

Pallotti Notes

Sept - Oct 2013

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



Jesus with His infinite love not only wanted to be a priest and victim, food and nourishment of our souls, but most of all wanted to remain with us forever. - St. Vincent Pallotti

Call For A Touching Experience Of The Eucharist

This is **Pallotti Notes** bringing you news and views...

St. Paul writes to the Corinthians *"For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when He was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when He had given thanks He broke it and said **"this is My body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of Me."*** (1Cor 11:23-24). Since the beginning of the institution of the Eucharist, every member of Christ's body is fed with bread of the angel, it calls for us to deepen our understanding of **the Holy Eucharist**.

Since we hear and repeat the same thing at every mass daily or Sundays, Mass sounds boring. Then attending mass becomes a mere Sunday obligation or ritual which does not make much sense. And we begin to think, why should we go to mass when we don't get anything out of it? Even if we attend Sunday or daily mass because of obligation or force by someone, we begin to get distracted and distract others by our movements/behavior. Sometimes, since it is obligatory to attend mass and it holds no importance in our lives, we drag ourselves to church and prefer sitting/standing outside the temple of God, chatting/catching up with friends and/or exposing ourselves to the many distractions around. If the Holy Eucharist has no meaning and offers nothing, why is the Catholic Church holding on to its tradition? Here is what I once read...

'A church goer, once wrote a letter to the editor of a newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday. "I've gone for 30 years now," he wrote, "and in that time I have heard something like 3,000 sermons. But for the life of me, I can't remember a single one of them. So, I think I'm wasting my time and the priests are wasting theirs by saying mass, giving sermons etc." This started a real controversy in the "letters to the Editor" column, much to the delight of the editor.'

'It went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher: "I've been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals. But I do know this: they all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me these meals, I would be physically dead today. Likewise, if I had not gone to the church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today!"'

If we come to the Lord's Table with the right spirit, then the Holy Eucharist will supply us with spiritual energy for the apostolate as it has energized saints, martyrs and virgins across the centuries and will lead us to have a similar experience as them. So to help you see with new eyes what is so familiar to you, and hear with new ears what you've heard over and over at mass and experience a life changing encounter with Jesus in the Eucharist we share with you various aspects of the **Holy Eucharist** in this issue of Pallotti Notes.

Happy Eucharistic Reading...



Fr. Paulo Dias
Editor

"The Eucharist is the principal expression of Christ's presence among us."

- Pope John Paul II

Editorial Team

Editor

Fr. Paulo Dias

Bulletin Co-ordinator

Jennifer Chavan

Cover Design

Anil Chavan

Graphics

Adrian Rodrigues

Inviting articles for the next issue
theme 'The Sacrament of Matrimony'
latest by 15th November 2013.

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Pallotti Notes | Sept -Oct '13

A Bimonthly News Bulletin of **St. Vincent Pallotti Church**
Vijay Nagar, Marol Maroshi Rd, Andheri (E), Mumbai 400 059 Tel: 29259328, 29259460
www.vinpalparish.com, pallottinotes@yahoo.com
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Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist

Genesis sketches God at his best in the work of creation. Every act of creation is followed by the phrase “And it was good”. Probably the first time the opposite, appears in the context of human life and loneliness. “It is not good for man to be alone”. Loneliness therefore could never have been God’s idea for humanity, for God is not solo but Corporate, God is **We** – and interpersonal communion between the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Even unto this day, the greatest battle of life isn’t war but Loneliness. We often want to have crowds and the **Presence** of people around us. Even when people are not physically present near us, we wish to experience their **Presence**. Probably that is what explains the high popularity of the cell phones, the high usage of “Face Book”. Even though we do not face any of the people we are in contact, yet through these gadgets we somehow feel their presence in and around us.

God did not need “Face Book”. Thanks to the Incarnation, God himself has a **Face – Jesus Christ**. This Jesus, **Present** in History is even today **Present** in the Mystery of what we call the Eucharist. In the Eucharist and the Blessed Sacrament God is **REALLY PRESENT** as he was at the beginning of time.

The Eucharist is a treasure handed down to the church by Jesus himself. Little to wonder, the document on Sacred Liturgy, (SC) opens up saying, “**The Eucharist is the source and summit of Christian life and worship**”. The Eucharist is multidimensional and can never be grasped fully or merely through an intellectual, logical or ritualistic understanding. For the Eucharist to becoming a transforming force we have to deepen our understanding of the inner attitudes which are fundamental to the Eucharistic celebration. It is only then that Eucharistic celebrations will spill into Eucharistic living. Lip service ought to flow out into Life service. All this is possible only when we understand the Eucharist as a sacrifice and submit ourselves in faith believing that Christ is **really present** in the Eucharist. And, for a **Purpose**.

Evidence of belief in the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist in scripture is found in John, 1Cor 11:20-29. The Bible does speak of the Real Presence in John’s Gospel 6:33,35. Jesus said: “Unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood you have no life in you... My flesh is food indeed.” The Jewish listeners dismissed his claim as absurd. And Jesus did not explain himself by saying, “Do not be disturbed; this is metaphorical language.” Instead, refusing to tone it down, he said with emphasis, “My flesh is food indeed.” This heavenly Bread had to be literally, physically eaten.

The real presence of Christ was not debated much until the 11th c. and the church resolved these points at the **Council of Trent**. The nature of the real change being most aptly called **transubstantiation**.

The word “**transubstantiation**” is the theological term invented to explain the mystery that takes place at the words of the consecration. It is a compound of two Latin words: trans, which means “change,” and substantia, which means “substance.” Therefore the word means “a change of substance.” The substance of a thing refers to its inner nature, that which gives its uniqueness. The accidents of a thing refers to those external qualities that are subject to the senses. Consider water. Water’s substance remains unchanged even when its accidents are greatly altered. In its liquid form



it is identified as water. As a gas it is identified as steam. As a solid it is identified as ice. Yet, because the substance remains unchanged, steam and ice are just water. In the miracle of transubstantiation the substance of bread, which we can call ‘breadness’, **changes into the substance of the body, blood, soul and divinity of Jesus**. However, the accidents, the appearance of bread and wine, those things that can be tasted, touched smelled, all remain the same. One question is about the possibility for a body to share itself out: that is, to be always there in many hosts. First of all, we have to understand that this happens in the sphere of the Resurrection, a sphere in which we do not live nor have any experience of. The Resurrection appearances show Jesus to have a body with entirely different qualities (Cf Lk 24:36-42). Moreover, in the language of the Bible, the word “body”—“This is my Body”—does not mean just body “in contradistinction to the spirit.” Body in the language of the Bible denotes “the whole person in whom body and spirit are indivisibly one.” “This is my Body” therefore, means “This is my whole person existing in bodily form.” Its nature is described in the words “which is given up for you;” it is a self giving Person and he can be shared out. Our body is a body that separates us from others. But the Risen Body is not limiting; its capacity for communion remains. In Holy Communion we do not receive “a piece of the body, a thing, but him, the **Risen One** himself. We receive a Person, the Lord Jesus Christ, both God and Man. And that calls for adoration.

A diamond merchant was shocked as he returned from his office to see his little son of five years open his shelf and busy playing with what he thought were marbles, when in fact they were diamonds. He reprimanded the little child to whom nothing of what the father yelled made sense. They were just stones for him. Probably in the years ahead this child will grow up to realize that what he thought to be marbles were precious stones. This would call for growth and knowledge.

It is the same with regard to understanding the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist. For an Infant adult and one who does not know, the Eucharist may just be a ritual, a thing to be followed. It is only when you look through the lens of faith that you realize the unbelievable worth of what we receive at each mass. What otherwise is a RITUAL will become SPIRITUAL as an experience.

So beautifully captured is this Mystery by the great philosopher and theologian Thomas Aquinas, which we have put to tunes in our church, “**Senses cannot grasp this marvel, faith must serve to compensate**”

It is in and through the Eucharist Jesus continues to abide with us “I am with you always, to the end of the ages.” (Mt 28:20)

Fr. Charles Fernandes SAC

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(Marol Vijaynagar, Business from Home)



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‘Our lives don’t belong to us,’

Excerpts from Pope Francis’ homily on the Feast of Corpus Christi



Pope Francis has challenged Catholics to consider if they allow their lives to be transformed by Christ’s presence in the Eucharist.

Speaking to a congregation of about 20,000 people, on the Feast of Corpus Christi outside the Basilica of St John Lateran, Pope Francis encouraged Catholics to ask if the Eucharist is a “moment of true communion with the Lord, but also with my many brothers and sisters who share at this same altar?” and if when “adoring Christ truly present in the Eucharist, do I

allow myself to be transformed by him?”

Pope Francis said: “Jesus speaks in the silence of the mystery of the Eucharist and reminds us each time that following him means going out of ourselves and making our lives not something we ‘possess,’ but a gift to him and to others. It is the sacrament that takes us out of our individualism so that together we live our discipleship.

Jesus’ solution to the situation of feeding the crowds on the mountain, was to ask God’s blessing on the little food available, then to have the disciples share it with crowd. What Jesus encouraged the disciples to do was an act of “solidarity,” which is nothing other than “placing at God’s disposal what little we have, our humble abilities, because only in sharing and in giving will our lives be fruitful.”

In the Eucharist, Catholics experience the “solidarity of God,” a solidarity that can never be exhausted and should never stop causing awe. Once again, Jesus gives himself to us in the Eucharist, shares our journey and, in fact, makes himself the food that sustains our lives, even when the road gets rough and obstacles slow our steps.

At the same time, in receiving the Eucharist faithfully “the Lord leads us to follow his path — that of service, sharing and giving; and that little that we have, the little that we are, if shared, becomes a treasure because the power of God, who is love, descends to our poverty and transforms it.”

The Eucharist - Spirituality and Human liberation

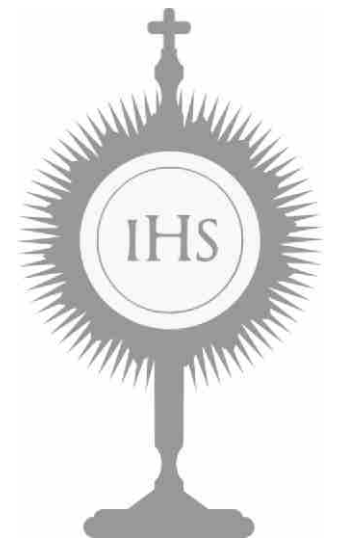
What is special or specific of Eucharistic spirituality is that, it calls to live in community for a committed and generous living, out of what we celebrate in each Eucharist. At the heart of the Eucharist is the institutions narrative, in which how the Lord Jesus, on the night before he suffered, took the bread and bless it and broke it and gave it to them, saying, “take this is My body which is given for you . Do this in remembrance of Me” (Lk 22/ 19-20) It calls for a dying to oneself and one’s own interest in favor of encouraging life in the other.

Every gift that we receive is never meant exclusively for ourselves alone, it is meant to be shared with others. Therefore Eucharist for each one of us is the fountain par excellence; it goes on configuring our identity. Day after day we nourish ourselves by Jesus in the Eucharist and we go on transforming ourselves in nourishment of His body and blood. When we adore, our life becomes like that of Jesus and we learn to discover his countenance in our brothers and sisters especially in the suffering humanity. When we celebrate each day, we gradually become aware of the main needs and desires of human beings and how they are assumed and celebrated in the Eucharist, in its different moments: to be invited, to be forgiven, to be enlightened, and offer oneself to be transformed and to be sent out.

To drink from the well of the Eucharist should be the constant desire of each person, in order to become experts in its knowledge and lived experience. We need to strengthen and revitalize our charismatic sources: Eucharistic celebrations, adoration, community life and mission. We have to strengthen our identity centered on the Eucharist and celebrate it from life and for life. Each one needs to deepen herself/himself personally in the life giving spirit of the Eucharist to look at the reality of the Eucharist to go forward to train ourselves to have a contemplative look at life, people and events.

In conclusion, the question we must ask is what is our reaction as we participate in the Eucharistic celebration? Will I be able to say after the mass that my heart burnt when I listened to the Word of God and I recognized the Lord in the breaking of the bread? Or when I come out of the church with my friend after mass, will we be able to tell each other “did not our hearts burn within us when the scriptures was read to us ...and oh! How we recognized him at the breaking of the bread “(Lk 24/32) blessed are those who have such an experience at the celebration of the Eucharist. And this experience at the breaking of the bread daily liberates us to work in favour of liberations in the society.

Sr. Yogini
Sisters Adorers



From a Counsellor's Desk.....

Counselling Services for Family and Child

St. Vincent Pallotti Church Welfare Centre

Every Friday : 6.30 -7.30 pm

An initiative of the St. Vincent Pallotti Parish -Family cell

Why Counselling Services?

Life can present a variety of challenges and problems, and sometimes this can cause distress and confusion. These challenges may arise due to interpersonal relationships between husband and wife, parents and child or with social relationships with significant others.

Parents are sometimes confronted with poor academic performance of their child, delayed milestones in the child – speaking, walking etc., behavioral problems manifested by the child and other such problems. An individual may also be experiencing intrapersonal difficulties, including mood disorders like depression and anxiety, addictions, or situational stressors like work or school.

Sometimes it can be helpful to talk to someone who is professional and separate from the situation.

What is the role of the Counsellor ?

A Counsellor is skilled in providing a non-judgmental and safe environment in which you can talk in confidence. A counsellor can help you to explore the issues and understand the problem more clearly, consider all available options, and take the most appropriate action.

If necessary the Counsellor can also refer you to external agencies for further assistance.

Counselling services have been known to enhance peoples coping capacities, improve the quality of relationship, bring about timely intervention in helping to resolve behavioral and academic problems in children.

It is no secret that there is a need for integrative care of the mind, body and spirit, if we are to promote holistic health care. Science has shown how poor mental health-tensions, stress and anxiety affects our physical health. Counselling services help promote mental health.

What is Holy Communion to me?

For those who know me, know that I like trekking. On one such occasion I realized the importance of communication. With no reach of any signals and unable to connect to anybody via mobile and the nearest land line was a full 3 hrs trek to the village (if only to find it not working). At such time even the smartest phone or other gizmos were useless. With so much advancement in technology we were still back to basics.

Just as above, we Christians are blest to have the most powerful gift of receiving God's grace through Jesus in Holy Communion, but are ignorant and take things for granted as rightful to this grace. We go to mass every Sunday, receive Holy Communion because everybody does. And life goes on as if nothing happens and as we come out of Church we are the same grumbling, fighting, arguing, backbiting, gossiping about our neighbors and it goes on and on. We have not being touched by this heavenly gift. Let's rewind and remember the days when you received your first Holy Communion, or when our children received their first Holy Communion, all that excitement, all that preparation for the special day celebration of the Eucharist and then the celebration party at some 3-star / 5-star hotel seemed more fun. What has happened to that joy which we expressed on receiving Jesus for the first time, doesn't it even have the same touch it had back then.

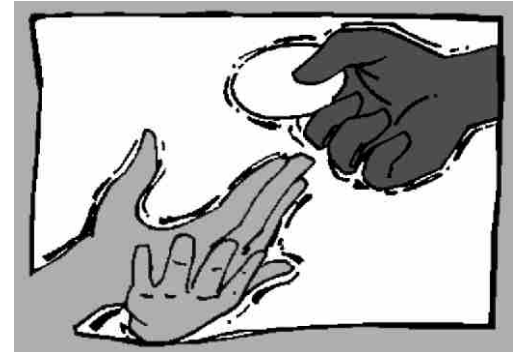
Have you ever experienced moments of joy when you received promotion, or a better job, or falling in love? Moments so great that we wanted to share it with everybody, even celebrate for a few days. These are momentary joys and with time it fades to only memories to cherish and occasionally smile and tell about it to our children or grandchildren. What has this got to do with Holy Communion? Yes it's different, Jesus has given us an opportunity to experience a joy of receiving him every day, but do we feel this inner happiness and celebrate and share and enjoy with others. Are we missing something here? Do I feel that goodness when I receive Holy Communion today? For if it was holy, it would pound within me to bring out this joy and show it. When the Priest says 'The body of Christ' we say 'Amen' without meaning, in fact Jesus is saying please hold my body, am I listening? Agree we are controlled by our private thoughts and distraction, worried what others think on how I am dressed or the new stylist beard I have grown, missing as we receive the greatest gift of Jesus himself in that piece of bread and without being touched by this Christ because we do not open up for him or just not listening. Do I give reverence to the Holy Communion when I go to receive Jesus?

To share my experience, while as a Eucharistic Minister there were times I would feel a powerful energy and hand tremble when giving communion to a few who would come to receive Jesus and bow with full reverence before receiving Jesus. Moments I cannot express in words. Many of you may have already read the testimony of Catalina on the Holy Mass, and I like to share an extract from her testimony about receiving Holy Communion *"The people began to leave their pews on their way to Communion. The great moment of the encounter had arrived. The Lord said to me: **'Wait a moment; I want you to observe something...**'* An interior impulse made me raise my eyes towards the person who was going to receive Communion on the tongue from the hands of the

priest. I should clarify that this person was one of the ladies from our group who the previous night was unable to go to confession, but this morning was able to do so before the Holy Mass. When the Priest placed the Sacred Host on her tongue, a flash of light, like a very golden white light, went right through this person, first through her back, then surrounding her from the back, around her shoulders, and then her head. The Lord said:

"This is how I Myself rejoice in embracing a soul who comes with a clean heart to receive Me."

The tone of voice of Jesus was that of a happy person." Another extract further in the testimony "As a child, I had heard someone say that the Lord remained with us for five or ten minutes, after Communion. I asked Him at this moment: "Lord, truly, how much time do You stay with us after Communion?"



I suppose that the Lord must have laughed at my silliness, because He answered: **"All the time that you want to have Me with you. If you speak to Me all day long, offering Me some words during your chores, I will listen to you. I am always with you. It is you who leaves Me. You leave the Mass, and the day of obligation ends. You kept the day of the Lord, and it is now finished for you. You do not think that I would like to share your family life with you, at least that day."**

'Physician, cure yourself.' (Luke 4:23) this time of the year we hear of all the viral flu, dengue, typhoid and other illness is in the air are cautioned to take care. Note that we start taking a Crocin, or Coldrin when we feel we are getting sick instead of going to the doctor because his fees are high. But what are we doing to cure ourselves from our spiritual illness. We have a doctor who with open arms and a warm Heart welcomes us for free spiritual medication. He gives us himself so imagine how important it is that we strengthen our spiritual immune system! There are two key ways you can strengthen your spiritual immune system. The first is to hold onto the truths of who God is. Every day in your prayer, proclaim his love. Rejoice in his mercy. Believe in his power to heal and transform. Tell yourself that Jesus is raised from the dead and has conquered all sin. The second way is to stay connected to the Lord throughout your day. A vine receives all the life-sustaining energy it needs as it remains connected to its branch. A fruit continues to grow and flourish as it remains linked to the tree that bore it. Just so, you will find all you need to remain spiritually healthy if you stay connected to Jesus.

Feed your mind with his truths. Feed your heart with his love in Holy Communion. No spiritual virus can stand against these two defences! Next time you receive Jesus in Holy Communion just for once open up yourself for him to embrace you, and let him stay with you and share with you all your day and feel the difference.

Godfrey D'Sa

My Experience As Eucharistic Minister

Visiting and serving the sick has been my innermost desire and that came to be my calling when Fr. Charles asked me take up the service of Eucharistic Minister in 2012. I could not avail myself to be commissioned then and this year I ensured my availability to take the commitment and provide my services.

John 6:35 reads “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry again. Whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.” The privilege of carrying and serving this bread of life to the faithful and the sick is truly a blessing and calling by God. While serving the Holy Eucharist to the faithful in the church, I realized the faith of the congregation – standing in line, well dressed to receive the Lord, piety in their sentiments, bowing their heads as they approach and accept the Holy Communion. I felt the need to increase my faith in the Lord. As a congregation, we look at the altar whereas the Eucharistic Minister faces the congregation to serve. Every face in the gathering tells their innermost devotion and reverence to God. The faith of the people around gets reflected on me and demands more from me.

The houses I visit to administer the Holy Eucharist are generally informed about the likely timings. They keep the recipient (the sick person) of the Holy Communion fresh and clean with good clothes, room cleaned up, candles lit with the members of the family prepared for the occasion with devotion. The sick people look forward to the Eucharistic Minister week after week. Though not many are physically fit to take part in the prayers, their devotion and reverence is true to the Christian faith. They bear their pain and anxiety; they make me special as a person of God visiting their house. It is a great privilege to visit someone sick, administer the Holy Communion, say prayers for them, extend the faith to the other members of the house and share the joys and pain of the sick person and the family members.

It requires energy, patience and time to visit the sick as I have to go to places around the parish, climb the staircases in some buildings, waiting for the door to be opened. But it gives immense joy to take the Lord to the sick. Jesus healed the sick when He was on this earth 2000 years and today He has called on me to do very little by representing Him to serve the Lord to the sick, share their life and lighten the pains of the sick.

May we all be worthy of His blessings as we continue to do His work.

Richard Cornelio



Interfaith Marriage Fellowship Program



The economics of today's world is breaking down barriers of creed and caste and bringing people together at work places and in the neighbourhood. The number of interfaith marriages is on the increase. The Catholic Church recognizes, that there is a need to facilitate dialogue and a spirit of openness, so that all may experience the love of Christ.

On Sunday the 1st of September 2013, the Family Cell of St Vincent Pallotti Church organized an evening of fellowship for interfaith married families/couples of the parish. We are indeed grateful and happy that the parishioners responded in a generous measure making it enjoyable and informative.

The program began with the lighting of the samay and a prayer service recognizing God as the Almighty and Creator of the universe and the source of life.

The ice breaker and games that followed helped the participants to interact with each other in a spirit of fun and togetherness. The children who accompanied their parents also made the most of the evening.

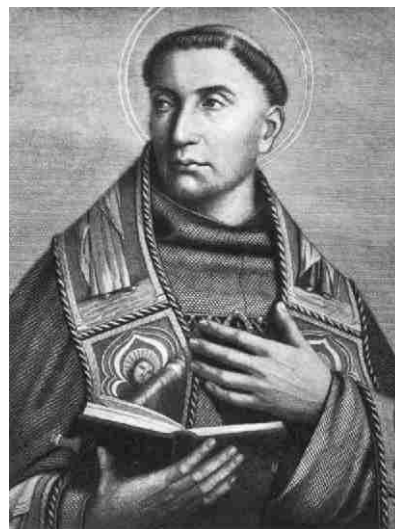
The simulation game that was the highlight of the evening allowed for a lot of sharing amongst the participants. The underlying message that came forth was that marriage is based on love and respect for each other. This basis forms the foundation for a strong and happy family life and helps overcome cultural and religious differences.

It is true, that in India, culture and religion are intricately connected and can strongly influence one's lifestyle. This is where, a little extra effort of adjustment is required in families of interfaith marriages. The participants were happy to have been part of the program and many expressed that they felt welcome through this program.

Family Cell

St. Bonaventure Feast Celebrations

The feast of St. Bonaventure falls on 15th July. Here is some information on our Patron Saint. His name means "good luck." He was born in 1221 in Tuscany, Italy, and was baptized John. Bonaventure joined the Franciscan order, which was still new. As a young Franciscan, Bonaventure left his own country to study at the University of Paris in France. He became a wonderful writer. In 1273, Blessed Pope Gregory X made Bonaventure a cardinal. Cardinal Bonaventure was a great help to this pope who had called the Council of Lyons in 1274. He died rather suddenly on July 14, 1274, at the age of fifty-three. Bonaventure was proclaimed a saint in 1482 by Pope Sixtus IV and in 1588, was declared Doctor of the Church.



Our zone celebrated this feast on Sunday 21st July, beginning with mass at 9.15 am followed by a get-together. Here's sharing with you some of the highlights of this event. Our compere for the day was Mr. Godfrey D'sa who kept us entertained throughout the programme. It started with a welcome speech by our parish priest Fr. Charles Fernandes after which snacks were served. To begin the games session, people were first given chits with numbers to identify group forming. The first was a game where people were asked to find 10 top interesting news from the newspapers distributed to them. Then followed, building bridges with newspapers in such a way that they do not fall. There was also musical chairs, passing the balloon, multiple quizzes etc. along with a lots of spot prizes. During a break between the games, one of our new member, Mrs. Dorris D'souza was introduced and she expressed her gratitude and support to us. Some children from the community also gave solo singing performances. The Parish councilor was then formally introduced and she spoke a few words. Later on prizes were distributed to all the winners. Lastly, our spiritual director Father Paulo gave the vote of thanks which was then followed by delicious lunch.

It was really a memorable day as it displayed the unity in diversity of all our community members. Thanks to all the animators and of course all the families of our community which made this possible.

A Community Member

Society of St. Vincent de Paul



Bl. Antoine-Frederic Ozanam is the founder of Society of St. Vincent de Paul. He was born on 23rd April 1813 in Milan. He was honored / Beatified on 22nd August, 1997 By Pope John Paul II. A French scholar, he served the poor of Paris and with other young men, founded in May 1833 the Conference of Charity, which was later known as the celebrated charitable 'Society of St. Vincent de Paul'. He traveled extensively but his naturally weak constitution, fell prey to consumption (Tuberculosis), which he hoped to cure by visiting Italy; but on his return to France, he died in Marseille on 8th September, 1853 and was buried in the crypt of the church of St. Joseph des Carmes in Paris.

Blessed Frédéric Ozanam's mission was to lead women and men to grow spiritually by offering person-to-person service to the poor and suffering. Today the SSVP has approximately 10 lakh members - men, women and youth, throughout the world. SSVP members are known as "VINCENTIANS," and are located in 149 countries, on five continents. There are 6800 conferences in India, of which 92 are in Mumbai.

There are 3 major projects carried out by Central Council of Bombay, Society of St Vincent de Paul –

a) Ozanam Community Kitchen

This project was inaugurated on 27th June 2009 at the premises of Vailankanni Mata Church, Cheetah Camp near Trombay by Bishop Agnelo Gracias. The purpose of this Community Kitchen is to serve lunch for about 100 hungry & starving children, destitutes, caste, creed, religion no bar, 4 days a week.

b) Eduljee Framjee Allbless Niramay Niketan (EFANN) – Leprosy Home and AIDS hospice at Trombay

This project consists of a Leprosy Hospital looking after Aids & Leprosy patients for the last 125 years, without distinction of caste, creed, religion or barriers. This project has got 2 sections - one for the Leprosy Patients and the other for the Aids & HIV affected patients. The Leprosy section was started in the year 1885 and now has a bed capacity for 50 patients. HIV/Aids was started in 1996 with 15 beds but now has a bed capacity of 50 beds.

c) 3) Shanti Bhavan - Home for the Aged, Kalyan

The said home was started 33 years back & the major objective of the home is to provide shelter to senior citizens who have been abandoned by their families & to give them a decent living at the sunset of their lives. The total capacity is 36 both male and female. The inmates are sponsored by our Conferences who not only look after their maintenance but also visit them regularly.

Vincentians in our parish provide 'aid in cash, in kind: rations & in service: medical & education' duly supported by our Parish Priest. A Vincentians main charism is to beg for the poor in order to alleviate their misery. In other words, to see that no single individual goes hungry to bed and also to see that the poor become self-sufficient as soon as possible. More importantly Vincentians visit the homes of our adopted families to deliver the aid and give a listening ear to those in need and pray with them.

This Conference was initially set up in our parish by Bro Anthony in the year 2003-04, adopting

In Remembrance of Me, Dear Jesus

by Elizabeth Prentiss

In remembrance of me, Dear Jesus,
Thou this feast hast spread,
Invited guests are we;
We come as Thou hast bid us come,
Thus to remember Thee.
We come from sinful thought and aim,
More earnestly to flee;
Pardon to seek and grace to find,
As we remember Thee.
We come to thank Thee for Thy love
So rich, so full, so free;
To bless Thee, praise Thee, lose ourselves
As we remember Thee.
We come to lay the burdens down
That press most heavily;
To enter into perfect peace
As we remember Thee.
Our penitence, our love, our hope,
Oh condescend to see,
And let us "bear a song away"
As we remember Thee.

(Contributed by a parishioner)