



Building a Faith Community for Service

# KEYSTONE NEWSLETTER

COMMITMENT • LIVING FAITH • INTEGRITY • CONCERN • (CLIC)



Visit us at : [www.stpetersbandra.org](http://www.stpetersbandra.org)

OCTOBER 2021

## Our Human Vocation Is To Love!

Who would believe that our human vocation is to Love, given the hate and discrimination and injustice around us? However it is clear that each one of us in society must accept personal responsibility for some of this, if we have not done too much to root out and to eliminate hate.

St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus, who we remember on the 1st and Mahatma Gandhi, whose Jayanti we celebrate on the 2nd, give us a great start to contemplating our common vocation to love during the month of October. The 7th is the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary, who confirms that our vocation is really to love! We have a month ahead of inspiration and soul searching.

Luckily, it is not only Christianity that teaches us that love is our real, deepest-felt vocation. Anyone who has studied the mystics of different religions will be struck by the similarity of sentiments and spirituality expressed in their writings. The Sufi mystical tradition in Islam and the Bhakti tradition in Hinduism have both produced holy men and women who help us understand the human vocation. Their writings, in fact, are so close to the writings of Christian mystical authors like St. Thérèse that one wonders the source of such inspiration. The conclusion any honest believer in the divine can

reach is that it is God's self-revelation through different traditions that is calling human beings to acknowledge their vocation to love.

St. Thérèse was fortunate in recognizing that in Jesus we have the full revelation of God's love and that clinging to Jesus through the action of His Spirit, gives not only the conviction about our human vocation but the grace, wisdom and courage to embark on it in a sustained manner.

We pray to the Spirit of Jesus that we too may enter into this stream of love, even if it means sacrifice and suffering. We can "Be the Good News in the World", if we join all men and women of good will in letting love triumph.

*Fr. Frazer Mascarenhas SJ*



# St. Francis Of Assisi

## (1181-1226)

Francesco, the son of a wealthy businessman, was inspired to leave everything and to follow Jesus, in poverty, in simplicity of life. Born at Assisi, Francis lived a comfortable life in a permissive society. He became a good businessman like his Father but hoping to win glory as a knight, Francis joined the Fourth Crusade.

God intervened in his life. On return to his village, Francis was humiliated as a coward. As he prayed and repented of his sinful past, God's grace overwhelmed him with joy. When repelled by the appearance of a leper, Francis kissed the hand of the leper and was filled with joy. At San Damiano, Francis heard the crucified Christ speak: "Francis, repair my church." Acting impetuously, Francis sold his Father's fabrics to collect money for repairs. His Father dragged Francis before the Bishop. The Bishop advised Francis to return the money for God would provide. Francis joyfully gave back the money as also the rich clothing his Father had given him. Wearing castoff rags, Francis went off into the freezing woods, singing for joy.

Seeking a Rule of Life for the Brotherhood, Francis opened the Bible: He read Jesus' advice to the rich young man to sell all his goods and give to the poor, the order to the Apostles to take nothing on their journey, and the demand to take up our cross daily. "Here is our rule," Francis explained, "as simple and as seemingly impossible".

Francis' Brotherhood included all of God's creation. Francis preached to hundreds of birds who listened attentively. Francis intervened when the town wanted to kill a ferocious wolf. The wolf became a pet of the townspeople.

The Brothers went out to preach two by two. Soon people noticed that these barefoot beggars seemed filled with constant joy. People questioned themselves: "Could one own nothing and be happy?"

To obtain approval for his Brotherhood, Francis went straight to meet the Pope who gave him permission to preach. During the Fifth Crusade, Francis went straight to the Sultan to make peace. The Sultan was charmed by Francis' preaching but expressed his inability to convert for fear of persecution. Francis did experience persecution, not among the Moslems, but among his own Brothers. His dream of radical poverty was too harsh, people remarked. Francis gave up Authority in his Order living as just another Brother.

Francis' final years were filled with suffering and humiliation. Praying to share in Christ's passion, Francis received in his own body, the stigmata, the marks of the nails and the lance wound that Christ suffered. Years of poverty and wandering had made Francis ill. In his blindness, Francis wrote his beautiful "Canticle of the Sun". Francis died on 4th October at the age of 45. He was canonized a Saint just two years after his death. He is the Patron Saint for Ecologists. Cardinal Bergoglio chose to honour Saint Francis by taking his name, becoming Pope Francis.



Feast  
4<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER

# Searching The Scriptures

## St. Paul's letter to the Colossians

Fr. Frazer spoke about the rich treasure to be found in scripture and what it can say to us today. How would St Paul speak to us today? He was the greatest of apostles, whose life and letters influenced many people. Scripture study is divided into (i) Exegesis - understanding the mind of St. Paul. (ii) Hermeneutics – Vatican 2 and the teaching authority of the Church and the truths revealed in scripture.

What is God saying to us today? How can doctrine be applied to the culture of our day?

St. Paul's letter focuses on 2 major themes: (i) Evangelization (ii) Life in community. His letter speaks of Christianity's message to the whole world. Jn.3:16 tells it clearly. "For God so loved the world that He sent His only Son .." We hear how it seemed that God had chosen the wrong people for none were as hated as the Jewish people of that time. The need of the hour then was a bridge between the Jewish and Greek world and St. Paul was familiar with both worlds. His conviction Col:1:13, 1:17, Jesus is before all things and in Him all things hold together. Col:1:17-20 – Jesus is the fullest revelation of God. Col:1:24-28 – In Christ is the hope of Glory made him the perfect choice.

Some cautions: Col 3:14 tells us that we need love to bind our virtues together. The relationship with Christ

was not limited to the Jews but only salvation could come through Jesus.

Our mission: A major message: Col:3:1,5,8 - set your hearts on the higher things. Living in community. Col:3:12-14- Bear with and forgive one another and over all this put on love. This is a very practical way of life.

Instructions for Christian households: Col:3:22-24 speaks to slaves but it is actually a way of humanizing slavery in a step to get rid of it.

Col:3:18-19- This is a famous verse where St. Paul speaks to wives to submit to their husbands but it applied to that age and today we speak about all being equal in Jesus.

How to pray. Col:4: Move ahead and spread the message in collaboration with others. Live in community in a way that reflects the message you are preaching, that reflects Gospel values as a family of God.

Is St. Paul relevant today? Definitely! He gives us the Christian message of being an example in word and deed in your life and in the community and how to fashion our lives in the way God is calling us to.

*An extract from Fr. Frazer's discourse*

# Community Sharing

**Queen of Peace:** celebrates its FEAST DAY on 22nd September each year. Pre-lockdown we have had unforgettable get-togethers in the parish-school premises. "Forget get-togethers," said everyone. "Too risky, besides it's not permitted."

But we weren't going to let a lockdown get us down. Our first and most important celebration was the on-line Eucharistic Celebration. We knew the celebrant would be community priest Fr. Assis Rodrigues and that he would make a special mention of our Feast at the 7pm mass. But no one expected the Parish Priest, Fr. Frazer Mascarenhas himself, to turn up as cantor and lector – singing hymns in honour of Our Lady, specially chosen for the occasion. What an honour for our zone (and what a voice!!)

Next we'd asked our community members to prepare 'gifts to offer' Our Lady. These were to be shared on our community WhatsApp Group. We expected a light drizzle – but like the unpredictable weather there was a heavy downpour.

It wasn't cats & dogs but things even stranger - wire, tape, ribbon, glue, foil, cotton, ice-cream sticks, cardboard, fabric scraps. Yet you couldn't really tell because with ingenious minds and creative hands these strange items were fashioned into beautiful 'gifts' - graceful figurines, pretty flowers, candle holders, picture frames, even little Santas (better early than late). There was an exquisitely crocheted 'statue' of Our Lady - serenely smiling with a swirling base at her feet and a gem-studded crown on her head.

There were also mouth-watering dishes – delicious pan-rolls (with a video of the chef making them - sizzling hot), an inviting caramel custard (the invitation was open to all) and of course the traditional fugias, channas with the special pickle (all offered before a little altar with lace cloth, candle stands & glass-encased Our Lady). Then there was a harmonious quartet singing traditional hymns to Our Lady - in Marathi!! There was also a trio of spirited ladies who recited the Rosary and followed this with a 'little fellow ship' - hopefully the fellees didn't rock the ship too much.

And of course our WhatsApp group was flooded with wishes that kept pouring in, threatening to drown out everything else. So no we didn't have the usual get-together but YES we certainly did have a most enjoyable net-together.

**Core Group**

**Archangel Raphael:** Community celebrated their Feast Thanksgiving Online Mass on September 29th at 8.30 am. It was viewed by around 1,000 people. The theme was that we should inculcate an environmentally sustainable lifestyle.

Our Animator, Celine Fernandes started off with the Marathi version of How Great Thou Art and sang beautifully with full throated ease, accompanied on keyboard by Elton Vessaoker. She also sang the befitting recessional hymn, O Archangel Raphael.

Fr. Baptist Pinto, our Priest Coordinator and newly appointed Spiritual Director, celebrated the Mass. He gave a very insightful and meaningful sermon on the 3 Archangels: Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, who are all saints. He also spoke about Angels being the Messengers of God. He narrated that St. Raphael is noted for his Acts of Healing and is the Patron Saint of Happy Gatherings and Meetings, Nurses, Doctors, Travellers and the Blind.

Parul Menezes, our Joint Coordinator, read the reading from Prophet Daniel in his inimitable eloquent style. The reading stated that a thousand thousand served him and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him to emphasise that all people and nations should serve Him.

The orange, white and yellow Anthurium flower arrangements were beautifully done by our Animator and Eucharistic Minister, Blanche Fernandes. The Church crimson, peach and beige roses along with the palms were very pretty.

Fr. Baptist fondly recalled the names of the deceased Community members in the past year - Florence de Vas, Rowan Miranda, Ramon Menezes, Cedric D'Souza, Vilma Kharote and Edward Pereira. May their souls RIP.

We hope that this will be our last online event now that Church is reopening on October 7th and we look forward to our Youth Coordinator, Avito Miranda bringing in more youth for our live events.

**Sharmeela de Vas-Coordinator**

# Being The Good News

By Being the Good News, we participate in the Mission of Jesus. Jesus' words, actions flowed from love and compassion for all in need. Jesus invites us to reach out, with love and compassion, to anyone in need.

Besides vulnerable family members, who are the people in need of love and compassion? In our family - our domestics. In our neighbourhood - the watchman, municipal worker, sewer cleaner (mainly Dalits who die young by inhaling poisonous gases); In the streets - little children forced to work, elderly roadside seller, construction worker, persons with leprosy who beg, cobbler, shoe shine boy, blind vendor, coolie at the station...

Poverty is the common factor in their lives. Many migrate to cities to earn a meagre living. Are these people poor by choice? Or are they made poor by being deprived of what is rightfully theirs? POVERTY stems from Disempowerment and Deprivation of basic needs-food, health facilities, clean water, education, employment, clothing, shelter, sanitation; of constitutionally guaranteed rights, entitlements, liberty and freedom.

**Who benefits from:** dividing people on the basis of caste, religion, food habits; creating hatred, fear through rumours; inciting violence, hate crimes against the Dalits, Christians, Muslims?

## **Causes of Poverty:**

The Caste System, entrenched in Indian Society has a hierarchy - Brahmins, Kshatriyas, Vaishyas, Shudras. Dalits are excluded as untouchables, dehumanized and deprived of dignity, respect and their rights.

Lack of access to education for children in village schools leads to unemployment, being cheated of their rights, just payments and land: eg. adivasis (original inhabitants) tilled forest lands for centuries but have

no land documents, illiterate persons are cheated of their land documents. Dalit children are abused, forced into manual labour and deprived of education. 51% Dalit children drop out of elementary school (UNICEF). Only 13.4% Dalit children have access to higher education. (All India Survey on Higher Education).

Oppressive Laws and Policies have created an economic upheaval with a massive rise in unemployment, price rise. MGNREGA according to RBI does not support rural income much due to delayed wage payment, lower wages, insufficient budgetary allocations. Foodgrains stocks with FCI around 77 million tons in March 2020 were hoarded instead of being distributed to the hungry.

The three Farm Laws leave farmers entirely in the grip of private trade and large Corporates. Labour Laws and Environmental Laws have been changed to the advantage of Corporates resulting in workers losing their rights, destruction of ecological balance leading to Climate Change causing life endangering calamities. National Monetization Pipeline plans to lease to Corporates, profit-making Public Sector Units and infrastructure which will result in price rise for use of their services. With the linking of Ration card to Aadhar card during the 2020 lockdown, rural ration customers starved as machines at ration shops did not recognise their Aadhar registered fingerprints. Decrease in budgetary allocations for health, education, welfare deprives the needy of these essential services at subsidized costs. Media is sold out to the Corporates – we hear what they want.



### Effects of Poverty:

- No work, no income. So you spend less, even on food.
- Official data: Suicides by daily wage earners doubled between 2014 to 2018 and has risen further.
- UNICEF study - more than 8.8 lakh children in India below the age of five died prematurely in 2018. 69% died of malnutrition.
- 2020 Global Hunger Index: India ranks 94 out of 107 countries with a level of HUNGER that is SERIOUS.
- Needy children affected by the pandemic: school dropouts, no access to online learning, early marriage, hunger, child labour, child abuse, child trafficking for labour and sex work, mental trauma, helplessness, anxiety and fear.
- “Mothers who used to work as domestic workers are out of jobs, and children are being pushed into two hours of sex work so that they can come back with a five-kilo bag of rice or wheat flour.” (Sonal K).

### What would God want you to be and do for the deprived?

- Acknowledge, treat with respect, dignity everyone especially the Dalits who clean our sewers.
- Ensure that the BMC uses machines for cleaning the sewers and trains the sewer cleaners to operate them. In 2014, the Supreme Court abolished manual scavenging.
- Create opportunities for uniting people of all religions, castes, classes to work together for the betterment of all especially the needy. Create a “we” feeling rather than a “we against them”.
- Be understanding of those working with us. Pay just wages.
- All parishes could host farmers’ markets once a week and buy directly from farmers.
- Connect farmers with professionals to develop agriculture for productive employment.
- Insist, assist in educating needy children. Inform them to call 1098 Childline in case of abuse.
- Let your domestic worker’s child study in your house.
- Share your time and talents with needy children.
- Create a data base of talents, small businesses, self-employed professionals in our parish and use their services.
- Increase employability with training.
- Ensure Parish youth join the Civil Services - IAS, IPS, IRS...

I invite you to collaborate with us, the Daughters of the Cross, as we reach out, with assistance from persons of all faith, to the deprived, marginalized, oppressed and abused.

Together let us unite, build people and a healthy, happy, just and equitable India.

**Venita FC**



# St. Peter's Conference (SSVP)

"Whatsoever you do to the least of my brethren that you do unto me" says the Lord. In 1833 a 20 yr old French youth, FREDRIC OZANAM decided to live by this noble precept. He emulated St. Vincent de Paul in the service of the poor. He founded the Society of St. Vincent de Paul (SSVP) dedicated to zealously serve the poor.

This Society grew rapidly and reached the shores of India where it mushroomed into numerous Conferences. St Peters Conference supports 30 families. SSVP members in pairs are assigned two to three families to attend to their needs. Member pairs visited their families once a week to enquire about their health and well-being and also gave them financial and material aid. Families got together on feast days like Patron Saint Feast day, Christmas and others for Mass and a fun and frolic session with a sumptuous buffet meal thereafter.

With the lockdown, personal visits and get-togethers could not be held. Only SSVP members held regular online meetings. Hence member pairs had to call their families on phone to enquire about their welfare, listen to their problems and comfort them. Financial aid was deposited directly into their bank accounts. Material aid like provisions, medicines, food hampers, etc were delivered by volunteers.

The conference emphasises on education; students are assisted with their school fees and books. Even electronic aid like laptops, cell phones are given through generous sponsors. A Std. X student received a computer to facilitate online classes.

St. Peter's Conference is largely funded by monetary donations. The Conference invites you to join them. Are you ready to take part in this noble venture?



Fr. Aubrey Mascarenhas, the chaplain of St. Peter's SSVP celebrated a Thanksgiving Mass on Monday September 27th, the feast day of St. Vincent de Paul. He thanked all our benefactors and stressed on the need to love the poor and care for them spiritually and materially. It is our noble Christian mission to reach out and experience the joy of giving.

*A Vincentian*



# The Counselling Course That Is Changing Lives

We were a mixed batch of 35 from Pune, Chennai, Mumbai, Nagpur and Kolkata and globally from the UK, Sweden, Australia and Dubai who joined an online Course on Basic Counselling Skills (BCS - 17) in June conducted by Fr. Patrick D'Mello of the Laity Training Centre and our fellow Coordinator, Ellen Maunkel

The 3-month Course taught us to let go of negative feelings about any situation and person, and gave us a different perspective on life. I have learnt to use Positive Strokes in many of my dealings with people and with my team of Animators as Coordinator. As one of my Animators pointed out, I have become more 'accepting' of others and of the team and am handling my duties with much more ease and camaraderie.

Assertiveness has been put to great use and efficacy in our daily lives, with our teams and in live counseling sessions. One learns to put one's foot down in the face of adversity, injustice, corruption, high-handedness or bullying of any kind.

Empathy, Kindness, Compassion and Sympathy are in keeping with our Mission Statement of 'Being the Good News in the World', so very relevant in today's hostile political and social situation. It has

helped me handle so many conflicting scenarios with tact and compromise. The elderly, the mentally and physically sick in our Community have often been left unattended to, especially when their families are abroad, and we need to reach out to them and lend a listening ear.

Two sessions of the 7 Steps of Forgiveness were well received and attended by 35 Parishioners from 5 Zones. This is a bitter pill as it is very tough to let go of resentment and grudges which we hold on to for years within our families, friends and professional circles. Reconciliation and Conflict Resolution are equally tough to resolve between parties be it through compromise, confrontation, diplomacy or simply building bridges personally or between Communities.

A session on Emotional Intelligence was conducted online on September 26. Training of Animators course is underway since August and is being attended by our Coordinator Louella Luis and another Animator.

***Sharmeela de Vas -  
Arch. Raphael Zone Coordinator***





# Prayer For Healing Of Relationships

*(This is to be said in private, once a week, by each person who feels the need for healing of some relationship).*

Dear Lord, I feel so upset, so angry, almost out of control, when I think of this person in my life. I'm surprised at the depth of my feelings.

I cannot hide behind nice little words or put on a nice, pleasant smile. I wish I could give vent to my feelings or turn away and avoid the person totally.

All I can bring before you now, is my anger and my hurt and my struggle to keep my feelings in control. At least with You, I need not pretend to be calm or deny the angry messages in my head.

I need not try to impress You with sweet and pious words, for I am hurt and upset, more than I can put into words.

Accept me, please, as I am. Soothe my wounds and heal me! Protect me from hurting others or myself and save me from foolish decisions.

Keep your loving hand on me, even when I seem to reject it.

And please wait with me till I am calm and serene again.

Thank you for meeting me where I am, for loving me as I am.

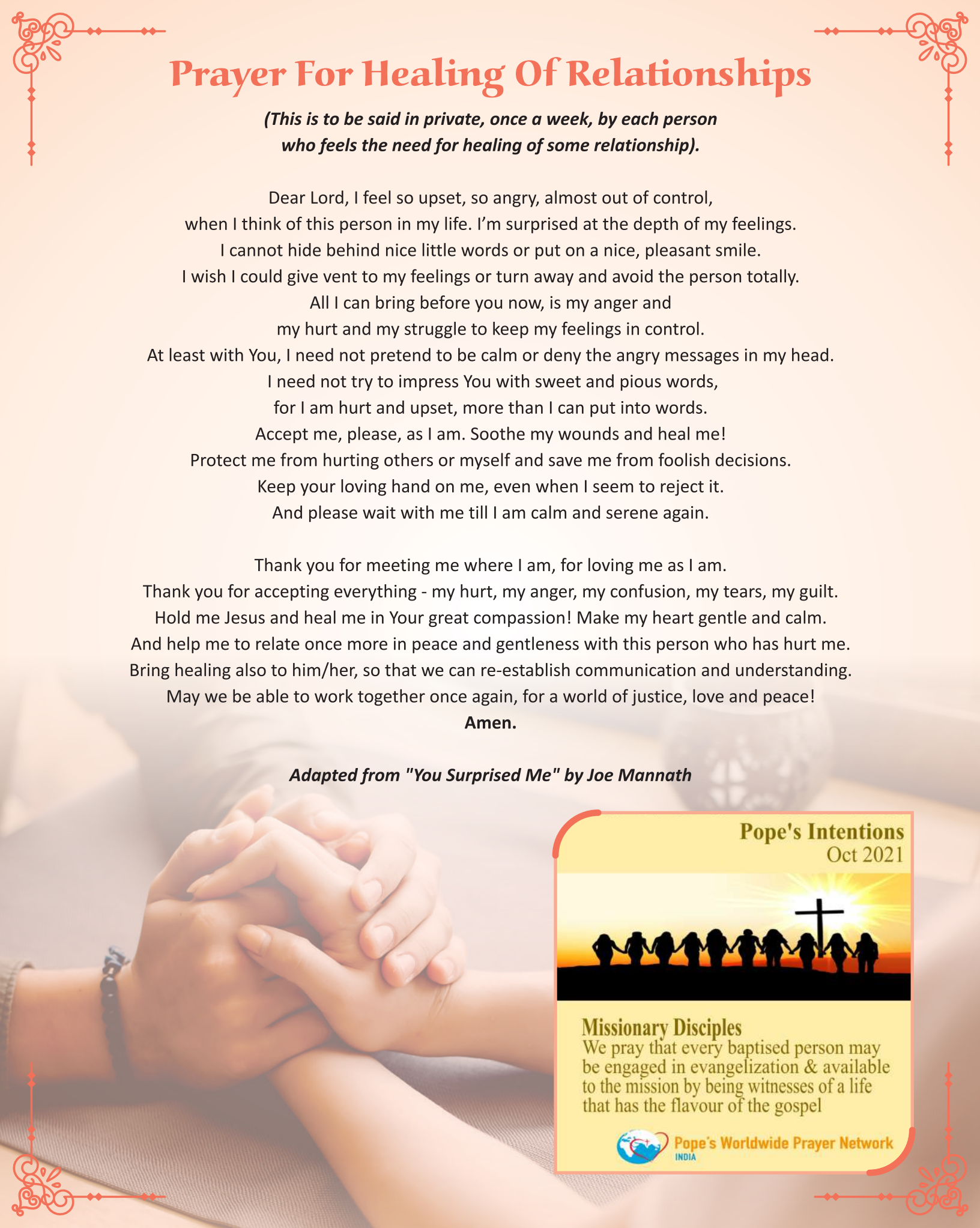
Thank you for accepting everything - my hurt, my anger, my confusion, my tears, my guilt.

Hold me Jesus and heal me in Your great compassion! Make my heart gentle and calm. And help me to relate once more in peace and gentleness with this person who has hurt me. Bring healing also to him/her, so that we can re-establish communication and understanding.


May we be able to work together once again, for a world of justice, love and peace!

**Amen.**


*Adapted from "You Surprised Me" by Joe Mannath*



**Pope's Intentions**  
Oct 2021



**Missionary Disciples**  
We pray that every baptised person may be engaged in evangelization & available to the mission by being witnesses of a life that has the flavour of the gospel



**Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network**  
INDIA

# Seven Steps Of Forgiveness

Our Parish took up a Vision Mission Statement for the year of 'Being the Good News in the World'. The Parish Priest along with the Jesuit team and the Parish Council came up with 8 mission statements to implement the vision of 'Being the Good News'. It was decided to focus every month on a specific point with guidelines on how we could effect this statement in our lives.

The month of August focused on 'Improving relationships - through dialogue, forgiveness, generosity and building friendships'. I thought, what can I do to help in taking this focus forward as a Parish Council member and a Community Coordinator? It occurred to me that since I work at close quarters with the Laity Training Centre, let me bring the teaching of forgiveness to the Parish.

With the help of Fr. Patrick D'Mello, I quickly organized a session for 6 Communities along with the Coordinators and Animators of all the Communities. A group of 40 who attended were explained the Seven Steps of Forgiveness. In short, here it goes:

- ✦ **Step 1:** A hurts B and B remains in victim mode complaining and feeling sorry for himself/herself.
- ✦ **Step 2:** B can talk to a friend/counsellor to give vent to the negative feelings being experienced.
- ✦ **Step 3:** B has to feel the negative feelings (no one likes to feel bad and so we push these feelings away). B has to be able to see the positive intention of why A did what he/she did.
- ✦ **Step 4:** B has to look at his/her role in causing the problem. (There are two sides to every problem).
- ✦ **Step 5:** Once B has been able to process the situation, then B can forgive A.
- ✦ **Step 6:** B has to see the learnings that have come out of the experience. So, what did this incident teach me?
- ✦ **Step 7:** Praise and thank God for the experience. (I am a better person for having gone through this).

Many of us carry grudges only hurting ourselves in the bargain. Forgiveness is for you, not the other person. It is to relieve the burdens you carry by keeping grudges.

## Some of the reactions I received after the session were:

"We are grateful to you and Fr. Pat for imparting your valuable knowledge to us."

"The virtual session was food for thought and a spiritual awakening to the reality of life."

On the whole, I was glad that I put myself out there to help those in our Parish.

*Ellen Maumkel - Coordinator, St. Joseph's Community*

# Common Good

*All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small*

*All things wise and wonderful, the Good God made them all*



## IF YOU WANT TO CULTIVATE PEACE, PROTECT CREATION.

This message reiterates and elaborates on the messages of previous Popes and the church's view on caring for creation. The problem today is that man's inhumanity to man has given rise to numerous threats to peace and to the authentic and integral human development – wars, international and regional conflicts, acts of terrorism, and violations of human rights. In addition are the threats arising from the irrational and unmitigated plundering of the earth and the natural goods that God has bestowed on us. It is imperative that mankind renew and strengthen “that covenant between human beings and the environment, which should mirror the creative love of God, from whom we come and towards whom we are journeying”.

The Church highlights the relationship between the Creator, human beings and created order and warned of an ecological crisis. That appeal is seen as an urgent today. We as Christians have an obligation and shared responsibility to ensure equitable distribution of natural resources especially toward the poor and future generations. We need to examine our life-style and the prevailing models of consumption and production, which are often unsustainable from a social, environmental and even economic point of view. The Church has a responsibility towards creation. The book of nature is one and indivisible; it includes not only the environment but also individual, family and social ethics. Nor must we forget the very significant fact that many people experience peace and tranquillity, renewal and reinvigoration, when they come into close contact with the beauty and harmony of nature.

Man has a duty to exercise responsible stewardship over creation, to care for it and to cultivate it. We are equal in the eyes of God and nature's bounty is for all peoples and nations. We also have a responsibility towards those of the future, that human activity does not compromise the fruitfulness of the earth, for the benefit of people now and in the future. The need of the hour is the development of joint energy resources and sustainable strategies to satisfy the energy needs of the present and future generations - **Common Good across generations.**

We need to examine our life-style and the prevailing models of consumption and production, which are often unsustainable from a social, environmental and even economic point of view. The quest for peace by people of good will surely would become easier if all acknowledge the indivisible relationship between God, human beings and the whole of creation. We need only live Christian lives and everything will fall in line. The Mantra should be '**Common Good**'. End of selfishness, greed, excess, consumerism and the world as we know it today. Industrialization is required but excess of anything is bad and the end of the road is destruction. We need to read the writing on the wall and fight the malaise on a war footing - from the pulpit, ads on TV, seminars and organizations in schools, colleges, communities, etc. Not just informing about the crisis but implementing viable solutions.

Even one person can make a difference – Gandhiji, Nelson Mandela, the man who planted a forest, to name a few. A journey of a 1000 miles begins with a single step. On an individual level we can segregate garbage; compost biodegradable waste, recycle non-biodegradable waste and dispose of e-waste responsibly. We must refuse plastic bags, extra helpings at restaurants that would be wasted, having a sip of water and wasting the rest in the bottle, even printing on paper unnecessarily. Let us get involved in activities and programmes on the Community, Parish and Diocesan level. May this season of creation be an impetus to set us on the path to a sustainable lifestyle looking at **common good!** God bless us and all our efforts.

CCG St. Peter's Bandra





# PARISH COUNCIL HAPPENINGS September 2021

## Review

**i) Faith Celebration Cell:** provides guidelines on action points and intentions for the Rosary for cluster families related to the Parish mission focus for the month.

**ii) Independence Day:** Multi-Faith Cell held a Flag-hoisting Ceremony, with a Prayer service at St. Peter's Square with a limited attendance. This was live streamed on St. Peter's YouTube Channel.

**iii) Youth assistance:** Parishioners, especially seniors, may contact their respective animators for help in operating basic applications like WhatsApp, etc

## Agenda

**1. New Appointments** - a) Fr. Tony being unwell, Fr. Baptist Pinto SJ has been appointed as Acting Superior. He will take on the responsibility for all policy decisions and for animating Jesuit community life. b) Cardinal Oswald has appointed Fr. Frazer as the Dean of the Bandra Deanery comprising 7 Parishes to co-ordinate & interact with the Priests.

**2. Co-ordinators' Feedback:** Sr. Yvonne presented a summary of Community efforts related to September's mission Focus - 'Relationships'. All Co-ordinators felt that this is a sensitive area but agreed on the need to mend / improve relationships especially where there are conflicts and misunderstandings. Prayer is the first step to bring about reconciliation, forgiveness and healing. Most of the zones have reached out through prayer by reciting the Rosary along with the special final prayer on relationships. Many have also started in a small way - through greetings, dialogue, social outreach, reaching out to the needy etc to build better relationships.

**3. Focus Point for Sep 15 - Oct 15:** "Show compassion to the Disadvantaged by sharing time & resources." This is an appropriate theme in line with the feast of St. Vincent de Paul at the month-end. We must be compassionate and generous in our dealings with the underprivileged / disadvantaged such as our domestics, civic workers, those in low-level unskilled jobs, etc.

**a) First Holy Communion:** There are around 11 children awaiting this Sacrament. It was decided to have one Communicant per Online Mass over the next days, with 8 family members in attendance. Parents will be contacted to inform them about the date and mass time.

**b) Confirmation:** Since the Bishop is required for this ceremony, we will have only two Masses where the Bishop will administer this Sacrament to 14 candidates at a time. The team will work on the dates, as exams are on currently. (Max Nos of people permitted in Church for these events - 50)

**4. Restarting 'Searching the Scriptures':** Fr. Frazer will inaugurate this series on Wednesday 15th Sept speaking on St. Paul's Letter to the Colossians from 7:40 pm to 8:15 pm. Thereafter, other Jesuits will host these sessions in turn every month on the second Wednesday. If you missed the first session, you may watch it later, as this is on the Parish YouTube channel.

**5. Municipal Corporation Elections:** The Election Commission has tentatively scheduled these elections in February 2022. The need to dialogue with others and become aware of the problems over the last few years, like stifling voices of dissent, the fallout of economic decisions, the widening disparity between the rich & poor, hate speech and hate crimes etc was emphasized. Democratic traditions and even Institutions like the Press and Judiciary are being compromised. We need to understand that these Elections are not about individuals but the Parties to which they belong, because the Party Agenda is finally taken forward. Can we back Parties that go against democratic norms and Institutions? Do we want a party which encourages a communal divide? We should vote for Parties which will guarantee our Constitutional Rights. Individuals may give us short-term gains but ultimately all will suffer if the agenda and track record of the Party is not democratic.

**Fr. Frazer Mascarenhas SJ**

### Born in Christ

Ishikaa Nambiar

Adult

d/o Jay Nambiar & Shamira Karim

### United in Christ

Russel Rodrigues & Carol Fernandes

Gazebo House, Hill Road

### Rest in Christ

NAME	AGE	ADDRESS
Irene Rita Tauro	85	Kostka House, St. Peters Colony
Edward Pereira	85	Regiland CHS., TPS IV
Maria Santan Travasso	81	10, Waroda Road
Philomena Rachel Fernandes	88	24, J.D. Alves Premises Soc. Ltd.

MILESTONES