

Pallotti Notes

Aug - Oct 2012

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



YEAR OF FAITH 2012
2013

The logo of the 2012-2013 Year of Faith features a boat, which is a traditional symbol for the church. Its main mast is the cross and, with the sails, it forms the initials IHS, the "Christogram" standing for Jesus, savior of men. Behind the IHS, the sun evokes a eucharistic host.

**“Faith and Reason are like two wings of the human spirit
by which it soars to the truth.”**

Blessed Pope John Paul II



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Inviting articles for the next issue
latest by 10th November 2012.
The theme – ‘Sharing’.

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Pallotti Notes | Aug - Oct '12

A Bimonthly News Bulletin of **St. Vincent Pallotti Church**

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Duc In Altum...

Last October, Pope Benedict XVI in the Apostolic Letter, *Porta fidei* declared that from October 11, 2012 to November 24, 2013 will be the, “**Year of Faith**”. This declaration of the Year of Faith coincides with the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Vatican Council II and 20th anniversary of the publication of the Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC).

Perhaps you've heard a little about the Year of Faith or absolutely nothing. Perhaps you wonder exactly what that means. “**PALLOTTI NOTES**” in this issue attempts to share with you about the Year of Faith and the experience and witnessing faith of people. In fact we are in the month of October 2012 and as members of Catholic Church we ought to know what the Year of Faith means, so as to be part of it.

The Year of Faith according to Pope Benedict XVI, is a “summons to an authentic and renewed conversion to the Lord, the One Saviour of the world” (*Porta fidei* 6). The Year of Faith therefore, is an opportunity for Catholics to experience a conversion – to turn back to Jesus and enter into deeper relationship with him. The Pope describes this conversion as the “**door of faith**” and is opened at one's baptism. During this year, Catholics are called to open it again, walk through it and rediscover and renew their relationship with Christ and his Church by studying and reflecting on the documents of Vatican II and the CCC, thereby witnessing God through faith in our daily living.

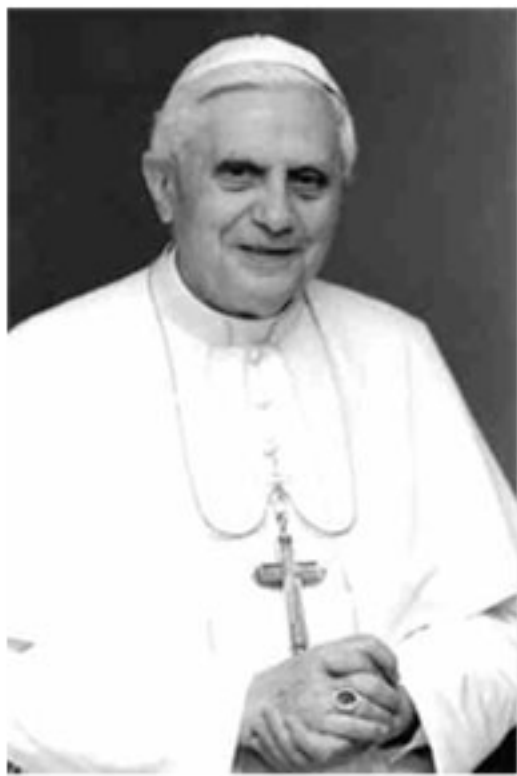
In **Jeremiah 29:11** God says, “*for I know what my plans for you are, plans to save you and not to harm you, plans to give you a future and to give you hope*”. But to see the plan of God in our everyday living is a test of our faith in God. Believe me! Our faith grows in a test. Faith is like a seed. The tiny seed to grow into a strong healthy tree need nutrients and care – good soil, sunlight, water, time to time cleaning and pruning, etc. So also, faith which is instilled at our baptism to grow and mature needs constant care and support. The tree stands tall **against** strong wind and storm because the roots are deep. The roots **go deep to keep** the tree standing against the stormy wind. The same is true of our faith. Our wavering faith in God is strengthened in the face of the test of life. And our deep faith in God assists us to overcome mountains of difficulties and obstacles. To get rooted into God and to launch into deep, the Church supplies all our needs through Sacraments, Catechesis, Scriptures, Charismatic prayer service, Bible study, Small Christian Communities, Cluster families, Paraliturgical services such as Eucharistic Adoration, etc. Of course we do participate in all these, but in the Year of Faith we are specially invited to move towards new evangelization of personally encountering Jesus Christ and sharing one's faith and experience with others.

Like the seed and soil are synonymous, so is a Boat and the vast expanse of the Seas. The Logo for the Year of Faith captures this Boat-Sea relationship and provokes us to leave the safety of the shores and **Launch into the Deep (duc in altum....)** Ships after all look beautiful at the Harbour but weren't created to be docked there. Faith likewise isn't a static, stagnant liturgical experience but is to be experienced, wrestled with, leads to doubt and questioning. Amidst these rising waves, strong ships wade above the waves and make their journey to the points of destination. Ours is Jesus Christ.

Step into Your Boats and Launch Out. Begin the adventure of rediscovering Christ.



Fr. Paulo Dias
Editor



**Excerpts from
THE APOSTOLIC LETTER “MOTU PROPRIO DATA”
OF THE SUPREME PONTIFF BENEDICT XVI
FOR THE INDICTION OF THE YEAR OF FAITH**

The “door of faith” (Acts 14:27) is always open for us, ushering us into the life of communion with God and offering entry into his Church. It is possible to cross that threshold when the word of God is proclaimed and the heart allows itself to be shaped by transforming grace. To enter through that door is to set out on a journey that lasts a lifetime. It begins with baptism and ends with the passage through death to eternal life. To profess faith in the Trinity – Father, Son and Holy Spirit – is to believe in one God who is Love: the Father, who in the fullness of time sent his Son for our salvation; Jesus

Christ, who in the mystery of his death and resurrection redeemed the world; the Holy Spirit, who leads the Church across the centuries as we await the Lord’s glorious return.

The people of today can still experience the need to go to the well, like the Samaritan woman, in order to hear Jesus, who invites us to believe in him and to draw upon the source of living water welling up within him. We must rediscover a taste for feeding ourselves on the word of God, faithfully handed down by the Church, and on the bread of life, offered as sustenance for his disciples. Indeed, the teaching of Jesus still resounds in our day with the same power: “Do not labour for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to eternal life” (Jn 6:27). The question posed by his listeners is the same that we ask today: “What must we do, to be doing the works of God?” (Jn 6:28). We know Jesus’ reply: “This is the work of God that you believe in him whom he has sent” (Jn 6:29). Belief in Jesus Christ, then, is the way to arrive definitively at salvation.

In the light of all this, I have decided to announce a Year of Faith. It will begin on 11 October 2012, the fiftieth anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Council, and it will end on the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Universal King, on 24 November 2013. The starting date of 11 October 2012 also marks the twentieth anniversary of the publication of the Catechism of the Catholic Church, a text promulgated by my Predecessor, Blessed John Paul II, with a view to illustrating for all the faithful the power and beauty of the faith. The Year of Faith, is a summons to an authentic and renewed conversion to the Lord, the one Saviour of the world. In the mystery of his death and resurrection, God has revealed in its fullness the Love that saves and calls us to conversion of life through the forgiveness of sins.

On this happy occasion, I wish to invite my brother bishops from all over the world to join the Successor of Peter, during this time of spiritual grace that the Lord offers us, in recalling the precious gift of faith. We want to celebrate this Year in a worthy and fruitful manner. Reflection on the faith will have to be intensified, so as to help all believers in Christ to acquire a more conscious and vigorous adherence to the Gospel. Religious communities as well as parish communities, and all ecclesial bodies old and new, are to find a way, during this Year, to make a public profession of the Credo. We want this Year to arouse in every believer the aspiration to profess the faith in fullness and with renewed conviction, with confidence and hope. It will also be a good opportunity to intensify the celebration of the faith in the liturgy, especially in the Eucharist, which is “the summit towards which the activity of the Church is directed. At the same time, we make it our prayer that believers reflect on the act of faith, especially in the

course of this Year. Like the Christians in the early centuries who were required to learn the creed from memory. It served them as a daily prayer not to forget the commitment they had undertaken in baptism. Profession of faith is an act both personal and communitarian. In order to arrive at a systematic knowledge of the content of the faith, all can find in the Catechism of the Catholic Church a precious and indispensable tool. It is one of the most important fruits of the Second Vatican Council. In this Year, then, the Catechism of the Catholic Church will serve as a tool providing real support for the faith.

One thing that will be of decisive importance in this Year is retracing the history of our faith. During this time we will need to keep our gaze fixed upon Jesus Christ, the “pioneer and perfecter of our faith” - in him, all the anguish and all the longing of the human heart finds fulfilment. By faith, Mary accepted God’s plan in her life. By faith, she tasted the fruits of Jesus’ resurrection and passed them on to the Twelve assembled with her in the Upper Room to receive the Holy Spirit. By faith, the Apostles left everything to follow their Master. By faith, they went out to the whole world, and fearlessly proclaimed the Gospel to all creation. By faith, the disciples formed the first community, gathered around the teaching of the Apostles, in prayer and in celebration of the Eucharist. By faith, the martyrs gave their lives, bearing witness to the truth of the Gospel.

By faith, men and women have consecrated their lives to Christ, leaving all things behind so as to live obedience, poverty and chastity with Gospel simplicity. By faith, countless Christians have promoted action for justice so as to put into practice the word of the Lord. By faith, across the centuries, men and women of all ages, have confessed the beauty of following Jesus wherever they were called to bear witness – in the family, in the workplace, in public life, in the ministries to which they were called. By faith, we too live – by the living recognition of the Lord Jesus, present in our lives and in our history.

Faith without charity bears no fruit, while charity without faith would be a sentiment constantly at the mercy of doubt. Faith and charity each require the other, in such a way that each allows the other to set out along its respective path. Through faith, we can recognize the face of the risen Lord in those who ask for our love. Supported by faith, let us look with hope at our commitment in the world. Faith commits every one of us to become a living sign of the presence of the Risen Lord in the world. What the world is in particular need of today is the credible witness of people enlightened in mind and heart by the word of the Lord, and capable of opening the hearts and minds of many to the desire for God and for true life, life without end.

If you do not stand firm in Faith, You shall NOT stand at all... Isaiah 7:9b.

When one walks along a Museum, one is taken up with the meaning and world of History. One objective of Museum authorities is to make sure that things are preserved as they are, in fact even restoration is stepped upon after much deliberation. Things are kept even today, as they were a Hundred years ago. Seems strange why some people apply “Museum Logic” to the Church. They expect the church to remain the same as they were centuries ago. Any change or departure from a custom or ritual almost runs the risk of demolishing their faith. The Church is not a Museum but an active, dynamic community of FAITH and so the only constant factor that remains the same is Faith in the Trinity and doctrine. Because Faith is about a community there will

always be a dynamic process of change, reflection, introspection which will lead us to ask questions so as to enable us to live lives in conformity with the values of the Gospel. This guiding principle led Pope John XXIII to call for the Second Vatican Council which deliberated on many important topics now handed down in the documents of the Vat II and strengthened in the CCC.

Bible is the book of faith. It contains the faith experiences of the people – both blessings and punishments. The Sacred Scriptures are the Treasure of the Church. God speaks to us in and through them. They remain ancient and yet unlike “Museum Logic” give new and dynamic inspiration to living our lives today. They impel us to meaningful living even today. Presently in our Bible Study Classes we are dealing with the book of Isaiah whose main thrust has been calling the people to faithfulness in Yahweh. Isaiah’s faith is founded on his own profound experience of Yahweh at the Liturgical celebration wherein he sees Lord. He experiences Yahweh as – omnipotent, omnipresent, all Holy God and this experience takes a new turn in his life. He give a unconditional surrender to Yahweh “here I am send me” (6:1-8). His task is to communicate to people to have faith in Yahweh. Amidst the threat of foreign invasions Judah is not to be shaken off but to rely on the Holy one of Israel.

The Fundamental sin of Judah: lack of faith.

1. Internal manifestation: pride and haughtiness: neither early nor late in his ministry did Isaiah find the requisite faith in the leaders of Judah or its people. They went their way. Hatching their plans, forgetful of the Holy One in their midst who had called them into being and whose will would ultimately prevail. Israel did not ‘know’ God (1:2-3; 5:13) because people did not have an ongoing experience of God’s holiness and power. God has a plan and purpose to carry out and the people were frequently rebuked for failing to perceive it(5:12, 18-19; 28:14-21; 30:1)



For Isaiah, the wicked, lacking faith in God are characterized as proud and haughty. Such people put their trust and seek their security in everything else but God. It is this sin of the heart that earns the severe condemnation of Isaiah. (2:6-22)

2.1 External manifestation: *alliance with other nations* – to have faith in God’s purpose and might meant that Judah’s security and well-being lay in God’s hands alone. Thus Isaiah at various times, condemned as equally futile either to rebel against Assyria’s control by entering into alliance with other nations or to appeal for Assyria’s help. In all political crises, he challenged the King – whether Ahaz or Hezekiah – to have faith in Yahweh and condemned as lack of faith any recourse to alliances with other nations. Isaiah called all such alliances, a “covenant with death”. (7:1-17; 14:28-32; 30:1-7 & 31:1-3))

2.2 External manifestation: *social injustice* – The proud and arrogant person is a law unto himself. He does not consider himself accountable to God. He thus feels free to exploit and oppress others in his society. 1:10-17. Because of their lack of faith Judah suffers a great set back; their temple, their nation is destroyed and they are taken into exile. Isaiah’s message is addressed to each one of us today. Are we Proud, Haughty? Do we place our trust in substitutes of wealth, pride, power or do we take God as our Ally. If these are in line with Isaiah’s teaching a right relationship rooted in love and justice with others in society will be spontaneous. Have faith in Yahweh amidst the changes and struggles we face in life. May our religious celebration lead us to have a deep experience of God and strengthen our faith because, If you do not stand firm in Faith, You shall Not stand at all.....Isaiah 7: 9b.

Fr.Charles Fernandes.sac.

Pallotti Notes

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Your departed, Your compliments on Jubilees and occasions
in issues of the Bulletin.

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5. Full Page Black & White	1500.00/-
6. Half Page Black & White	750.00/-
7. Quarter Page Black & White	450.00/-

Dots and Strokes.....////////

THE OPEN DOOR CAMPAIGN



The **Doors of our church** are Open, of course at stipulated times. And our Church or even Churches are full. The novenas to our Lady, Ash Wednesday, All Souls Day, Good Friday and the Lenten Missions often draw in the crowds. People attend the Eucharist and if you ask, they reply innocently, “Fr. So and so, is doing the mass”. And yet there is something amiss. Are we getting it all right or are we missing an important dimension, which rather than be light-giving, envelopes us in darkness?

Jesus used parables. I’d like to use one too, hoping you will be able to read lines beneath the lines. Or no worry, as I’m adding the lines. I don’t believe in economizing on words.



A night watchman was a witness in court. He had been on duty at a railway crossing on the night of an accident. A train had struck a car, resulting in serious injury to the occupants. No one else had seen the crash. The watchman testified that he had swung the lantern to warn the driver. The court had found him blameless and placed the responsibility for the accident on the car driver. The watchman’s friends immediately began to praise him for his faithfulness, in waving the lamp. Greatly relieved by the verdict, he whispered to himself, “All the time I was afraid, they would ask me, if the lantern was lit.”

Yeah, the lantern/the floodlight/the halogen/the CFL in all their aesthetic or technological arrangements will be as good as nothing, if they do not live up to the very purpose, why they were created. In this case, give Light. May be, a good many of us are carrying Christian lanterns and doing a whole lot of rituals, petitions, intercessions but in the hurriedness of life have forgotten to light them up. A Judge could have overlooked asking the question but God need not ask, he is, **All Knowing**. And so a bit of teasing on Faith is called for, also being declared as the Year of FAITH by the Holy Father. I hope the editor and the Parish Priest line up each bulletin with some Faith-snacks to chew on, right through the year since we cannot fully explain or comprehend the totality of Faith, except, sum it in one word “**JESUS CHRIST**” or as Pope Benedict xvi phrased it, “Happiness now has a Face and Name – **JESUS CHRIST**.”

I just pick on a few thoughts on Faith here. The CCC no.150 highlights, “Faith is first of all a personal adherence of man to God. At the same time and inseparably it is a free assent to the whole truth that God has revealed.”

Therefore at the core of this thought is the revelation that God is in a covenantal relationship with man and this is to be seen in a triangular perspective.

Faith as

- a **Personal** dimension,
- a **Communitarian** dimension and
- an **institutional** dimension.

The three are inseparably linked with each other. Faith isn't formulas or theories but a pulsating, vibrating God- Man relationship. So personal and alive in the scriptures. Abraham has a relationship with Yahweh and is led not alone but along with the community, as also Moses, whose encounter with Yahweh leads him out of the Captive land along with his Community and once they are in the Promised land of Freedom, there is the spontaneous emergence of the How to live as God's people, coded in the Decalogue or popularly called the Ten commandments – so **Personal, Communitarian** and **Institutional**. Here by Institutional I mean, the positive sense of a Spirit filled dynamism which leads and vivifies the Community and is also humble about its failings and falling.

A Christian therefore has to be accepting of all these three dimensions. One cannot say that Jesus gave a new way of life at the cost of all rules and guidelines. This is impacted well in the Gospel of Matthew 5:17-20 which kind of explains the Spirit of the Law and the Law itself. The passage contains the reference to “not an iota or a ‘serif’ (= a dot or a stroke)” passing from the law. So we do not say “Yes” to Faith in Christ and “No” to, the Teaching Church. Many of us criticize the Church, reading a rule or a view without taking the trouble to understand the nuances and the Holistic horizon that the Institutional Church wants to place before us. Faith essentially isn't only a personal affair, but leads to the other two dimensions and has Dots and Strokes. Rules, guidelines aren't intended to be burdensome and have their rightful place. These are part of the whole, even in my writing of these lines, I have to use **Dots and Strokes**.

In the Year of Faith, we need to open also the Ear of Faith and be willing to wrestle with the challenges within the church and of the world. And these, in the light of scripture and the Traditions of the Church. The purpose of such a Year of Faith, Pope Benedict said was "to give new impetus to the mission of the whole Church to lead men out of the desert in which they often find themselves, to the place of life, of friendship with Christ". The Year of Faith is intended to contribute to a renewed conversion to the Lord Jesus and to the rediscovery of faith, so that the members of the Church will be credible and joy-filled witnesses to the Risen Lord in the world of today - capable of leading those many people who are seeking it to the “door of faith.” This “door”, opens wide man's gaze to Jesus Christ, present among us “always, until the end of the age” (Mt 28:20). He shows us how “the art of living” is learned “in an intense relationship with him.” “Through his love, Jesus Christ attracts to himself the people of every generation: in every age he convokes the Church, entrusting her with the proclamation of the Gospel by a mandate that is ever new. Today too, there is a need for stronger ecclesial commitment to new evangelization in order to rediscover the joy of believing and the enthusiasm for communicating the faith.”



I love this Pope for his courage in making daring reflections sprinkled with Salt and Pepper than with sugar and raisins. He knows too well that as Followers we were called to be Salt and Light of the

earth, not sugar candies. In a recent address from the Vatican he suggested that those who disagree with Catholic teachings or do not believe in Jesus Christ should leave the church rather than become betrayers like Judas. "Judas," Pope Benedict said, "could have left, as many of the disciples did; indeed, he would have left if he were honest. Instead he remained with Jesus. He did not remain because of faith, or because of love, but with the secret intention of taking vengeance on the Master."

Could it be, many of us hold on to the pages of the Baptism register just for fringe benefits/social approvals rather than faith. "Leave the Church rather than become betrayers". Sharp and telling comment, but I think the Holy Father is also saying through it, Hold on to the Church as Faithful, Faith filled Followers.

I think the Church is a Lantern with its Light in place to guide or send signals of warning. If I am to use a modern day metaphor I'd like to say the Church is like a Skywalk. The church is the sky walk that makes the search for God and the realization of the Kingdom of God, bit more easier and routed to a destination. Yes, of course you can reach the station being on the roads, but when a skywalk is built, it raises you above that commotion and mess near the roads and you have a free walk way with breeze and ease taking you to the destination. The Church is the skywalk in the hurriedness of our world. Faith calls for a positive look at the Personal, Communitarian and Institutional dimension.



They called the church together and reported what God had done with them and how he had opened the door of faith..."(Acts 14:27).

So the more important question isn't about the,

Doors of the Church being Open as **Opening the Door of Faith.**

Ivan Fernandes

FAITH...? What's that?

Among the many vital truths taught in the Bible is this one: **“In God we live, and move, and have our being...” (Acts 17:28)**. Perhaps we can say it this way: In God we are fully alive and are energetic and enter fully into our being. If anyone is asked about the one most important thing, that he or she would like to be, probably the instant answer would be, *“I want to be happy”*. Nowadays our daily existence has become mechanical and routine. There is in us, neither the inclination nor the time, to live life fully. Happiness however has no existence or value in itself, as an object which we can pursue and attain. The happy person is therefore someone who, without any direct search for happiness, inevitably finds it as an added bonus, in attaining the fullness of his or her own self. This fullness can only be achieved if one has **Faith**. **“If you have Faith as a grain of mustard seed...nothing shall be impossible unto you.” (Mathew 17:20).**

Perhaps two of the most powerful forces in life, which affect people, are **Faith** and fear. Indeed the only force more powerful than fear, is faith. **Faith** can overcome fear. Positive **Faith** is closely associated with common sense. Tackle a fear centered situation with Faith (sound reason) and you gain the courage to deal with it effectively. **Faith** is defined as “belief, trust, fidelity or loyalty to a creed or religion”. But the Bible defines as, **“Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.” (Heb 11:1)**. **Faith** is your positive response to God's grace. **“Whatever you ask in prayer...” (Mk 11:24)** is the key. But, your desire must be in agreement with what God's Word teaches. **Faith** is a personal trust in the God of the Scriptures and in Jesus Christ whom He sent, as Saviour and Lord.

Faith is necessary. **Hebrews 11:6 “Without Faith it is impossible to please (God) Him, for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him.”** There can be no dealings with the invisible God without **Faith** in His existence. **Faith** is necessary to salvation, **(Acts 16:31) “Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved, you and your household”**. **Faith** has always been the mark of a disciple of Jesus. The early disciples were known as Believers. **“Everything is possible for him who believes” (Mark 9:23).**

So what is the Source of Faith?

Faith is the work of the Triune God:

- GOD THE FATHER... “according to the measure of Faith which God has assigned him.” (Rom 12:3). “To another, Faith by the same Spirit...” (1 Cor 12:9)
- GOD THE SON... (Heb 12:2) “Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our Faith”. “And the apostles said unto the Lord, Increase our Faith” (Luke 17:5). We all have Faith, but as we exercise it and pray, our Faith grows and increases.
- GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT... “But the fruit of the Spirit is Love, Joy, Faith...” (Gal 5:22)
- On the Human side (Rom 10:17) “So then Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.” and (Acts 4:4) “the people heard the Word of God and believed – had FAITH...”

Biblical films/stories help strengthen our Faith. So also, listening attentively to God's Word preached, makes Faith grow stronger and stronger.

So How does Faith work?

The principle of Faith (Rom 3:27) is to operate in our lives continually, no matter what the circumstances, "...For we walk by Faith, not by sight" (2 Cor 5:7) and again (James 1:5, 6) "If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives to all men generously and without reproaching, and it will be given to him. But let him ask in Faith, with no doubting...." For Faith to operate in our situation, we must promise obedience to the Word of God. For Faith is ACTIVE not passive. God will do His part, if we do our part. .. "... Faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.." James 2:17). In the crisis of trial / test of our Faith, God is faithful and does not abandon us. "If we are faithless, He remains faithful – for He cannot deny Himself." (2 Tim 2:13). He was faithful to Thomas and Peter when their Faith was tested. Jesus didn't abandon or forsake them... "He will never leave us or forsake us." (Heb 13:5)

The end result is always victory on the part of the believer, bringing glory to God.... "For everyone born of God has overcome the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our Faith." (1 Jh 5:4). The Bible speaks of the faithful servants of God. Joseph, Abraham, Moses, Daniel, Paul, Peter and others. These servants of God, stood in Faith, despite adverse situations and circumstances surrounding them, and they were victorious in the end.

During Jesus' lifetime, people with simple Faith were touched, healed and blessed by him –

- Bartimaeus manifested a humble Faith and received his eyesight (Mark 10:51).
- The woman who had a hemorrhage for 12 years was healed due to her strong Faith (Matt 9:22).
- The startling instance of Daniel who manifested a daring Faith even in the lion's den (Dan 6:22).
- Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego because of their Faith in God were unhurt in the fiery furnace (Dan 3:26).

Faith can make life meaningful. It brings about a closeness or intimacy with God, to such an extent that His loving and watchful care may be experienced in times of sorrow, crisis or danger. Having Faith, we can walk through this world with courage, living successfully and with joy and enthusiasm, every day all the way.

Jesus attributes a kind of omnipotence to Faith, when He says, "the disciple, by Faith will do greater things than his Master" (Jn 14:12). Here is a ton of power for you and me. Let us pray that the Word of God we hear in Sermons, Sunday School lessons, Bible sharing and in conversation, will be mixed with Faith on the part of them that hear, and ask God to give them more Faith --- Faith that will last.

Allan Matthews

Prayer Group

FAITH - AS SMALL AS A MUSTARD SEED

A mustard seed so small that if it falls, is impossible to find. I compare my faith to one such mustard seed, and have kept praying practically everyday, "Lord increase my faith." I always had firm belief and trust in God in moments of human weakness, but faith is what makes us strong. Faith is the state of being convinced about what we hope for.



My husband was suffering for more than a year with going in and out of hospitals, no proper diagnosis. We were beating round the bush and came back again to square one. Change of doctors, change of medicines, but no cure. The condition became worse, it created an emergency one morning and was rushed to the ICU. Twelve days in the ICU, each time brought to the ward only to be taken back to the ICU after 3-4 hours, in a more serious condition. All test reports did not bring any conclusion to the exact illness and hence the treatment was generalized. The doctors were confused because the test reports did not throw light on any particular illness or diseases.

With faith as small as a mustard seed, and with great belief and trust in God, I surrendered my husband into God's hands. Praying almost every moment, for his complete recovery and safety. I was claiming the words of the scriptures as I prayed, I also asked others for prayers. On Sunday, special permission was obtained and the Eucharist was brought to him in the ICU. To the surprise of the doctors he was responding well and his condition improved, he was able to retain all that he took orally. The next morning he was out of ICU and into the ward, from there the very next day he was advised discharge. Gradually, month after month the recovery began, improvements both mentally and physically were noticeable, today after a year he is back to normal.

My faith proclaims that nothing is impossible with God, as FAITH SEES THE INVISIBLE, BELIEVES THE UNBELIEVABLE AND RECEIVES THE IMPOSSIBLE.

Margaret Vas
(PPC- Blessed Mother Teresa Community)



Thanksgiving to Divine Mercy
Thanksgiving to St. Antony
Thanksgiving to Infant Jesus
Thanksgiving to All the Saints
Our Lady of Vailankanni
Mother Mary
For favors granted & good health
Cajie & Clara



LEGION OF MARY – JUNIOR PRAESIDIUM

On 7th of July 2012, the Junior Legion of Mary completed 1 year with success.

What is the Junior Legion of Mary all about? Let me tell you something about it. It is an army of children, whose FAITH and trust in the Lord has brought them together and who are working for Mother Mary and her son Jesus Christ, under the guidance of two Senior Legionaries. When the Junior Praesidium was started, we were just a few members, but today we are proud to say that we have 20 members in all.



At the first meeting, we were introduced to the Legion and its works. Then we decided on many things like the place and time for our meetings would be every Thursday at 6.30pm in the ground floor meeting room, the election of a President and Vice-President were two senior Legionaries, and the Secretary and Treasurer will be two junior Legionaries. We also chose a name for our Praesidium – Several names were put forward and we finally chose one – “Mary Queen of Angels”. We address each other as brother or sister.

Meetings are now held every Thursday and Legion work is allotted by the President. We visit homes, institutes like Cheshire Home and Home for the Aged. We also visit hospitals. We distribute religious books at clinics and beauty parlours. We are always accompanied by a senior Legionary.

I am happy to say that over the next few months our numbers grew. We have participated in many Legion functions like the Auxiliary Rally, a Recollection talk on Self-development, Christmas party for Special Children and picnics.

As for my own experiences as a member, I can say truly that I have been spiritually blessed. I have received Mother Mary’s blessings in abundance. After visiting people’s homes as part of our legion work, and after talking to them, I have realized how small my problems are as compared to theirs.

When I was asked to join the Legion, I wondered if I would be able to manage my studies, the meetings and the Legion work. Then it struck me that God had chosen me to spread His Word and I can do this through the Legion. With FAITH, I said yes, and now without much difficulty, I manage to make time on Thursdays for the meeting and I do not let any other commitment come in the way.

I have experienced the love of Mother Mary in my life. I would like you to experience it too. So please, come join the Legion of Mary and I am sure you will receive abundant blessings.

AVE MARIA

Sister Sarah David

Treasurer – Junior Praesidium

SUNDAY SCHOOL SIGHTINGS



IMPARTING FAITH
a j+ze group

FAITH CELEBRATION DAY FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL CHILDREN OF STD 5th & 6th

With great enthusiasm the children and teachers of Standard 5th and 6th assembled for the **Faith Celebration Day** at Holy Family High School Hall Chakala, Andheri East, on 19th August 2012. It was a pleasant rainy day; and it was a joy to see around 415 students and 35 teachers attend this program. The children came in by 7:45 am and got into their groups which were allocated to them before hand. The groups were named as per the liturgical signs, vessels, vestments etc. With a warm welcome, we began the program with a meaningful Eucharistic celebration presided over by Fr Wilfred Vaz, our deanery coordinator.



Fr Wilfred with his funny tones and jokes kept the children entertained. Brothers Rocky and Renold did a wonderful job in leading them into an action song, "Jesus Christ the Superstar". This was followed by a session on New Evangelization: Session I by Alphonso Dsouza. He used the method of storytelling and videos to make the subject understandable to the kids. He spoke on what is Evangelization, Re-Evangelization and New Evangelization. The whole session was based on the framework on how we can evangelize by our *Thoughts, Words and Deeds*. The children participated in the session actively by giving examples on how they cannot just be lip service Catholics but also setting examples of Catholic values by their deeds and thus evangelizing God's Word.

The second session was taken by Judith Sequeira, she began the session with a game "TAG ME", then she spoke on how one can prepare himself or herself in being a convincing evangelist, she touched upon some terms like *prayer, study, worship, parish fellowship and community outreach* beautifully by using a power point making them simple and soluble to understand. During the Word of God stage, there was total silence and the children were brought in a prayerful atmosphere making them aware of God's presence. The proclamation, exploration and interiorisation of the word was done. At the end of the stage a few of the children prayed spontaneously, which was followed by children enacting a small skit in their particular groups.

The Program then ended with a closing prayer prepared by Sacred Heart parish as per the scheduled time. The children enjoyed their snacks and gave a feedback that they enjoyed the program and learnt new concepts and terms of our faith. We thank Fr Gerard Rodricks S.J., Fr. Dr. Francis Swamy S.J., and Fr. Leo Soares S.J. for giving us the venue and all the co-operation required, we also thank all the catechists of Holy Family who helped in the program. **Faith Celebration** is a continuous process and these teachings not only touched the lives of the children who came for the program but hundreds of people back in their parishes. May they continue to grow in the Lord's vineyard.

Alphonso D'Souza
Catechist

A JOURNEY OF FAITH...

ALONG WITH THE MOST FAITHFUL DISCIPLE OF ALL

*"Be with us Mary along the way, guide every step we take,
Lead us to JESUS your loving Son, come with us Mary come."*

The melody and lyrics of this Marian hymn is one most regularly hummed and absolutely a hot favourite with the young and old. Our constant approach to Mary to intercede for us, only reinforces the fact that she is the path / the journey, that will lead us to our destination – her Son JESUS.



Through the nine days of prayerful service, Mary a simple woman has revealed to us her extraordinary ability of housing numerous virtues in her ordinary being. There leaves no doubt then, that she was the one **chosen** to be the mother of GOD and Mary's willingness to come along or journey with us to the CHRIST is what her life is all about. We endorse our FAITH in Jesus through our devotion to His mother.

The Nativity Novenas solemnly conducted by Sunday School catechists and children, was a journey of FAITH along with the most FAITHFUL disciple of all – MARY.

Jennifer Chavan
Catechist