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ARCHDIOCESAN MARIAN YEAR

From the Cross you received a mission From the Cross you became the Mother of All

Pope Benedict XVI Spe Salvi 50



Archbishop of Colombo, His Eminence Malcolm Cardinal Ranjith has dedicated to Our Lady the Year that begins with the closing of the 'Year of Faith' on Sunday, November 24, 2013 until the first Sunday in Advent which falls on November 30, 2014 as the 'Marian Year'.

In a Pastoral letter to the Archdiocese, His Eminence has said that the Marian Year would be a fitting continuity of the 'Year of Faith' as Mary is truly the best example of a life filled with faith, it is through her "Let it be," given in deep faith that God's divine plan

became reality.

The Letter states that the Marian year will be the fourth year in the Archdiocesan Programme of the Decade of the Eucharist "which we proclaim joyfully and with filial devotion to our Heavenly Mother Mary, the mystical sweet rose in God's beautiful garden. We do so with utmost devotion entrusting to her along with ourselves, bishops, priests and the religious and all our dear faithful young and old."

During this special year dedicated to Our Lady, the Archbishop calls upon all Catholics to learn about the

beauty of Mary's own role in God's plan of salvation and "develop a personal attitude of love and filial affection for her, either personally or as families or communities praying the daily Rosary, engaging in pilgrimages not only to her Shrines in Sri Lanka but also if possible overseas, joining in the Archdiocesan pilgrimages to Madhu and Lourdes which will be organized during the year."

Above all the Letter requests the faithful to heed her call for the conversion of hearts by embracing the habit of regular Confession and Holy Communion by becoming proud sons and

daughters of the Heavenly Mother calling her with that lovely exclamation "mummy" from the very core of their hearts.

His Eminence also directs the Legion of Mary and other groups like the Children of Mary, the Marian Movement of Priests, the Living Rosary Groups and the Heralds of the Gospel to take a lead in this campaign of prayers and personal sanctification.

"Thus the Christian seeks to be taken into her maternal charity with which the Redeemer's Mother cares for the brethren of her son" (John Paul II, *Redemptoris Mater* 45).

A leader who does not love the people cannot govern: Pope

Vatican City, (CNA/EWTN News). -

Reflecting on the Gospel of the centurion who humbly and confidently asked for the healing of his servant, the Holy Father Pope Francis explained that "a leader who doesn't love, cannot govern - at best they can

discipline, they can give a little bit of order, but they can't govern."

"You can't govern without loving the people and without humility!"

"And every man, every woman who has to take up the service of government, must ask themselves two

questions: 'Do I love my people in order to serve them better? Am I humble and do I listen to everybody, to diverse opinions in order to choose the best path?'

"If you don't ask those questions, your governance will not be good," Pope Francis continued. "The man or

woman who governs - who loves his people is a humble man or woman."

Pope Francis said that Catholics should not be indifferent to politics, but should offer their suggestions, as well as prayers that their leaders may serve the common good in humility and love.

In his daily homily at Santa Marta, the Pope rejected the idea that "a good Catholic doesn't meddle in politics."

"That's not true. That is not a good path," he said, according to Vatican Radio. "A good Catholic meddles in

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Commemorative Cover



The Department of Posts and Telecommunications will issue a Special Commemorative Cover to mark the 25th Death Anniversary of His Eminence, the late Thomas Cardinal Cooray.

The issue will be in view of a request made to the Department by the Archbishop of Colombo.

Nuncio presented report on development activities of Northern and Eastern Provinces



Apostolic Nuncio in Sri Lanka His Excellency Most. Rev. Dr. Joseph Spiteri was presented a report on the

development activities of the government in the Northern and Eastern Provinces of the country. The report was

presented by the Deputy Minister of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development Sarath Kumara Gunaratna.

25 Years of moulding the young

The Blessed Joseph Vaz Minor Seminary, Millawa, Kurunegala will celebrate 25 years on Saturday, September 28.

Holy Mass will be presided over by the Apostolic Nuncio in Sri Lanka, His Excellency, Most Rev. Dr. Joseph Spiteri, at 9.00 a.m.

Rev. Fr. Cyril Perera passes away

It is with deep regret that we announce the passing away on Saturday, September 14, 2013 of Rev. Fr. Cyril Stanley Perera, Director John Paul II Centre Ma-Eliya, Ja-ela.

Rev. Fr. Cyril Perera was born on March 5, 1941 and was Ordained in December 19, 1970. His

first appointment after Ordination was as Deputy Parish Priest, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Kotikawatte. In 1973 he was Parish Priest of St. Mary's Church, Welivita and later Parish Priest St. Mary's Church, Katukurunda, Moratuwa.

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Archangels

FROM THE DIOCESES

President visits Holy Cross National Shrine, Marawila



His Excellency, Japaksa paid a visit to President Mahinda Rajapaksa the Holy Cross National Shrine, Marawila last week. Administrator of the

Shrine Rev. Fr. Ivan Peter Fernando, Parish Priest of Marawila and Rev. Fr. Dinesh Sovis, Assistant Parish Priest welcomed His Excellency along with the community of Marawila.

After a brief service to bless the President, Rev. Fr. Ivan handed over a memento to His Excellency to commemorate the visit.

This is the first visit by a head of State of Sri Lanka to the Shrine in its 88-year-old history.

Lydwine Kirieleniya

Church Feasts

The Annual Feast of St. Mary's Church, Hapugoda, Kandana will be celebrated on Sunday September 29. Festive Mass at 7.30 am. Chief celebrant- Rev. Fr. Vimal Thirimanne CSSR. Vespers Service on previous day at 7 pm presided over by Rev. Fr. Nilantha Uduwakke.

The Annual Feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary will be celebrated in Our Lady of Lourdes Shrine, Kudagama on Sunday October 6. Festive Mass at 9 am. Chief celebrant- His Lordship Rt. Rev. Dr. Valence Mendis. Bishop of Chilaw.

The Annual Feast of St. Michael the Archangel will be celebrated in Koralawella, Moratuwa on Sunday September 29. Festive Mass at 8.30 am. Chief celebrant- Rev. Fr. Chrishantha Jayalath, Asst. Director, Sahana Medura Counselling Centre, Kanuwana.

The Annual Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe will be celebrated on Sunday September 29, in Karikattiya (Chilaw Diocese). Festive Mass at 9 am.

The Annual Feast of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour will be celebrated in Balagala, Hendala on Sunday September 29. Festive Mass at 8.30 am. Chief celebrant- Very Rev. Fr. Cyril Gamage Fernando, Archdiocesan Episcopal Vicar. Vespers Service on previous day at 7 pm presided over by Very Rev. Fr. Gregory Jayantha Fernando, Dean of Tudella Deanery.

- Ainslie Joseph

Moratuwa YMCA conducts United

Christian singing concert



A Christian singing concert was organised and conducted by the YMCA of Moratuwa at its Main Hall recently. The objective of this religious concert was to foster amity among the Christian youth of different denominations and testify to them the value of Christian hymns and songs.

A number of youth choirs from the various churches in Moratuwa area also participated in this concert.

The photograph shows one of the choirs that participated in this concert.

Bernard Fernando

A leader who....

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politics, offering the best of himself, so that those who govern can govern."

He said that none of us can say, 'I have nothing to do with this, they govern, rather, citizens are responsible for participating in politics according to their ability, and in this way are responsible for their leadership.'

"Politics, according to the Social Doctrine of the Church, is one of the highest forms of charity, because it serves the common good," he explained. "I cannot wash my hands? We all have to give something!"

He noted that it is sometimes common for people to speak only critically of their leaders, to complain about "things that don't go well."

Instead of simply complaining, we should offer ourselves - our ideas, suggestions, and most of all our prayers, the Holy Father said.

Observing that prayer is the best that we can offer to those who govern, he pointed to St. Paul's letter to Timothy inviting prayer for the conversion and strong leadership of those in authority.

Even if they believe certain politicians to be "wicked," Christians should pray "that they can govern well, that they can love their people, that they can serve their people, that they can be humble," he said.

Feast of St. Lazarus in Kurukulawa



The annual feast of St. Lazarus Church, Kurukulawa was celebrated recently. The Chief Celebrant at the Festive Mass was Rev. Fr. Marl Warnashantha Principal, St. Anthony's College, Wattala.

In his homily Rev. Fr. Warnashantha said that St. Lazarus was a close friend of Jesus. Lord Jesus associated with St. Lazarus because of his humility and righteousness. St. Lazarus hailed from a devoted family. In order to get close to Jesus we should follow the characteristics of St. Lazarus.

A retreat with special sermons on various religious topics was organised by Rev. Fr. Francis Fonseka to uplift the spiritual life of parishioners. Rev. Fr. Tennyson Perera, Priest son of Kurukulawa and Parish Priest of Belihuloya also participated at the Festive Mass.

A. Caldera

At the same time, the Pope reflected on the role of those who hold political power, stressing the need for humility and love.

Centenary of Sindathriya Matha



Centenary Jubilee (1913-2013) of Sindathriya Church in Waikkala Parish in Chilaw Diocese was celebrated with the Festive High Mass officiated by His Lordship Rt. Rev. Dr. Valence Mendis, Bishop of Chilaw.

All arrangements were made by Rev. Fr. Felix Colombage, Parish Priest, Waikkala. Secretary to the Sindathriya Church Council, Mr. Francis Bennett Peiris read the First Reading of the Mass at the ceremony.

Rev. Fr. Cyril....

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From 1992 till 1997 he was parish priest of St. Lawrence's Church, Wellawatte.

In July 1982 he was made Diocesan Coordinator for Liturgy and Catechetics and in 1983 was Lecturer Catechetics at the Maharagama Training College.

He took up the appointment as National Director Liturgy and Culture in 1989 and in October 1997 was made Episcopal Vicar, Administration. In 2001 he served as National Director Catechetics and Bible Apostolate.

The Funeral Mass was presided over by His Grace, Archbishop Emeritus Most Rev. Dr. Oswald Gomis at St. Sebastian's Church, Kandana. His mortal remains were laid to rest at the Roman Catholic Cemetery, Kandana.

New Grotto for Sacred Heart Church, Mattumagala



A new Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes was recently blessed and declared open at Sacred

Heart Church, Mattumagala by His Lordship Rt.

Rev. Dr. Emmanuel Fernando, Auxiliary Bishop of Colombo.

The Grotto was donated by Mr. Alex Ranasinghe in fulfilment of a vow made 25 years ago and the event was graced by 190 children who were confirmed.

This was organised by the Parish Priest, Rev. Fr. Anselm Shiran.

T Krishan Fernando



Church in the Modern World

Pope urges Religious Orders to house Refugees

ROME (AP) — Pope Francis urged members of Religious Orders to use empty convents and other structures to house refugees fleeing war and hardship, not as hotels.

Pope Francis who visited a Jesuit-run refugee centre in Rome, urged members of religious orders to welcome refugees "in the empty houses and convents."

"Dear religious men and women, the church does not need the empty convents to be turned into hotels to earn money. The empty houses are not ours. They are for the flesh of Christ, which are the refugees."

Pope Francis who arrived discreetly noted

that many of the refugees were Muslim and from many different countries, adding: "We don't need to fear the differences."

While meeting with refugees from the Middle East and Africa, the Pope spoke with a Sudanese man and sat down with a Syrian family to hear their story. According to the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR), more than two million Syrians have been driven out of their homeland over the course of the country's nearly 3-year-old civil war.

"Parents report that their children are experiencing frequent nightmares and exhibiting reckless and ag-

gressive behaviors," said Maria Calivis, UNICEF Regional Director for the Middle East and North Africa said. "Bedwetting is common and children have become more withdrawn and clingy. Their drawings are often violent and angry with images of bloodshed, explosions, and destruction."

Meanwhile Pope Francis has warned US President Barack Obama that targeting Syria with military strikes would be a "futile pursuit."

In a sharply-worded intervention, Pope Francis also accused world leaders of having stood by and allowed a "senseless massacre" to unfold in the country.



Children waiting for help in Bab al-Salam refugee camp in Syria near the Turkish border (Reuters)

The Pope, who is a Jesuit, has been backed

in his criticism of a military strike on Syria by the

head of the Jesuits, Father Adolfo Nicolas.

"Like a widow seeking her husband, so is the Church"



Vatican City (CNA/EWTN News).- The Church militant is similar to a widow and progress-

ing for her divine spouse Jesus Christ, Pope Francis preached in his homily for daily Holy Mass on September 17.

The widow of Naim in Scripture is "an icon of the Church, because the Church is in a certain sense a widow," the Holy Father said at the Chapel of the Vatican's Domus Sanctae Marthae, reflecting on the day's Gospel.

"The Bridegroom is gone and she walks in history, hoping to find him, to meet him, and she will be his true bride. In the meantime she - the Church - is alone! The Lord is invisible. She has a certain dimension of widowhood."

Christ's encounter with the widow of Naim shows that he has "the capacity to suffer with us, to be close to our sufferings and make them his own," the Pope said, and the Lord "had great

compassion" on her.

"The Lord has a special love for widows, he cares for them."

The Church is like a widow, Pope Francis said, and is "courageous" in defending her children, "like the widow who went to the corrupt judge to (press her rights) and eventually won."

"Our mother Church is courageous! She has the courage of a woman who knows that her children are her own, and must defend them and bring them to an encounter with her Spouse."

"She is a Church that, when she is faithful, knows how to cry. When the Church does not cry, something is not right. She weeps for her children, and prays," he said.

Pope Francis

added that the Church continues through history "rearing her children," and "gives them strength and accompanies them until the final farewell in order to leave them in the hands of her Spouse, who at the end will come to encounter her."

He said that he sees the Church in the widow of Naim, weeping for her dead son, and that Christ says to the Church: "Do not cry. I am with you, I will accompany you, I will wait for you there, at the wedding feast, the final marriage, that of the Lamb. Stop (your tears), this son of yours was dead, now lives."

As Christ told the widow's son to arise, so he tells us to get up "when we are dead because of sin and we are going to

ask for pardon." And when he grants us pardon, the Pope noted, "he returns us to our mother."

Reconciliation with the Lord is not a matter of only the priest and the penitent, he explained, but it is completed only when Christ returns us to our mother, the Church, because "there is no path of life, there is no pardon, there is no reconciliation outside of mother Church."

Pope Francis concluded by saying that the day's Gospel inspires him "to ask the Lord for the grace to be always confident of this 'Mom' who defends us, who teaches us, who helps us grow and to speak the dialect" of orthodoxy and catechism.

SUNDAY PUNCH

by Camillus



Indian Archdiocese receives relic of Pope John Paul II

Bombay, India (CNA/EWTN News).- A reliquary containing a cloth with a drop of blood from Blessed Pope John Paul II will be displayed for veneration in a Marian Basilica in the Archdiocese of Bombay, India.

Archbishop Salvatore Pennacchio, the Apostolic Nuncio to India, presented the relic to Cardinal Oswald Gracias of Bombay at Mount Mary's Basilica at Bandra.

Archbishop Pennacchio was in the archdiocese on an official two-day visit.

"The nuncio's visit marks an important faith factor to reconfirm the growth of faith and mission activity of evangelization," said Father Antony Charanghat, spokesman for the Archdiocese of Bombay.

He told CNA that receiving the relic during the current Year of Faith "is a twin joy."

People in India have great love, affinity and memory of Pope John Paul II, as a result of his 1986 apostolic visit to the country, Fr. Charanghat said.

"People of all faith recognised him as an enduring Pope and a great leader," Father Anthony said.

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EDITORIAL

September 22, 2013

Our Good Works are the Light of the World

'You are the light of the world. Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.'

-Matt. 5:14,16

A light is always meant for the use of those who are in darkness, that they may see by it. We are required to give witness to God and how we give witness is not only by standing up for or proclaiming our faith or preaching but by our good works. Example is better than precept. The Church of Christ is the light of men. The God of this world hath blinded their eyes; Christ's disciples are to shine into their darkness and give them light.

The world does not know God like us and it is also estranged from God. We were called by God not only to save our souls but also to save others and bring them to God. The good works of believers are the light that streams out from them to conquer the surrounding darkness, with its ignorance of God and estrangement from Him. What a high and important place is thus given to our good works. What power is attributed to them. How much then depends upon us. Our works are not only the light and health and joy of our own life, but in every one of our deeds the means of bringing lost souls out of darkness into God's marvellous light. We are even more. We glorify God, in leading men to know Him as the Author of the grace seen in us.

The aim of good works. It is, that God may be glorified. You remember how Our Lord said to the Father: I have glorified Thee on the earth, I have finished the work which Thou gavest Me to do. We read more than once of His miracles and how the people glorified God when he did some important miracle. It was because what He had wrought was manifested by a Divine Power.

It is so when our good works too are something more than the ordinary virtues of refined men, and bear the impress of God upon them, that men will glorify God. Saint Maximilian Maria Kolbe, January 8, 1894 - 14 August 1941) was a Polish Franciscan friar, who volunteered to die in place of a stranger in the Nazi German death camp of Auschwitz, during World War II. They must be the good works of which the Sermon on the Mount is the embodiment - a life of God's children, doing more than others, seeking to be perfect as their Father in heaven is perfect.

The whole world was made for the Glory of God. Christ came to redeem us from sin and bring us back to serve and glorify Him. Believers are placed in the world with this one object, that they may let their light shine in good works, so as to win others to God. As the light of the sun is meant to light up the world, the good works of God's children are meant to be the light for those who know and love not God. What we need is that we form a right conception of what our good works are, that they bear the mark of something heavenly and divine, and have a power to compel the admission that God is in them.

The power of good works. Of Christ it is written: In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. The Divine life gave out a Divine light. Of His disciples Christ said: If any man follow Me, he shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life. Christ is our life and light.

As in the power of His life we do our good works, our light shines out to all who see us. And because Christ in us is our light, our works, however humble and feeble they be, can carry with them a power of Divine conviction. The measure of the Divine power which works in us will be the measure of the power working in those who see them.

The urgent need is for good works in believers that every believer lets his light shine before men. For this we have been created anew in Christ, to hold forth the Word of Life, as lights in the world. Christ needs us urgently, to let His light shine through us. Perishing men around us need our light, if they are to find their way to God.

God needs us, to let His glory be seen through us. As truly as a candle only exists with the object of giving light in the darkness, the one object of our existence is to be a light to men.

Matthew says, "You are like the salt of the earth for all mankind. But if salt loses its saltiness there is no way to make it salty again. It has become worthless so it is thrown out to be trampled upon"

St. PADRE PIO - Story of a Saint with the five wounds of Our Lord Jesus

"PRAY, HOPE AND DON'T WORRY."
(Padre Pio's motto)

Padre Pio was born on May 25th 1887 in Pietrelcina, Italy, a small country town located in Southern Italy. His parents were Grazio Mario Fergione (1860 - 1946) and Maria Guiseppa de Nunzio Fergione (1859 - 1929). He was baptized the next day, in the nearby castle church with the name Francesco.

From his early childhood, it was evident Padre Pio had deep piety. When he was five years old, he solemnly consecrated himself to Jesus. He liked to sing hymns, play, church and preferred to be by himself where he could write and pray. As an adult, Padre Pio commented that in his younger years he had conversed with Jesus, the Madonna, his guardian angel and had suffered attacks by the devil.

Padre Pio's parents first learned of his desire to become a priest in 1897. Padre Pio told his parents, "I want to be a friar... with a beard." In order to finance needed to educate Padre Pio and to support his family, his father went to America to find work. Before leaving for America, his father took his son Francesco to a local shrine where they witnessed a profound incident. A mother with her badly deformed child hurled him into the altar praying if you can't heal him, keep him. The child sat up and ran to his mother's arms completely cured. His father seeing this wanted to hurry his son away. But Francesco remained praying.

At the age of 15, he took the Habit of the Order of Friar Minor Capuchin on January 22nd, 1903. On the day of his investiture, he took the name of Pio in honor of Saint Pius V, the patron saint of Pietrelcina, and was called Fra, for brother, until his priestly ordination.

A year later, on January 22nd, 1904, Fra Pio knelt before the altar and made his First Profession of the Evangelical Counsels of Poverty, Chastity and Obedience. Then on August 10th, 1910, the much awaited day finally arrived. The twenty-three year old Fra Pio was ordained a priest by the Archbishop Paolo Schinosi at the Cathedral of Benevento. Four days later he celebrated his first Mass at the parish church of Our Lady of the Angels.

Within a month of his ordination (September 7th, 1910), as Padre Pio was praying in the Piana Romana, Jesus and Mary appeared to him and gave

him the wounds of Christ, the stigmata. For Padre Pio's doctors, the wounds created much confusion. He asked Jesus to take away "the annoyance" adding "I do want to suffer, even to die of suffering, but all in secret, "the wounds went away and the supernatural life of Padre Pio remained a secret... for a while.

On November 28, 1911, Padre Agostino, who was a contemporary, friend and confidante, was advised that Padre Pio was ill. He rushed to Padre Pio's room to care for him. Padre Agostino observed what he thought was a dying man and rushed to the chapel to pray. When he finished praying, he returned to Padre Pio's room and found his friend alert and full of joy.

This was the beginning of Padre Pio's documented ecstasies - all of which were "edifying, theologically correct and expressed a deep love for God."

Due to Padre Pio's on-going ill health, he was sent home to recuperate and was separated from religious community from the end of 1911 - 1916. During this time, the Capuchin Constitution required a friar who was sent home because of illness had to maintain his friar life as much as possible. Padre Pio did this. He said Mass and taught at school. On September 4th, 1916, Padre Pio was ordered to return to his community life and was assigned to San Giovanni Rotondo, an agricultural community, located in the Gargano Mountains. Our Lady of Grace Capuchin Friary was approximately a mile from town and was not easy to reach. The capuchins had a reputation for their holiness and simple life. When Padre Pio became a part of the community at Our Lady of Grace, there were seven friars.

With the outbreak of the war, only three friars stayed at Our Lady of Grace, the others were selected for military service. At the beginning, his responsibilities included teaching at the seminary and being the spiritual director of the students. He spent his free times reading Bible and handling correspondence. When another friar was called into service, Padre Pio became in charge of the college.

In August 1917 Padre Pio was inducted into the service and assigned to the 4th Platoon of the 100th Company of the Italian Medical Corps. During this time he was very unhappy. By mid-October he was in hospital, but was not discharged. Finally in March, 1918 he was dismissed and returned to San Giovanni Rotondo.

Upon his return, Padre Pio became a spiritual director and had many spiritual daughters and sons. He had five rules for spiritual growth: weekly confessions, daily communion, spiritual reading, meditation and examination of conscience. In explaining his spiritual growth rules, Padre Pio compared dusting a room, used or unused on a weekly basis, to weekly confession. He suggested two times of daily meditation and self-examination in the morning to "prepare for battle" and in the evening to "purity of soul." Padre Pio's motto, Pray, Hope and Don't Worry, is the synopsis of his application of theology into daily life. A Christian should recognize God in everything, offering everything to Him saying, "They will be done." In addition, all should aspire to heaven and put their trust in Him and not worry about what He is doing, as long as it is done with a desire to please God.

On September 20th, 1918, Padre Pio was praying in the choir loft of the Church of Our Lady of Grace, the five wounds of the Lord appeared on his hands, feet and his side. He was 31 years at that time. It remained for the next fifty years, until his death on September 23rd, 1968 at the age of 81 years. He accepted it as a gift from God, though he would have preferred to suffer the pain of Christ's Passion without the world knowing.

God used Padre Pio - especially the news of his stigmata - to give people hope as they began to rebuild their life after the war (WWI). Padre Pio and his spiritual gifts of stigmata, perfume, prophesy and by-location was a sign of God in their midst and lead people back to the Faith. So life at the friary and the church of Our Lady of Grace began to revolve around Padre Pio's ministry. A room and a priest were designated to handle the correspondence and the remaining friars heard confessions. San Geovanni Rotondo began to be filled with pilgrims. Since there were no hotels, people slept outdoors. A normal day for Padre Pio was a busy nineteen hours - Mass, hearing confession and handling correspondence. He usually had less than two hours of sleep.

"Keep close to the Catholic Church at all times, for the church alone can give you true peace, since she alone possesses Jesus, the true Prince of Peace, in the Blessed Sacrament."

Padre Pio of Pietrelcina.
Taken from the
Web: EWTN.com

The Revelation of Prayer The Universal Call to Prayer

2566 Man is in search of God. In the act of creation, God calls every being from nothingness into existence. "Crowned with glory and honour," man is, after the angels, capable of acknowledging "how majestic is the name of the Lord in all the earth." Even after losing through his sin his likeness to God, man remains an image of his Creator, and retains the desire for the one who calls him into existence.

2567 God calls man first. Man may forget his Creator or hide far from his face; he may run after idols or accuse the deity of having abandoned him; yet the living and true God tirelessly calls each person to that mysterious encounter known as prayer. In prayer, the faithful God's initiative of love always comes first; our own first step is always a response. As God gradually reveals himself and reveals man to himself, prayer appears as a reciprocal call, a covenant drama. Through words and actions, this drama engages the heart. It unfolds throughout the whole history of salvation.

2590 "Prayer is the raising of

one's mind and heart to God or the requesting of good things from God" (St. John Damascene, *De fide orth.* 3, 24:Pg 94, 1089C).

2591 God tirelessly calls each person to this mysterious encounter with Himself. Prayer unfolds throughout the whole history of salvation as a reciprocal call between God and man.

2592 The prayer of Abraham and Jacob is presented as a battle of faith marked by trust in God's faithfulness and by certitude in the victory promised to perseverance.

2593 The prayer of Moses responds to the living God's initiative for the salvation of his people. It foreshadows the prayer of intercession of the unique mediator, Christ Jesus.

2594 The prayer of the People of God flourished in the shadow of the dwelling place of God's presence on earth, the Ark of the Covenant and the Temple, under the guidance of their shepherds, especially King David, and of the prophets.

CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH



CCCB

2595 The prophets summoned the people to conversion of heart and, while zealously seeking the face of God, the Elijah, they interceded for the people.

2596 The Psalms constitutes the masterwork of prayer in the Old Testament. They present two inseparable qualities: The personal and the communal. They extend to all dimensions of history, recalling God's promises already fulfilled, and looking for the coming of the Messiah.

2597 Prayed and fulfilled in Christ, the Psalms are an essential and permanent element of the prayer of the Church. They are suitable for men of every condition and time.

FOUR POWER-PACKED WORDS FROM THE POPE

- By Tanya Ferdinandusz

A recent article by Catholic News Service reported how Pope Francis (during his flight back from Rio de Janeiro after World Youth Day) confessed that he regretted his earlier attitude and remarks about the Catholic Charismatic Renewal Movement.

Here's what the Pope said:

"Back at the end of the 1970s and the beginning of the 1980s, I had no time for charismatics... Once, speaking about them, I said: 'These people confuse a liturgical celebration with samba lessons!'"

Then came those four power-packed words: **"NOW I REGRET IT"**

I was both heartened and humbled.

Pope Francis was big enough to admit that he had got it wrong. Not only did he express sorrow over his words and attitude, he proved that he had experienced a change of mind and heart by admitting: "Now I think that this movement does much good for the Church, overall."

The Pope demonstrated not mere tolerance, but warm acceptance, appreciation and affirmation of the positive impact of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal Movement, saying, "It is also a service to the Church herself! It renews us."

Speaking of ecclesial movements generally, Pope Francis also said, "The movements are necessary, the movements are a grace of the Spirit. **Everyone seeks his own movement, according to his own charism, where the Holy Spirit draws him or her.**"

Jesus calls us to humility, to a readiness to admit our mistakes and repent, to transformation by the constant renewal of our minds (Romans 12:2), to gracious, generous and grateful acceptance and exercise of the Spirit's varied gifts (1 Corinthians 12).

So thank you, Pope Francis, for your powerful example.

Importance of the Catechetical Day

Challenges and Vision of the Catechetical Apostolate in the Archdiocesan Bulletin – Koinonia.

At first, it is worthy to mention that lots of insights in this particular field have been inculcated with the visionary contribution of His Eminence Malcolm Cardinal Ranjith, Archbishop of Colombo. Strengthening the Commission of the Apostolate is to be expressed with a special note. Thus, the Regional structural Plan which has already been launched in the Archdiocese very clearly proves that apostolates are to be more and more energised.

The Apostolate would never undermine the role played by the parish priest with the support and the helping hand of the committed catechists and lay leaders. The parish priest is the Principal of the Sunday School and he has to be constantly supported by the deputy principal (well experienced and qualified lay person). There are catechists who have been rendering their service for long years. They are so immersed in the apostolate. Significantly, young blood more than in the past, is activated considerably in the whole system of this apostolate since most of our catechists are young, energetic and enthusiastic. There are 6900 registered catechists in the Archdiocese including Tamil and English sections.

The structural planning of the Archdiocese

There are four (4) Regions consisted of 15 deaneries;

This apostolate in the parishes is monitored by four full-time Regionals

appointed by the Archbishop together with the 15 deanery coordinators. They are committed to organising various programmes for children and catechists in their own respective regions and deaneries. The Archdiocesan Director of the Apostolate for Catechetics, appointed by the Archbishop is supported in this manner in order to make use of all possible available opportunities for the smooth functioning of the whole diocese. Yet, the Regional structure is still new there are ups and downs and ins and outs, as an apostolate we are in the process of absorbing the real richness of the newly introduced system. Sometimes this could be presented as a challenge.

Various activities and

program:
PROGRAMS FOR CATECHISTS:
Training of Catechists in the 15 Deaneries

The preliminary course in training catechists is usually prepared as a seminar conducted in each deanery on full moon Poya Day. The knowledge of faith and spiritual insights are given to the catechists in such seminars, and novel teaching techniques are also discussed. These programs are indeed beneficial since they in a way build up the relationship and a mutual understanding among them which would immensely affect their personal growth in faith. Hence, it is our humble attempt to nourish them, so that ultimately the children will benefit.

Certificate courses are conducted in three different levels

The National

Catechetical Centre for Catechetics conducts examinations in three different levels for the catechists. Archdiocesan Centre has undertaken to prepare our catechists for these examinations. Preparatory classes for the first (Diploma in Religious studies - ordinary) and second level (Diploma in Religious studies - special) of the certificate courses are successfully conducted in all the 15 deaneries including Tamil medium.

Archdiocesan Day for the children

Annually the Archdiocesan centre does organize the Archdiocesan Day for children. The celebration of the Holy Mass with the children takes the prominence. This is one of the major events as far as this apostolate is concerned. About 21000 children are flocked in the premises of the Shrine of Our Lady of Lanka, Tewatte.

Bible Quiz (Daham denuma minuma)

The Bible Quiz is conducted firstly, on the deanery level under the supervision of the deanery coordinators. Those who have obtained above 45 marks are entitled to face the diocesan competitions whereby they are awarded with certificates grading them as distinction, credit and simple pass. This is also conducted under the age groups of 12, 16 and 20 years. This indeed helps children profoundly in their scriptural knowledge and this has gained a lot of popularity in the recent past. The topics of the Bible Quiz are taken from the Introduction to the

Bible, Prophets, Gospels, and Sacraments. Special attention has been given to the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

Examinations conducted for the students

Annually the Sunday School examination is held from Year 1 to Year 13 for nearly 195,000 students in the parish level. Preparation, printing and distribution of the question papers are strictly handled by the Archdiocesan Centre. Examinations are conducted under the supervision of the parish priests with the corporation of the catechists while the correction of the answer scripts is done in accordance with the directives given by the Archdiocesan Centre. Merit certificates are also awarded to the students who have obtained marks over sixty. The seriousness of the examination is to be appreciated and its recognition is highly esteemed.

Visiting the Sunday Schools

About 90 Sunday Schools of 90 parishes have already been visited in collaboration with the parish priests, thus the Sunday Schools are conducted under the direct supervision of the parish priests in spite of the heavy schedule of work that they are entrusted with. This is a source of encouragement for the teachers and the students as well.

Meetings with the members of the Archdiocesan Catechetical Commission

The Commission comprises the Episcopal Vicar in charge of the Apostolate, full-time Regional Coordinators, the deanery coordinators and

representatives from each deanery. They meet and discuss matters pertaining to the apostolate.

Concluding Remarks

I would like to quote what His Eminence Malcolm Cardinal Ranjith, Archbishop of Colombo communicated at the Archdiocesan Commission Meeting for Catechetics on August 13, 2013.

The Church by nature is sacramental. The Christian identity which is embraced at the moment of Baptism opens the avenue for the faithful to be more and more enlightened in the Divine Grace."

All programs conducted for students and catechists are in line with the comprehensive concept of catechesis, as stated in the Catechesi Tradendae 18:

"All in all it can be taken that catechesis is an education of children, young people and adults in the faith, which includes especially the teaching of Christian doctrine..."

It is with profound gratitude we do remember our Archbishops Emeriti the Auxiliary Bishops, Episcopal Vicars and the entire presbyterium for their help and valuable guidance.

It is also my duty and responsibility to extend my sincere thanks to our Chief Pastor in the Archdiocese, His Eminence Malcolm Cardinal Ranjith for his guidance and concern.

**Rev. Fr. Indra Ratnasiri
Fernando, Director
Archdiocesan Apostolate for
Catechetics.**

The Nazarene's First Miracle

It was a promising morn. The sun came up gently warming the earth, its rays playing peekaboo among the branches. A whiff of wind passed through kissing the interlaced branches which formed a canopy over the road, which would soon raise dust as the bustle of the day took over.

Along the road to Cana came the Nazarene followed by His disciples. He wore His usual robe woven by His mother. He strode along, wisps of His shoulder length hair, wafting across His face. More and more people were walking on attired in bright colours, talking laughing, as they proceeded all bent on one errand-a wedding.

They all entered and were warmly greeted and welcomed. The

Nazarene looked around anxiously His mother too was expected to be present sure enough there she was quietly and demurely seated in a corner watching the proceedings. He was satisfied.

The festivities went on in full swing the laughing, the feasting, the gaiety. The Nazarene's mother noticed that there was somewhat of a perturbation. Always thoughtful and caring about others she noticed and overheard that they had run out of wine

She quietly left her seat and proceeded to where the men folk were. She looked around anxiously and spotted Him tall and majestic solemnly talking to a group that had gathered around Him,

She gestured to



Him and in an instant He was by her side. "They have no wine," she whispered hurriedly, urgently. "My time is not yet come," He

whispered back almost curtly abruptly. But she understood. She, His mother understood Him too well to mistake. She quietly pro-

By: Jeannette Cabraal

ceeded to the back of the house where the servants were frantically muttering 'There is no wine! There is no wine!' The Nazarene's mother quietly told them "Do whatever He tells you" She knew He would grant her request.

There were tall, large stone water jugs for the ceremonial Jewish washing. The Nazarene ordered the servants to fill the jars with water. They did so wondering at His command. Then He commanded them 'Draw and serve' They were bewildered. What! To serve water! Nevertheless He had



such a compelling voice they could do nothing but obey! Reluctantly they did so. Lo and behold! It was wine! The guests partook of the wine appraisingly and remarked to the bridegroom "Everyone serves the best wine first but you have kept the best wine until now"

The mother sat complacently. Her heart overflowing. She knew He would do it. The Nazarene turned and cast one brief, tender look at her and strode away. He had performed this His first miracle for her.

Go through Mother Mary to her son. She is a great interceder.

To His mother; He can't say He can't and He won't say He won't.

Although she is one of us in kind, The Blessed-Virgin Mary is no ordinary human being. She is the mother of God. The bard hailed her as "tainted human nature solitary boast". That was in recognition of her many qualities of head and heart which even God fore saw and took into account in selecting a woman to be his mother for his plan of incarnation on Earth to save man'kind from the rigours of the eternity awaiting him.

There is evidence of human life (homo sapiens) for several millennia before Mary's birth. But God did not select a woman from that epoch. Nor

The Blessed Virgin

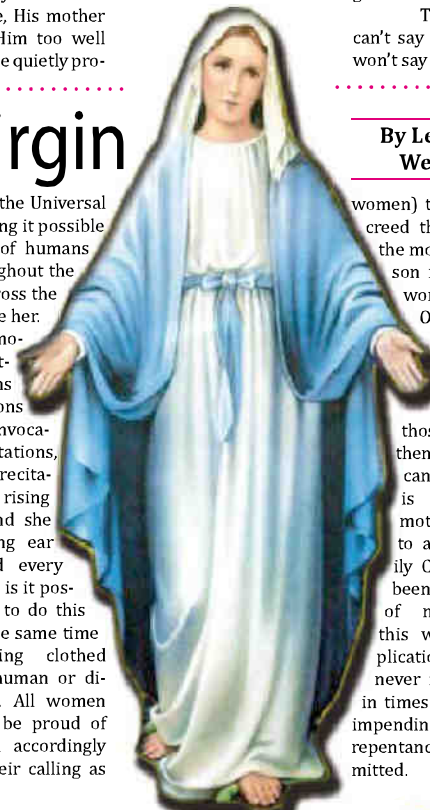
with his fore-knowledge did he have to wait for the several millennia that was to follow Mary's birth to make his choice. It was Mary of Nazareth in Israel then under Roman occupation that he wanted and towards that end prophets were singing her praises since the "foundation of the world".

It is only those who can intellectually comprehend or come to know mystically who and what God is, that will fully appreciate the greatness

of the privilege bestowed on Mary. In preparation for the task, she was immaculately conceived. "I am the Immaculate Conception" she later said in an apparition. That means the stigma of original sin which every human being inherits from the transgression of his first parents did not befall her. She remained a sinless paragon of virtue throughout her life, so much so that without experiencing corruption she was bodily assumed into heaven.

Having guided and overseen her divine son's mission on Earth, now the question is what role does she play in her new abode in heaven. God in Christ in his death throes on the cross dedicated Mary to

the world as the Universal Mother, making it possible for millions of humans spread throughout the globe and across the ages to invoke her. At this very moment of writing millions upon millions of prayers, invocations, incantations, and rosary recitations will be rising up to her and she will be giving ear to each and every request. How is it possible for her to do this at one and the same time without being clothed with super human or divine powers. All women kind should be proud of the fact, (and accordingly live up to their calling as



By Leslie Peiris Wettasinha

women) that God has decreed that next to Him the most powerful person in existence is a woman.

Our earthly mothers who are in heaven cannot be invoked in this way. Only those who knew them while on earth can do so. Not only is our heavenly mother accessible to all, (not necessarily Christians) it has been the experience of many including this writer that supplications to Mary have never failed, especially in times of grave illness, impending calamities and repentance for sins committed.

Sunday Rhythm



Twenty-fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time

Jesus: "He that is faithful in that which is least, is faithful also in much and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much."

Jesus: "No servant can serve two masters: For either he will hate the one and love the other; or else he will hold to the one and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon."

Richest Blessing:

"... no servants can serve two masters ..."

Richest Result:

"...either he will hate the one, and love the other..."

To Think:

Do you see the difference between God and the world? When we are blind with money, we fail to see the difference.

To Pray:

Dear Lord, help me to grasp the sap of love into my life and to taste your goodness more and more. Amen.

To Act:

Let us become the joyful servants who love Jesus as well as the worthy servants who serve Jesus alone.

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

God lies in the dust

Francis of Assisi was riding on a horse. He saw a leper begging on the road side. He was filled with revulsion and disgust. He threw a bag of coins at the beggar and rode off. It was the way any ordinary human being would react. Francis rode on. Then suddenly he stopped. He seemed to see a vision with a sad face. He turned his horse and returned to the leper. He got down from his horse and embraced the leper. That was his conversion. God took over and Francis learned to love with the heart of God.

Human love is the love of the human heart. It is the natural reaction you have to persons and things. Pretty or handsome faces

draw your attention, while ugly or disfigured faces receive your rejection. But you must guide your heart to imbibe a godlike love or a love that goes beyond appearances and looks to see the deeper reality and vision. Those that are denied love and affection must be showered with your attention, for they too are human, they need love for its apparent rejection by natural human love. Then only is human love transformed into something Godlike, nay something divine.

Love deep beyond appearances
A penny worth of love is worth pound of law
Love understands love, it

Thoughts that haunt me

needs no talk
Love sought is good, but given unsought is better
Respect is what we owe,
Love is what we give
Love seeketh not itself to please
Nor for itself hath any care
But for another gives its ease
Builds a heaven in hell's despair.

Fill my heart,
Lord, with love divine that I may accept things repugnant to my human feelings and attitudes. Help me to see in handicapped people, in people less fortunate

Ananda Perera

than I am, in people cast aside, rejected and severely marginalized, the image of God abandoned, so that I may galvanize myself into immediate saving action.

O Lord, many a time, I find you among the dust, disaster, and human rejection. Give me a heart to recognize you and give you the place the others continuously deny. Make me see a glimmer of you in every person abandoned by the society for no fault of their own. Grant me the courage to rise against all odds to seek their deliverance as best as I can. Amen.



compiled by: Kishani S. Fernando

Jesus of Korea

On September 20, the church marks the feast honoring a group of 103 Korean martyrs. Notable of these were Andrew Kim Taegon, the first Korean priest, and the lay apostle, Paul Chong Hasang. Also among the Korean martyrs were three bishops and seven priests, but for the most part they were heroic laity, men and women, married and single of all ages.

During the 17th century the Christian faith was brought to Korea through the zeal of lay persons. From the very beginning these Christians suffered terrible persecutions and many suffered martyrdom during the 19th century. Today there are approximately four million Catholics in Korea.

The first native Korean priest was the son of Korean converts. His father, Ignatius Kim, was martyred during the persecution of 1839 and was beatified in 1925. After baptism at the age of fifteen, Andrew traveled thirteen hundred miles to the seminary in Macao, China. After six years he managed to return to his country through Manchuria. That same year he crossed the Yellow Sea to Shanghai and was ordained a priest. Back home again, he was assigned to arrange for more missionaries to enter by a water route that would elude the border patrol. He was arrested, tortured and finally beheaded at the Han River near Seoul, the capital.

Paul Chong Hasang was a lay apostle and a married man, aged forty-five. Christianity came to Korea during the Japanese invasion in 1592 when some Koreans were baptized, probably by Christian Japanese soldiers. Evangelization was difficult because Korea refused all contact with the outside world except for an annual journey to Beijing to pay taxes. On one of these occasions, around 1777, Christian literature obtained from Jesuits in China led educated Korean Christians to study. A home church began. When a Chinese priest managed to enter secretly a dozen years later, he found four thousand Catholics, none of whom had ever seen a priest. Seven years later there were ten thousand Catholics. Religious freedom came in 1883.

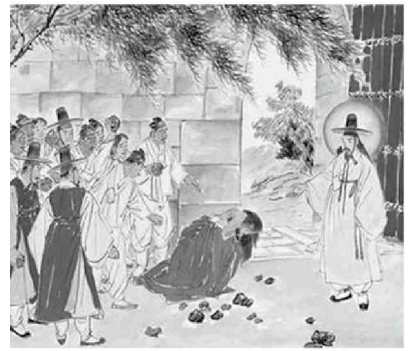
When Pope John Paul II visited Korea in 1984, he canonized Andrew, Paul, ninety-eight Koreans and three French missionaries who had been martyred between 1839 and 1867. Among them were bishops and priests, but for the most part they were laypersons: Forty-seven women, forty-five men.

Among the martyrs in 1839 was Columba Kim, an unmarried woman of twenty-six. She was put in prison, pierced with hot awls and seared with burning coals. She and her sister Agnes were disrobed and kept for two days in a cell with condemned criminals, but were not molested. After Columba complained about the indignity, no more women were subjected to it. The two were beheaded.

A boy of thirteen, Peter Ryou, had his flesh so badly torn that he could pull off pieces and throw them at the judges. He was killed by strangulation.

Protase Chong, a forty-one-year-old noble, apostatized under torture and was freed. Later he came back, confessed his faith and was tortured to death.

The pictures here show paintings done in Korea depicting Jesus and his life. They have effectively indigenised the Biblical themes by introducing Korean scenery and very Korean features in the men and women who are dressed in Korean style clothing. It is a radical move, a challenging interpretation and a successful effort.



"If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor..." - Desmond Tutu.

In line with this challenging value of the Kingdom of God we continue this series where we expose social sin and structural injustices which make the rich richer and the poor poorer



Restorative Justice: Love in action

Sri Lanka marked National Prisoners' Day on September 12 with a Presidential Pardon being given to some 2000 prisoners who were in jail for minor offences or were more than 70 years of age. This came amidst a crisis of severe overcrowding in prisons where in some instances as many as seven prisoners are packed into a cell made for one. This has caused severe anxiety if not mental problems and various infectious ailments such as skin diseases.

According to Prisons Commissioner General Chandratna Pallegama, there are about 27,000 prisoners in 27 prisons in various parts of the country with more than 13,000 of them being remand prisoners who are languishing in the cells till the usually long-drawn and complicated court procedure is completed. Social welfare activist like Archdiocesan Chaplain Rev. Fr. Hilary Peiris and Human Rights lawyer Kalyananda Thirana-gama also believe there is a large number of prisoners who are suffering in the cells because they are unable to pay the fines imposed on them for civil offences, while their families languish in varying degrees of degradation and destitution, because they are socially outcast and have little or no means of earning a livelihood.

The Commissioner General said serious problems like drug peddling among prisoners, prisoners using illegal equipment like mobile phones and rights violations among prisoners were dangerously high due to the overcrowding. Prisons and Prison Reforms Minister Chandrasiri Gajadeera told Parliament recently that of about 25,000 offenders being sent to the prisons every year, as many as 43 percent were repeat offenders. He said the solution to this crisis was a proper rehabilitation process.

In many countries and especially in South Africa after the white minority dictatorship was peacefully overthrown, the legendary President Nelson Mandela appointed a Truth and Reconciliation Commission to bring about restorative justice instead of retributive justice. Essentially it was a process through which apartheid leaders who had committed various crimes against the black majority population were given the opportunity to publicly confess the truth of what they had done and in turn they were given an opportunity to be reconciled with society instead of being piled up in jails.

According to Molly Rowan Leach, a Restorative Justice Fellow to the Peace Alliance and host of the

popular ongoing web/tecast dialogue series, Restorative Justice on the Rise, the US Attorney-General Eric Holder's decision to curb mass incarceration, could lead to restorative justice transforming America's prison-industrial complex.

The Role of Justice, as portrayed by Lady Justice's scales, is to bring back balance, to make things right again. Punishment and the warehousing of human beings in prisons destroy vast amounts of human potential. By contrast, restorative justice meets the needs of everyone involved in the most humane ways possible – those who commit crimes, and those who suffer from them. In so doing, it brings humanity back into the justice system. It converts a limited worldview based around isolation and individualism into a much more positive vision that is rooted in honesty, accountability, and the visible connection of causes with effects. And it works in concrete terms by cutting recidivism and costs. Most important of all, it nurtures new relationships and a strong sense of human unity. In this sense, the root power of restorative justice is love, expressed in action, Molly Rowan Leach says.

Courtesy Daily Mirror

An Incredible Miracle

U.S. Marine Saved by Saint Michael

This is the true story of a Marine wounded in Korea in 1950. Writing to his mother, he told her of a fascinating encounter he experienced in the war. Father Walter Muldy, a Navy Chaplain who spoke to the young Marine and his mother as well as to the outfit commander, always affirmed the veracity of this narrative.

We heard it from someone who read the original letter to retell the story here in all its details and in the first person to better convey some of the impact it must have had when first told by the son to his mother:

Dear Mom,

I am writing to you from a hospital bed. Don't worry, Mom, I am okay. I was wounded, but the doctor says that I will be up in no time.

But, that's not what I have to tell you, Mom, Something happened to me that I don't dare tell anyone else for fear of their disbelief. But I have to tell you, the one person I can confide in, though even you may find it hard to believe.

You remember the prayer to Saint Michael that you taught me to pray when I was little: "Michael, Michael of the morning....." Before I left home for Korea, you urged me to remember this prayer before any confrontation with the enemy. You really didn't have to remind me, Mom, I have always prayed it, and when I got to Korea, I sometimes said it a couple of times a day, while marching or resting.

Well, one day, we were told to move forward to scout for Commies. It was really cold day. As I was walking along, I perceived another fellow walking beside me, and I looked to see who it was.

He was a big fellow, a Marine about 6' - 4" and built proportionally. Funny, but I didn't know him, and I thought I knew everyone in my unit. I was glad to have the company and broke silence between us:

"Chilly today, isn't it?" Then I chuckled because suddenly it seemed absurd to talk about the weather when we were advancing to meet the enemy.

He chuckled too, softly.

"I thought I knew everyone in my outfit," I continued, "but I have never seen you before." "No," he agreed, "I have just joined. The name is Michael." "Really?!" That's mine, too."

"I know," the Marine said, "Michael, Michael of the morning Mom, I was really surprised that he knew about my prayer, but I had taught it to many of the other guys. So I supposed that the newcomer must have picked it up from someone else. As a matter of fact, it had gotten around to the extent that some of the fellows were calling me "Saint Michael."

Then, out of the blue, Michael said, "There's going to be trouble ahead."

I wondered how he could know that. I was breathing hard from the march, and my breath hit the cold air like dense clouds of fog. Michael seemed to be in top shape because I couldn't see his breath at all. Just then, it started to snow heavily, and soon it was so dense I could no longer hear or see the rest of my outfit. I got a bit scared and yelled, "Michael." Then I felt his strong hand on my shoulder and heard his voice in my ear: "It's going to clear up soon."

It did clear up, suddenly. And then, just a short distance ahead of us, like so many dreadful realities, were seven Commies, looking rather comical in their funny hats. But there was nothing funny about them now; their guns were steady and pointed straight in our direction.

"Down Michael!!!" I yelled as I ducted for cover. Even as I was hitting the ground, I looked up and saw Michael still standing, as if paralysed by fear; or so I thought at that time. Bullets were spurting all over the place, and Mom, there was no way those Commies could have missed at that short distance. I jumped up to pull him down, and then I was hit. Then pain was like hot fire in my chest, and as I fell, my head swooned and I remember thinking, "I must be dying." Someone was laying me down, strong arms were holding me and laying me gently on the snow. Through the gaze, I opened my eyes, and the sun seemed to blaze in my eyes. Michael was standing still, and there was a terrible splendour in his face. Suddenly, he seemed to grow, like the sun, the splendour increasing intensely around him like the wings of an angel. As I slipped into unconsciousness, I saw that

Michael held a sword in his hand, and it flashed like a million lights.

Later on, when I woke up, the rest of the guys came to me with the sergeant. "How did you do it, son?" he asked me. "Where is Michael?" I asked in reply.



"Michael who?" The Sergeant seemed puzzled. "Michael, the big Marine walking with me, right up to the last moment. I saw him there as I fell.

"Son," the Sergeant said gravely, "you're the only Michael in my unit. I hand picked all you fellows, and there's only one Michael, you. And son, you weren't walking with anyone. I was watching you because you were too far off from us, and I was worried.

"Now tell me, son," he repeated, "how did you do it?" It was the second time he had asked me that, and I found it irritating.

"How did I do what?" "How did you kill those seven Commies? There wasn't a single bullet fired from your rifle."

"What?" "Come on, son. They were strewn all around you, each one killed by a sword stroke."

And that, Mom, is the end of the story. It may have been the pain, or the blazing sun, or the chilling cold. I don't know, Mom, but there is one thing I am sure about. It happened.

Love your son.

HERE IS THE PRAYER:

Michael, Michael of the morning, Fresh chord of Heaven adoring, Keep me safe today, And in time of temptation, Drive the devil away. Amen.

Prayer to the Guardian Angel. Angel of God Prayer.

Angel of God, my Guardian dear;
To whom God's love commits me here,
Ever this day be at my side,
To light, to guard, to rule and guide.
Amen.

Are the legions of St. Michael, the Archangel marching in ?

In the twelfth chapter of the Apocalypse it is plainly announced that, before the development of anti-Christ and that unparalleled woes of the end, Satan and his angels will be driven out of heaven, swept down from their aerial abodes, and confined to the narrow bounds of earth. Then will all Ilia Nephilim, who are yet at liberty, be among men, and will quickly make them feel the meaning of that awful utterance, "Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! For the Devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he Devil knoweth that he hath but a short time." Then, not merely in demons, but the great Angels of Darkness, the Principality the Powers, and the World-rulers, maddened by what they have lost their fair realms for ever, and that the Lord is at hand to complete their destruction, will in their rage break through every restraint, and recklessly gratify their own evil desires. And so, in the most appalling sense, the earth will again become corrupt and filled with violence.

For this terrible inroad of the rise of Spiritualism (which is return to the demon-interaction and wonder-working of ancient times, resulting in a revival of Occultism, or the Pagan philosophy), appears to be preparing the way. The army of demons has been sent forth in advance to bring about a universal apostasy from God and denial of Christ, and to establish a general communication between the Powers of Darkness and the children of disobedience. Years ago these demons predicted the future appearance upon earth of spiritual beings in material bodies: what has been their aim but to open men's hearts for the reception of the banished angels? Manifestations are continually increasing in power; appearances of tangible forms from the unseen world

are matters of common occurrence; women are being taught that they are the wives of angels; the world is becoming accustomed to supernatural visitants ! Surely the Prince of the Air must have heard that the legions of Michael are marching, and is hastily preparing his place of retreat.

So... continue to abide in Christ

By dwelling *in* Christ, *in* the communion created and maintained by the Spirit of Him Who was meek, and lowly of heart, the heart is caused to live, breathe, move in a pure atmosphere, which defies the poisonous, blinding, morally paralyzing atmosphere of the world. Such a heart may be compared to that insect which, diving beneath the water, takes down with it a tiny bubble of air and lives therein safely beneath the surface. Therefore says the apostle: "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world," for "if any man love the world the love of the Father is not in him" (1 John ii. 15-17).

"And now, little children, abide in Him," abide where the Father has put you, in Christ, His Son; "in order that, if He shall be manifested, we may have boldness, and not be "shamed away from Him at His coming" (1 John ii. 28; Matt. xxv. 14-30). How thus to abide in this interior communion with Himself the Son told us in simple words, He explained His own unbroken communion with the Father when in this same world of sin and Satan: "If ye keep My commandments ye shall abide in My love, even as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love" (John xv. 10). Filled thus with the peace, joy, love, power which He had when here, and which we enjoy by abiding in Him, His follower shall pass through this world victorious over its blandishments and its antagonism, safe from its soul-robbing philosophy, defeating its spirit-rulers, made by God a blessing to others of their dupes and slaves. And at last, having shared their Lord's battles and sufferings, they shall share His throne and crown, and shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father.

Taken from the Web: EWTN.com

Archangels

Archangel: A chief or ruling angel. Three archangels are named in Scripture: Michael, Raphael, Gabriel. Other supposed archangels are named in apocryphal writings, but these form no part of the Christian faith. (CTS)

(The earliest reference to a system of Seven Archangels as a group appears to be in Enoch I (the Book of Enoch) which is not part of the Jewish Canon but is prevalent in the Judaic tradition, where they are named as Gabriel, Michael, Raphael, Uriel, Raguel, Remiel and Saraqael).

Archangel Michael

The name Michael in Hebrew signifies "who is like God" - the battle cry of the good Angels who drove Satan from Heaven. In Holy Scripture he is shown to have been guardian and comforter of the Chosen Race who prepared their return from captivity in Persia and insured the victory of the Maccabees. The early Christians entrusted to St. Michael the care of their sick: All who bathed in his medicinal spring near Colossae, invoking him and the Holy Trinity, were healed and near Constantinople the sick used to spend the night in his church in the hope of a cure. Catholic tradition assigns to this "great prince" these four offices: To fight against Satan, to rescue the souls of the faithful from his grasp, especially at death, to be the special Patron of Holy Church and to bring men's souls to judgement. St Michael was one of the "Voices" which instructed St Joan of Arc.

The September 29, is probably the date on which the ancient Roman Basilica to "St Michael and All Angels" at Gargano in Italy was dedicated in the 6th century, but that building disappeared over a thousand years ago. In England "Michaelmas Day" is one of the regular days on which quarterly rents and accounts are settled. St Michael is the Patron Saint of grocers, and the guardian of all mountain places. He is also held to be the special Guardian Angel of the Pope and, according to St. Eutropius, of the Blessed Sacrament.

Archangel Gabriel

The name Gabriel means "The Power of God" or "Hero of God" in Hebrew. He is one of the seven Angels who "Stand before God," and he seems to be in a particular way the messenger of glad or consoling tidings. Thus, we read in the Book of Daniel Chapter 8, that it was St. Gabriel who explained the vision of the ram and foretold the fall of the Persian empire

at the hands of Alexander the Great.

The very next chapter records his prophecy concerning the coming of Christ after "70 weeks" of years. In the New Testament we are told of how he appeared to Zachary in the Temple and announced to him the coming birth of his son, St. John the Baptist. But above all he is known as the "Angel of the Annunciation" - it was he who informed Mary that she had been chosen to become the Mother of the Incarnate Word.

In Jewish tradition, Gabriel was taken to be the Angel of judgement as at Sodom and against the army of Sennacherib, and it was he who was supposed to mark the foreheads of the elect. Christian tradition also attributes to St. Gabriel the message given to the shepherds at Bethlehem and to St. Joseph in connection with the flight of the Holy Family into Egypt, and believes that it was he who "strengthened" Our Lord in the Garden of Olives on the night of His Betrayal.

Notably, Mohammed, in the Qu'ran, considered St. Gabriel the head of all Angels and claimed that



he had received his revelations from him. In 1951, Pope Pius XII proclaimed him the patron of all communication arts, particularly television.

Archangel Raphael

Raphael's Hebrew name signifies "God has healed."

According to his own testimony to Tobias, even he is one of the Seven Angels who always stand before the throne of the Almighty. In the Old Testament it is recorded how he cured the blindness of Tobit and acted as guide during his son's trip to Media. St. Raphael is in consequence revered as the Patron Saint of travellers, and the innocent.

The day's Gospel also identifies him with the Angel who used to come down at certain intervals to stir the water in the Probatika pool, which caused the cure of the first invalid who descended into the moving waters.

The Eastern Church has honoured St Raphael since the year 1000, but his cult was added to the universal calendar of the Church by Pope Benedict XV in 1921.



The Angels

Catechism of the Catholic Church

Angel: (Greek, *ANGELOS*, "messenger") A pure spirit, created by God to praise and worship Him; some have the particular mission of being intermediary between God and man. Traditionally divided into nine orders or hierarchies (*angels, archangels, virtues, dominations, principalities, powers, thrones, cherubim, seraphim*) although these categories are not a dogma.



"Angels and ministers of grace defend us"

—William Shakespeare
Hamlet, Liv

We hear of miracles a lot. We read about them, too, and I won't say that most of us, but many people, scoff and grimace with contempt or shrug off the impossible as if the event occurred in imagination alone - the fantasizing of the event. Skeptics tell you that. It is a micro second's déjà vu as the electrical impulses of the brain cross wires, confused perhaps by pain and therefore creating for the individual the impression he's participated in a mystery. I remember once asking an editor at the *New York Times Magazine* if I could do an article on spiritual healing, examining whether it was true or a hoax. He stared into his Vodka Martini as if it were a crystal ball and allowed as how he thought the idea interesting-certainly there were plenty of things out there we didn't understand, he said; but he couldn't imagine suggesting it in an editorial meeting. The very idea embarrassed him.

Yet the same paper in early 1983 reported the statement of a Connecticut woman who was in a car accident. She was knocked unconscious and could not move. She heard a voice.

"Get out," it said. She felt invisible hands pulling her from the car. Once free, she crawled away. The car exploded.

A shiver runs down your spine when you realise it is not our imagination. Something is watching us out there.

(A Book of Angels - Sophy Burnham)

Letters to the Editor ...

Letters to the Editor ...

Letters to the Editor ...



An Appeal to Parish Priests of the Coastal Belt

Since I observe the fishing communities becoming more conscious of their dignity, their legitimate needs, aspirations, struggles and hopes and also looking for genuine pastoral care and attention, may I appeal to the parish priests of the coastal belt to consider my suggestions in a spirit of partnership.

1. May you be FOR and be WITH the poor fisher-communities.
2. Consider the fishing communities as special social categories with their own history, traditions and social psychology.
3. Analyse/diagnose socially the forces that are working to their disadvantage; forces that prevent/obstruct the emergence of better quality of life, justice, equality and solidarity among the fisherfolk.
4. Listen to their felt needs, aspirations, struggles, joys and hopes.
5. Convince them about the importance of education

(for children, youth and adults). Help them to obtain value- education.

6. Form voluntary associations so that they (children, youth, adults) can come together to manage their own affairs and become subjects of their own humanization and fuller life.
7. Train leaders among fisher-communities to serve their own communities, the larger society and the Church.
8. Impart knowledge of the Holy Bible; lead the fisher-families to read, pray and live the Word of God and animate them to encounter the Risen Lord Jesus in the Sacraments.
9. Evolve a programme of education and catechesis for young men and young women entering family life.
10. Provide vocational guidance for young men and young women.
11. Enlist the collaboration of the competent persons in

the fisher-communities to reveal God's unconditional love manifested in and through Jesus Christ.

12. Be transparent and accountable in financial matters and win the confidence of the people in the fishing communities since integrity /credibility of life of the priest is very important. Have financial committees in the villages (churches) within the parish and be a member of these committees.
13. Devote quality time, energy and holy enthusiasm to preach, teach and guide the people of God.
14. Build Christian Communities of mutual trust, love and service.

Parish priests who need help to implement the above-mentioned suggestions may contact:

Director, Dev Aravan Mission Animation Centre, Path-thanduwana (Polwatte), Minuwangoda.

Rev. Fr. Emmanuel Fernando OMI

CRITICS - BEWARE

The fishermen who are not very rich in faith but are very poor go in search of God. This was my analysis. I live with them move with them, I thought I am quite different from them with regard to practice of religion. My analysis was I have greater faith in God than any of these fishermen. I spend a lot of time in the church, moving with the priest, organising church activities etc. The church feast is a complicated celebration. I take lot of pain on behalf of the parishioners finding a vehicle to carry the statue, decorating the vehicle with flowers and searching for another vehicle to recite the Rosary during the procession. At times I feel like giving up and living like the fishermen. Are all these activities pleasing to God? I should say, yes. Very recently I happened to be at the Duwa Church in Negombo. The Church is famous for its passion play. The time was about 5 p.m. The Church is situated by the side of the sea.

I was watching the sun down which was colourful. As I was there, I could see plenty of small boats (out board engine) going for their daily catch. It was very impressive to watch. All the boats when they come near the church area, stopped and the engines went dead. The men that removed the hats or caps in reverence. They then bit joss-sticks and dipped in the sea one or two items of fishing lines with hooks. Afterward they took sea water and throw over the boats and the nets. This is holy water for them. Who blessed this water to become holy? Next with their eyes in the direction of the church they dipped their fingers in the sea water make the sign of the cross. This action of theirs' did not take even five minutes. All the boats big and small will follow in the same pattern. More than a thousand boats followed this worship. They ask for a lot of blessings, bountiful catch, safety for their life and boats. The way I practice religion is different from theirs. They are more closer to God than I am. You can watch this scene every-day except Saturday evenings.

Joe Guy Peries
Negombo

Saint Rita- Is she de-canonised?

It may not, I suppose, be deemed seemly for a minor fry like myself to make any protest against the dictates and decisions of the Catholic Church. However, I am still reeling from the shock of being told that St. Rita is no longer officially regarded as a canonised Saint by the Catholic Church.

The fact that I am well past three score and ten, makes this information all the more astounding for personal reasons. My birth due to complications, (the 6th in a family of 7), was

the only one that necessitated the attendance of a doctor. He had comforted my mother, that especially since she already had 5 children, his priority would be to save her in preference to the baby. At that time there was a widespread devotion to St. Rita and my mother decided to name me Rita if I survived and also resolved to take me to St. Rita's Shrine at Ratmalana, on my birthday, till I was at least 12-years-old. She kept her word and my earliest memories, include this annual visit to her Shrine and Church dedicated to her name. Of

I am regular reader of the *Gnanartha Pradeepaya* and *Messenger* from 1974.

Readers find intellectual articles towards spiritual development in these papers now more than before.

The fast-changing social structure running behind earthly treasures and being influenced by the media isolate people from the simple things of life.

These people have no time for God and fulfillment is in being engaged in temporal matters. The biggest culprit for this is the media.

The *'Messenger'* of September 1, 2013 carried an article on page 4 titled, "Prayers of Tobit and Sarah in the Deutero canonical Book of Tobit." This article was a real eye opener to all Christians.

The Bible is a wonder book which enables us to experience the outpour-



ing of God's infinite love for humanity.

One who reads the Bible, hungers for more.

Since we rarely come across this type of Old Testament theological reflections, I would like to ask the Editor to please give more publicity to such articles of the Old Testament. These type of arti-

cles strengthen us spiritually to meet the challenges that we encounter in this temporary life on earth.

Please permit

me to say that I wait for Thursday evening to bring home the *'Messenger'* and the *Gnanarthapradeepaya*. After I read these papers I share them with those who do not have a copy. I consider it my Catholic duty.

"Make life better for those you love
Give them the Messenger"

I thank you and your dedicated staff for continuously searching for the best Spiritual articles from Catholic Sources in the world for publication.

May God shower his blessings towards your service.

Terrence Fernando
Negombo.

The Great Sustenance Hoax - a reader's view

We readers owe a word of gratitude to the *'Messenger'* for highlighting in its July 7 Issue the "article from the *'Nation'* titled *'The great sustenance hoax'* on Sustagen.

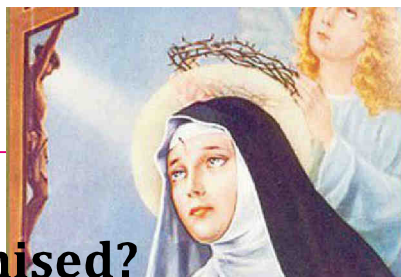
It is not very common for a newspaper to come to the rescue of its readers by revealing true hidden facts of a consumer item that is a well-established brand in the market, well-established through aggressive advertising, mainly in the electronic media. Having "brainwashed" through such advertising, a false need is created in the minds of the consumer, thus having the way for marketing the product at exorbitant prices.

Our thanks should also go to Dr. Jayanthimala Jayawardena Consultant Cardiologist and Chairperson of the Committee on Non-Communicable Diseases of the Sri Lanka Medical Association and Dr. Damayanthi Perera (Ph.D in Human Nutrition, University of London) specialist in Nutrition Dietetics and Lifestyle Management, for having explained clearly what Sustagen is and how consumers are duped through powerful advertising to go for it, in spite of the exorbitant price.

It was not very long ago that a 450 gram of Sustagen was marketed at around Rs.700/-. Thereafter the weight per tin was reduced to 400 gram And the price kept on rising to today's Rs. 1475/- per 400 gram Tin.

I have been a regular consumer of Sustagen for over six years, not because I could afford it, but that I was getting it free from a child abroad. Even here the local price was so blown up, that I once had to pay a four figure customs duty for a parcel received. For the sake of information I must say that the shelf price of a 400 gram tin of Sustagen in Sydney Australia today is AUS \$ 8.98 (approx Rs. 1077) and the warehouse price of a 900 gram tin of Sustagen there is AUS \$ 16.90 equivalent to Rs. 2061.

Neville Anthony Perera
Battaramulla.



course, I made it a point to go there, whenever possible at other times too.

In fact, I persuaded my husband, during a visit to Europe, to make the somewhat off the-beaten-track pilgrimage to Cascia in Italy, to her Shrine, where we saw her still incorrupt body, over 555 years (she died in 1457), is venerated in a huge Basilica. There were huge crowds of pilgrims as well as local devotees, even though it was not her feast.

It would be interesting to know why, after being venerated for over

such a long period of time, especially as the "Patroness of the impossible" she has been officially banished. Her statue, in the same reclining posture as at Cascia, lies under a side altar at the Parish Church at Ratmalana. Inquiries revealed that her devotees are still numerous, as they come bringing their petitions, tears and problems to her; in the sure belief that they will be answered through her intercession, whatever dictums the Church may see fit to enforce!

Rita Perera

A tribute to my late Father on his 100th Birthday

My father, Cosmas was also better known in the Customs as "WBC" of the Fernando clan from Katukurunda, Kalutara and as Cossie by his close friends. Eusebius and Mary Katherine were his much loved parents. My father, at the loss of his mother at a very early age was blessed with Juliana his Mumma who was the dearest mother to my father the 6th in line as well as to all his eleven siblings who grew up together like a house on fire at "Doravilla" Katukurunda.

Father was born on September 27, 1913 which used to be the feast of Saints Cosmas and Damien the physicians in the Catholic calendar. His childhood dream as I understand was to become a medical doctor, the physician "Cosmas." Due

to challenging circumstances he could not make that dream come true. However, he pursued education through his own efforts. Accounting and gemology were among the fields he embraced through night school and every possible means that he could manage while serving the Sri Lanka Customs which happened to be his first and last career right up to his retirement in the seventies. Father's brother Joe (JT) and the youngest of his children Mario fulfilled his missed dream of Medicine very much to his joy and satisfaction!

My father's education and employment was not just a matter of success for himself. He was a selfless man who shouldered responsibility for his

family very early in life. Father's care and concern as it appears to be, extended from the basics of food to education and higher education for those who approached him and for those, he took note of. His commitment to giving was not based on whether he had enough. In fact he taught us to give what he never had! Father's excessive and compulsive generosity where his left would not know what the right hand gave was beyond comprehension? His initial priority was caring for his siblings especially the younger ones who dearly refer to him as "Podi Aiya."

So much so, his married life with his dear wife Celine came to him as a second-

ary responsibility! Father's was truly a devoted husband and a role model for married life. He was such a committed father to five of us Chrysanthus, Bertram, Campion, (Nirmala) Rosanne and Mario. He worked untiringly to provide for us, his children with the best of opportunity. His relentless sacrifices were for the joys of our success!

Father was a man of few words but full of deeds. He taught us to do what appeared to be impossible, to undertake the more difficult and always to be there for others and yet not be noticed. This is a hard act to follow and all five of us his children together, cannot match up to the acts of this one Father of ours.

Faith and trust in the Lord was my father's prime source of energy and consolation where he would repeatedly say "man proposes God disposes." Father's faith blossomed after retirement when more time was spent in spiritual reading and Daily Mass which he upheld right to the end. The routine on his very last day, April 24, 1997 was Holy Mass, daily bath, midday lunch and a final call to my mother "Celine" while on the easy chair in the arms of Jesus, Rest in Peace!

The Well Being Cochlea Foundation (WBCF) was established in memory of my father to assist those with hearing disability, around the needs and success of his granddaughter born on his birthday Sept 27!

Appreciation

"To labour and not to ask for any reward"

Rev. Sr. Gratia Perera of the Sisters of Franciscan Missionaries of Mary, peacefully passed away on August 2, 2012 at St. Joseph's Convent, Piliyandala where she was spending the evenings of her life. At the time of her demise she was 97-years-old and was the most senior member of her congregation.

Sr. Gratia is the second daughter of late Dr. Gabriel Perera and of late Mrs. Perera of Ma-Eliya, Ja-Ela. She was born to a family of three girls and a boy.

Having successfully completed her initial formation leading up to her novitiate at Mattakuliya, Sr. Gratia toiled at the General Hospital, Colombo, for nearly 20 years. Her Christ-like compassion and warmth brought comfort to thousands of patients who came for treatment.

When the Franciscan Sisters left the General Hospital Sr. Gratia continued her mission in another institution - the Fatima Clinic, started by late Rev. Fr. Peter Pillai. She served this clinic for Six Years

from 1959 to 1965, when she was beckoned to another form of apostolate at St. Anthony's Convent, Borella.

In 1967, she was invited to direct the Sisters at the Franciscan Convent in Negombo, as their Superior. She was instrumental in building the premises in which the Negombo Convent is presently situated.

In 1972, she was appointed Provincial and she had the rare privilege of being the first Sri Lankan Provincial of her Congregation.

During the last 74

long years, in addition to being the Provincial of the Congregation, Sr. Gratia has served her congregation in many capacities in various parts of the country. Her services as a nun, as a Superior and finally as the Provincial has been outstanding and beyond compare.

Her deeply rooted Christianity has been the strength and vigour of her life.

*"To give and not to count the cost,
To fight and not to heed the wounds,*

*To toil and not to seek for any rest,
To labour and not to ask for any reward,
Except to know that I do thy will, O God."*

These soul-stirring words of St. Ignatius of Loyola would have undoubtedly urged Rev. Sr. Gratia Perera to dedicate her self unreservedly to the service of the Lord and that of mankind.

Sr. Gratia always followed the rules of her Congregation to the last letter. Even at the later stages of her life she did not take a single day off more than permitted by her Superior when she visited her relatives. She would return to the Convent after such visits on the exact date and time.

Sr. Gratia performed her duties cheerfully with dedication and devotion. She has always lived a simple and exemplary life worth emulating.

The most treasured possession she had was the shining example of her life. She seemed to follow the motto of St. Theresa of the Child Jesus that 'Love is repaid by Love alone'.

It is said that greatness is never measured by birth, wealth or fame, nor by the worth of one's material possessions, but those in whose hearts you live. Sr. Gratia is a good example of this.

Notwithstanding her duties and commitments in the religious life, Sr. Gratia never lost touch with the members of her family. She had a large circle of relatives consisting of nephews, nieces, grand nephews and nieces, and great grand nephews and nieces.

Deep in our hearts she will always stay loved and remembered. May her gentle soul rest in the peace of the Lord whom she served faithfully.

- Varuna Senadhira

The Preacher and the Prayer

"You know the value of prayer: It is precious beyond all price. Never, never neglect it" - Sir Thomas Buxton.

Prayer is the first thing, the second thing, the third thing necessary to a minister. Pray, then, my dear brother: Pray, pray, pray - Edward Payson

Prayer, in the preacher's life, in the preacher's study, in the preacher's pulpit, must be a conspicuous and an all-impregnating force and an all-coloring ingredient. It must play no secondary part, be no mere coating. To him it is given to be with his Lord "all night in prayer." The preacher, to train himself in self-denying prayer, is charged to look to his Master, who, "rising up a great while before day, went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed." The preacher's study ought to be a closet, a Bethel, an altar, a vision, and a ladder, that every thought might ascend heavenward ere it went manward; that every part of the sermon might be scented by the air of heaven and made serious, because God was in the study.

Mighty Impulse of Prayer

As the engine never moves until the fire is kindled, so preaching, with all its machinery, perfection, and polish, is at a dead standstill, as far as spiritual results are concerned, till prayer has kindled and created the steam. The texture, fineness, and strength of the sermon is as so much rubbish unless the mighty impulse of prayer is in it, through it, and behind it. The preacher must, by prayer, put God in the sermon. The preacher must, by prayer, move God toward the people before he can move the people to God by his words. The preacher must have had audience and ready access to God before he can have access to the people. An open way to God for the preacher is the surest pledge of an open way to the people.

It is necessary to iterate and reiterate that prayer, as a mere habit, as a performance gone through by routine or in a professional way, is a dead and rotten thing. Such praying has no connection with the praying for which we plead. We are stressing true praying,

which engages and sets on fire every high element of the preacher's being prayer which is born of vital oneness with Christ and the fullness of the Holy Ghost, which springs from the deep, overflowing fountains of tender compassion, deathless solicitude for man's eternal good; a consuming zeal for the glory of God; a thorough conviction of the preacher's difficult and delicate work and of the imperative need of God's mightiest help. Praying grounded on these solemn and profound convictions is the only true praying. Preaching backed by such praying is the only preaching which sows the seeds of eternal life in human hearts and builds men up for heaven.

God vs Satan

We may excuse the spiritual poverty of our preaching in many ways, but the true secret will be found in the lack of urgent prayer for God's presence in the power of the Holy Spirit. There are preachers innumerable who can deliver masterful sermons after their order; but the effects are short-lived and do not enter as a factor at all into the regions of the spirit where the fearful war between God and Satan, heaven and hell, is being waged because they are not made powerfully militant and spiritually victorious by prayer.

Preachers who gain mighty results for God are the men who have prevailed in their pleadings with God venturing to plead with men. The preachers who are the mightiest in their closets with God are the mightiest in their pulpits with men.

Preachers are human folks, and are exposed to and often caught by the strong driftings of human currents. Praying is spiritual work; and human nature does not like taxing, spiritual work. Human nature wants to sail to heaven under a favoring breeze, a full, smooth sea. Prayer is humbling work. It abases intellect and pride, crucifies vainglory, and signs our spiritual bankruptcy, and all these are hard for flesh and blood to bear.

It is easier not to pray than to bear them. So we come to one of the crying evils of these times, maybe of all times - little or no praying. Of these two evils, perhaps little praying is worse than no praying. Little praying is a kind of make-believe, a salvo for the conscience, a farce and a delusion.

Snatches of Prayer

The little estimate we put on prayer is evident from the little time we give to it. The time given to prayer by the average preacher scarcely counts in the sum of the daily aggregate. Not infrequently the preacher's only praying is by his bedside in his nightdress, ready for bed and soon in it, with, perchance the addition of a few hasty snatches of prayer - he is dressed in the morning. How feeble, vain, and little is such praying compared with the time and energy devoted to praying by holy men in and out of the Bible! How poor and mean our petty, childish praying is beside the habits of the true men of God in all ages! To men who think praying their main business and devote time to it according to this high estimate of its importance does God commit the keys of his kingdom, and by them does he work his spiritual wonders in this world. Great praying is the sign and seal of God's great leaders and the earnest of the conquering forces with which God will crown their labours.

The preacher is commissioned to pray as well as to preach. His mission is incomplete if he does not do both well.

Edward M. Bounds

What it says in
the Readings

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

(Acts 16:14)

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Your Response: Lord, Hear our prayer.

Almighty Father, may your Wisdom be granted to your children, so that we may understand the kingdom values, and give them the first place in our lives. For this we pray to the Lord.

Your Response: Lord, Hear our prayer.

Almighty Father, we bring all those in positions of responsibility so that they may not use their position for their own selfish advantage, but for the good of all those under them. For this we pray to the Lord.

Your Response: Lord, Hear our prayer.

Almighty Father, be compassionate to all those who have made a god out of money and who neither seek nor desire anything beyond the pleasures of this world. For this we pray to the Lord.

Your Response: Lord, Hear our prayer.

Almighty Father, that we may always treat others the way we would like them to treat us. For this we pray to the Lord.

Your Response: Lord, Hear our prayer.

St. Matthew - Feast September 21

Apostle and Evangelist (1st century)



St. Matthew, the Patron of tax-collectors and of bankers, was a collector of customs duties for King Herod Antiphas at Capernaum, when Our Lord called him to follow him. Also known as Levi, the publican, he was so overjoyed at his new calling that he spread a great feast in his home for the Master and His disciples, even inviting his fellow tax-gatherers. Jesus, to the amazement of the Pharisees, comfortably dined with the very

people the leaders of Israel despised as extortionists and traitors and would not even think of ever eating with. Beyond these few facts, hardly anything is known about the life and death of this Apostle.

Levi, the son of Alphaeus (Mk 2:14), obviously had a certain amount of education, for he knew Aramaic as well as Greek and was accustomed to writing. The name Matthew (*Mattija* or "Gift of Jahweh") was probably given him by Christ Himself. He was one of the first Apostles to be chosen to set down in writing the essential events of Our Lord's life and discourses as he himself had witnessed them and as they were being orally taught by all the Apostles. In fact, it is generally assumed that, when writing his Gospel, Matthew had before him his own collection of Our Lord's discourses in Aramaic. This original text, however, has unfortunately disappeared.

Matthew's Gospel was produced not so much as a complete biography of Christ, but as a means of consolidating the faith of Jewish Christians, who were still exposed to strong Judaic influences, and of persuading his still unconverted fellow-Jews. For his reason, using his gift of story telling, and writing in Aramaic, the language widely used as the lingua franca by the Jews and others in the time of Christ, he groups together all acts and precepts of a similar nature, and stresses particularly that Jesus completely fulfilled all the familiar prophecies concerning the Messiah: He was the Emmanuel, who was born of a virgin (Isaiah), at Bethlehem (Micah), who fled to Egypt (Osee), was heralded by a precursor; was able to cure the sick, and who conformed in all actions, and even his Passion and Death, to the ancient prophecies of Isaiah. Another point which Matthew stresses particularly is the fact that the Jewish nation as a body was to be excluded from the Messianic Kingdom because of its obstinate unbelief and its rejection of the Messiah, and that it would be given "to a nation which would yield proper fruits."

St. Matthew whose relics are said to have been found in Salerno in 1080, is believed to have been martyred by stoning.

LITURGICAL CALENDAR YEAR C - 21st September - 29th September 2013

Sun: 25th Sunday of Ordinary Time
Am. 8:4-7; 1 Tim 2: 1-8; Lk 16: 1-13 (or 10-13)
Mon: Memorial of St. Pius of Pietrelcina, Priest
Ezr 1:1-6; Lk 8:16-18
Tue: Ezr 6:7,8,12b,14-20; Lk 8:19-21
Wed: Ezr 9:5-9; Lk 9:1-6
Thu: Memorial of Sts. Cosmas & Damian, Martyrs
Hag 1:1-8; Lk 9:7-9

Fri: Memorial of St. Vincent de Paul, Priest
Hag 1:15b-2:9; Lk 9:18-22
Sat: Memorials of St. Wenceslaus, Martyr' St. Lawrence Ruiz and Companions Zec 2:5-9,14-15a; Lk 9:43b-45
Sun: 26th Sunday of Ordinary Time
National Catechetical Day
Am 6:1a,4-7; 1 Tim 6:11-16; Lk 16:19-31

Twenty Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading:
Amos. 8: 4- 7.

Prophet Amos through his prophetic utterance reacts to the injustices heaped on the poor by the rich. He reminds the rich that God would punish them for this.

Second Reading:
Tim. 2: 1- 8.

St. Paul instructs Timothy on the need for prayer and intercessions for all men including the rich and kings. Instead of being angry and quarrelling he should use our

worldly wisdom to achieve heaven.

Gospel: Lk. 16: 1- 13.

The Reading refers to the parable of the rich steward who wisely reduced the debt his master's debtors owed, so that they will accept him once he is sacked. The master is startled by his steward's prudence. We should use worldly wisdom to achieve heaven.

Reflection.

Today's Readings stress the need to live our Christian values in our day to day lives, with the sure hope of salvation. We are most of the time worldly. We are prudent and are endowed with wisdom. Therefore we should act responsibly in our day to day life so that one day we would find acceptance in the Kingdom of God.

We have to be very careful when dealing with the world. We should be just, peaceful, prudent, cautious and full of love.

In the First Reading the prophet warns of the dangers inherent in being unjust. In those days the rich were living on the poor. They were all out to increase their wealth at the expense of the poor. As a result there was lot of hardships to the poor. The prophet reacted against the rich. In fact he warned them of dire consequences for what they were doing to the poor. He prophesized, God's punishment on them. They experienced this in later life. This happened to the Israelites, because of their injustice. We are all out to crush the cause which leads to the down fall of men, to raise thereby his life standards. But the Second Reading reminds how we are to proceed with it. We should not harbour any anger or grudge or start quarrelling. Instead we should lift our hands and pray for all men. St. Paul says, "First of all, urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, thanksgiving be made for all, for kings and for all who are in high positions that we may lead a quite and a peaceful life, Godly and respectful in every way!" In other words we should be peaceful and loving in our dealings with all men.

The Gospel reminds us that we should be prudent and full of wisdom when dealing with the world. The steward acted prudently when he knew that he was to be sacked. In order that he may have friends when he is out of job, he got his masters debtors and wrote off a part of their debt, thereby securing the friendship of his masters debtors. In the same manner we should prudently make use of the world to gain heaven. We cannot serve both God and Mammon. Therefore we should, out of wisdom, make use of mammon to gain God.

Therefore in our life let us be just, peaceful, prudent, cautious and full of love and thereby become members of the kingdom of God.

Aid Story.

World famous is the statue of Christ of the Andes. Towering on a height of the Andes Mountains along the boundary line between Chile and Argentina, it stands as a pledge of perpetual peace between the two countries. On its base one reads this; as long as the statue stands there will be peace and good will between Argentina and Chile.

Yet, by some twist of irony, the Statue caused an open rupture between the two nations. As the figure of Christ was put in place, someone noticed that Our Lord's back was turned towards Chile. The people of that country felt this was a slight. Anger grew, threatening to break out in open conflict. At the height of the excitement a newspaper man in Chile wrote an editorial explaining: "The Argentineans need more watching over than the Chileans." That saved the day. Both sides laughed heartily, and forgot the cause of their dispute.

Aid Story 2.

Here is one admirable in wit, referring to the institution of the Cross of the Legion of Honour in France:

"In times less pleasant and more fierce, of old. The thieves were hung on crosses, so we're told;

In times less fierce, more pleasant, like today, Crosses are hung upon the thieves, they say."

Rev. Fr. Cswan De Croos

Holy Childhood Society celebrates 25 years



Holy Childhood Society celebrated Silver Jubilee of establishing its unit in the Archdiocese of Colombo on September 7, 2013 at St. Joseph's College Auditorium, Colombo 10.

His Lordship Rt. Rev. Dr. Maxwell Silva, Auxiliary Bishop of Colombo, addressing the children said, "You have come here to give thanks to God for what He has done in your lives. Rather than clinging on to God, God holds your hand and takes you through life's journey."

As the children of the Holy Childhood Society, you have been commissioned with a special mission of learning the Word of God deeply, living what you learn and to share it and bear witness to the Word in all life circumstances. It is for this purpose God has called you and commissioned you. If you continue to bear witness to your Christian life and God's love in your own way and capacity, surely you will make a difference in the world."

Holy Childhood Society which was established

in the Archdiocese of Colombo by His Eminence Malcolm Cardinal Ranjith, 25 years ago, continued to start cells in other dioceses as well. His Eminence addressing the children appealed to them not to give into the evil in the world or be wrapped up in the sins, rather His Eminence invited the children to be the torch-bearers of faith - to be the little lamps of faith in the world.

Archdiocese website

First Holy Communion at Our Lady of Sorrows' Church, New Chetty Street



Seventeen children from the Parish of Our Lady of Sorrows' Church, New Chetty Street, Colombo received their First Holy Communion recently, at a celebrated Holy Mass with Rev. Fr. Marcellian

OMI as the Chief Celebrant.

The event took place during a special retreat of OMI Fathers held in the Parish.

Peter Robinson

First Holy Communion at St. Mary's Church, Katukurunda, Moratuwa



Thirty one children from the Parish of St. Mary's Church, Katukurunda, Moratuwa, received their First Holy Communion recently, presided by Rev. Fr. Chrisanthas

Fernando OMI, Parish Priest together with Rev. Fr. Reginald OMI.

Asika Priyadarshana

What care and concern can do for a child

As she stood in front of her 5th Grade Class on the very first day of school, she told the children an untruth. Like most teachers, she looked at her students and said that she loved them all the same. However, that was impossible, because there in the front row, slumped in his seat, was a little boy named Teddy Stoddard.

Mrs. Thompson had watched Teddy the year before and noticed that he did not play well with the other children, that his clothes were messy and that he constantly needed a bath. In addition, Teddy could be unpleasant. It got to the point where Mrs. Thompson would actually take delight in marking his papers with a broad red pen, making bold X's and then putting a big "F" at the top of his papers.

At the school where Mrs. Thompson taught, she was required to review each child's past records and she put Teddy's off until last. However, when she reviewed his file, she was in for a surprise.



Teddy's First Grade teacher wrote, "Teddy is a bright child with a ready laugh. He does his work neatly and has good manners... He is a joy to be around."

His Second Grade teacher wrote, "Teddy is an excellent student, well liked by his classmates, but he is troubled because his mother has a terminal illness and life at home must be a struggle."

His third grade teacher wrote, "His mother's death has been hard on him. He tries to do his best, but his father does not show much interest, and his home life will soon affect him if some

steps are not taken."

Teddy's Fourth Grade teacher wrote, "Teddy is withdrawn and does not show much interest in school. He does not have many friends and he sometimes sleeps in class."

By now, Mrs. Thompson realized the problem and she was ashamed of herself. She felt even worse when her students brought her Christmas presents, wrapped in beautiful ribbons and bright paper, except for Teddy's. His present was clumsily wrapped in the heavy, brown paper that he got from a grocery bag ... Mrs. Thompson took pains to open it in the middle of the other presents. Some of the children started to laugh when she found a rhinestone bracelet with some of the stones missing, and a bottle that was one-quarter full of perfume. But she stifled the children's laughter when she exclaimed how pretty the bracelet was, putting it on, and dabbing some of the perfume on her wrist. Teddy Stoddard stayed after school that day just long

enough to say, "Mrs. Thompson, today you smelled just like my Mom used to."

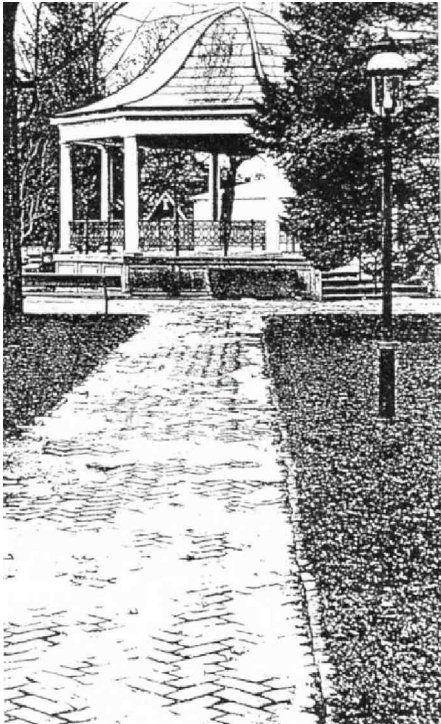
After the children left, she cried for at least an hour. On that very day, she quit teaching reading, writing and arithmetic. Instead, she began to teach children. Mrs. Thompson paid particular attention to Teddy. As she worked with him, his mind seemed to come alive. The more she encouraged him, the faster he responded. By the end of the year, Teddy had become one of the smartest children in the class and, despite her lie that she would love all the children the same, Teddy became one of her "teacher's pets."

A year later, she found a note under her door, from Teddy, telling her that she was the best teacher he ever had in his whole life.

Six years went by before she got another note from Teddy. He then wrote that he had finished high school, third in his class, and she was still the best teacher he ever had in life.

Contd. on Page. XVIII

Discovering Silence



How many people today, especially young people, are able to appreciate the value of silence? It could be almost impossible for them to understand the beauty and value of silence because so many are plugged in to modern devices.

Our office is near a bustling high school with lots of coming and going of noisy students. Like most teenagers, when they are not speaking loudly to each other, all talking at the same time, they are on their cell phones, or listening to the music of their iPods. It is rare to see a young person without one of these gadgets of amusement.

Commuting adults travel on buses and subways with earplugs and headphones, tuning into the latest hits, or play-

ing a game on their smart phones. People are now having accidents because they are sending text messages while they are driving.

How can God communicate His messages to His children if they do not take time to listen, quietly, to what He wants to tell them? Arriving an extra fifteen minutes before Holy Mass on Sunday can offer a measure of quiet, as long as the congregation indulges in reverence before the Lord in His Tabernacle, ceasing their idle chatter once they enter the Church. The new trend of having official greeters as parishioners enter, can often disturb the peaceful silence that was always available before Mass began. If the Church has a lobby, that would be the preferred

place for those who wish to welcome visitors.

One of the best places to find the silence that our souls are seeking would be during a time of retreat. A few days away from the internet, the telephone, and the headphones can offer a time of reflection, and an openness to the messages that Our Lord wants to give to us.

Many middle-aged couples take a walk after dinner as often as their schedules allow and, instead of chatting, they simply walk together, quietly reflecting on the beauty of the neighbourhood, enjoying the sights and sounds they encounter.

In the first few minutes of each morning, as we embark on a new day's activities, it is good to follow the promptings of our spirit and offer the day to Jesus, seeking His guidance and intercession. Then, during the last few minutes of each day, we should take time to meet the Lord, to talk to Him about our needs in the midst of our hearts, and listen to the peace that will come when we trust that He will intercede for us.

Learning ways to seek a time of silence is a good habit to teach our young people. One of the values of silence can be those moments when we need to communicate with our souls, especially during those crucial times of life when choosing courses to follow in university, or career plans, or deciding when to marry.

"That people today, often overwhelmed by noise, may rediscover the value of silence and listen to the voice of God and their brothers and sisters,"
- Pope Francis

God's presence and His protecting love can be fully appreciated when we are ready to be quiet and listen. Too many people are struggling to live without Him, attempting to plan their future their

own way, and can be missing valuable input from the Holy Spirit. When Jesus was looking for guidance, He sought silence in the desert.

Let each of us make time for God's

promptings, creating 'desert' moments to satisfy our souls. He is always waiting for us to enter into the silence of His Sacred Heart.

Courtesy: Canadian Messenger

Thank you My Jesus

Thank you my Jesus
for saving my soul,
Thank you for loving me:
Thank you for cleansing and making me whole...
Thank you for Calvary.
Thank you for being the light of my life,
And guiding me each day;
Thank you that in times of trouble and strife...
You always show the way.
Thank you that I can trust your loving care
As I rest in your hand;
Thank you for answering my every prayer...
According to your plan.
Thank you for sometimes saying wait
To work things for my good;
And for teaching me what I should not do...
As well as what I should.
Thank you for being my security,
My anchor in the storm;
Thank you that in the deep turbulent sea...
You keep me safe from harm.
Thank you that through You, I can do all things,
In your strength I am free;
Thank you whatever
hardship life brings...
You are beside me.
Thank you!

Maureen de Zilwa



What care and....

Contd. from Page. XVII

Four years after that, she got another letter, saying that while things had been tough at times, he had stayed in school, had stuck with it, and would soon graduate from College with the highest of honours. He assured Mrs. Thompson that she was still the best and favourite teacher he had ever had in his whole life.

Then four more years passed and yet another letter came. This time he explained that after he got his Bachelor's Degree, he decided to go a little further. The letter explained that she was still the best and favourite teacher he ever had. But now his name was a little longer The letter was signed, Theodore F. Stoddard, MD.

dard, MD.

The story does not end there. You see, there was yet another letter that spring. Teddy said he had met this girl and was going to be married. He explained that his father had died a couple of years ago and he was wondering if Mrs. Thompson might agree to sit at the wedding in the place that was usually reserved for the mother of the groom. Of course, Mrs. Thompson did. And guess what? She wore that bracelet, the one with several rhinestones missing. Moreover, she made sure she was wearing the perfume that Teddy remembered his mother wearing on their last Christmas together.

They hugged each other, and Dr. Stoddard whispered in Mrs. Thompson's ear; "Thank you Mrs. Thompson for believing in me. Thank you so much for making me feel important and showing me that I could make a difference."

Mrs. Thompson, with tears in her eyes, whispered back She said, "Teddy, you have it all wrong. You were the one who taught me that I could make a difference. I didn't know how to teach until I met you."

Teddy Stoddard is the Doctor at Iowa Methodist in Des Moines that has the Stoddard Cancer Wing.

Source: E-mail (Catholic Messenger)



English with Fun and Entertainment

Dear Readers,

English with fun and entertainment is a series of English language improvement lessons. The text material used consist of anecdotes, jokes, riddles, brain teasers, yarns, tongue twisters, inspirational quotes and many other formal and informal text types. All our readers irrespective of any difference are encouraged to cultivate the habit of reading. You can do the tasks introduced in this section and contact us for any clarification. The main objective of this endeavour is to make you voracious readers and improve your English with fun and entertainment.

You are invited to share your experiences, thoughts, comments and suggestions. The lessons to follow will be developed on a negotiated basis to cater to your needs as you are our most valued beneficiaries.

With best regards!

NJ

Summary of the Lesson

This lesson consists of sections: (i) Practising Speech Sounds (p) (b) (t) (d)

(ii) Inspirational quotes of Reading (iii) A simple funny story
(iv) Teacher motivation verse (v) Catholic Jokes (vi) Riddles

Let's do an activity with fun to improve our English pronunciation.

Task 1

First practice the four English Speech Sounds (p) (b) (t) (d)

(...p...) pin pit pat pet pot (...b...) bin bit bat bet but
(...t...) tip tap top tin tan (...d...) din den dad done dip

Read aloud and practise the sounds..

1. Dig a pit and put the garbage
2. Give a tip to bat well.
3. Tap on the door and call dad
4. Pat you pet and relax
5. Take the pin and put it in a tin.

Task 2:

Read the nursery rhymes aloud and underline all the words with (p b t d) sounds. Find a way of listening to them and check the pronunciation of the words with (p b t d) sounds. Sing the rhymes with your friends.

I hear thunder//	Home for dinner//
Hark don't you//	There's the bell//
Pitter patter rain drops//	Bacon and potatoes//
I'm wet through//	Ding dong bell

Inspirational quotes about reading

August holiday schedules of parties and family visits may be over but despite all that, September to December is an ideal period to curl up and read. If you need a little extra inspiration in this most hectic period, never fear. To spur you on, here are a few inspiring quotes about reading by some people who read quite a lot — the authors themselves. In the communicative process reading is considered a receptive skill. In order to receive information we should have the skill to decode the message of the writer:

Task 3

Read through the ten inspirational quotes about reading and prioritize them according to your preference. It will begin with delight and end in wisdom.

- | |
|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Reading is the sole means by which we slip, involuntarily, often helplessly, into another's skin, another's voice, another's soul." — Joyce Carol Oates |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is no friend as loyal as a book" – Ernest Hemingway |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Books help us understand who we are and how we are to behave. They show us what community and friendship mean; they show us how to live and die." — Anne Lamott |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "A book, too, can be a star, a living fire to lighten the darkness, leading out into the expanding universe." — Madeleine L'Engle |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "We read to know that we are not alone." — C.S. Lewis |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Good books, like good friends, are few and chosen; the more select, the more enjoyable." — Louisa May Alcott |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "No matter how busy you may think you are, you must find time for reading, or surrender yourself to self-chosen ignorance." — Confucius |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Reading brings us unknown friends." — Honoré de Balzac |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "I have always imagined that Paradise will be a kind of library." — Jorge Luis Borges |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Reading is everything. Reading makes me feel like I've accomplished something, learned something, become a better person". — Nora Ephron |

Task 4

Read this funny story and complete the task given.

Nasreddin and the Pot

One day Nasreddin borrowed a pot from his neighbour Ali. The next day he brought it back with another little pot inside. "That's not mine," said Ali. "Yes, it is," said Nasreddin. "While your pot was staying with me, it had a baby."

Sometime later Nasreddin asked Ali to lend him a pot again. Ali agreed, hoping that he would once again receive two pots in return. However, days passed and Nasreddin had still not returned the pot. Finally Ali lost patience and went to demand his property. "I am sorry," said Nasreddin. "I can't give you back your pot, since it has died." "Died!" screamed Ali. "How can a pot die?" "Well," said Nasreddin, "you believed me when I told you that your pot had had a baby."

1. What did Nasreddin borrow from his neighbour?
2. What was his neighbour's name?
3. How did he bring the pot back on the next day?
4. Did Ali say that it was his pot?
5. What did Nasreddin tell him?

For teachers,

Read the verse given 'In Good Hands' and make the classroom a magical place

In Good Hands by Ultimate Cyan

In the hands of a gifted teacher; a classroom is a magical place
In the hands of a gifted teacher; there is a smile on child's place
In the hands of a gifted teacher; creative energy is everywhere
In the hands of a gifted teacher; there is a catalyst who genuinely cares
In the hands of a gifted teacher; desire and wonder is awakened
In the hands of a gifted teacher; the educational agenda is shaken
In the hands of a gifted teacher; self-management skills are modelled
In the hands of a gifted teacher; the best of reality is bottled
In the hands of a gifted teacher; gifts and talents are refined
In the hands of a gifted teacher; the willed future is designed

Inspirational quote

by William A. Ward.

The mediocre teacher tells. The good teacher explains. The superior teacher demonstrates.

The great teacher inspires.

Read and see whether it's funny

Catholic Jokes – Series 1

Two Jesuit novices both wanted a cigarette while they prayed. They decided to ask their superior for permission. The first asked but was told no. A little while later he spotted his friend smoking and praying. "Why did the superior allow you to smoke and not me?" he asked. His friend replied, "Because you asked if you could smoke while you prayed, and I asked if I could pray while I smoked!"

Riddles

Task 5

See whether you can solve these riddles

- Q: 1. What has a foot but no legs?
Q: 2. Poor people have it. Rich people need it. If you eat it you die. What is it?
Q: 3. What comes down but never goes up?
Q: 4. I'm tall when I'm young and I'm short when I'm old. What am I?
Q: 5. Mary's father has 5 daughters –
Nana, Nene, Nini, Nono. What is the fifth daughter's name?

Answers:

Task 2 thunder/ don't// Pitter patter drops// wet /
dinner// bell// Bacon and potatoes/ Ding dong bell

Task 3 Any order is acceptable

Task 4 1. Nasreddin borrowed a pot from his neighbour 2. His name was Ali.
3. The next day he brought it back with another little pot inside.
4. No. He did not say that it was his pot.

Task 5: 1 : A snail 2 : Nothing 3 : Rain 4. A candle
5. A: If you answered Nunu, you are wrong. It's Mary!

Contact us on:
071 8004580

E-mail: noeljayamanne@yahoo.com



Compiled by Noel Jayamanne

QUIZ

On Catholic Themes

(..... from last week)

QUESTIONS

1. THE CHURCH AND CHURCH TEACHINGS

Liturgy

361. What is a 'holy day of obligation'?
362. What is a Votive Mass?
363. What are the various kinds of Masses?
364. What is Requiem Mass?
365. What is the biblical foundation for the practice of praying for the dead?
366. What is the Tridentine Mass?
367. Where did the Tridentine Mass get its name?
368. What is the Mass of Paul VI?
369. When do we celebrate the Solemnity of Christ the King?
370. When was the Solemnity of Christ the King established and by whom?
371. When do we commemorate All Souls' Day?
What place does it hold in the liturgical calendar?
372. In which extra-liturgical celebration is *Tantum Ergo* traditionally sung?
373. According to tradition, on what day are candles blessed and distributed?
374. What is the significance of the candles on the day of the Presentation?
375. When is the Presentation of the Lord in the Temple celebrated?
376. When is the Divine Mercy Sunday celebrated?

(contd next week.....)

Roshell takes the Gold for Sri Lanka



Roshell Natasha Askey clinched Gold for her country in the Girls' category, at the Under - 11 Ninth Asian Schools Blitz Chess Championship 2013, held recently at the Citrus Hotel, Hikkaduwa.

Roshell, a Grade 7 student of Ave Maria Convent, Negombo played Seven Rounds, collecting Six Points becoming the Champion. Roshell was presented a Gold Medal and a Trophy.

Around 31 players from 15 countries participated in the event. The Second place was also taken by Sri Lanka.

Earlier at the Rapid Championships held last month, Roshell took the Silver becoming 1st Runner-up.

ANSWERS

I. THE CHURCH AND CHURCH TEACHINGS

Liturgy

361. A 'holy day of obligation' is a specific feast day when the Catholic Faithful are obliged to go for Holy Mass.
362. A Holy Mass offered in honour of some mystery of the faith, or the Blessed Virgin, or of a saint, or for a particular intention, in place of the Holy Mass in the liturgical calendar for that day.
363. First, a Solemn Mass, which is celebrated by a priest assisted by a deacon and / or an acolyte; second, a High Mass, in which the celebrating priest sings certain parts of the Mass; third, a Low Mass, in which the priest reads all the parts of the Mass; fourth, a Pontifical Mass, which is celebrated by a bishop and by certain other prelates.
364. A Holy Mass celebrated for the repose of the soul or souls of one or more deceased persons.
365. 2 Maccabees 12:43-46 ("He [judas] also took up a collection,... and sent it to Jerusalem to provide for a sin offering... For if he were not expecting that those who had fallen would rise again, it would have been superfluous and foolish to pray for the dead. But if he was looking to the splendid reward that is laid up for those who fall asleep in godliness, it was a holy and pious thought. Therefore he made atonement for the dead, so that they might be delivered from their sin.")
366. The Tridentine Mass (known also as Latin Mass) is the form of the Roman Rite Mass contained in the typical editions of the Roman Missals that were published from 1570 to 1962.
367. The term "Tridentine" is derived from the Latin word Tridentinus, (modern day Trent, Italy)." It was in response to a decision of the Council of Trent that Pope Pius V promulgated the 1570 Roman Missal.
368. The Holy Mass of Pope Paul VI is the liturgy of the Holy Mass of the Roman Rite promulgated by Pope Paul VI in 1969, after the Second Vatican Council (1962 - 1965). It is the present ordinary form of the Roman Rite of the Mass known also as *Novus Ordo*.
369. The Last Sunday of the liturgical year.
370. The Feast of Christ the King was established by Pope Pius XI in 1925.
371. November 2. All Souls' Day is something of a special class that, without being a solemnity, it still has precedence over a Sunday.
372. Benediction.
373. February 2, the feast of the Presentation or *Candlemas*.
374. The flame of the Candle is a symbol of Jesus who came to enlighten our darkness. Jesus, as Simeon prophesied in the temple is "a Light for revelation to the Gentiles" (LK 2:32).
375. Forty days after Christmas.
376. The Sunday after Easter Sunday.

Courtesy: Clare Ukken fsp

FROM THE VATICAN DOCUMENTS

Human Dimension of Redemption

Man cannot live without love. He remains a being that is incomprehensible for himself, his life is senseless, if love is not revealed to him, if he does not encounter love, if he does not experience it and make it his own, if he does not participate intimately in it. This, as has already been said, is why Christ the Redeemer 'fully reveals man to himself'...In this dimension man finds again the greatness, dignity and value that belong to his humanity. In the mystery of the Redemption man becomes newly "expressed" and, in a way, is newly created (Article 10).

Redemptor Hominis (Encyclical)

Pope John Paul II

March 4, 1979