name the group Meemasso and he narrated a story behind this name.

The famous Vihara Maha Devi, during her pregnancy had a craving for bees honey. The king sent his men right round the country and ultimately found bees honey in Little

Rome. Because of this the town was named MEEGOMUWA. Other members of the group Meemasso were Reggie, Gamini, Stanley, Sisil, and Shirley.

Joe became very popular with his first calypso style song 'Yakada Thallanna' a song about the village blacksmith. Because of its words, meaning and the tune it became a hit among the youngsters. Joe's other songs, which became very popular, are mala Giravi, Chiqita Linda, Gayani, Sudu Mal, Adare karala and Meegamu Meemasso.

By introducing the Spanish music Joe together with Clarence Wijewardene, Noel Ranasinhe, Dharmaratne brothers, Neville Fernando and Priya Peiris made a radical change in the Sinhala musical field. His style was a combination of both Eastern and Western music. His main idea was to make the listener enjoy the mu-

By Eric Vincent Perera, Sydney. Australia

sic whether it is Eastern or Western.

Vijaya Corea introduced Joe to his Saturday stars programme and his songs became extremely popular among the people.

People like Vijaya, Sirisangabo and Vernon Corea took the initiative in introducing Spanish style Sinhala group music to the community through the Radio Ceylon. People like Joe bee, Clarence and Neville Fernando got an opportunity to introduce their talents due to their untiring efforts.

Whilst doing music Joe worked as a banker at the Bank of Ceylon and retired as a senior audit manager. I can remember the days we worked together at the Free Trade Zone branch, Katunayake in the eighties. Almost daily we visited the Free Trade Zone factories meeting the

managers and the staff discussing their banking needs and other business.

Joe Perera kept an unforgettable name through his contribution as a Catholic in the Sri Lankan musical field. Among the Catholic singers like Sunil Santa, C T Fernando, Rukmani Devi, Vincent de Paul Peiris, Deva Suriyasna, Chitra Somapala, Latha Walpola, Morris Dahanayake, Neville Fernando, Keerthi Pasqual, Niranjala Sarojinee, Malkanthi Peiris, Rookantha Goonathilleka, Angeline Goonetilleka, Edward Jayakody, Anton Jones, Gretian Ananda, Mervyn Perera, Sunil Perera, Dharmaratne Brothers, Mariasle Goonetilleka, and Nalin Perera, Joe Bee too has kept an indelible name in the Sri Lankan musical field.

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for revealing the mysteries of the kingdom to mere children.

(Lk 19:38,2:14)

LITURGICAL CALENDAR YEAR C
3rd November- 10th November 2013

Sun: 31st Sunday of Ordinary Time
Wis 11:22- 12:2; 2 Thes 1:11 2:2;
Lk 19: 1-10
Mon: Feast of St. Charles Borromeo,
Bishop
Rom 11:29-36; Lk. 14: 12-14
Tue: Rom 12:5-16a; Lk. 14:15-24
Wed: Rom 13:8-10; Lk. 14:25-33
Thu: Rom 14:7-12; Lk. 15:1-10
Fri: Rom 15:14-21; Lk. 16:1-8
Sat: Feast of the Dedication of the
Lateran Basilica
Ez 47:1,2,8,9,12;or
1 Cor 2:9b-11,16,17; Jn. 2:13-22
Sun: 32nd Sunday of Ordinary Time
2 Mac 7:1,2,9-14; 2 Th 2:16- 3:5;
Lk. 20:27-38 (or 27:34-8)

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Response: Give us a new heart, Lord.

The Lord is merciful to all: that he may not walk on our road of life without encountering us, let us pray.

Response: Give us a new heart, Lord.

The Lord is powerful: that his grace may touch and heal us, let us pray.

Response: Give us a new heart, Lord.

The Lord closes his eyes to our sins: that he may not walk by without changing us, let us pray.

Response: Give us a new heart, Lord.

The Lord loves every living being: that he may not fail to lift us up, let us pray.

Response: Give us a new heart, Lord.

Thirty First Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading:
Wis.11:22-12:2

The author of the book of wisdom in a prayerful manner appreciates God's kindness and mercy towards the world especially towards mankind. God out of His love forgives the sins of men for He created them and loves them.

Second Reading:
2Thes. 1:11-2:2

St. Paul writes to the Thessalonians who were living in idol; thinking that the second coming of the Lord was at hand. He wants them to live a life worthy of the Lord and to fulfill every good resolve and every work of faith through God's power.

Gospel: Lk. 19:1-10

Zacchaeus the tax collector while on the journey meet Jesus and the Lord expresses his desire to visit him in his house. The visit, results in Zacchaeus's turning away from his sinfulness and he vows to pay back fourfold,

and even share half of his belongings with the poor. Thus the Lord saves Zacchaeus.

Reflection

Today's readings show God's care and concern towards His creation, especially towards man. We too are called to imitate Him by showing our love and concern towards our fellow human beings. We ought to be an example to them and do our best to save them from their sinful lives. We must not condemn them because of their sinfulness but rather convert them and win them over to God. For, God loves all but specially the sinners so that they may turn away from their sins.

Aid Story

Those who have read the popular children's story of little Lord Fauntleroy have seen the power of hopeful love. You will recall how the little lad goes to stay with a grandfather, one of the most selfish, the meanest, the most unkind person who ever lived. But the boy believed in him. Re-



peatedly he expressed his love and faith and hope in his grandfather by saying. "Oh grandfather, how they must love you; you are so generous, you are so kind, so considerate to every one you meet." These words from his 14 year old grandson worked in the old man to such an extent that he gradually grew to be unselfish and kind and generous.

Aid Story 2

The prison chap-

lain visited the prison one day and found a young boy in prison for theft and murder. The priest with love and concern spoke to the boy hugging him. My dear son you are such a nice young boy why did you do this? What pushed you to this? The boy said Father if anybody had spoken to me with this much of love and concern before I would have never fallen to this state or done this.

Rev. Fr. Ciswan De Croos

Are the dead prayerfully remembered only in November?

Introduction

Several months of the year are usually understood with some kind of a special note. For instance, the month of May is attributed to the Blessed Mother Mary while the recitation of the Rosary is associated with the month of October. December is the month of Christmas, at the beginning itself, irrespective of different religions, we do get the happy (Christmas) feeling. February is considered the shortest due to its numbered days compared to other months in the year, sometimes it is obvious that people (including the Christian faithful even) do not intend to decide their important events in their life journey due to some kind of pessimistic mentality.

In this process of thought November as a month is considered the month of the dead. The departed dear ones are in a special way remembered prayerfully, thus it invites us to ponder over the dead than any other month in the year. November is coupled with certain other aspects such as Almsgiving in remembering the dead, catholic cemetery is thought of and the number of holy masses offered for them. Surprisingly, a sort of devotion in relation to their deceased dear ones is generated at once. Comparatively the number of holy masses would be increased unusually,

yet the unique characteristic of the holy mass is to be marked since it is the source 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. Almsgiving in honour of the deceased is a noble act, yet the same act could be surpassed by the due respect and love shown to them in their earthly career. Perhaps there is no harm of interpreting Almsgiving as a result of the effort made to console their voice-out and troubled hearts. Their purposefully neglected duties toward the deceased would echo in their lives. Almsgiving 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 act is always questionable.

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

November, yet it has to be exercised throughout the year. Catholic cemetery simultaneously becomes the centre of attention especially in November. In fact, this is a pathetic situation where as the faithful are expected to pay their due respect to their deceased dear ones very often, yet, it is not prohibited to be approached in other months too. Frequent visits to the grave-yard of the near and dear ones with a short prayer always depict out the due respect and love to the departed. The tendency is obviously visible to neglect and abandon the cemetery in all other months except in November.

What is outwardly visible in a way leads us to ponder over our spiritual strengths at certain moments in life. Strictly speaking, the death embraces a real meaning in the Victorious Resurrection of Jesus Christ. The Resurrection is further approved and certified not with the mere empty tomb but with the solid Heavenly Message. "... He has been raised, He is not here" (Mk.16/6).

Resurrection is indeed a mystery of faith, Jesus' Resurrection is not the life given back to His dead body, yet undoubtedly 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.6/54, 1 Cori.

15/12-14).

John Donne, an English poet challenges death in one of his poems called "Death", he mentions, 'Death one day you will die'. Undoubtedly this expression is situated in the context of Jesus's Resurrection. Death is a true phenomenon of life, yet in our faith, it is not the 'full stop', but a 'comma', since it is the Gate-way to the Life-Eternal. For a Christian anointed with the sacrament of Baptism, death is very optimistic since it combines us to the Divine Presence (Catechism of the Catholic Church 1010). "For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain" (Phil. 1/21).

Concluding remark:

It could be notably recommended that the dead are to be remembered with the due respect throughout the year though they are given a special attention in November.

"Then he called his son Tobias, and when he came to him he said, 'My son, when I die, give me a proper burial. Honour your mother and do not abandon her all the days of her life' (Tobit 4/3).

It could be cultivated as a regular custom/ part and parcel of life. Prayerful remembrance is indeed vital and thus it holds a great value when it receives a special segment of Christian identity. Also, act of

almsgiving organized on behalf of them would be definitely pleasant before God the Father if it is solely based upon a genuine and clear motivation focused on the need of the recipient. Necessary steps are to be taken to maintain the genuine purpose of the act without allowing it to be a turning point of another big merry-making opportunity. As it was already indicated that the act of almsgiving could be surpassed by the sense of genuine love and respect shown to them in their earthly career, hence, the commemoration of the faithful departed on 2nd of November of each year is to be embraced with its true meaning. November too, with its special emphasis on death would undoubtedly challenge each Christian who is baptized in order to check and re-check his/her own value system with regard to the gift of faith. Authentic way of life is to be constantly strengthened with the gentle reminder given to each one to be more and more selfless and other-centred.

The attitude to be selfish and acquire more and more as much as possible is to be attackable with the real understanding of death as a true and genuine follower of Christ the Lord.

Rev. Fr. Indra R. Fernando,
Director,
Archdiocesan Apostolate for
Catechetics.

National Bible Quiz-2013 Award Ceremony



Bible Study Circle (BSC) of St. Joseph's College, Colombo in collaboration with the Department of Christian Religious Affairs of the Ministry of Buddhasana and Religious Affairs, held a Bible Quiz at St. Joseph's College, Colombo under the title 'All Island Bible Quiz - 2013' representing all three medium.

The First round of this (oral) Quiz was held in July on a diocesan basis. The Colombo Archdiocese Quiz was held in July at St. Joseph's College, Colombo. The winners of each diocese were qualified for the final which was held in September at the National Level. There were 15 Gold Medalists who scored the highest marks in their respective medium and category.

The award ceremony was held in October at the Bonjean Hall of St. Joseph's College, Colombo. The Chief Guest was the Prime Minister and Minister of Buddhasana and Religious Affairs, D. M. Jayarathne. Among the distinguished guests were His Excellency, Most Rev. Dr. Joseph Spiteri-Apostolic Nuncio of Sri Lanka, His Grace Archbishop Emeritus, Most. Rev. Dr. Oswald Gomis and His Lordship Rt. Rev. Dr. Maxwell Silva Auxiliary Bishop of Colombo, Chairman, Catholic National Commission for Education, Catechetics and Bible Apostolate and Rev. Fr. Piyal Janaka Fernando, National Director.

Junior Category English Medium
Gold Medalist - Dilushka de Mel
St. Joseph's College, Colombo 10

Prize Winners All Island Bible Quiz - 2013

JUNIOR

Sinhala Medium

- 1st Place** - St. Bridget's Convent, Colombo 07.
2nd Place - Holy Family Convent, Kalutara
3rd Place - Holy Family Convent, Colombo 04.

Tamil Medium

- 1st Place** - St. Mary's Church, Nawalapitiya
2nd Place - Holy Cross Church, Hatton
3rd Place - Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Trincomalee

English Medium

- 1st Place** - St. Joseph's College, Colombo 10.
2nd Place - Good Shepherd Convent, Colombo 13.
3rd Place - CH/WEN/Dankotuwa Girls' College, Dankotuwa

INTERMEDIATE

Sinhala Medium

- 1st Place** - St. Mary's Daham Pasala, Nawalapitiya
2nd Place - Holy Angels' Girls College, Kurunegala
3rd Place - Sacred Heart Sunday School, Katugastota

Tamil Medium

- 1st Place** - Holy Family Convent, Jaffna
2nd Place - St. Bridget's Convent, Colombo 07
3rd Place - Holy Cross Church, Hatton

English Medium

- 1st Place** - CH/WEN/Girls' College, Dankotuwa
2nd Place - Holy Family Convent, Colombo 04
3rd Place - Good Shepherd Convent, Colombo 13

SENIOR

Sinhala Medium

- 1st Place** - St. Bridget's Convent, Colombo 07
2nd Place - KUL/Holy Angels Girls College, Kurunegala
2nd Place - St. Xavier's College, Marawila

Tamil Medium

- 1st Place** - Holy Family Convent, Jaffna
2nd Place - Good Shepherd Convent, Colombo 13
2nd Place - Holy Family Convent, Colombo 04

English Medium

- 1st Place** - Holy Family Convent - Colombo 04
2nd Place - St. Joseph's College - Colombo 10

(A member of BSC)

"Situation in Sri Lanka like post-war situation in S. Africa"

Contd from Pg. 2

"Education is a major factor for social change. We think it is important that our Universities are made to accept their role as active agents of national integration and social justice. We will not have development for all until we have integral education for all.

Our Universities should be awakening awareness that the whole nation benefits from their services, and that the whole nation should therefore join in providing the resources they need to carry out their task. Our Universities must participate in the transformation of present-day society and in the wake of bettering human conditions. Our Universities should commit themselves in working with the rest of the nation in their concern for societal problems. They have a vital role to play in the overall project of changing our society.

We must not forget that a lack of quality and integral education lies at the base of the unjust social structures in our country.

Many of us are no doubt familiar with Lord Acton's famous epigram: "Power corrupts, absolute power corrupts absolutely." Yet many have seldom paid attention (even if they be aware of it) to what Acton said in the very next line of his lecture, which surprisingly

enough, was: "Great men are almost always bad men." Considering the fate and fortunes of many public men in history – past and present – there would be many leaders who would not be inclined to disagree with Acton. This observation seems to me to be a serious indictment on our sense of values in the estimation of greatness in a leader, which appear to place a low value on moral integrity.

But whatever the underlying reasons that our corrupt leaders give for this dismal view, I do not think any right minded person would tolerate or condone gross misconduct or grave depravities in behaviour for long, because in our experience many powerful men in the world holding high office have, or is even happening today before our very eyes, often quite unexpectedly been brought down from their pedestals of power and prestige by a fortuitous discovery that they have been guilty of dishonorable conduct. So Lord Acton's dictum that most great men are almost always bad men holds true only to the extent that their reputation to greatness subsists tenuously, only as long as their infamy remains undiscovered. They are held in high esteem only so long as true facts remain a closely guarded secret.

As Nelson Mandela

who guided a bitter South African nation on the path of reconciliation and change after the end of the Apartheid system of racial segregation enforced through legislation by the National Party (NP) governments, who were the ruling party from 1948 to 1994 said: "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."

Needless to state that Sri Lanka too is experiencing a very similar situation in the political, socio economic and educational spheres, like that of the post war situation in South Africa. To take Sri Lanka forward to the 21st century, it is not too late even to think of and introduce an integral quality with a deep sense of religious morals to education.

In the Schools and Universities we need, education would be constructed as a fundamental human right geared toward the fullest and integral development of the human personality and the reconstruction of society around basic principles of moral integrity, equality and justice and recognition.

These are not the Schools and the Universities we have. But that does not mean that we can simply abandon the education of our youth in Schools and Universities or close our eyes and do nothing.

In the face of the relentless challenges that are now directed at the education of our youth we must struggle both to defend a truly integral education with religious and moral values to reconstruct our society in order to bring about a true and everlasting peace in our beloved Sri Lanka.

Now once again there is talk of educational reforms in view of the Government's definitive objective of making Sri Lanka a 'Knowledge Hub'. Already new laws for Higher Educational Institutes have been drafted to safeguard the quality assurance. Accreditation qualification Framework (draft) Bill is to be introduced shortly in Parliament in view of the above. Presumably, it envisages the inflow of both capital and human resources - both local and overseas - into the education sector. But while the education authorities embark on these reforms greater emphasis should be given to the place of education as a tool which will operate as a catalyst of change to ensure that the Schools/Higher educational Institutes and Universities produce men of integral character. Sri Lanka needs integral men and women, true statesmen and women, to guide our society to a developed nation.

There is also an urgent need for the President to appoint a Commission similar to the Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission to formu-

late educational reforms so that the habit of Ministers taking temporary decisions to provide patch work solutions to immediate problems will not occur. viz School admissions, University curriculum changes, School curricular subjects, place of vocational education, and graduate unemployment crisis.

The Commission should also study what happened to the much publicized 'White Paper on Education', the Cluster education system and the change of the GCE examination to the NCE which was discarded so quickly though it was implemented for many reasons.

This Commission ideally should consist of academics, well known educationalist and civil society leaders and religious leaders and the mandate should be to provide an Education reform that takes in the existing realities and educates youth using all the resources that are available.

Our progress as a nation can be no swifter than our progress in education. The human mind is our fundamental resource.

In conclusion let us think of education as the means of developing our greatest abilities, because in each of us there is a private hope and dream which, fulfilled, can be translated into benefit for everyone and greater strength for our nation."

Young World

Dear St. Jude, we hope in You!



The feast of St. Jude's Shrine, Indigolla, Gampaha was celebrated last Sunday where a large gathering of priests, religious and devotees were present. The Fes-

tive High Mass was presided by the Archbishop of Colombo, His Eminence, Malcolm Cardinal Ranjith.

Picture shows His Eminence receiving the offertory from

two little devotees.

The Western Band of Holy Cross College, Gampaha was in attendance at the feast.

Pix: H.A. Caldera

Bridgetines Excel at National Bible Quiz Competition



At the National Bible Quiz Competition held at St. Joseph's College, Colombo last month, St. Bridget's Convent, Colombo won the 1st place in the Junior and Senior category - Sinhala Medium and 2nd place in the Intermediate Category - Tamil Medium.

Vihanga Perera received the award for Best Performer in the Junior Category - Sinhala Medium while Andrea Vasanthan and Melisa Rajendran were adjudged Best Performers in the Intermediate category - Tamil Medium.

Media Unit

First Holy Communion at Nayabedde



The First Holy Communion service of Annai Vellankanni Church Nayabedde, Badulla Diocese took place recently, presided over by Rev. Fr. Marshall Rajanayagam, Vicar General and Parish Priest.

Picture shows Fr. Rajanayagam with the First Holy communicants, Rev. Sr. Grace Fernando SDS and Rev. Sr. Grace RGS of Bandarawela.

Noel Weeratunga

Concert day at Good Shepherd Montessori Yatiyantota



Yatiyantota Good Shepherd Montessori House of Children, held their annual concert at Dr. N. M. Perera Maha Vidyalaya Hall, recently.

Rev. Fr. Niroshan Vaas, Director,

Catechetical Centre, Ratnapura Diocese, was the chief guest. Picture shows the little ones performing in the Percussion Band.

Pic by - J. Antony

Awareness programme for Madampe Sunday School students



An awareness programme for Sunday School students of Grades 8 to 11 of St. Sebastian's Church, Madampe in the Chilaw Diocese was held recently.

The programme was held under

the guidance of the Parish Priest Rev. Fr. Sisira Kumara and Asst. Parish Priest Rev. Fr. Sunil Shantha.

Dilum Maduranga



First Holy Communion at Ss. Peter & Paul, Ragama

Twelve children from Ss. Peter and Paul English Sunday School, Ragama received their First Holy Communion last month.

Holy Mass was presided over by Rev. Fr. Malcolm Candappa, Assistant

Parish Priest.

Picture shows the children with Rev. Fr. Malcolm Candappa and Catechism teacher Mrs. Angela Taylor.

Carl Taylor

It is foolish to enjoy doing wrong - Proverbs 10:23

English with Fun and Entertainment

Dear Readers,

In our sixth lesson we learnt the English Speech Sounds (ʃ) , (ʒ), a funny story of how Nasreddin Goes Shopping, more proverbs, more inspirational quotes, kid’s jokes, a brain teaser and some more riddles.

In this lesson let’s learn the teacher’s prayer, a simple poem about the teacher, speech sounds (m) as in map (n) as in nose (ŋ) as in hang, two funny anecdotes on male assertiveness and Our Lord’s Prayer, vocabulary enrichment teaser on word formation, checking plurals, mild intelligent tests and introducing oneself

Thanks for the readers who made valuable suggestions and for using these lessons effectively. You are invited to share your experiences to enrich our lessons further.

With best regards!

NJ

As most of you use these lessons to teach your children you can start the day with this teacher’s prayer. Our Lord the Divine Master will inspire you to be good teachers.

TEACHER’S PRAYER

‘Help us, O Lord to penetrate into the secret of the child, so that we may know him, love him and serve him according to your laws of justice, following your divine will’-- Maria Montessori

Reflect on this simple inspirational verse written to her best teacher by a little child and be a gifted teacher

East or West Our teacher is the best She is our best guide She helps us to decide	She tells us the right path When we are in trouble She is a book of wisdom Which gives us knowledge?	She’s a burning candle Which gives us light? All in all She’s the best of all
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English Phonology

Speech Sounds (**m**) as in **map** (**n**) as in **nose** (ŋ) as in **hang**. These sounds are called **nasals because they originate from the nose.**

Activity 1: Read aloud and practise

- (i)met make most smoke smack smell
- (ii) hum storm calm stems bombs games
- (iii)summer coming camel hammer humble
- (iv) nice noise news snake snow snob
- (v) ran bone pins learns scenes pence once
- (vi) dance any answer winning ring hung
- (vi) long ringing banging singer monk
- (viii) drank uncle ankle winkle jungle
- (ix)angle single finger hunger anger run
- (x) sinning singing thin thing winter
- (xi)winger kin king banning banging sing
- (xii) singing sinking hang hank sung

Activity 2: Read aloud very fast and practise

- (1) The wrong man was hanged.
- (2)The monk was thin and hungry.
- (3)The journey took longer than most of us imagined.
- (4)The monkey bit my uncle’s ankle.
- (5)There aren’t any lessons this morning.

Activity 3: Read the funny story about male assertiveness with stress and intonation and enjoy the fun.

Male Assertiveness

A mild-mannered man was tired of being bossed around by his wife so he went to a psychiatrist.

The psychiatrist said he needed to build his self-esteem, and so gave him a book on assertiveness. He read the whole on the way home.

The man stormed into the house and walked up to his wife.

Pointing a finger in her face, he said, “From now on, I want you to know that I am the man of this house, and my word is law! I want you to prepare me a delicious meal tonight, and when I’ve finished eating my meal, I expect a sumptuous dessert. Then, after dinner, you have to fan me so that I can relax. After that you have to arrange a hot water bath for me. And when I’ve finished with that bath, guess who’s going to dress me and comb my hair?”

“The funeral director,” said his wife.

Activity 4 A: Read the above anecdote once again and answer the following questions with ‘Yes’ ‘No’

Utterance	Yes	No
1.The wife stormed the house and walked up to the man.		
2.The man said the his word was law.		

3. The psychiatrist said that the man needed to build his self-esteem.		
4.The woman scolded the psychiatrist.		
5.The woman wanted the man to fan her.		

Answer the following questions with complete sentences

- (i) What did the psychiatrist give the man?
- (ii) Why was the mild-mannered man tired?
- (iii) How could he finish reading the book by the time he reached his house?

4 C. Can you guess the answer and complete the utterance?

A. In a house where male asserts the female

Activity 5: Read this anecdote of the Lord’s Prayer with full of humour and make your comment in one sentence.

B. A mother was teaching her three year old daughter The Lord's Prayer. For several evenings at bedtime, she repeated it after her mother. One night she said she was ready to say the prayer herself. The mother listened with pride, as she carefully said each word right up to the end..."And lead us not into temptation", she prayed, "but deliver us some e-mail, Amen."

Activity 6: Complete the grid with the appropriate word .The first one is done for you

Noun	Adjective	Verb	Adverb
00. play	playable/playful	play	playfully
1.love			
2.hatred			
3.thought			
4.beauty			
5.honour			
6.collection			
7.courage			
8.respect			
9.analysis			
10.reality			

Activity 7: Check these intelligence tests.

- (1) What type of ring is always square?
- (2) What can you hold in your left hand but not in your right hand?
- (3) If a farmer has two eggs for breakfast every morning, but he doesn't own any chickens and he doesn't get them from anyone else, where do the eggs come from?
- (4) If a girl who works in a candy store is five feet three inches tall, and wears size five shoes, what does she weigh?
- (5) If King Kong went to Hong Kong to play Ping-Pong and died, what would they put on his coffin? Submitted by: Joe

Language Function: **Introducing oneself - Getting to know people.**

a) I am Noel Jayamanne a) I’m Noel Jayamanne

1. Nilusha Ranjani introduces herself to Indrani Senehelatha Nilu : I’m Nilusha Ranjani. Indra: I’m Indrani Senehelatha. Nilu : How do you do ? Indra : How do you do ?	Introduce yourself to your friend and pactise. Example Dilini: I’m Dilini Jayamanne. Lasa : I’m Lasantha Bernard. Dilini: How do you do? Lasa : How do you do?
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Answers

Activity 4 A. 1. No. 2. Yes 3.Yes 4.No 5. No

4 B.i. The psychiatrist gave the man a book. (ii) He was tired of being bossed by his wife. (iii) He could finish reading the book by the time he reached his house because it was perhaps a very simple book with a few pages. 4C. dominates

Activity 5. My comment – I appreciate the way how the writer generates fun with “but deliver us some e-mail, Amen.”

Activity 6. (1)Lovely/lovable./loving / love / lovingly (2)Hateful / hate / hatefully (3)Thoughtful / think / thoughtfully (4) Beautiful / beautify / beautifully (5)Honourable / honour / honourably(6)Collective/collect//collectively/(7)Courageous/encourage/courageously/(8)Respectful/re-spective/respectable/respect/ respectfully / respectfully/respectably (9)Analytic/analytical / analyse / analytically (10) real/ realize/really

Activity

Activity 7 : Answers: (i) A boxing ring. (ii) Your right elbow. (iii) From his ducks (iv) Candy. (v) A lid.

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Compiled by Noel Jayamanne

QUIZ

On Catholic Themes

(..... from last week)

QUESTIONS

1. THE CHURCH AND CHURCH TEACHINGS

Penance/Sacrament of Reconciliation

468. What is the Sacrament of Penance?
469. Where in the New Testament does Christ give the Apostles authority to hear confessions and forgive sins?
470. Who are the ministers of the Sacrament of Penance?
471. What conditions are required to receive the Sacrament of Penance?
472. What is contrition?
473. What is confession?
474. What is satisfaction?
475. Does the Sacrament of Penance remit all punishment due to sin?
476. What are some of the forms of penance in Christian life?
477. What is absolution?
478. What is general absolution?
479. What condition is necessary for the general absolution to be valid?
480. What are the effects of the Sacrament of Penance?

(contd next week.....)

ANSWERS

I. THE CHURCH AND CHURCH TEACHINGS

Penance/Sacrament of Reconciliation

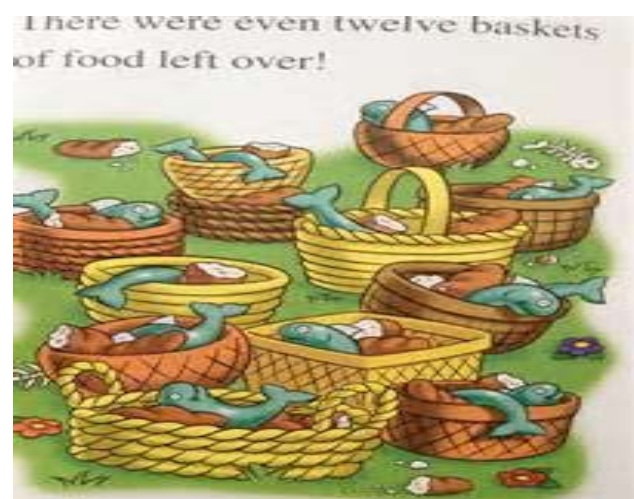
468. A Sacrament instituted by Christ for the forgiveness of sins and reconciliation with God and the Church.
469. John 20: 21-23. (Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." And with that He breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.").
470. Bishops and Priests.
471. Contrition, confession and satisfaction.
472. A true sorrow for sins because they have offended God who is so good and loving and a sincere and firm resolution not to sin again.
473. Admitting all our sins to a Priest in the Sacrament of Penance.
474. Carrying out the penance that the priest gives in order to repair the harm caused by our sins and to configure us to Christ who expiated our sins once and for all.
475. The Sacrament of Penance remits the eternal punishment due to sin, but it does not always remit the temporal punishment which remains unless we make amends for the sin by penance.
476. Prayer, fasting, almsgiving; all spiritual and corporal works of mercy, and the patient suffering of the ills of life, etc.
477. The form of prayer or words the priest pronounces over the penitent with uplifted hand when he forgives the sins he/she has confessed
478. The absolution given by the priest to many penitents in cases of grave necessity or in danger of death.
479. The faithful must have the intention of individually confessing their sins in the specified time.
480. Reconciliation with God and the Church, remission of the eternal punishment incurred by mortal sins and increase of spiritual strength for the Christian battle.

Courtesy: Clare Ukken fsp

JESUS with a DIFFERENCE

[Spiritual Reflection]

John 6:1-15. The Miracle of Five Loaves and Two Fish



What happened to the rest of the 12 baskets?

One of His disciples, Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter, said to Him, "There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish; but what good are these for so many?"

So they collected them, and **filled twelve wicker baskets with fragments** from the five barley loaves that had been more than they could eat.

JESUS

He tested His disciples before the miracle was performed.

He knew what He was going to do. Yet He made His disciples aware of the situation. He multiplied with what He was given and gave them more and more till they were satisfied.

HIDDEN POINTS

Did Jesus count the number of people before performing the miracle?

Did Jesus consider the boy who brought what he had?

Why did Jesus allow them to collect 12 baskets?

Was Jesus testing His disciples and the people after the miraculous feeding, by making them collect the leftovers which miraculously filled 12 baskets?

DIFFERENCE

Are we also handing over what we have to Jesus expecting a miracle?

And if so, what are we going to do with the 12 filled baskets?

Are we ready to share them with others who are outside the Church?

When there is a need, do we show indifference unlike the boy who stepped in to help out?

TURNING POINTS

So He asked Philip, "Where can we buy enough food for them to eat?"

Jesus said this to test Philip, because He Himself knew what He was going to do.

Philip answered Him, "Two hundred days' wages worth of food would not be enough for each of them to have a little [bit]."

When they had their fill, He said to His disciples, "Gather the fragments left over, so that nothing will be wasted."

Yes..! Exactly Jesus does not want any basket to be wasted even after the miracle. So let us use what we have and what we are given more for the betterment of HIS PEOPLE.



Rev. Fr. S. Randil Fernando OMI
Nazareth – Wennappuwa

FROM THE VATICAN DOCUMENTS

Mystery of the Church

"When the work which the Father gave the Son to do on earth was accomplished, the Holy Spirit was sent on the day of Pentecost in order that He might continually sanctify the Church, and thus, all those who believe would have access through Christ in one Spirit to the Father."

LUMEN GENTIUM 4

Dogmatic Constitution on the Church

Pope Paul VI

November 21, 1964