



Building a Faith Community for Service

KEYSTONE NEWSLETTER

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

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JULY 2022



What To Do In The Face Of Persecution

India has become the place of persecution: religious persecution and political persecution.

Religious persecution is evident in the rising cases of attacks against religious groups that form minority communities – visible in violence especially against Muslims but also against Christians in rising numbers. Several Christian organisations that are monitoring this in India see an alarming upward trend, so much so that the Bishop of Bangalore and others have filed a case in the Supreme Court, requesting judicial intervention. Churches, assemblies of Christians for prayer, Christian Schools and individual Christians have all come under violent attack and harassment in recent months.

Political persecution is evident in the number of lawyers, professors, students, journalists, human rights defenders and other critics of the establishment, who have been jailed in harsh conditions, with very serious charges but little evidence produced in Courts. An accusation is enough to inflict years of punishment without conviction. Fr. Stan Swamy S.J. is a prime example. And when the honourable judges of the Supreme Court themselves declare that litigants, who challenge the Government of the day, should be put “in the dock” and made to pay, as has happened in the Zakia Jafri and Teesta Setalvad case, then one knows

that the license for persecution is coming from the highest levels.

Right through its history, Christians have faced persecution, with faith and humility, ready to suffer for the faith and for the cause of justice and truth. Peacefully resisting injustice has been the chosen way for millions of Christians, strengthened by Christ's presence in the Eucharist and in the daily struggle. The rights of the poor, of dalits, of tribals and of minority communities, must be defended, even if we ourselves have not yet been ‘touched’ by persecution. Prayer is a powerful force and it often inspires direct action on the side of the persecuted. May we in our Parishes of Bandra show wisdom and courage in this situation of persecution! We cannot remain silent and uninvolved with the people suffering.

Fr. Frazer Mascarenhas SJ





Leon-Ignace Mangin, SJ (Died 1900)

Feast
9th JULY

Leo Ignatius Mangin, a French Jesuit priest, was martyred along with a thousand Chinese Catholics while they prayed in the Parish Church of Zhujiahe during the Boxer Rebellion in China in the year 1900.

Leon studied with the Christian Brothers and entered the Society of Jesus in 1875, studied philosophy at Louvain and taught in Liege for a while before he was appointed to the China Mission. China had signed a treaty with France that allowed Catholic missionaries to enter China. Fr. Mangin was stationed at Zhujiahe, a small town which received an influx of refugees from the neighbouring persecuted areas. He studied the Chinese language and successfully built up Small Christian Communities in the Chinese villages.

The Boxers (nicknamed because of their vigorous activities) were a secret Chinese Society, determined to eradicate the vibrant Christian communities. They forced everyone to observe indigenous Religious Traditions and to observe Chinese Festivals in honour of China's deities. Catholics who were faithful to a Foreign Faith were persecuted and martyred. Foreigners were expelled from China.

Fr. Mangin was aware that the Boxers would one day invade his area. He prepared his people to defend themselves with fortified towns and stockpiling supplies. The Boxers repeatedly attacked Zhujiahe but the Christians were able to repel them. However, when 2,000 soldiers of the Imperial Army provided reinforcements to the Boxers, Jesuits Mangin and Denn gathered the men, women and children into the Parish Church and prepared for certain death. Some people left secretly by night, but the two Jesuits chose to stay and be martyred with their flock. As the sounds of gunfire grew louder and closer, some women began to panic. Fr. Mangin calmed them down saying: "Just a few minutes more and we will all be in heaven."

The Boxers broke down the Church doors and confronted the praying Catholics giving them one last chance to renounce their Faith. Then the massacre began. With the first round of gunfire, Fr Denn intoned the Confiteor and Fr Mangin pronounced the words of Absolution as they fell down on the Altar of holocaust. The brutal Boxers fired indiscriminately into the Congregation and slashed at people with swords before setting fire to the Church. The burnt remains of the martyrs remained in the place of sacrifice for a whole year till they were collected and buried in the new Church erected on the same site. The death toll that day totalled 1,370 Catholics.

The "Martyrs of China" comprised nearly 30,000 Christians, mostly Chinese Laypeople, a few Foreign Missionaries, including Fr. Mangin and three other Jesuits. The blood of these martyrs still nourishes the Faith of the Church in China, Priests and Laity. Fr. Leon Mangin and 120 of his fellow martyrs were canonized by Pope John Paul II, in the year 2000.

Fr. Aubrey A. Mascarenhas SJ

Use Of Technology For Evangelization

An extract from Pope Francis' address

In a **message** delivered to the Society of Saint Paul on June 18, Pope Francis encouraged the Catholic religious congregation to continue “using the most effective and up-to-date means of communication to bring the Good News to people where and how they live.”

He told the priests, who work in a communications apostolate, not to forget St. Paul’s message in the Letter to the Romans to not be conformed to this age, but to be transformed by the renewal of their minds. “Paul does not say transform the world, but... ‘let yourselves be transformed,’ that is, make room for the only subject who can transform you: the Holy Spirit, the Grace of God” he said.

“It is therefore first of all the mentality that must be changed, converted, and assimilated to that of Jesus, in order to help spread in society a way of thinking and living based on the Gospel. This is a great challenge for the Church...” Pope Francis added.

“Indeed, it is not enough to use the means of communication to spread the Christian message and the Magisterium of the Church; it is necessary to integrate the message itself into the new culture created by modern communication,” he said.

“From St. Paul you learn anew the passion for the Gospel and the missionary spirit, which being born from his ‘pastoral heart,’ pushed him to make himself everything to everyone,” Pope Francis wrote in the message delivered to the Pauline priests.

“And now, after the early days of euphoria for technological innovations, we are aware that it is not enough to live ‘online’ or ‘connected,’ we need to see to what extent our communication, enriched by the digital environment, actually creates bridges and contributes to the construction of the culture of encounter,” he said.

Pope Francis warned in his impromptu comments that there is much “disinformation” in today’s media, “where one thing is said but many others are hidden.” The Pope said that “bad communication distorts reality.” He called on the media apostolate not only to communicate clearly, but to help “redeem communication from the state it is in today” - full of slander and scandals.

“We must make sure that this does not happen in our communication of the faith... that the message comes precisely from our vocation, from the Gospel, crisp, clear, and witnessed with our own lives,” he said.





Ekatvam - One For All

Yay! We have finally re-christened our group. Yes, you guessed right, the Singles Support Group is now called “Ekatvam – One for All”. And of course, we are indeed committed to be there for each other.

The word “Ekatvam” of Sanskrit origin means oneness, a single cell organism with a singular identity and unity. At the spiritual level, it indicates a merging into the existence of the Lord.

We have since crafted a Vision for Ekatvam - **To support, equip and encourage Single Adults to grow spiritually and to live productive and fulfilling lives as they take on the personal, professional and social challenges of being Single by creating opportunities for fellowship, service and transformation.**

In line with our Vision, we have developed a three-fold Mission Statement to address the following:

- 1. Individual and Spiritual Transformation*
- 2. Intra Group Support and Relations*
- 3. Welfare of the Community at large*

So, all you ‘Singles’ out there, what are you waiting for? We are open to all Single Adults above 30 years of age across Mumbai. Do get enriched through mutual benefit as our tagline goes - “One for All”, and do get in touch with Brian on 9820432522 or Victoria on 9619826922 to join us in our journey to a fulfilling and productive life’s work.

Vanessa



Inter - Parish Tournaments

26th June 2022, a Sunday that saw some much-needed fun family time, team building and community spirit as we celebrated our Parish Feast, after having had to skip celebrations for the last couple of years. We the St. Peters Youth (SPY) collaborated with the Youth Social Service (YSS) group from our parish to organise inter-parish tournaments, which saw parishes like St. Andrews, Mount Carmel's and St. Michaels participating. A gloomy day that was brightened by all the teams, cheerleaders and the various stalls put up by our parishioners, serving appetizing homemade delicacies.

The day started with sports competitions like "Blind Throw ball" and "Football Cricket".



Blind throw ball a game conceptualized by the YSS was an interesting spin off on the regular throw ball, where the net was replaced with a black screen which basically blindsided the opponent. What left us all blindsided but super excited was Fr. Assis and Fr. Praful playing for our B team. Enjoyed by teams as well as the audience this tournament was the highlight of the day.

The Football Cricket tournament was held on the St. Peter's turf which saw participation from enthusiastic teams, especially the 45 plus age group.

Special thanks to Rev. Fr. Reuben Tellis, Parish Priest of Mount Carmel's Church, all the cheerleaders and mascots who cheered their teams and added to fun and ambience.

A special shout out to all our Parish fathers especially Fr. Frazer our Parish Priest and our Youth Director Fr. Assis for all their support and encouragement and in the background as always, the silent but strong support of Sr. Althiya and all the Sisters of St. Joseph's Convent.

A feast day that ended with a lot of laughter, merriment, great team bonding and loads of memories.

Team S.P.Y. (St. Peters Youth)

A New Provincial For The Bombay Province Of The Society Of Jesus



We are happy to announce that Fr. Anil Pereira S.J., well-known at St. Peter's Parish, has been appointed Provincial of the Bombay Jesuits and takes over on the 3rd of July.

Fr. Anil did his Diaconate Ministry in our Parish and after his ordination in 2008 continued to serve us as Assistant Parish Priest till the end of that academic year. He has been involved in Jesuit Formation work since then, first in charge of candidates who intend to join the Jesuits and who spend a year at Vinayalaya, Andheri, as "pre-novices" and for the last 5 years, was Novice Master at Belgaum: a Novitiate that serves several Provinces in India including the Bombay Province.

Fr. Anil, at 45 years, is one of our youngest Provincials in recent times and specializes in Ignatian spirituality. He is from Gonsalo Garcia Parish, Gaas, in Vasai, and speaks fluent Marathi, English and even Spanish. We welcome Fr. Anil and pray for gifts of discernment and leadership in the years ahead.

We also thank Fr. Arun de Souza S.J. - the outgoing Provincial, for his assistance to our Parish and School during the last 5 ½ years, especially for assigning many valuable men to the ministry on campus, inspite of the declining numbers. We wish him a fulfilling academic ministry ahead in a University in Zimbabwe for the coming year.

Fr. Frazer Mascarenhas SJ, Parish Priest

Welcome To The New Member Of The Jesuit Team

Jesuit Fr. Fabian Barreto has been appointed to our Parish as Assistant Parish Priest from June 2022. Fr. Fabian completed his Electronics and Telecommunication Engineering and then worked for five years, three years of which were as a Marine Electrical Engineer on board the ship. He then joined the Jesuits in June 1996. After completing his Jesuit formation he was ordained in 2005. From then, till date, Fr. Fabian has been teaching in the Department of Electronics and Telecommunication, Xavier Institute of Engineering, Mahim where he will continue to teach. Presently he is also pursuing his PhD studies in Deep Learning, a subset of Artificial Intelligence. His interests include scripture studies, meditation and art. We welcome Fr. Fabian and look forward to his special contribution to our Parish.



Fr. Baptist Pinto SJ



Accolades To Elton Namory

Elton Namory is a resident of Bandra and an ex-student of St. Stanislaus High School. He graduated in Commerce from HR College, Mumbai in May 2008. Thereafter, he joined St. Pope Pius X College (Seminary) in Goregaon on 21st June 2008.

He was ordained by His Eminence Cardinal Oswald Gracias on 9th April 2016. His first posting was as an Assistant Parish Priest at Good Shepherd Church, Andheri for 2 years.



In 2018, he was then appointed as the Secretary to the Cardinal at Archbishop's House Bombay. In October 2020, he was sent to Rome for further studies in Canon Law.

During the course of his studies, now in 2022 he has been accepted to the Diplomatic Services of the Vatican. Simultaneously, he will continue his studies for his Master's degree.

As a person he is gentle, soft spoken, focused and systematic. He enjoys travelling, trying out new foods, music, singing and plays the guitar as well.

Christ's saying, 'I have come that you may have life and life in all its abundance'. (Jn 10:10) is his personal motto.

Pope's Intention July 2022



For the Elderly

We pray for the Elderly, who represent the roots and the memory of a people; may their experience and wisdom help young people to look towards the future with hope and responsibility



Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network
INDIA

S.S.C. Results For The Academic Year 2021 - 2022

St. Stanislaus' High School

Appeared	198
Success Rate %	97.97
Distinction	81
Grade I	87
Grade II	23
Pass Grade	3
Failed	4

St. Joseph's Convent High School

Appeared	246
Success Rate	96.34
Distinction	82
Grade I	100
Grade II	47
Pass Grade	8
Failed	4
Re-exam	6

Students with distinction over 90%

St. Stanislaus' High School

Doshi Aaditya Kiran	94.8
More Sairaj	92.8
Michael Zeal	92.0
Gavankar Mayuresh	91.8
Tiwari Ayush	90.4
Singh Tushar	90.0

St. Joseph's Convent High School

Priti Gupta	94.6
Khadija Markar	93.8
Yaseera Memon	93.6
Mabel D'souza	93.4
Sarah Memon	93.4
Hafsa Shaikh	92.2
Malaisha Kapur	91.6
Conchita D'souza	91.2
Sneha Gupta	90.2
Sara Salvi	90.0



“Refill” Is A Choice... Let’s Make It Ours!

Thanks to all who participated in the
‘Refill Revolution Campaign’
organised by the Care for Creation Group (CCG)
on 4th and 5th June, 2022 @ St. Peter’s Square.



These happy shoppers chose to be re-fillers, purchasing products without packaging - a commitment to reduce single-use plastic.

All future refills of these household products can be ordered on WhatsApp +91 9321619095 to be delivered @ your doorstep.

Janet D’Souza, CCG Member





The Parish Council held a 2-day residential meeting on June 11th and 12th at St. Stanislaus Villa, Lonavala to chalk out the vision for the Parish and action plan for the year commencing June 2022.

Day 1 – June 11th

Members, divided into 4 groups brainstormed on the vision for our Parish, the Church and the world at large in the light of the Pope's recent changes in Canon Law and in the Vatican, the current situation in our country & in the world. Salient points are summarised below:

Related to the Church

- i) The Church must inspire a “God” experience in the people. The Church today is like the mobile with Apps – we have the mobile (the Church) and Apps (different cells/organisations/activities). We are so caught up in the “Apps” that there is much danger of us forgetting about the God-experience and thus, the App becomes an end in itself.
- ii) The Church should be outgoing. We come to Church to experience God and then go out to ‘love and serve’ Him in His people outside the Church.
- iii) The Church needs to be more politically active – collectively through BCS or through the Citizen Forum where issues can be taken up.

Related to the Parish & Community

- i) Parish activities should motivate more participation by the laity and young people.
- ii) More frequent social outreach programmes for differently abled and the marginalised.
- iii) Interact with other Parishes through events like Bible Quiz, tournaments, etc.
- iv) Community Fellowship through Zonal masses, outreach to missionary institutions, pilgrimages, homes for the aged, etc.
- v) Attend to the needs of the housebound, seniors/elderly.
- vi) Faith formation sessions, personal and online for a deeper understanding of the Faith and Scripture.

Related to the Youth

- i) Encourage Youth to take greater part in Parish Associations.
- ii) Be sensitive to their ideas and thought processes. Being judgmental will only alienate them.

Related to people of other faiths

- i) Respect their beliefs and traditions. Dialogue (do not debate) with them, to get a better understanding of their values and their ‘God’ experience.
- ii) Build solidarity and harmony by joint programmes like the Dandiya and Iftaar to celebrate their festivals; inviting them to participate in our Zonal functions and outreach programmes; organise pilgrimages to their religious shrines.

General

- i) Start a Bureau with a database of Plumbers, Electricians, Carpenters, Nurses, Doctors, Lawyers, Needle work specialists (Embroidery, Crochet) etc available in the Parish.
- ii) Provide “skill-training” to those looking for a job.
- iii) Help migrants in their search for employment and in the education of their children

DAY 2 - 12th June 2022

Nature Prayer - Fr. Fabian initiated the programme with a Nature Prayer, making us mindful of all God's creations – the chirping of the birds, the smell of the woods, beauty of the fruits & flowers amidst this green carpeted hill-station.

The first session on the 2nd day focused on how to make our Parish function effectively and how to implement suggestions made in the Parish Synodal Questionnaire.





1. Messages received in the Suggestion Box

- i) Resume the 6:45 am Mass.
- ii) Cleaning of the Church premises thoroughly.
- iii) Improve quality of life of people in the area.
- iv) Lobby for the cleaning up of the roads, particularly after the hawkers at night.
- v) Priests going on home visits for Holy Communion distribution should not leave out anyone.

2. Action on the responses to the Synod Questionnaire

- i) Lay participation in the Church - Once a month, starting from Laity Sunday June 26, a lay person or Religious Sister will share his/her experience.
- ii) Faith Formation: suggested we do it Zone-wise or Association-wise.

3. Making every Eucharist meaningful & focus on living our daily lives (Jesus on Mission)

- i) Priests' homilies should impart a deeper understanding of our faith to realise our duty & role as Catholics; co-relate the Gospel as applicable to daily living; give a message for each day.
- ii) The reflection on the readings should lead to the "why". We are so focused on the readings that the "why" & "how" of our Mission with Jesus gets lost.

4. Catering to a multi-lingual congregation

- i) Masses in Hindi, Gujarati, Konkani have begun; perhaps at our English masses, one Reading/Hymn in Hindi/Gujarati/Marathi may be considered especially on Feast Days.
- ii) Catechism for Baptism in other languages could be started if found necessary.

5. Changes you would like to see in the Church

- i) Allow for women Deacons. The Pope has appointed a Commission for this to be studied. We could support this process by creating awareness of the need.
- ii) The Sisters perhaps would be best suited to play the role of Deacon.


6. Motivating more young people into Church activities

- i) Co-ordinators/Animators should find out from the youth in their zones, reasons for non-participation. Then they, along with the parents, could convince them to join as Lectors, Cantors, Eucharistic Ministers, members of Women's Cell, BCS etc.
- ii) Organize specific youth-oriented activities. Encourage them to share at Masses.
- iii) Each Co-ordinator should send in one new boy/girl to attend the Youth meetings

7. Areas of Faith/Morality I would like the Church to change

- i) Doctrine on Contraception - A programme will be organised to present the teachings of the Church on this topic.
- ii) Abortion is an absolute 'NO'.
- iii) Priests' Celibacy - This issue arises from the lack of Priests in certain areas. Our situation does not yet warrant this.

8. Activities the Church needs to pay more attention to

- i) Civic Action** - The Church urges its parishioners to actively take part in civic action through ALMs, Citizens Forum, BCS etc.
 - ii) IAS & Civil Services** - BCS will help in training & funding interested youth to some extent. At Confirmation catechesis or as part of the Career Guidance Counselling, youth should be motivated to join these services.
 - iii) Justice issues** - The Church hierarchy cannot get involved with this. Lay people can co-operate with Human Rights Groups. The BCS is touching upon this too.
 - iv) Environment, Health, Education issues** - The Parish is exploring ways to do this. Parishioners' suggestions are welcome
 - v) Support Rural Parishes** - St. Stanislaus is linked to Manmad and St. Peter's to Ashagad and Uplat. With funding becoming problematic, we look forward to your support.
- 

vi) Sexual Harassment & Abuse Committee - We will be forming a Committee for this. Anyone from the Parish who is a Social Worker, Lawyer, anyone involved with Women Issues through an NGO can inform the Parish Priest of availability. A Sister & a PPC member too could be part of this Group.

vii) Form a Professional Committee for help in Church & Property Matters - We already have lawyers helping us with Church matters. We need a Committee to handle Family issues. Meanwhile, when such issues arise, the Jesuit Zone Priest & Co-ordinator must look into the matter & try to resolve the issue appropriately.

viii) Fostering Inter-Faith harmony & integration:

a. Can be done through Pilgrimages, ALMs, celebrating different festivals.

b. Explanation of Festivals of other Faith during the Eucharist are meant to give a setting to our Eucharist, since we cannot ignore what is happening to people around.

ix) Educate Catholics on the Indian Constitution and ways to protect the values of the Preamble -

Invite speakers on days like Independence Day etc. The challenge here is the audience size (as very few attend). Think of ways & means we can do this.

x) Mechanism to express your views about the Church:

a) Suggestions are welcome in the suggestion box which will be opened bi-monthly.

b) Questions & the answers will be put on the Board (anonymously) for the benefit of all.

Fr. Frazer Mascarenhas SJ

MILESTONES

Born in Christ

Riyon Parmar
James Dwayne Fishery

S/o Kelvin & Sheron Parmar
S/o Dwayne & Stacey Fishery

United in Christ

Joshua Thakur & Monica Tirkey

D'monte Street

Rest in Christ

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AGE

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Peterson Pereira

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Gita Coelho

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14, Cassias, Turner Road

Audrey Pais

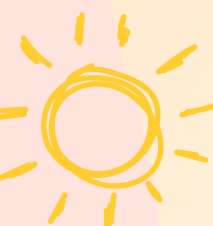
94

8, Loyola House, St. Peter's Colony



Welcoming The New Academic Year 2022-23 With Flourish!

Our lil' cutie-pies get creative about **GOD'S CREATION**



'Finally after 2 years, physical classes are back with a swing. What better than starting with our Lord's creation of our great, big, wonderful world. View our tiny tots, as they create beautiful art expressions of God's first word known to man **'Let there Be Light'**'.

The Jesus Club looks forward to spreading this Light to everyone we meet through our interactive expression, prayer and faith formation, but most especially with all our children in this new academic year.'

We request all parents to encourage your children to join the Jesus Club and have fun while learning all about Jesus, every Sunday at our 8 am Children's Mass, followed by just an hour of Sunday School.

Parents, don't let your kids miss out on 'Walking with Jesus' and thoroughly enjoy doing so!

