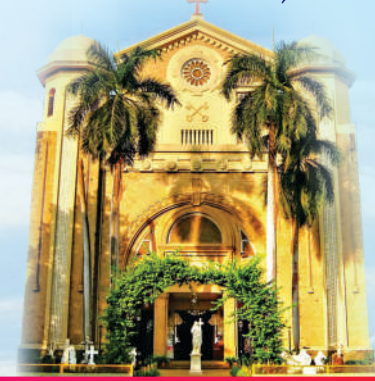




Building a Faith Community for Service

KEYSTONE

NEWSLETTER



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

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FEBRUARY 2022

Have You Decided Where You Want To Go?

In these days of Omicron, who wants to go on a Journey? Well, the Synodal Journey is quite safe, Pope Francis assures us! And this is the journey of discernment: what does God want of the Church? Who better to reflect on this, than the Christian community which has received the Spirit at Baptism and which has the guarantee of “infallibility in matters of belief”? (Vatican II).

The Synod had been instituted by Paul VI, emanating from the deliberations of the Vatican Council. Much discernment has taken place in numerous Synods since then but, in 2013, when Pope Francis became Bishop of Rome, his view was that the Synod had become too static. There was need to change. And the major change he has now brought in, is the extensive consultation with lay people. In *Evangelii Gaudium* (EG) he indicated that at times, the Bishop will have to go behind his people, “allowing the flock to strike out on new paths” (EG 31). “The flock also possesses its own ‘nose’ for discerning the new paths that the Lord opens up to the Church” (EG 120). The dynamism of listening must be conducted at all levels of the Church and this is what the Synod on Synodality is attempting.

This can only be successful, if the lay vocation is acknowledged and exercised. Do you recognize your calling to listen to the Spirit and then to speak? In our Parish we welcome your thoughts and reflections. May I suggest the following areas, among many others that will occur to you, where change would be appreciated?

- The Liturgy needs to find a way to allow lay people to also “break the Word” from their particular lay perspective. Women, in particular, need to be given a voice. What mechanisms would you think the Spirit is suggesting to us?

How do we make the Eucharist more culture-friendly to a multi-lingual community? Can we make the Eucharist a starting point for our daily commitment to mission, instead of considering it only as spiritual nourishment for ourselves?

- The Church needs to find ways of moving from involvement in works of “charity” to participation in movements for “justice”. Can the Christian community unite and network with like-minded people of good will, in lobbying for good governance and public policy which will benefit the majority, especially the disadvantaged? (The area of the ecology stands out, because it is Government policy that is largely contributing to pollution and depletion.)

- Must we not reconsider our views of other religious traditions and acknowledge that God’s Spirit has been working in them, to give them a rich spiritual experience and that therefore a two-way genuine dialogue with them is the way to build human fraternity – so much pleaded for by Pope Francis?

- Should we motivate and create enthusiasm in our young people to participate in governance and administration – politics and the Indian Administrative Services – to bring the values of the Gospel to bear in these spheres?

- What matters of faith and morals do you think you would like to see some change in?

Your thoughts, in prayerful consideration and dialogue with others, are what this journey is all about. Have you decided where YOU want us to go?

Fr. Frazer Mascarenhas SJ



Saint Gonsalo Garcia, Ofm (1556-1597)

Feast
6th FEBRUARY

When the King of Spain proposed to send a delegation to Japan, the Spanish Governor of Manila selected Friar Pedro Bautista as Leader of the delegation, and Garcia as his translator and companion. Garcia immediately accepted this responsibility. The Missionaries left Manila in 1592. The Franciscans in Japan began their missionary work in Kyoto, Osaka, and impressed everyone with their simple way of living. Conversions abounded from among all ranks of the Japanese people.

In 1596, the Spanish Ship, San Felipe, laden with gold and silver, was driven by typhoons to the coast of Japan. It's pilot boasted on the prowess of the King of Spain, who had conquered many countries, and had now sent Missionaries to Japan to instigate the Japanese people against their Ruler. The Japanese Regent, Toyotomi Hideyoshi, who was very friendly with the Franciscans, was furious when he heard this. He issued an order to arrest and execute all Christian missionaries in Japan. Among those sentenced to death were Garcia, Bautista, and three Jesuits. The prisoners had to march six hundred miles from Kyoto to Nagasaki to be crucified on a hill top. The condemned were so tired that they died almost immediately. To ensure their death, the executioners stabbed their spears into the chests of the Missionaries. The Portuguese and Japanese Christians broke the cordon and soaked in cloths the blood of the Martyrs. Pope Pius IX, in 1862, canonized these twenty-six Japanese martyrs. Brother Gonsalo Garcia became St. Gonsalo Garcia. His memory is kept alive with a Church and a College named after him in Vasai. He is the Patron Saint of the Catholic Diocese of Vasai.

This first Indian-born to attain Sainthood hailed from Agashi village in Bassein, now Vasai. His Father being Portuguese, Gonsalo was privileged to reside inside the Portuguese Fort and to study at the Jesuit School therein, while assisting at the Church of the Holy Name of Jesus. Here Gonsalo came into contact with the Jesuit Priest, Sebastião Gonçalves, who became his friend and guide throughout his life. At the age of 15, Gonsalo left Bassein with some Jesuit Missionaries headed to join their Mission in Japan. He studied Japanese and served faithfully as a Catechist for eight years moving about in public places drawing people to Christ by his amiable disposition, his fluency in the Japanese language and by his gentle and kind nature.

Disappointed at not being able to join the Jesuit Order, Gonsalo moved out and established himself as a merchant. His commercial relations brought him into contact with all ranks of Japanese society and his business flourished. During his frequent business visits to Manila he made the acquaintance of the Franciscan Friars. Gonsalo joyfully gave up his wealth to live the poverty of a Franciscan Lay-Brother. His ability to speak the Japanese language made him popular as a Catechist in Manila too.

Fr. Aubrey A. Mascarenhas SJ

Searching The Scriptures

12TH JANUARY 2022

This second session by Fr. Fio Mascarenhas questioned why we were interested in searching the scriptures. Was it just for intellectual knowledge, to enter Bible quiz contests or was it to really know Jesus as He said in Jn:5, 39- 40? "You search the scriptures because you think that in them you will have eternal life but actually my words are spirit and life."

He advocated using the method of imaginative contemplation. St. Ignatius of Loyola in his Spiritual Exercises speaks about emotional intelligence rather than intellect. He advocates imaginative contemplation. All the words and actions of Jesus can be entered into and imagined. First you should read the passage and then when you re-read it imagine yourself as vividly as possible in the situation with Jesus, as He speaks and performs His miracles. Use all your senses and engage your mind and heart. This kind of contemplation makes events of salvation possible and present for us. We can see the Gospels not as biographies but theological reconstructions of what Jesus did and so discover Jesus' humanity. How He was a happy person with a great sense of humour. As we read and visualize the scene we will actually see Jesus as human.

So we should spend time daily using this Ignatian imaginative contemplation as a form of Lectio Divina and we will not be disappointed rather, we will be rewarded. Let us not mechanically attend the Eucharist but enter into the Consecration and imagine Jesus as His body was broken and when He was on the Cross dying and as the words are spoken, we will be there in that scene. We will then experience the human Jesus who came to give us New Life.

Extract from Fr. Fio's discourse

Pope's Intentions Feb 2022



For Religious Sisters & Consecrated Women
We pray for Religious Sisters and Consecrated Women; thanking them for their mission and courage; may they continue to find new responses to the challenges of our times



Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network
INDIA

World Marriage Day

As we celebrate World Marriage Day let us reflect on the letter, by the Holy Father on 26th December, to husbands and wives around the world in "Amoris Laetitia" Year of the Family. Pope Francis encourages them to continue to walk in "the strength of Jesus' faithful love," with the help of St. Joseph and the Virgin Mary.

"Families have always been in my thoughts and prayers, but especially so during the pandemic, which has severely tested everyone, especially the most vulnerable among us. Different situations in life, the passage of time, the arrival of children, work and illness, all challenge couples to embrace anew their commitment to one another, to leave behind settled habits, certainties and security, and to set out towards the land that God promises: to be two in Christ, two in one."

The Holy Father entreats spouses, to know that their children watch them attentively; they seek in their parents the signs of a strong and reliable love. "How important it is for young people to see with their own eyes the love of Christ alive and present in the love of spouses, who testify by the reality of their lives that love for ever is possible!" Pope Francis encourages married couples, to be active in the Church, especially in her pastoral care of families. "The family is the "fundamental cell of society" (Evangelii Gaudium, 66). Marriage is an important part of the project of building the "culture of encounter" (Fratelli Tutti, 216)

"Marriage, as a vocation, calls you to steer a tiny boat. Whenever you are buffeted by rough winds and storms, do the same thing: welcome Jesus into your boat, for once he 'got into the boat with them... the wind ceased' (Mk 6:51)." It is important that, together, you keep your eyes fixed on Jesus. Only in this way, will you find peace, overcome conflicts and discover solutions to many of your problems. Those problems, of course, will not disappear, but you will be able to see them from a different perspective.

"May every family be a place of acceptance and understanding. Use the words 'please, thanks, sorry,' 'don't let the day end without making peace.' Don't be ashamed to kneel together before Jesus in the Eucharist, in order to find a few moments of peace and to look at each other with tenderness and goodness. With Jesus, you can truly build your "house on rock"

Live out your vocation with enthusiasm. Never allow your faces to grow sad or gloomy; your husband or wife needs your smile. Your children need your looks of encouragement. Your priests and other families need your presence and your joy: "the joy that comes from the Lord!" says the Holy Father.

Veena Crasto (Family Outreach)





PARISH COUNCIL HAPPENINGS January 2022

Review

1. Christmas Programmes:

The YSS team put up an outstanding display featuring all the elements of the Christmas season especially the crib which was rated as the best at a Crib Competition organized by the Shiv Sena. There were many food stalls put up by Parishioners offering a variety of Goan and East Indian delicacies. The Prison Ministry had a bumper sale of their various Christmas decorations made by the children of the Dongri and Matunga remand homes. The SPY team organised two 'Unwrap Sessions', one for Senior citizens and the other for all, which were well-patronised with participants thoroughly enjoying the singing and dancing and bonhomie of the evening. The Youth also went carol singing in some zones.

2. Christmas & New Year Services:

Following Police and BMC permission, Christmas eve Mass was held outdoors on the school grounds at 8.30pm. Attendance was restricted to Parishioners with entry passes; 700 attended the Mass. The Thanksgiving service on New Year's eve in the Church at 11.30pm followed by Mass, were both live streamed on the YouTube channel.

Agenda

1. Mission for next month: It was decided to continue with the previous month's focus on 'Understanding and Respecting the religious experience of people of other faith. Fr Aubrey inaugurated this programme with his in-depth discourse on the Islamic faith. Fr Frazer followed this up with an interactive session with the SHC members on "understanding our Religion in relation to other Religions". With tighter pandemic restrictions, physical sessions are not possible. Fr Frazer is ready to hold online sessions with cluster groups on any day or time of our convenience. He requested Heads of Communities and Associations to motivate their cluster families to participate in these sessions which will help dispel any biases or misconceptions for a more harmonious relationship with people of other faith. Fr. Frazer would appreciate suggestions from cluster families on areas of their concerns regarding other religions which could be interactively discussed at such sessions.

2. Republic Day Programme:

Flag hoisting along with an Interfaith Prayer service is proposed to be held on St. Peter's Square at 9.15 am with a limited attendance of about 25 invitees including a guest speaker. The Programme is to be live streamed on YouTube.

3. Synodal Process - Role of Laity:

Fr. Felix suggested that we need a basic foundation/understanding on the meaning of this Synodal process. He volunteered to do a 15-min PPT giving the history & background to help people understand this whole process so that they could then take an active part in it. Fr. Frazer will constitute a panel of five members – a priest, sister, a youth and two lay people, one of whom will be a senior citizen. He will give a half-hour YouTube explanation on a Wednesday (from 7:40 – 8:15 pm). Details of this session will be sent on Whatsapp. Cardinal Oswald Gracias has formed an Archdiocese Committee in which Fr. Reuben of Mount Carmel's Church is a member. They will meet and put forward the plan, which could guide us in our own Parish plan.

4. Physical Masses & Communion to the Housebound:

As many of the Priests, Sisters & Parishioners are unwell & the virus is spreading rapidly, it was decided to close the Church and have only online masses at the usual time till January end. Communion to the Housebound has been stayed till the end of this month.

AOB

Prayer for the Synod: Bishop Barthol's prayer for the success of the Synod has been WhatsApped to all cluster families. Parishioners are requested to say this prayer regularly every day.

Fr. Frazer Mascarenhas SJ

United in Christ

Zeon Taites & Marilyn Gonsalves

15th January 2022

Rest in Christ

NAME	AGE	ADDRESS
Ashley Dias	79	New Green Fields, Almeida Park
Jose Nazare Simao	85	Sahin Villa, TPS IV
Maria Santan D'souza	65	D'mello Compound
Julius Gonsalves	71	Gonsalves House, Bazar Road
Gemma D'souza	79	J.D. Alves, Hill Road
Donate L. Crasto	66	30/A, Waroda Road
Rosemary Noronha (Molly)	88	116, Bazar Road
Nestor D'mello	92	Charisma, Somnath Lane
Dominic Fernandes	81	D'mello Compound, Somnath Lane

MILESTONES



JESUS, OUR PERFECT VALENTINE

Saint Valentine's Day is celebrated on the 14th of February in honour of a clergyman of Rome who was martyred. He is the patron saint of lovers, epileptics, and beekeepers.

Believers say God worked through his life to perform miracles and teach people how to recognize and experience true love. This famous saint, an Italian doctor who later became a priest, inspired the creation of the holiday of Valentine's Day. He is supposed to have performed secret weddings against the wishes of the authorities in the third century.

Jesus is our perfect Valentine. Not only that, he is our perfect friend, rock, refuge, and Saviour! In Him, we don't have any disappointments! He never forgets about our needs. He never leaves us in the dark. He never talks badly about us (even though He would have plenty to say). He always listens. He is always there.

1 Corinthians 13: 4-7, "Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails."

TR ANDREA FERNANDES



THIS VALENTINE'S DAY LETS FOCUS ON 'LOVE' Bible verses for kids on love

LET US LOVE
ONE ANOTHER BECAUSE
LOVE IS OF GOD
(1 JOHN 4;7)

LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD
WITH ALL YOUR HEART,
ALL YOUR SOUL AND
WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH
(DEUTERONOMY 6;5)

MY CHILDREN LET US
NOT LOVE WITH WORDS
OR SPEECH BUT WHICH
SHOWS ITSELF IN ACTION
(1 JOHN 3;18)

LAUREN DABREO, GRADE 3

1. How many times does the word LOVE appear in the Bible (NIV)?

63

551

1024

227

2. Finish the verse: "We love because _____." - 1 John 4:19 (NIV)

of Jesus.

John loved us first.

God first loved us.

Jesus performed miracles.



ST. VALENTINE'S DAY WORD SEARCH

Happy Valentine's Day



F	N	K	T	T	T	G	K	I	E
G	O	T	K	N	R	T	M	N	L
L	L	R	R	I	M	U	I	G	D
Y	O	U	R	A	L	T	S	F	H
P	R	A	Y	S	N	T	S	T	E
T	B	N	G	E	R	E	I	E	V
R	C	O	L	U	M	W	R	V	O
A	D	A	E	O	L	Q	U	O	B
E	V	T	C	W	B	N	S	L	A
H	C	T	F	R	O	M	A	L	L

Search for each of the words in these sentences:

1. Trust in God with all your heart.
2. True love comes from above.
3. Saint Valentine, pray for us.



*I love the Jesus Club,
where I learn more about Jesus!
Like the time Jesus died to free us!*

*I love listening to His stories!
Stories about His glories!*

*My teachers help me understand about Him,
and help me learn...
As Jesus once said, "I will return!"*

*We sing about Jesus and praise Him too
He is there for us in our hardest
times it's true.*

DENELLE DSOUZA STD III

GOD'S LOVE by Sarah Ann Fernandes

One of God's greatest gifts to us is nature. He has trusted us with all of his creation and wants us to love and care for all things around us.

I am thankful to God everyday for this beautiful world and all its wonders. One of the most beautiful things he made in this world are the Birds. They are so abundant and beautiful in many ways.

I always take a minute to appreciate their songs and their colours. When they are still, I also try and take a photograph of them so that I can show it to my Dada later.

Some of the favourite places I go to admire God's creation includes Forests, Hills, Rivers and Lakes. It's lovely to see different birds going about their day and living in peace. It's something we can learn from them.

SARAH ANN FERNANDES STD III

Which bird did Noah first send out of the ark?

When Noah sent out a bird from the ark a second time it returned with a branch from an olive tree Which bird was it?

How many birds of each kind did Noah bring onto the ark?

