



THE PATRICIAN

Speaking the Truth in Love (Eph 4:15)

September 2015

MESSAGE FROM PARISH PRIEST

"Mary, give me your Heart: so beautiful, so pure, so immaculate; your Heart so full of love and humility that I may be able to receive Jesus in the Bread of Life and love Him as you love Him and serve Him in the distressing guise of the poor."

- Blessed Mother Teresa

September is a month so filled with holiness and dedication. Teachers' Day on September 5th is a day when we salute all teachers, for teaching is not just their passion, but their desire is also to mould the young brains to be an asset to the society and country! Another great reason to celebrate this month is the birthday of Mary, our Blessed Mother! The day calls for not only a celebration, but a dedication from each one of us to follow in her footsteps of humility and love - a teacher to her son Jesus, a teacher and guide to each one of us, her unquestionable obedience to God the Almighty. Furthermore, these two events give us an enlightenment of what dedication to our faith and the elements that constitute our Christian faith must be deeply rooted in.

I would like to start a **"monthly reflection"** beginning this month. We are so ingrained in our Christian values - this month being so apt for just reflecting on that very foundation of being a Christian - **"The Faith"**.

We are all faith-builders, not because we believe in ourselves; but it is the prayer, the togetherness, the humbleness, the love and care that we have for each other - the values that we imbibe from Mother Mary, when she accepted wholeheartedly the plan of God the Almighty.

I would like to share a real-life story - There was this navy officer who was posted on an Indian submarine, in the abyss of the Indian Ocean, on a mission of the Indian Navy which had its duties in international waters. Between the calm littoral of the Indian Ocean and the fierce underwater current, the man-made submarine could not hold the force as it traversed several nautical miles underwater. It was so disturbing, that the submarine began to drop-thud due to the underwater pressure. It was like being hit by quartzite terrain and there was loss of oxygen and life-saving essentials! The navy officer, along with the

crew, began panicking as they started to fight between life and death underwater. Among the 20 odd crew members, many gasping for breath, survival was of utmost importance, yet they were not able to handle the inevitable distress. It was only when this navy officer, who had a gold ring with Our Lady of Health, Vailankanni embossed on it, prayed fervently and told Mother Mary - "Mother, I know you will help us all, please save us" - that there was instant help - a miracle - the submarine began gaining control and their "distress code messages" were heard by a nearby submarine which came to their rescue. From the abyss of death, it was by faith that they were saved. The navy officer was so grateful to Mother Mary, that he makes it a point to make a pilgrimage every year to Vailankanni along with his family, to renew his thanks. Hail Mother Mary!

My reflection, as I share this incident, is to highlight the faith - how wondrous and powerful it can be, for in faith we live our lives.

I take this opportunity to thank all the parishioners, and the ever-vibrant youth and children, for participating in the activities that were conducted during the community weekend and for making it a great success. All your efforts and endeavours were greatly appreciated. I expect the same enthusiasm and cooperation from you all, in keeping up the spirit of being true Patricians, for St. Patrick's thrives as a single community by working together!

To all the teachers of St. Patrick's Parish, my best wishes for your services in teaching which is so valuable. I wish all a blessed and happy feast of Mother Mary's birthday.

"Be faithful in small things because it is in them that your strength lies."

- Blessed Mother Teresa

Msgr. C Francis
Parish Priest

Vicar General - Archdiocese of Bangalore

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COMMUNITY WEEKEND

St. Patrick's Church celebrated its Community Week this year over two weekends (1-2 and 8-9 August 2015). The theme of the Community Week was 'Joining Hands in Love, Praise and Service'. Both weekends witnessed a tremendous participation from parishioners of all age groups and all zones, who got together in the spirit of community to make this year's Community Week a memorable and fruitful one.

The Community week kicked off, both literally and figuratively, with an under-15, 5-a-side zonal football competition held on the 1st of August. The St. Patrick's campus witnessed a flurry of activity on Sunday, August 2nd, with tournaments in Carom, Dodge-ball and seniors' Football, alongside Minute-to-Win-it contests. St. Anthony's Zone demonstrated their sporting prowess by emerging winners in the Carom tournament, under-15 Football tournament, the Seniors Football Tournament and the Dodge-Ball Tournament. The runners-up in each of these tournaments were St. Francis Xavier Zone, St. Patrick's Boys' Home, St. Peter's Zone and St. Paul's Zone respectively.

Friday, August 7th was Movie and Popcorn Night, during which a Christian-themed movie was screened. The housie games on Saturday evening drew an enthusiastic crowd from across all age groups hoping to strike it lucky. St. Peter's Zone were the winners of the

SEMINAR ON PARENTING STYLES

On the 26th of July, the feast of St. Joachim and St. Anne, St. Patrick's held a talk on Parenting Styles which was addressed by Dr. Aloma Lobo - a qualified pediatrician and a long-standing member of our Parish community. She has served at the Archdiocesan Family Welfare Centre for 26 years and was also a Former Chairperson of the Adoption Co-ordinating Agency, as well as a Former Chairperson in the Union Ministry for Women & Child Development. Most importantly, being the mother of six children, she has gained extensive

Bible Quiz that followed, with last year's winners, St Paul's Zone taking second place.

The morning of Sunday, 9th August was a busy one for the parishioners. While there were 'tele-games' organized for the children in St. Patrick's School grounds, the Church parking lot was taken over by the participants of the banner-making and glass-painting events, with each team out-shining the other with their creative interpretation of the theme of the Community Week. Pictures of the Glass-paintings and the Banners are on the St. Patrick's Facebook page and are definitely worth a second look.

A Thanksgiving Mass was concelebrated at 5pm by Msgr. C. Francis and the parish clergy.

After the Mass, the various zones put up a spectacular fashion show, featuring personalities from the Bible. The Zonal Choirs drew the curtains on a week's celebration of St. Patrick's wonderful community spirit by putting up melodious performances. This was followed by a delicious dinner and fellowship.

It was wonderful to see the good response from the parishioners of all zones and age groups for all the events at the Community Week. We look forward to an even greater participation next year.

first-hand experience in the field of parenting. In her talk, Dr. Lobo addressed issues pertaining primarily to parents of children in their early teens. The key points of the talk were: Talk with your children - don't talk down to your children. Talk about important issues that are happening in the world and around them; not in a judgmental manner. She gave the example of same

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IMPORTANT DAYS IN SEPTEMBER

Sep 05: Teachers' Day; Death anniversary of Bl. Mother Teresa of Calcutta
 Sep 08: Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Feast)
 Sep 14: Exaltation of the Holy Cross, Feast
 Sep 15: Our Lady of Sorrows, Memorial
 Sep 21: Feast of St. Matthew the Apostle
 Sep 27: Memorial of St. Vincent de Paul

OBITUARY (16TH JUL TO 15TH AUG 2015)

1. Bernice Lopez - 1/8/2015 - St. Paul's Zone
2. Sweedal Fernandes - 6/8/2015 - St. Thomas Zone
3. Veeranathan - 6/8/2015 - St. Joseph's Zone

Holy Father's Prayer Intentions - September

Universal: MENTALLY DISABLED

That the mentally disabled may receive the love and help they need for a dignified life.

Evangelization: SERVICE TO THE POOR

That Christians, inspired by the Word of God, may serve the poor and suffering.

SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT de PAUL (SSVdP)

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is a worldwide lay organization operating in over a hundred countries, with a membership of over a million. It is recognized by the U.N.O. The Society has Papal approval and has been given autonomy to function. The worldwide headquarters is in Paris.

Introduction

St. Vincent de Paul was born on April 24, 1581. He was captured by pirates and was sold into slavery at Tunis. When he managed to escape, he went to France, where he was ordained a priest and became alms distributor for Queen Marie. He preached repentance, forgiveness and love. People, who heard him, stood in line for hours to make their confessions.

While attending to the needy, he noticed that people were very generous at the time of a crisis, but slackened in charity once the crisis was over. To overcome this problem, he started the Confraternity of Charity to serve the long term needs of the sick and poverty stricken parishioners.

In 1632, an aging monastery was given to him which he converted suitably, to look after the needs of the mentally ill, the lepers, orphan children, priests in trouble, the needy and the poor and also as a retreat centre. It even served as a major food distribution centre for the poor. St. Vincent de Paul died on 26th September, 1660.

Emulating St. Vincent de Paul's works of charity, in 1833 Frederic Ozanam along with six of his fellow students started the Society in Paris and named it after St. Vincent De Paul. Initially, it was intended to defend and strengthen the "faith". However the founders felt the need to get lay Catholics involved in charity. Fredric Ozanam exhorted all members to imitate St. Vincent in performing their works of charity. The main objective of the Society is "Love of God and neighbour in the person of the poor". The vocation of each member is to give practical expression to this commandment and involve oneself in works of mercy. "Charity without faith is useless" said Frederic Ozanam.

History of The Society at St. Patrick's Church, Bangalore

The desire of the then Archbishop of Bangalore, His Grace Thomas Pothacamury, to improve the religious fervor of the poor and destitute families of St. Patrick's Parish, gave birth to the Conference of St. Vincent De Paul on 12th December 1954 with Fr. L.

Vampene as its Spiritual Director.

As a fitting memorial to mark the Silver Jubilee in 1979, the Society put up a small building behind St. Anthony's Shrine, of two floors of 450 sq. ft. on the land donated by the Church, when Rev. Fr. Jabamalai was the parish Priest. The rent from this building, coupled with donations from the faithful, has helped the society to carry out its charitable works.

Current Activities of St. Patrick's Conference

To mark the Golden Jubilee of the Conference, which was solemnly celebrated on 26 September, 2004, the Conference adopted an Old Age Home at Our lady Of Mines Church, K.G. F. and financed the construction of two small houses for Leprosy Patients at Sumanahalli, each named "OZANAM HOUSE."

The Society currently has adopted 12 families. The members of the SVP, though very few in number, consisting of two senior citizens and two younger Members under Bro. Moses as its President, try to alleviate the pain of these adopted families with a personal touch. The Society provides them with a weekly ration of Rs.250/- per family and other medical and timely assistance. Besides these, the Society also tries to meet the specific needs of other poor people who approach it.

The Society acknowledges the guidance, support and encouragement of the Clergy of St. Patrick's, under the leadership of the Parish Priest, in helping it to carry out its activities. The Society is also ever grateful to the parishioners and other benefactors who help it so generously with their donations, thus participating in Christ's mission of lifting up the poor, the sick and the down trodden.

Conclusion

Truly, this is a wonderful work for God and the Church, spiritually, morally and even materially, for it teaches selfless service. There remains much to be done - more families to be taken care of - for which more hands, especially young ones are needed. The harvest is plentiful but the labourers are few. We make a sincere request to the young people of the Parish, to generously come forward and be a part of this noble cause. We hope and pray that this worthy Society, an extended wing of the Parish, a living manifestation of Christ's charity will not die on account of lack of members.

James Sequeira
Society of St. Vincent de Paul

SEMINAR ON PARENTING STYLES (CONTD.)

- sex marriage and corruption by politicians. Whether we like it or not, our children have read about these issues, most probably through social media channels. So it's best to discuss it with them and share why we believe what we believe.
- When setting rules, let them be a part of the rule making process and also let them decide the consequences
- When they get home from school, instead of just giving them instructions, ask them how their day in school was. It helps us understand what issues are troubling them.
- Make time to have a one on one with your child. Occasionally take them out alone for a meal.
- In response to a question from the audience on how to manage children's addiction to gadgets, she advised that it's best to set clear rules about how much time in the day they can access them. In her own case, she allows her 12 year old daughter half an hour on the smartphone / tablet daily.
- You are NOT your child's friend. You are his/her parent.
- Decide and talk about issues in a family council where each child is allowed time to express himself.

Father Sunny also shared a few points one expectations from parents on the spiritual and moral side:

Set aside time for family prayer

Teach your children to fear God. Teach them the scriptures.

Don't give up on your children, even if they have done something wrong - give them the assurance that you are with them.

Be an example to your children with regard to good values you want them to have.

Keyboards Wanted

St. Patrick's is planning to start music classes for the Boys of St. Patrick's Home and would like to acquire at least one or two keyboards for this purpose. If any of you feel inspired to help us in this initiative by contributing/sponsoring an electronic keyboard, kindly contact Fr. Sunny at +91 9164235987. Your assistance would be greatly appreciated.

RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES WITHIN OUR PARISH

- Daily Mass:** 6am, 6.30am (Tamil), 7am, 1.15pm, 5.30pm. Saturday evening Mass at 6pm (Sunday Liturgy)
- Sunday Mass:** 6am (Kannada), 7.15am (Tamil), 8.30am (Children's Mass), 9.45am, 11am, 6pm.
- Shrine Mass:** Every Tuesday at 10am in Kannada and at 6pm in Tamil
- Eucharistic Adoration:** Every Friday 6pm to 6.45pm
- Adoration Chapel:** Exposition every day from 6am to 7pm. On Tuesdays, exposition up to 9.45pm.
- Confessions:** Every Saturday 5pm to 6pm at the Adoration Chapel
- Altar Servers Meeting:** Every Saturday immediately after 1.15pm Mass (Contact Fr. Mac Donald Fernandis +91 8971216787)
- Faith Formation for children:** Every Sunday after 8.30am

Mass - up to 10.30am. Preparatory classes for those desirous of receiving the sacrament of Confirmation in Oct 2016, are being held every Sunday after the 8.30am Mass. Attendance is compulsory.

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

St. Patrick's Church
15-K Brigade Road, Bengaluru
Phone - +91-80-25587213
Email: st.patricksbblr@gmail.com
Facebook.com/stpatricks.church.9
Twitter.com/patrickschurch
Website: www.stpatricksbblr.com

Office Timings:
Daily: 9am - 5pm;
Lunch timings -1pm to 2pm;
Saturday: 9am to 1pm;
Sunday: 9am to 12.15pm

Please contact us at
patricianblr@gmail.com for any
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