

Pallotti Notes

Apr - Jun 2011

Vinpal Family of God moving towards a Society where Love & Concern within the Family & Neighborhood is a Way of Life



Easter says you can put Truth in a grave, but it wont stay there



**As members of the
Parish family we,
Frs. Claudy,
Caetano & Reehan,
wish all the families
A Grace Filled Easter.**

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Inviting articles for the next issue

latest by 15th May, 2011.

The theme is 'Family'

Let me begin this way

"It was the April of 1865. The slain body of Abraham Lincoln lay in state for a few brief hours in Cleveland, Ohio, on its final journey to Springfield, Illinois. A poor black woman held her child up to see the 56-year old President's face. As she did, she said slowly and reverently. "Take a long, long look honey. That man died for you."

What that poor black woman said to her child could be said to all of us about Jesus, **"TAKE A LONG, LONG LOOK! THAT MAN DIED FOR YOU."** On Good Friday, as we prepare ourselves to celebrate that *"Death on the cross which gave us Life,"* we too will be taking that 'long look at the man, who died for us.' His death, burial and resurrection was with the sole purpose to defeat death. He is the gate way to new and everlasting life.

There is an old Celtic legend about a bird, which sings only once in its life. It sings that single song more sweetly than any other creature on the face of this earth. From the moment it leaves its nest, this bird searches for a thorn tree and does not rest until it has found one. Having found the thorn tree the bird sings among the tree's savage branches and impales itself on the longest, sharpest spine. Then, dying, it rises above its own agony to out-carol the lark and the nightingale. The whole world stills to listen and God in his heaven smiles. The best is accomplished at the cost of the greatest pain, so says the legend.

Jesus is the thorn-bird of the Heavenly Father who has found His thorn-tree at last. The gospels portray Him as pursuing His quest for the thorn tree from the very inception of His ministry. He himself says *"...He must go to Jerusalem: that he would suffer many things from the Jewish authorities, the chiefpriests and the teachers of the law; and that He would be killed and be raised on the third day."*

Jesus knew very well that dying is the one and only way to life. This is the reason He said to Peter, *"Get behind me Satan! You are an obstacle in my path. You are thinking not as God does, but as people do."* Dying was necessary to gain life. Often we fail to understand that. Jesus knew exactly that – that's why he said, *"Unless a grain of wheat falls to the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much fruit."* The lasting glory comes only through pain, suffering and death. This is what the holy week services would unfold to us. Good Friday which symbolizes pain, shedding of blood, carrying the heavy cross, falling on the rock, dying – leads to resurrection which symbolizes victory over sin, pain, death, devil. We too are called to rise above little things to enjoy new life. May the Risen Christ bless us all.

HAPPY EASTER AND NEW LIFE TO YOU...

Fr. Reehan S. Antony
Editor

Easter Message

Lent is one of the most important seasons of the church's year because it is a time of penitence, an introspective period during which we take stock of our lives and relationships to discover and change what we must to prepare for Easter and experience the spiritual renewal that comes when we engage in such exercises. We shall shortly enter into the Holy Week, the most sacred days in the church's year to celebrate the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus, the feast of Easter. So it's a time to ask ourselves. Have we used the season of lent to prepare for Easter? Are we satisfied with our preparations for Easter? Has prayer, fasting and almsgiving drawn us closer to God and strengthened our relationship in the family or in the neighbourhood?

It just shows how committed the parishioners are to their parish and to caring for each other and the wider community. During this Lenten season there was lot of involvement of the members of the communities, associations and cells of our parish in the spiritual and pastoral activities of the church. This is one of the messages of Easter. It reminds us that life is worth living, that the risen Jesus proclaims: Lean on God's love and believe in God's power to sustain you and to raise you from your dark and lonely places. Easter is the good news that the risen Jesus is in our midst ready to work miracles for us, if we let him. It's the good news that nothing can defeat us anymore- not discouragement, not pain, not misfortune, not even death. It's the good news that Jesus has triumphed, and so will we, if we open our hearts to him.

Easter reminds us that every Good Friday in our lives will have an Easter Sunday and that Jesus will let us share the power of his resurrection. Each time we ignore a rejection of love by others, we share in the power of the resurrection. Each time we face a betrayal of trust, but try to trust again, we share in the resurrection of Jesus. In short, the message of Easter is that nothing can destroy us- neither pain, sin, rejection, nor death, because Christ has conquered all these and we too can conquer them if we put our faith in Him.

May all in the parish be blessed this Easter and may this special time be for all of us a personal experience with hearts united in the Risen Lord. May the light of the Resurrection fill you once again and remain with you throughout the year. May the Risen Lord fill us with His lasting peace and celestial joy and also our homes, parish and nations of the world.

WISH YOU ALL A HAPPY EASTER

Fr. Claudy Vas
Parish Priest.



SMILE



In the twilight of our lives, there's not much we can do and nothing much we can give except one thing that costs nothing – a smile. The lives of many less fortunate people can be brightened by a kind word or deed and above all, a smile – “when you're smiling, the whole world smiles with you” – so goes an old saying. A person always smiling, doesn't mean that they have no problems. It only goes to show that they have the ability to face all problems with a smile. So let's keep on smiling.

A smile works wonders. A smile cannot be begged, bought, borrowed or stolen. It enriches those who receive it. It happens in a flash and the memory of it lasts forever. None are so rich that they can get along without it. And none are poor that they cannot be richer for its benefits. It creates happiness in the home, fosters goodwill in business and is the countersign of friends.

When tragedy strikes and a dear one departs, have a good cry for a while, then smile. When wrongly criticized don't be sour or bitter, but smile. It is a magic cure. A sunbeam that lights a room. A candlelight that destroys darkness and the wand that begins a friendship. It is the friendliest five letter word. So, in the course of the day, if you see someone too tired to give you a smile, why not give them one of yours?

Contributed by Jacintha D'Souza
Udyan

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Contact – **ILENS BARRETTO**
Ph: 9833243554 / 29208899
Email : ilens@rediffmail.com

THE DIVINE MISS UNIVERSE

When Jesus required someone to reach out to Him, Mary was there...standing next to Him. But...there are so many people around us, who are also waiting for us. Do we stretch our hand?

MARY was the first and true disciple of Jesus. She walked with Him to Calvary and when He was dying on the cross, even as His friends abandoned Him, and everyone insulted Him, Mary stood by the Cross. How much pain and sorrow she must have experienced. Yet, she stood there silently, showing no anger or hatred against anyone. She just believed in her son. She had faith and trust in God the Father, and Jesus knew and felt her presence. Jesus loves us so much that just before He died, He gave us His wonderful mother to guide us closer to Him.

As she stood by Jesus, Mary will also stand by us, come what may. All we need to do is put our trust in God and hold our Mother's loving hand, as she leads us to her Son Jesus.

In this television era, when we stay glued to the TV channels for hours, to watch 'Miss World' and 'Miss Universe' live, we have forgotten our most adorable mother who is 'THE TRUE DIVINE MISS UNIVERSE' – picture perfect, bold and beautiful, epitome of compassion, elegant, forgiving – a woman of substance.

Can we then follow Mary's example, by being there for family / friends when they need us? By standing up in support for the right cause? By speaking up against injustice? We have to question our Jesus discipleship. The path is difficult, but a beginning has to be made. Let it not be, as a poet rightly put it...

*"There were two roads, which diverged into the woods,
but I took the one, less used by the others..."*

Robert Fernandes
(Usher's Ministry)



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

Have we ever stolen few moments from our so called busy schedule to admire the beautiful creation designed by the wonderful architect, called 'Almighty'?

The book of Genesis tells us about the beginning of the creation. The Almighty made earth, water, animals, birds and plants. He then gave to His most beautiful creation 'man', dominion over everything on earth and God saw that all He created was 'Good'. Can we proudly say that everything is 'Still Good'? Think about it. Isn't it ironical that the most beautiful creation of God is destroying his fellow creation due to a selfish and materialistic attitude?

There was a time when the earth looked beautiful covered with thousands of species of animals and green plants and trees. But felling of trees for land / wood and killing of animals for pleasure / money, has caused a major imbalance in the nature. And nature is paying a huge price for the greed of man. Toxic industrial wastes pollute the air we breathe, the water we drink and it greatly endangers the habitat of all living species that the Almighty has created. God has blessed man with the intelligence to survive, but man has misused it for his own selfish needs. Global warming is one of the results of his activities and the effect of it is disastrous.

We forget that we are misusing the authority given to us by God – we need to respect it. Creation is God's gift to us. To disrespect creation, is to disrespect God Himself. Being grateful for this Gift of God and cherishing it, will prove our love for the Creator.

Severina D'souza
Sisters Adorers Hostel.



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“IF YOU WANT TO CULTIVATE”



Creation is the beginning and the foundation of God's works. For the 43rd World Day of Peace, the theme: 'If You Want to Cultivate Peace, Protect Creation' is being aptly chosen by our beloved Pope. With the Psalmist, we can exclaim with wonder: "When I look at Your heavens, the work of Your hands, the moon and the stars which You have established; what is man that You are mindful of him, and the son of man that You care for him?" (Ps 8:4-5). Contemplating the beauty of creation inspires us to recognize the love of our Creator.

St. Francis of Assisi, the heavenly patron of those who promote ecology offers Christians an example of genuine and deep respect for the integrity of creation. As a friend of the poor who was loved by God's creatures, St. Francis invited all of creation to give honor and praise to the Lord. In 1971, on the eightieth anniversary of Leo XIII's Encyclical *Rerum Novarum*, Paul VI pointed out that "by an ill-considered exploitation of nature (man) risks destroying it and becoming in his turn the victim of this degradation". In our day, there is a growing awareness that world peace is threatened not only by the arms race, regional conflicts and continued injustices among peoples and nations, but also by a lack of due respect for nature. If man is not at peace with God, then earth itself cannot be at peace: "Therefore the land mourns and all who dwell in it languish, and also the beasts of the field and the birds of the air and even the fish of the sea are taken away" (Hos 4:3). The Second Vatican Ecumenical Council reminds us that "God has destined the earth and everything it contains for all peoples and nations".

The painful realization is that gradual depletion of the ozone layer and the related "greenhouse effect" has now reached crisis proportions as a consequence of industrial growth, massive urban concentrations and vastly increased energy needs. Faced with a range of troubling manifestations, let us consider a double challenge: one of personal conversion and change of lifestyle and one of social change. The technologically advanced societies must be prepared to encourage more sober lifestyles.

Twenty years ago, Pope John Paul II in his Message for the World Day of Peace, called for an education in ecological responsibility: responsibility for oneself, for others and for the earth. Churches and religious bodies, non-governmental and governmental organizations, indeed all members of society, have a precise role to play in such education. The first educator, however, is the family, where the child learns to respect his neighbor and to love nature. It should also be part of our catechetical programs and our educational approach in Catholic schools on all levels. Above all, we must be alive with the conviction that we can do something. Hope is the hallmark of the Christian. What may seem to be a simple slogan now becomes an efficacious prayer: Peace with God - Peace with All of Creation.

Ancy J. Crasta

Sister Adorers Hostel

“IF YOU WANT TO CULTIVATE”

A baby fish to her mother fish: Why can't we live on earth?

Mother fish: Earth is not the place for fish; it is made for the selfish.

Yes, today we are living in a world, traveling through a time that expects everything to be fast and on the move – fast food, speed travel, fast sports and fast communication. No one has time, especially for others. Not realizing that the end result of this fast moving world is chaos, disorientation in life, and missing out on values of life.



In a country of multiple religions, languages and cultures like India, where regular natural calamities occur due to selfish use of the natural resources and violence is rampant in class / caste differences, it becomes a difficult task to attain peace that Jesus speaks of. How do we then, attain peace? First and foremost, we need to accept the pluralism of religions, cultures and languages and understand that unity, not in uniformity but in diversity, is the need of the hour. We have to discern whether or not we can adjust ourselves to accommodate the other's viewpoint for the sake of peace in the community as well as to win over people.

God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth” [Gen 1:28].

In the beginning when God created the human beings, He created them in His own image and likeness and He created them male and female and gave them dominion over the earth. God gave the earth to human beings not to lord over but to take care of it. These many years we have failed to understand the responsibility that God gave to us. We were to take care of God's creation but we have only taken care of ourselves using the creation for our own selfish motives. We have imbalanced and destroyed the earth by pollution, deforestation and abuse of natural resources. It is time to take on responsibility and look at practical solutions to protect God's creation for the future generations. We won't find alternatives for water and air therefore, we need to protect and not pollute them. We need to curb the unnecessary use of vehicles to reduce smoke and noise pollution.

Gaudium et spes [a document of Vatican II] no. 69 says, “God has destined the earth and all it contains for all men and all peoples so that all created things would be shared by all mankind under the guidance of justice tempered by charity. No matter what the structures of property are in different peoples, according to various and changing circumstances and adapted to their lawful institutions, we must never lose sight of this universal destination of earthly goods.”

These words are important, if I want to create peace and protect the creation. It is in giving that we gain.

Miss Severina

The Vinpal Diary

BORN IN CHRIST

9-1-2011	Pearl T. Collaco	E-501 Akruti Aneri CHS
23-1-2011	Katriel D'Souza	3/308 Aakar CHS
23-1-2011	Vivaan D'Souza	B3/14 Vijaynagar
23-1-2011	Anushka T. D'Silva	Mulund (W)
23-1-2011	Caton D'Penha	C-108 Sneh Sarovar, M.Rd
27-2-2011	Aaron Dsouza	Wadala
27-2-2011	Royston Fernandes	C-604 Nilgiri Apts., M.Rd
5-3-2011	Alaina M. Fernandes	2/A Shanti Apts. No. 2, M.Rd
6-3-2011	Jerrin Christopher	Unit 22, Aarey Milk Colony
6-3-2011	Vinisha Shetty	Goregaon (W)
13-3-2011	Angel Brahmane	Marol Police Camp
27-3-2011	Trysten J. Gonsalves	501 Shanti Tower, M.Rd



JOINED IN CHRIST

2-1-2011	Austin Rodrigues & Marissa Fernandes
2-1-2011	Rufus Pinto & Natasha Cardoza
4-1-2011	Mustafa Arsiwala & Jovita D'souza
9-1-2011	Rohan Lazrado & Viola Tellis
9-1-2011	Austin Pereira & Brencie D'cunha
16-1-2011	Martin Chettiar & Tresa Chettiar
23-1-2011	Sachin Singhani & Crichelle Mendonca
23-1-2011	James Fernandes & Caroline Chettiar
5-2-2011	Allwyn Monteiro & Michelle Rodrigues
6-2-2011	Jonas Diminieux & Vanessa Pereira
12-2-2011	Jason Gonsalves & Janice D'souza
12-2-2011	Joe Chettiar & Maria Chettiar
13-2-2011	Gilbert Chettiar & Arokia Mary Rayar
19-2-2011	Nikhil Palekar & Reshmi Choudhary
19-2-2011	Ryan Lobo & Shettal Shetty
26-2-2011	Anthony Dias & Meena D'souza
27-2-2011	Sunil Lobo & Vidya Serrao
5-3-2011	Agnel Thevar & Bhuvana Raghunathan

REST IN CHRIST

3-1-2011	Arthur B. Pereira	9/4/1 Bhawani Nagar
25-1-2011	Angelina Fernandes	LT 27/22 Vijaynagar
29-1-2011	Luisa S. Fernandes	B-104 Sneh Sarovar, M.Rd
8-2-2011	Lazarus Almeida	6/5/1 Bhawani Nagar
9-2-2011	Tressa Manikkam	6/4/6 Bhawani Nagar
13-2-2011	Joseph F. Gonsalves	2/7/10 Bhawani Nagar
26-2-2011	Margaret D'Souza	Karnataka
8-3-2011	Anthony Samy	Vile Parle
12-3-2011	Bernard Dias	17/4/2 Bhawani Nagar
1-4-2011	Frederick Coutto	E/4-11 Vijaynagar
2-4-2011	Urban D'Souza	A2-101 Lok Yamuna M.Rd



SNAPSHOTS

- 14-22 Jan : Novenas to our patron St. Vincent Pallotti were conducted
- 23 Jan : Feast of our patron
- Cultural programme in the evening organized by Sunday School. The new provincial Very Rev. Fr. Camilo Simoes was felicitated
- 12 Mar : Eucharistic Adoration Vigil organized by the Confirmation catechists
- 13 Mar : Sunday School Annual Day
- 27-31 Mar : English Lenten Missions
- 3-7 April : Konkani Lenten Missions
- 9 April : Lenten Pilgrimage trip to Uttan
- 10 April : Children's way of the cross conducted by Sunday School
- Tamil Sunday School Annual Day



FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- HOLY WEEK PROGRAMME (Printed on page 13)
- 25-30 April : Easter house blessings (Printed on page 14)
- 30 April : V-JAM for youth organized by PYAT
- 1 May : Sacrament of Holy Eucharist - 9.15 am Mass
- 8 May : Sacrament of Confirmation - 5.30 pm Mass