



THE PATRICIAN

Speaking the Truth in Love (Eph 4:15)

May 2016

MESSAGE FROM PARISH PRIEST

"God wills that all his gifts should come to us through Mary" (St. Bernard)

"This month, in churches and individual homes, the most affectionate and fervent homage of prayers and devotions from the hearts of Christians, are raised to Mary." It is also the month in which, from His throne, descends upon us the most generous and abundant gifts of the Divine Mercy.

During the month of May—the month of Mary—we feel the special protection of Our Lady that extends to all the faithful; we feel a special joy that glows and illuminates our hearts, expressing the universal certainty of Catholics that the indispensable patronage of our Heavenly Mother becomes even more tender, more loving and more full of visible mercy at this time.

This is also the month when we commemorate May Day, the day dedicated to the labourers - the workforce that puts in their hard efforts to make the lives of others livable and comfortable. We salute the

AMORIS LAETITIA - THE JOY OF LOVE

In April this year, Pope Francis released his **Apostolic Exhortation "Amoris Laetitia"**, Latin for "The Joy of Love". The exhortation is the result of Pope Francis' prayerful reflection on the discussions and outcomes of two synods of bishops held in Rome: an Extraordinary Synod in 2014, and an Ordinary Synod in 2015, both on the topic of marriage and the family. It is meant to share with the Church the Holy Father's teaching and encouragement regarding pastoral ministry to families, and what marriages and families are called to at this time in history. The entire text of the exhortation is available on the Vatican website - www.vatican.va and would be useful reading to everyone. We recommend that each family have their own personal copy, which could be purchased at St. Paul's or at ATC. We have reproduced here a few inspiring extracts from the document.

"I thank God that many families, which are far from considering themselves perfect, live in love, fulfil their calling and keep moving forward, even if they fall many times along the way. The Synod's reflections show us that there is no stereotype of the ideal family, but rather a challenging mosaic made up of many different realities, with all their joys, hopes and problems." [57]

workforce for their loyal service and dedication. We also remember St. Joseph, the Worker, for his silent and conscientious commitment in protecting the Holy Family—Mother Mary and little Jesus—and sustaining them with his faithfulness to the work that he was skilled to do. We shall pray to St. Joseph, so that he may intercede for us, to make fruitful all the work that we do.

I make a sincere request to all our parishioners to pray the Rosary daily in their homes, as they get time, and to dedicate this month to Mother Mary and ask her to pray for all our needs and protect us from all harm. You are also invited to pray the Rosary in the church every evening after the 5.30 pm Mass, along with other members of the parish community, and give glory to our Mother Mary.

God Bless us all.

Msgr. C Francis
Parish Priest

Vicar General - Archdiocese of Bangalore

"Few human joys are as deep and thrilling as those experienced by two people who love one another and have achieved something as the result of a great, shared effort." [130]

"The life of every family is marked by all kinds of crises, yet these are also part of its dramatic beauty. Couples should be helped to realize that surmounting a crisis need not weaken their relationship; instead, it can improve, settle and mature the wine of their union." [232]

"I sincerely believe that Jesus wants a Church attentive to the goodness which the Holy Spirit sows in the midst of human weakness, a Mother who, while clearly expressing her objective teaching, 'always does what good she can, even if in the process, her shoes get soiled by the mud of the street'." [308]

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MAY - THE MONTH OF OUR MOTHER MARY

The Catholic Church encourages special Marian devotions during the month of May, honoring the Virgin Mary. A number of traditions link the month of May to Mary. Alfonso X of Castile, in the 13th century, wrote in his Canticles de Santa Maria about the special honoring of Mary during specific dates in May. Eventually, the entire month was filled with special observances and devotions to Mary.

According to Frederick Howleek, the May devotion in its present form originated at Rome, where Father Latomia of the Roman College of the Society of Jesus, to counteract infidelity and immorality among the students, made a vow at the end of the eighteenth century to devote the month of May to Mary. From Rome, the practice spread to the other Jesuit colleges and thence to nearly every Catholic Church of the Latin rite. The tradition of honoring Mary in the month of May eventually spread around the Roman Catholic world in the 19th century.

On the 13th of May we have the feast of our Lady of Fatima, on the 24th of May we celebrate the feast of Mary, Help of Christians and on the 31st of May the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin.

Pope Francis consecrated his papacy to Mary, under the title of our Lady of Fatima and he invited everyone to consecrate themselves to her tender loving care. Pope Paul VI went on to write that May is the month Christians offer the Virgin Mother more "fervent and loving acts of homage and veneration, and it is the month in which a greater abundance of God's merciful gifts come down to us from our Mother's throne."

The Blessed Virgin Mary, the mother of Jesus has a more central role in Roman Catholic teachings and beliefs than in any other major Christian group. We Catholics place high emphasis on Mary's role as

protector and intercessor and the Catholic catechism refers to Mary as the "Mother of God to whose protection the faithful fly in all their dangers and needs." The key Marian prayers include the Hail Mary, Alma Redemptoris Mater, Ave Maria Stella, Regina Coeli, and the Magnificat.

Just as a child goes to its Mother, we go before Mary, our mother with confidence and she will surely present our prayers on our behalf. The Catechism of the Catholic Church calls Mary our model of faith and charity; and devotion to the Blessed Virgin is intrinsic to Christian worship.

Star of the Sea is an ancient title of Mother Mary dating back to the ninth century. This title emphasizes Mary's role as a sign of hope and as a guiding star for Christians. Mary, Star of the Sea, is believed to intercede as a guide and protector of those who travel or seek their livelihoods on the sea. Under this title, she is patroness of the Catholic missions to seafarers and many local churches are aptly named STAR OF THE SEA or Stella Maris. St. Bernard was quoted as saying "If the winds of temptation arise; if you are driven upon the rocks of tribulation, look to the star, call on Mary. If you are tossed upon the waves of pride, of ambition, of envy, of rivalry, look to the star, call on Mary. Should anger, or avarice, or fleshly desire violently assail the frail vessel of your soul, look at the star, call on Mary."

Let us dedicate this Month of May to our mother Mary, who is ever ready to intercede for us with Jesus, her son and our brother. Please come in large numbers to pray the Rosary every day and to honor our Mother, Queen of the family.

- *Cynthia Fernandes*
St. Thomas Zone

Holy Father's Prayer Intentions - May

Universal: RESPECT FOR WOMEN

That in every country of the world, women may be honored and respected and that their essential contribution to society may be highly esteemed.

Evangelization: HOLY ROSARY

That families, communities, and groups may pray the Holy Rosary for evangelization and peace.

IMPORTANT DAYS IN APRIL

May 01: St. Joseph the Worker (Worker's Day)

May 08: Ascension of the Lord

May 13: Our Lady of Fatima

May 15: Pentecost

May 22: Feast of the Holy Trinity

May 29: Corpus Christi (Body and Blood of Christ)

May 31: Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

JESUS, THE GOOD SHEPHERD

Jesus often spoke to the people in parables, making it simple for them to understand His teachings. One such parable was the story of the Good Shepherd, wherein Jesus explained that a true shepherd always shared a special bond with his sheep. They recognized his voice and followed him confidently because they knew that he would nurture and care for them. There was implicit trust between the shepherd and his sheep. The shepherd knew exactly what his sheep required and when he should provide for them. Jesus uses this analogy to convey to His followers how deep was His love and concern for them. He said "I AM THE GOOD SHEPHERD... I KNOW MY SHEEP AND MY SHEEP KNOW ME! THEY HEAR MY VOICE AND THEY FOLLOW ME." In other words, he wanted to make it clear that those who trusted in Him would be cherished and protected and looked after by Him, the Good Shepherd.

Since the shepherd herding his sheep was a common sight in the days when Jesus walked through Palestine, it was easy for the people to connect with what He said. A genuine shepherd, knowing that his sheep were fully tuned to him, would never hesitate even to go to the extent of leaving behind ninety-nine obedient ones to search for the one stray sheep. This was the confidence Jesus instilled in those who wished to follow Him.

Jesus expressed His love and concern for His people through His gentleness and compassion. In His presence they always experienced peace and comfort. He was aware of the needs of those who followed

LIGHTEN UP! WRONG TRANSACTION WITH GOD!

My friend invited me to his Church for a thanksgiving service, and I sat at the front row.

When it was time for offering, the offering basket was passed around. Despite the Priest's call for a good offering, I still hurriedly and secretly pulled out Rs. 10 from my pocket and dropped it in the basket.

Just then, the person behind me tapped me on the shoulder and handed me a Rs. 1,000 note. I smiled. So generous! Then majestically, I looked around and put the Rs. 1,000 in the basket and passed it on. Then I turned and thanked the man seriously for

him, whether it was a spiritual or a physical need. His mercy was boundless, especially to those who recognized their sin and repented of it. It is His mercy and compassion which enabled Jesus to offer himself as a sacrificial victim for our salvation. Let us understand and reciprocate this love and concern of our God by listening to His voice and choosing to do what is right and pleasing to Him.

Throughout the Old and New Testaments, we come across several references to God as the Good Shepherd and His people as the flock. Jesus rejoices when a sinner is brought back into the fold; He leads them to green pastures and life giving streams; He binds their wounds and carries them on His shoulders when they are wounded; He guards them against thieves and wolves who are constantly on the prowl for the wayward ones. The shepherd assures his flock safety and protection. Jesus was moved with compassion when He saw the people scattered like sheep without a shepherd.

With such comforting assurance given to us by Jesus, we must, on our part, make every effort to be more attentive to and aware of His constant presence in our lives. Let us put our faith and trust in Him and rest fully assured that He will lead us on to green pastures where we will find true happiness, peace, comfort and consolation. Let us make Him the Shepherd of our soul and give Him full control over it!

-Tina Fernandes
St. Thomas Zone

being so generous. He replied "Don't mention it. Be more careful next time, it fell from your pocket"

What?!...

First Holy Communion

First Holy Communion will be administered to the children of our parish on 19th June 2016.

Preparatory classes begin on 1st May 2016 from 9 am to 11:30 am and will go on till May end. Attendance at these classes is compulsory. Please register your child's name at the parish office (Ph No: +91-80-41511044), along with the baptism certificate.

FAITH FORMATION - ANNUAL DAY CELEBRATION

To close the academic year, the faith formation classes had a grand finale this year too, but with a difference. This was due to the enthusiasm and the whole-hearted participation of the faith formators and the children towards the annual day, under the guidance and leadership of Rev. Fr. Sunny Richard, and also due to the support and encouragement of the parents, who also showed up in large numbers to watch their children perform.

We started with the opening prayer led by one of the faith formators, followed by a song in praise of the Holy Trinity. Another faith formator extended a warm welcome to all during her opening speech. Thereafter, we were enthralled by various performances from the children of the faith formation classes, starting with the lower classes, demonstrating the faith that was imparted to them in the course of the year.

The combined classes of LKG, UKG and first standard, sang a few devotional songs accompanied with actions. The second and third standards acted out two important events in the Gospels: Jesus feeding the multitude and Jesus choosing His twelve apostles. The fourth graders held out cardboard cut-outs of letters spelling the word "Eucharist" and singing a song on the

same. The fifth graders performed a short skit on the miracle of Jesus at the wedding feast in Cana. The sixth standard children enacted the Israelites crossing the River Jordan with the Prophet Joshua leading them. The seventh standard students elaborated on the importance of having a relationship with God. The Confirmands performed a few skits with the theme "How to be a new creation in Christ". The Post-Confirmation class performed a skit based on Psalm 1 which speaks about the need for some quiet time in our lives and the importance of personal prayer. Every class did their best and it turned out to be a very unique experience for all.

The Chief Guest, our Parish Priest Msgr. C. Francis, addressed us and appreciated the effort taken by each one to put up such a good show. He gave away the prizes to the children for their academic performances. Fr. Sunny thanked all the faith formators and mementos were presented to each one of them. The programme ended with the vote of thanks. Prayer cards were distributed to all those present at the event and refreshments were given to the children. It was quite a memorable day for everyone.

- Class IX Faith Formation Student

RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES WITHIN OUR PARISH

- a) **Daily Mass:** 6am, 6.30am (Tamil), 7am, 1.15pm, 5.30pm. Saturday evening Mass at 6pm (Sunday Liturgy).
- b) **Sunday Mass:** 6am (Kannada), 7.15am (Tamil), 8.30am (Children's Mass), 9.45am, 11am, 6pm.
- c) **Shrine Mass:** Every Tuesday at 10am in Kannada and at 6pm in Tamil.
- d) **Eucharistic Adoration:** Every Friday 6pm to 6.45pm.
- e) **Adoration Chapel:** Exposition every day from 6am to 7pm. On Tuesdays, exposition up to 9.45pm.
- f) **Confessions:** Every Saturday 5pm to 6pm at the Adoration Chapel.
- g) **Altar Servers Meeting:** Every Saturday immediately after 1.15pm Mass (Contact Fr. Mac Donald Fernandies +91 8971216787).
- h) **Faith Formation:** There will be no Faith Formation

classes in the month of May. However, classes for those wishing to receive First Holy Communion in our parish will begin on 1st May, 2016 and continue till the end of May, from 9.00 AM to 11.30 AM.

- i) **Legion of Mary:** Meetings every Monday at 4.15pm (Contact Ms. M. Menezes +91-9845426746).
- j) **Legion of Mary (Tamil):** Meetings every Sunday from 8.30am to 9.30am (Contact Mr. John Leonard +91-9916896446).
- k) **St Vincent de Paul:** Meetings every Tuesday at 6pm (Contact Mr. James Sequeira +91-9341252624).
- l) **Ladies of Charity:** Meetings every first Thursday of the month at 4.30pm (Contact Ms. Stella Monga +91 8147971118).
- m) **Counseling Centre:** Open every Tuesday and Friday between 4.30pm to 6.30pm. (Contact +91-80-25587213).

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