

KAIROS

GLOBAL

I'VE
CONFESSED
THIS 1000
TIMES

History
in the
making

*Designing My
Professional Future
With Jesus*

I CHOSE
JESUS





INTERCESSION TO OUR MOTHER



Holy Mary, we surrender Kairos and all its endeavors to your Immaculate Heart. Mother Mary, just like you held your baby Jesus; hold Kairos in your hands. Dear Mary, pray that Kairos may become God's most powerful instrument to bring your Holy Son's gospel to the world

EDITOR'S ROOM



DR. CHACKOCHAN J NJAVALLIL

 @EditorKairos

A MAGAZINE
BY JESUS
YOUTH AND
FOR JESUS
YOUTH

KAIROS IS AN ANCIENT Greek word meaning “opportune moment” or the “supreme moment”. This first issue of Kairos Global (English) is of course ‘Kairos’.

In the early 90’s as the All Kerala Jesus Youth coordinator, I felt the need for a tool to connect with everyone. As the geographical area was vast, personal meetings became rare and there was a need to share the vision and lifestyle of the movement. It was in such a context that Kairos Malayalam magazine was born. It is in its 20th year of publication and over a period of time the magazine has developed a unique style which is now copied even by other publications.

It has been a long pending dream to bring out this magazine in English. I’ve been getting requests from many quarters – students in Kerala, Jesus Youth from across the globe, parents of youth and teens whose children cannot read Malayalam, etc...to bring out the Kairos Magazine in English. Moreover Jesus Youth has grown and spread across the globe and there is a dire need to connect with one another. Kairos Global has been born as a magazine by the Jesus Youth and for the Jesus Youth.

This magazine is a joint effort of hard work put in by many Jesus Youth across the globe under the leadership of Joshy Joseph (Houston, USA). The intercession for this was the first step and it started many months back. Various teams, software systems, websites, mobile apps, were built and efforts to collaborate with people in different parts of the world were established. The Jesus Youth International Council Coordinator, CC Joseph and team supported significantly. It is by our Lord's grace that we have been able to come out with this magazine.

I would like to express my gratitude to all those who have worked behind the Malayalam magazine in the last 20 years, to all those who have put in efforts for this new magazine, the International Council & the Intercession Power House for Kairos.

As this is the Pilot issue, we request you to share your thoughts, ideas and suggestions regarding the magazine to feedback@kairos.global





Also LOOK OUTFOR

- 6 Ask Fr. Bitaju
- 8 Can spirituality be so much Fun?
- 29 An interview with Dr. Anup & Dr. Annilyn Kodakkasseril



"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life." **John 3:16**

LOOK INSIDE

PILOT ISSUE

REGULARS

- 6** Ask Fr.Bitaju
8 Jesus Youth | DR.EDWARD

ENGAGE

- 10** Do You Want To Be Part Of The Vanguard The Lord Is Setting Up? | DR.JACQUELINE MICHAEL

EVOLUTION

- 12** Designing My Professional Future With Jesus
| RON SUNNY

BODY & SOUL

- 14** I've Confessed it 1000 times | JOBIN JOY

ENCOUNTER

- 16** History in Making | MANOJ SUNNY

UP CLOSE

- 18** I Chose Jesus | NOBIN JOSE

INFOCUS

- 22** Simply Love | JULIA MATHEW
25 Love | AGNES SUNNY
26 Have you met the one your soul loves?
| SONIA KURIAN
28 Living life in Love

FAMILY IN FOCUS

- 29** Fireside Chat | ATHULYA JOHNSON

RAISING SAINTS

- 32** Children our gift from God | AJI MARTIN

FAMILIA

- 34** The Ecosystem of Love | JILU JACOB

SOUNDREPLY

- 40** The Innocents (2016) - Movie Review | JOSEPH ANTHRAPER
41 Champions of the Rosary - Book Review | DIANA

BLOOMING KIDS

- 42** Called to Be the Light of the World | JULIA RONCY
44 Quiztime
45 Funny Bone
46 Newswatch

CULTURE OF LIFE

36 CHOOSING LIFE

DR.FINTO FRANCIS



CONTENTS



07 MISSION TALK

DAVID JOHN

38 Saint Jose Sanchez del Rio

THOMAS KOSHY



PATRON

Archbishop Abraham Viruthakulangara
(Ecclesiastical Advisor of the Jesus Youth Movement)

SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR

Fr. Cherian Nereveetil
(Jesus Youth International Chaplain)

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

C.C. Joseph
(Jesus Youth International Coordinator)

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Dr. Chackochan Njavallil

EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Joshy Joseph, Houston, USA
(editor@kairos.global)

ASSOCIATE EXECUTIVE EDITORS

Minu Martin, California, USA
Jothesh Thomas, Dallas, USA
Joseph Anthraper, Southampton, UK
Ponny Sebastian, Dublin, Ireland
Sumol Pious, Muscat, Oman
Divya Immanuel, Mumbai, India
Raifiel Cyril, Brisbane, Australia

EDITORIAL COUNCIL

Sharrol Jose, Chennai, India
Jilu Jacob, Boston, USA
Maritta Martin, Miami, USA
Sonia Kurian, Houston, USA
Nitin Mathew, San Francisco, USA

CIRCULATION MANAGER

Jitty Mary Jose, Houston, USA

SYSTEMS MANAGER

Regy Varghese, Houston, USA

WEB MANAGER

Sovin George, Houston, USA

DESIGN

Mustard Tree, Delhi, India

MAILING ADDRESS

Kairos Global Magazine, Jesus Youth,
Emmaus, HMT Colony P.O, Kochi, India 683503

✉ Email: info@kairos.global

☎ Phone: +91 484 255 8825

🌐 www.kairos.global

📘 www.facebook.com/ReadKairosGlobal

🐦 <https://twitter.com/EditorKairos>

DISCLAIMER: Kairos Trust considers its sources reliable and verifies as much data as possible. However, reporting inaccuracies can occur. Consequently readers using this information do so at their own risk. While every effort has been made to ensure that information is correct at the time of print, Kairos Trust cannot be held responsible for the outcome of any action or decision based on the information contained in this publication/website. The publishers or authors do not give any warranty for the completeness or accuracy for this publications' content, explanation or opinion. Although persons and ministries mentioned herein are believed to be reputable, neither Kairos Trust nor any of its employees, sales agents or contributors accept any responsibility whatsoever for such persons and ministries' activities. No part of this publications and/or website may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form prior written permission from Kairos Trust. Permission is only deemed valid if approval is in writing.

ASK



Fr. Bitaju Mathew, O.S.S.T. belongs to the Order of the Most Holy Trinity and of the Captives (Trinitarians). He serves as the Secretary Vice Provincial of the Order in India and is currently the Chaplain of the Jesus Youth International Formation Team.

FR. BITAJU

Does God have a specific plan for my life? If so, how do I identify it? What are the signs that my path in life is aligned with His plan?

JOHNSON JACOB, COLLEGE STUDENT, MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA

Does God have a specific plan for my life?

Yes, God has a plan for your life. The words of Jeremiah 29:11 state very clearly, “For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.” God gradually unfolds it to you in various ways. It is a lifelong pursuit to be fully attuned to His plan. The fact is that 98% of His will is already delineated carefully through His Word. For instance, it is clearly His plan that we abstain from sexual immorality (I Thes 4:3-4). The plan of God does not make you passive, but active in your quest for His will.

If so, how do I identify it?

The first step to identify God’s plan for you is to cultivate a close relationship with Him. One can do this by spending time with His word, taking time to pray, and listening to God in silence. In the absence of such a relationship, it is almost impossible to seek His will or plan for you. The second step in this process is that before God begins to reveal His will to you, you must be committed to doing whatever it is that He desires for you to do. “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God – what is good and acceptable and perfect” (Rom 12:2). This could mean there is a need for a change of mind or a need to change your attitudes that are heavily influenced by your circumstances. The third step is to seek God’s will/plan for you through spiritual counselors/guides, like your

spiritual director, elder, or pastor - people who accompany you in your spiritual journey. “Where there is no guidance, the people fall, but in an abundance of counselors there is safety” (Prov 11:14). The fourth step is to remember that God often reveals His plan for our lives by lining up circumstances in obvious ways. God often uses closed doors to show us clearly what He does NOT want us to do. He also uses open doors at times to show us what He DOES want us to do. Of course, this does not mean that every open door is definitely God’s plan, but it does help to give you some basic direction. The fifth step, one that is very important, is surrendering to the Spirit who works in you. God is the one who works through you to desire and do His will. It is not you doing it. “For it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure” (Phil 2:13).

What all are the signs that my path in life is aligned with his plan?

The first sign is that your life is in conformity with the Word of God, which is interpreted to us according to the signs of the times, through the teachings of the Church. The second sign is that you are attentive to the ‘closed doors’ and ‘open doors’ in the particular circumstances of your life. The third sign is that you are living a disciplined life, as a disciple of Christ, following the steps mentioned above to continually identify God’s plan for you. To conclude, the one who seeks and does the will of God enjoys the best of this world (for God is with him), and the world to come (for he is always with Him).



YOUCAT 402

WHAT IS LOVE? LOVE IS THE FREE SELF-GIVING OF THE HEART. [2346]

To have a heart full of love means to be so pleased with something that one emerges from oneself and devotes oneself to it. A musician can devote himself to a masterpiece. A kindergarten teacher can be there wholeheartedly for her charges. In every friendship there is love. The most beautiful form of love on earth, however, is the love between man and woman, in which two people give themselves to each other forever. All human love is an image of divine love, in which all love is at home. Love is the inmost being of the Triune God. In God there is continual exchange and perpetual self-giving. Through the overflowing of divine love, we participate in the eternal love of God. The more a person loves, the more he resembles God. Love should influence the whole life of a person, but it is realized with particular depth and symbolism when man and woman love one another in marriage and become “one flesh” [Gen 2:24].

MISSION TALK

WITH DAVID JOHN

David John takes us along on his life changing experiences as a missionary in Papua New Guinea

Tell us about yourself and your mission.

I am a student currently studying my fourth year of Engineering and Science in Melbourne, Australia. I was given the opportunity to go on mission earlier this year, in June 2016, and after prayer and discussion with past missionaries, decided to go forth with the calling. The mission team consisted of Abish, Sojan and Justin. We spent 4 days in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea reaching out to youth in various parishes and then headed inland towards the tribal areas for the next 6 days. The mission was a clear example of something truly guided by the Holy Spirit and His presence was eminent in every gathering, session, game, mass, person, pilgrimage and the overall journey.

Where was your mission place and what was it like?

Our mission took place in mainly two regions: Port Moresby and Magarima (near Mendi), Papua New Guinea (PNG). Regardless of the intimidating title of "one of the most dangerous cities in the world," and watching locals in the tribes walk around with 2 foot long 'bush-knives' as we drove past, the people we met were very friendly and accommodating. PNG is an absolutely beautiful place, with even more beautiful people. Yes, there are many issues with the region, especially regarding moral and ethical values, however, the raw and genuine desire that lies within them help them unite and draw closer to God in a marvellous way.

What are some cultural similarities and differences of PNG Youth in comparison to that of Australian Youth?

Some similarities were their love for music, activities and games, and of course, food. Others included the challenges they face as youth in general.

One of the biggest differences I saw was

that almost all the youth there showed their commitment and passion to be at the retreat by travelling about 8 hours on foot, and some even more, depending on the region they were from. They attended retreats out of their own will and cost, and not by parental influence.

What was one of the funniest memories from the mission?

The photos we have of each other sleeping with our mouths open in the car or on the couch.

What was the most difficult experience or moment on the mission?

"Letting go and letting God," particularly when it came to conducting the retreats and trusting in God working through us. Also it was difficult to say goodbye to the wonderful people of the Magarima Parish, whom we had come to know and love.

What was something that challenged you to become firmer in faith?

The raw passion the locals showed, especially during praise and worship, and Adoration, was truly inspiring.

What would you say to a young person who is considering taking up this mission challenge?

Pray first, and hear the testimonies of previous missionaries. Then, if it's God's will, don't hesitate and go for it. It's definitely not going to be easy, but that's the whole point, since that's when you see miracles. I guarantee that it will be one of the most memorable experiences of your life.

What have you taken away from this experience?

One of the most important lessons which St. Teresa of Avila said, "Christ has no body now on earth but yours," and that we are merely His instruments here to do his will, especially through the people around us.



David John

JESI IS YOUTH



Dr Edward Edezhath, A pioneer of the Jesus Youth Movement gives us a glimpse of the growth of the Movement.

Can spirituality be so much fun?



"I just wanted to find out why these people are so interested in Jesus Youth.

Don't they get bored with prayer, and with these talks on spirituality?" I was taking my 17 year old son to the Joy Conference that Jesus Youth Teens Ministry organised. Earlier, some youth who had come home mentioned this program to him, and to my surprise he willingly gave his name. As we drove to the program, he told me that he was going out of curiosity. His idea was that anything having to do with spirituality had to be boring. In response to that, I say, if so, why are so many smart teenagers and youth so crazy about Jesus Youth? He was going there to unravel the mystery.

After 4 days, as I was taking him back home after Joy Conference, I asked him how the whole thing was. "Not

Youth in action in a Jesus Youth Program

bad," he said. Knowing him, I heard it as "Excellent." Little by little he spoke to me about the friendly ones he met there, how they had fun as the talks were going on, about the skits, the interesting interactions in small groups, and so on. Listening to him, I sensed that he had now willingly joined in the stream. The following days proved my conclusion.

Young people with a positive difference

I have journeyed with the Jesus Youth movement from the time of its inception, and have seen it struggle, grow, and branch out. It has now become like a large fruitful tree. Familiarity does not always breed contempt, but sometimes, much wonderment and respect. At least, when I think of many of my Jesus Youth friends, that is the case. I am wide-eyed with wonderment.

In many of the areas where young people are active, Jesus Youth is present, and they do something beautiful there. In universities and other educational institutions, where all are busy and obsessed with trends and success, here is a set of youth who are intent on spiritual orientation of their friends, and committed to social concern. Jesus Youth campus groups are vibrant and wide spread. In parishes, these youth bring in a lot of creativity and freshness. They get together and go to the poor and needy. Jesus Youth organise programs that are so colourful, full of songs, skits, group interactions, and a lot of creativity. The beauty of it all is that these are mainly dreamed, planned, and carried out by young people themselves.

But there should be some kind of a journey charted out in the movement, and what is it? More or less, the

pilgrimage starts with a meeting, or friendship, with someone in the movement, leading to a personal encounter with God. In Jesus Youth, there is a lot of attention on how to bring today's trendy youth to a personal experience of God. This encounter should lead a person to a friendly fellowship. In this Jesus Youth group, or a small cell, a young person learns a lifestyle of certain spiritual habits. They call it a lifestyle of Six Pillars. Finally, the movement envisions every young person to be a committed missionary, especially where one lives and works. The movement's Statutes sums it up: "Jesus Youth strives to lead people, especially the youth, to a renewed life in Christ, assists them in their growth in holiness and prepares them for the apostolate in communion with the mission of the Church" (#5).

The Journey of the Movement

The movement had its inception in Kerala, India. It has been the fruit of a renewal wave that swept this part of the world in the 1970's. A well planned youth conference in 1978 laid the foundation for a network among the younger generation in the renewal circles. Young leaders began to come together to search for, and develop, modalities and approaches for effective youth ministry. A big leap came when Pope John Paul II announced the International Year of Youth. The fast growing network decided to observe 1985 befittingly and the concluding conference was named as 'Jesus Youth 85'. From that time on, the network came to be known as Jesus Youth. Under this banner, young people came together in different life situations to pray, to learn together, and also to



Jesus Youth

reach out and share the joyful tidings of Christ with others.

Young people want to connect with other youth, and given a chance, they will go on to dream and work towards something joyful and beautiful. Such youthful dynamism helped Jesus Youth to spread to other parts of India during the early part of the 1990's. As young people who had a touch of the Lord went in search of a better career, or migrated as families, they took their newfound enthusiasm with them. Thus, the Jesus Youth movement spread to countries in the Middle East, and then to the various other continents. As of now, it is present in more than 30 countries.

The latest joyful tidings about the movement is that it has been formally approved by the Catholic Church. Surely, this is of great significance, as it is the first from India, and second from the whole of Asia. On May 15, 2016, Pentecost day, the Vatican recognised Jesus Youth as an International Association of the Faithful. For this grassroots youth enthusiasm that sprouted as an insignificant initiative and has become an international reality, this

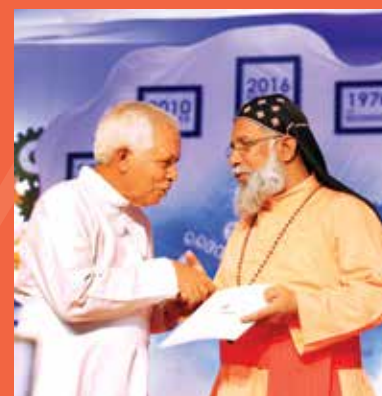
lends much joy and confidence.

The movement moves on

We all say that these are challenging times. There are so many changes all around, and riding the technology wave is so thrilling for the young. Peer pressure has taken new forms, and all are disturbed by the resultant

From top to bottom:

A Jesus Youth program; After receiving the Documents of approval from the Vatican



1978
Charismatic Renewal Youth Conference

1985
Jesus Youth '85

1990
Spread to outside Kerala

1995
Global spread

2016
International Association of the Faithful



letdowns, and even tragedies, in the life of so many. A silver lining amidst these worrying signs comes in the form of this bunch of enthusiastic youth. A variety of Jesus Youth ministries that are driven by so many committed and well-focused youth, give assurance for a better tomorrow. What Pope Saint John Paul II commented on the Church in Asia is true of these young missionaries as well: "One solid cause of hope is the increasing number of better trained, enthusiastic and Spirit-filled lay people, who are more and more aware of their specific vocation within the ecclesial community." What we can hope and pray for is that "Let their tribe increase!"

.....
Dr Edward Edezhath, One of the pioneering leaders and animators of the Jesus Youth movement, a senior lecturer in St. Albert's College, Ernakulam, India lives with his wife is Audry in Cochin, India. They have three children, Ralph, Nicole and Aidan

ENGAGE

DO YOU
WANT TO
BE PART
OF THE
VANGUARD
THE LORD
IS SETTING
UP?

Dr. Jacqueline Michael discusses how to transform ourselves into the well-formed army of the Lord- ever ready for His call.

IN RECENT YEARS I have been hearing many echoes of the message that the Lord had put into my soul some time ago. The echoes are distinct and strong, but few and far in between! I have seen the wisdom of God embracing those who are willing to listen with an open heart. The Lord is seeking to build his Kingdom and seeks the meek and humble of heart to do so.

In the dictionary, a vanguard is described as being the foremost part of an advancing army or a position at the forefront of new developments. He is indeed, right now, setting up and placing His chosen vanguard in the various geographical locations that He needs them to be. He is pruning the chosen of his vanguard and teaching them to be the beacon of light that they are supposed to be in times of darkness.

I URGE YOU DEAR FRIENDS TO FALL ON YOUR KNEES AND PRAY. PRAY FOR A DEEPER UNDERSTANDING AND LOVE.



Do you want to be part of the vanguard the Lord is setting up?

If the answer is yes, then there is no time to wait. It is time to begin the work within you NOW!

In the words of Francis Frangipane: “God is not looking at His watch; He’s looking at His crop.”

Yes, we are His crop. The Lord is instructing and teaching with passion, those souls that are seeking and desiring Him in openness and humility. For this particular mission He reaches out to the spiritually responsive, and carves out a desire for His image and likeness in their soul. Once the soul starts desiring this spiritual transfiguration, the Lord begins to feed, nourish, and prune it. He is the diligent farmer tending the crop.

Now let us delve a little deeper into this transfiguration.

The fulfillment of man’s created purpose is ‘man in the image of God’. This simply means that when the Father looks at us, He sees the image of Christ in us. This does not mean that we become God, or that we take the place of Christ.

It simply means that we have humbled, pruned, and loved, such that Christ is visible through us and indeed if it can be said so – that Christ has taken our place.

For this to happen, we should become like the flute in the hands of the flutist that renders the most mellifluous music – where flute and flutist become one – working together, delivering a taste of Heaven. Like the flute and the flutist, the Will of God should be able to course through our veins, and find the most beautiful expression through every pore of our being. The Will and Glory of God should be manifest in us, His beloved crop. When the crop is mature in fullness and number, then the reaper will come to gather in the harvest.

Let us read the Letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians, to illustrate this point. Ephesians 4:11-13: “The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ.”

Here Paul talks of the gifts of the various ministries that God has given to build up the body of Christ, which is the Church. He goes on to reveal the end point of this building up, which is the unity of the faith and knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the FULL STATURE OF CHRIST. Christ is indeed the real measure for us, the sons and daughters of the almighty God!

I urge you dear friends to fall on your knees and pray. Pray for a deeper understanding and love. Pray for cleansing and purification. Pray for mercy. And last but not the least pray for the Divine Will of God to be manifest passionately and wholly in your life. Pray also that your transfiguration is so complete that the inner you has disappeared.

Pray, pray, and persevere – knowing that the likeness of Christ is the raison d’être of your existence. The Lord will pour into you, every grace for the attainment of your desire for transformation. He will mould you, love you, and transfigure you – all He needs is a loving, humble, and desiring heart, and you too can take your place in the Lord’s vanguard. ■



Dr. Jacqueline Michael, a Doctor, Writer and Lifestyle Medicine advocate currently lives in Sydney, Australia with her husband and 3 Children.

EVOLUTION

“So, **what next?”** Every single student comes across a point in life when that question is thrown at them. If you haven’t yet faced it, it is COMING SOON. If you have, well, then join the club. Billions have the same question about their professional future that have yet to be answered.

Should I actually think about what I want to be professionally? Or is it something God has already predesigned and I have no power to change? Is it something that will just fall upon me when the time comes? Something that I am supposed to just accept as ‘His will’? If so, then why is ‘His will’ not ‘perfect’ for everyone? Why do we still see people sick and tired of their jobs and their lives?

I was fascinated when I was told about being able to sit down and design my future with God. As I began with the process, I had many questions. God very generously poured out his wisdom, through many consultations with priests and elders, the Word of God and personal prayer. I found pretty convincing answers to many of my questions, got lots of practical tips, and am experiencing the fruits of this process. It is this joy that I would like to share from the lessons learned during this initial phase. I would like to add here, that for the most part, I have tried to follow the tips listed below strictly, and have realized that as long as your attempts are sincere and consistent, you will make progress.

HOW I STARTED THIS PROCESS:

With Jesus.

I think the best and most simple way

to begin with and grow in relationship with Jesus is by practicing 3 constants daily: personal prayer, Holy Mass, and reflection of the Word of God. Personal prayer is the time I spend alone to talk to Jesus and to listen to Him. I realized that there is no substitute to sitting down, away from any sort of distractions, to spend quality time with Him. I had most of my discussions with Jesus during this time. During Holy Mass I was flooded with grace – a key factor that helped me sustain. I would also read the Bible until I came across a verse that touched me, and then pause and reflect over that verse for a personal message. God very often spoke to me through these verses. I got a lot of guidance, correction, and insights through this process. One beautiful verse that reminded me that the discernment process was in fact a dialogue was 1 John 4:10, 19...“In this is love: not that we

Designing My Professional Future With Jesus

Ron Sunny delves into the practical steps and methods useful in discerning your career and what the Lord is calling you to.



have loved God, but that he loved us.”

I tried my best to be genuine and completely open during my chats with Jesus, as I knew that he knew me, way more than I knew myself. This fact, took a huge load off of me, and made the process a thrilling experience.

HOW DID I PROCEED WITH DESIGNING?

▪ Short-listed professions that I had in mind (and hence the courses I was considering) based on the following questions:

Do I have an interest in it? Do I have the aptitude for it? How do I serve society through this profession? How will it help me contribute to building the Kingdom of God? How will this profession help me improve my relationship with Jesus?

- Used a book to write down all my reflections for the entire process
- Had a practical ‘Things-to-do’ list after every discussion with Jesus which helped in ensuring progress throughout the process.
- Discussed my thoughts and ideas with professionals in the areas I was interested in for greater clarity
- Evaluated all such discussions with Jesus during my personal prayer

HOW DID I KNOW I WAS ON THE RIGHT TRACK?

- I asked myself “Am I getting closer to Jesus or moving away from him?”
- “Judge the tree by its fruits.” God will reveal positive signs (joy, peace) and

results as a “Well done-Carry on” signal.

POSSIBLE TRICKS OF THE DEVIL/ FACTORS THAT SLOWED ME DOWN

- Increased frequency of temptations
- Increased gap between my fall into sin and confession
- Extreme laziness
- Worrying about the future

SOLUTION – GET BACK TO THE CONSTANTS & CONFESS ASAP!

“My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.” 2 Corinthians 12:9

Imagine having a job where you do things you enjoy, while being financially stable at the same time. Imagine that you can also be blessed with Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self control.* Now stop imagining and start realizing! All the above will make sense only if you give it a shot. You’ll need a book, a pen, and lots and lots of grace. Get started! Stay blessed

“Do not conform yourselves to this age but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and pleasing and perfect.” (Romans 12:2) **||**



Ron Sunny hails from Changanacherry, Kerala. He is currently pursuing a PhD at IISER.

Quick GUIDE

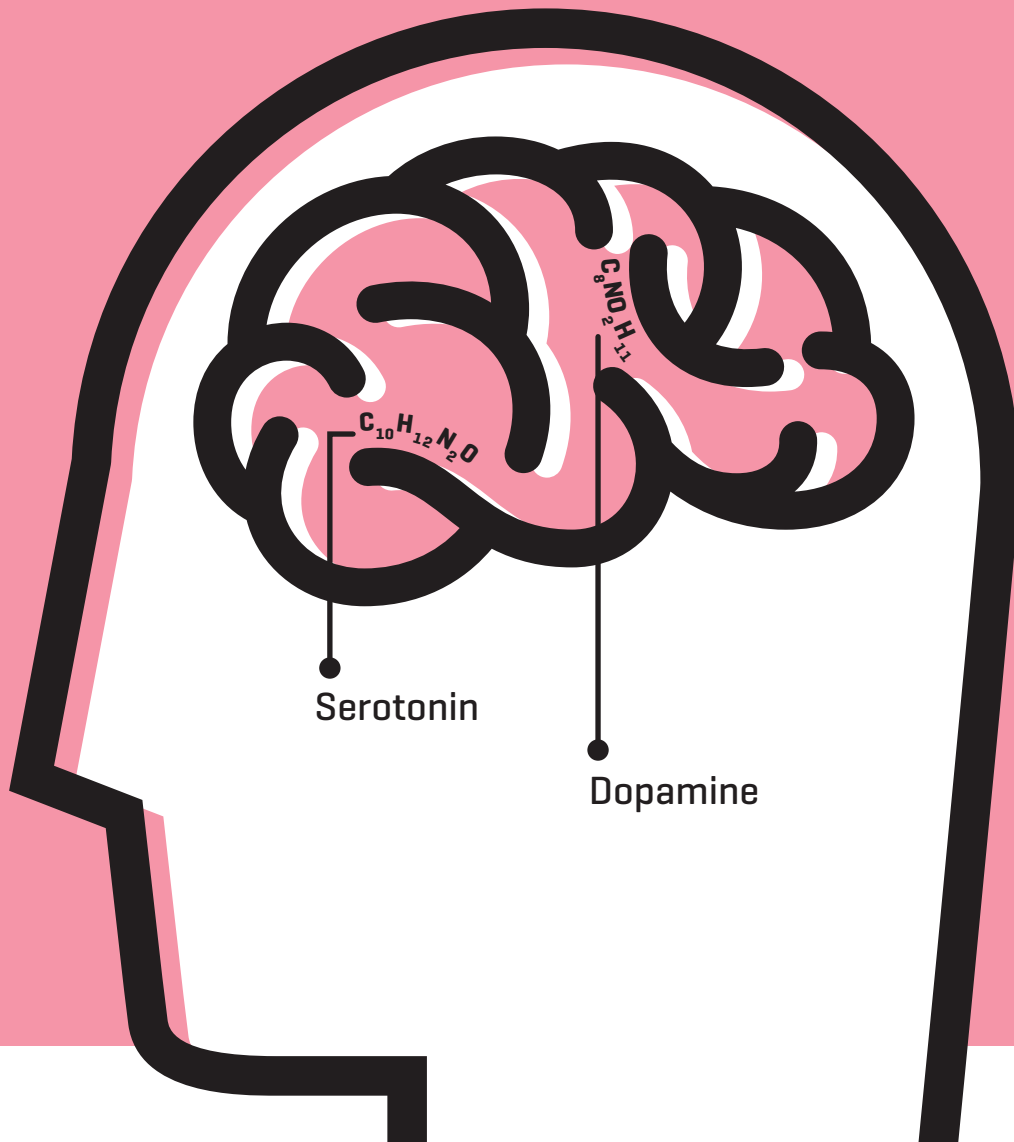
A couple of things I learned on the way

- ✦ Take sufficient time to make decisions – be slow but steady
- ✦ The more you discuss, the clearer it gets
- ✦ The Holy Spirit is the most creative person ever. He will take you through new experiences, to new people, to new heights. So don’t limit yourself – ENJOY!
- ✦ Universities, institutes, guides, professionals are all just a medium that God will use to lift you to the standards of the Kingdom of God. So don’t ever think that the best institutes are too good for you. When these institutes are compared to God, they are nothing. Moreover, the Creator of all things is your best friend!
- ✦ If you don’t take control of your life, people who love you will take control of it – so take control of your decisions.
- ✦ RELAX! God is in-charge!



I'VE CONFESSED THIS 1000 TIMES

It's a kind of addiction that involves the release of neurotransmitters, such as serotonin and dopamine, inside the brain!!



WHEN I WAS YOUNGER, my friends encouraged me at the age of 12, 13, and 14, to watch pornography. I wouldn't do it. I'd turn away, saying that it is wrong. But when I was 15, things changed. I still remember the first porn video I saw on my friend's TV. Ever since then (I am 31 now), I have been addicted. I am married and have children. I am pretty stunned. I am definitely afraid of going to hell because of this addiction. I confess this sin every time I go to confession. I am afraid of confessing this anymore because I might do it again."

The above was shared during a Question & Answer session on Catholic Answers. It shows how much the present generation is affected because of pornography addiction. Our society is yet to realize the severity of this new form of evil. There is a great need to fight against this, and spread awareness about this.

Did you know that pornography addiction is very similar to alcohol or drug addiction? Pornography addiction is a kind of addiction that involves the release of neurotransmitters, such as serotonin and dopamine, inside the brain. All addictions affect the decision-making ability of the person. In the case of pornography addiction, the brain is flooded with serotonin and dopamine. This repeated rush of neurotransmitters changes the brain's reward pathway, ultimately changing the viewer's brain chemistry and leading the person to have an increased appetite for pornography. In the worst case, it can even cause physical damage to the brain. Many recent studies are available regarding this pornography addiction (<http://theporneffect.com>). Unlike the case of alcohol or drug addiction, the drugs serotonin and dopamine are created inside the body itself. Our society has many ways to treat alcohol addiction and drug addiction. Pornography addiction also needs to be treated in a similar way. More awareness and initiatives need to be developed to address this addiction.

If you are addicted to pornography, please do not condemn yourself, or become hopeless! Addiction develops over time, and so the healing will also take place over time. Healing requires time and effort. More often than not, individuals will need the help of an accountability partner, as this fight cannot be fought alone. One should remember however, that many have been delivered from the worst of addictions when they placed their trust in God, while at the same time, looking to friends and family for support. Don't give up hope! To give up on hope is to give up on God. God's mercy is infinite! Our sins are nothing in comparison to his infinite mercy and love.

God has created us with a desire for love, touch, and intimacy. He has entrusted us with all that is good. With that, he also wants us to be responsible for our neighbor and ourselves. In Genesis, when God entrusted everything to Adam, he also wanted him to be responsible. There might be lots of reasons for each of our addictions, but freedom from addiction involves taking responsibility. One of the first steps to freedom from an addiction is to read up about it, and be aware of your weakness. A great place to start is by listening to Catholic speaker Matt Fradd, and downloading the mobile app 'Victory', created specifically to help people with pornography addiction.

FIGHTING the addiction is always a struggle. We need to recognize and remind each other that our fight against addiction is also an opportunity for an outpouring of God's grace. Where sin abounds, there God's grace abounds much more (Romans 5.20). Our temptations and struggles with addiction are actually opportunities to choose good over the evil. Choose Christ by fighting against, and rejecting, day after day, this modern sin of pornography. Through our struggles we are being purified, in order that we may be ready to meet our loving and caring God in Heaven. Let us look forward, surrendering our addictions and weaknesses into the hands of Christ. ■■

God, help me take responsibility of my actions, and fight against my weaknesses.

Help me to see my struggles as opportunities to choose good over the evil.

Guide me in the right way, so I may be delivered from my addictions and weaknesses.

Amen.

Our temptations and struggles with addiction are actually opportunities to choose good over the evil

 www.theporneffect.com



The Porn Effect exists to help individuals end their pornography addiction.

 **Victory**



Mobile app 'Victory', created specifically to help people with pornography addiction.



Jobin Joy hails from Kottayam in Kerala, India. Currently he is doing his Doctorate studies at Texas A&M in the United States. He has been part of the Jesus Youth movement since 2010.

ENCOUNTER

HISTORY

IN THE MAKING

Manoj Sunny takes us through the Priestly formation of Fr Ditto And Fr Das in the Jesus Youth movement.

ON 29TH DEC 2016, the Jesus Youth movement made history yet again - when His Grace Archbishop Abraham Viruthakulangara ordained Fr Das and Fr Ditto for the apostolate of the Jesus Youth movement. This is the first time in the history of the Church in India that two priests have been ordained to a local diocese for the apostolate of a movement

It was in 2004 that a few young people who deeply desired to set apart their lives fully for the Mission of the Lord approached us with a unique request. They had already discerned their vocation for Holy Orders, but at the same time, wanted to be fully available for the apostolate of Jesus Youth. This request, perhaps a sign of the times, set us out on a journey of discernment involving prayer, discussions and consultations.

We approached around 30 priests, who were involved in the formation of seminarians and friends of Jesus Youth, to seek their discernment and suggestions. To our surprise, almost every one of the priests responded very positively. After several rounds of discussion, especially with bishops, priests and leaders, we submitted a proposal to His Grace Archbishop Abraham Viruthakulangara in April 2009. His Grace replied thus



to our proposal on 20th of May: "... I affirm that the need expressed in your letter to have trained and committed priests for Jesus Youth ministry is valid and very much essential in these times.

The discernment and the resultant vocations from Jesus Youth are a God-given gift to the movement at this juncture. I hereby confirm to take the responsibility to oversee the formation of the candidates. After the successful completion of their formation, they will be ordained by me or any other benevolent Bishop. And they will be made available for working with the Jesus Youth movement".

We began the formation with 5 candidates on 19th June 2009 under the guidance of His Grace Archbishop Abraham Viruthakulangara and the direction of Rev Fr Jose Parappallil at the MSFS Vidyashram, Cochin, India.

Fr Das was born on 30th Oct 1982 in Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh to (Late) Mr. Devasahayam & Mrs. Jhansi Rani. He has an elder sister and a younger brother. He completed his Masters in Information Systems from Andhra University in 2004. From 2005 onwards he was actively involved in Jesus Youth. He was the first one to record the Telugu Catholic Bible in MP3 audio format and received the 'Best Youth' award from the Andhra Pradesh Catholic Youth Commission in 2009. In 2007 he attended the Jesus Youth International Fulltimership training in Bangkok, Thailand to discern his vocation to priesthood; he resigned his job and took one year fulltimership commitment. During this time, he was convinced of his call for priesthood, especially priesthood to be available fully for the apostolate of Jesus Youth Movement. He did his philosophical and theological studies in Pontifical Urbaniana University, Vatican, Rome and one year of regency in Italy and India. He was ordained as Deacon by His Grace Archbishop Abraham Viruthakulangara on 30th July 2016, during the World Youth Day in St. Joseph's Church, Krakow, Poland.

Fr Ditto Devassy Poothekkaden, was born on



THE DISCERNMENT AND THE RESULTANT VOCATIONS FROM JESUS YOUTH ARE A GOD-GIVEN GIFT TO THE MOVEMENT AT THIS JUNCTURE.

14th January 1982 in Potta, Chalakudy, Kerala to Mr. P. L. Devassy & Mrs. Annie Devassy. He has two younger brothers. Fr Ditto completed Graduation in Philosophy (2002 - 2005) from Mary Matha Major Seminary, Trichur. Later he took a break from his priestly formation and worked both in India and abroad for about 8 years. During this tenure he encountered the Jesus Youth movement in Saudi Arabia in 2008 and from then on he was actively involved in different ministries and shouldered various responsibilities in the Middle East Jesus Youth for a period of four years. In 2010 he participated in the Jesus Youth International Leaders' Training programme, Bangkok, Thailand. After two years of continuous discernment and spiritual guidance under the animators and elders of the movement, he discerned his call and took a decision to resign his job in Saudi Arabia and joined for Jesus Youth Priestly formation in 2012 in Nagpur, India. From 2012 to 2013, he did one year of Regency in the Archbishop's house, Nagpur. He did his theological studies in St. Charles Major Seminary, Nagpur and was ordained as Deacon on 2nd February 2016 by Most. Rev. Abraham Viruthakulangara. Dn. Ditto also attended the Jesus Youth Fulltimership training in 2016.

A small team comprising of Fr Thomas Tharayil, Fr Bitaju Mathew, Fr Cherian Nereveetil, Baby Chacko, Dr Edward Edezhath and Raiju Varghese coordinated the whole process of formation. Archbishop Abraham Viruthakulangara, Bishop Thomas Chakiath, Fr Jose Parappallil, Fr James Anaparampil, Fr Abraham Pallivathukkal, Fr Jose Palatty CMI, Fr Joshy Mayyattil, Fr Chilton Fernandez, Fr Tomy Philip, Fr Dr Mathew Abraham, George Devassy and C.C Joseph guided and supported us in different roles during this tenure of formation.

On 29th Dec 2016, Archbishop Abraham Viruthakulangara ordained Dn Ditto and Dn Das as priests at Sacred Heart Church, CMI Provincial House, Rajagiri, Cochin. They will be part of the Archdiocese of Nagpur and will be available for the apostolate of the Jesus Youth movement. His Grace Archbishop Prakash Mallavarapu (Archdiocese of Visakhapatnam), His Excellency Bishop Joseph Raja Rao Thelegathoti, S.M.M. (Bishop of Vijayawada), His Excellency Bishop Robert Muhirwa (Diocese of Fort Portal, Uganda), His Grace Archbishop Emeritus Francis Kallarackal, more than 70 Priests, religious sisters and many Jesus Youth leaders joined us during this time of grace. Let us thank our Lord for this blessing! Let us keep Fr Das and Fr Ditto in our prayers. ■■



Manoj Sunny, First National and International Coordinator of Jesus Youth, presently serving as the International director of Formation. He is also in charge of the formation of Jesus Youth seminarians.

UP CLOSE



I CHOSE JESUS!

Interview with Ms. Fionne Grace Lai, Coordinator of Jesus Youth Singapore

Nobin Jose gives us an insight into how Fionne, a Buddhist by birth chose Jesus as her Lord and Saviour. She shares her journey in the search of truth, how she found Jesus, the changes in her life, and her dreams for the future. Fionne Grace Lai is currently the coordinator of Jesus Youth Singapore and a member of the Jesus Youth International Council.

Fionne, can you share with us about your childhood and family?

I was born in Singapore to a typical Chinese Buddhist family. My family was very much involved in practising the Buddhist rituals and my parents were devoted to the Buddhist religious practices. My two sisters and I grew up practising Buddhist prayers and rituals. My parents offered me to the “goddess of mercy,” in Chinese also known as “Guan Yin”, at a very young age. Other than the huge goddess of mercy statue, we also have our ancestor’s tablet, and earth god, at our altar table.

My mum told me that Guan Yin will protect me, and take care of me. Out of respect, I obediently followed what my parents taught me, in practicing the faith with joss sticks, offering to Guan Yin, and praying to other gods, I also visited the Chinese Temple and even the Indian Temple occasionally.

Can you share your memories about God during your younger years?

As a child who was born in a Buddhist family, I was obeying my parents in blindly practicing all the rituals and prayers, but could not find any happiness or satisfaction. I was just making my parents happy by doing so and there was no personal relationship and experience of the God I was praying to.

I was very much fearful of God those days, and I thought if I did anything wrong, God would severely punish me. We had many beliefs, like Ghost month or Festival of the Hungry Ghost. During this month, the gates of hell are opened, and the spirits normally trapped inside are free

to roam the earth for one month. There were many such superstitious beliefs that haunted my childhood and school days.

When did you start hearing about “Jesus”?

I still remember the school anthem song at my secondary school- Christ Church Secondary School. We used to sing every morning “To God be the glory, great things He hath done, So loved He the world that He gave us His Son...” Although I was singing the same anthem for 5 years, I did not try to understand the meaning and I did not know who this “Son” was in the song. Every Friday afternoon, one pastor used to give an hour sermon. I made it a routine to sleep during those sermons, longing to hear the final “Amen” after the closing prayer of such sessions.

When did the “change” start in your life, Fionne?

My secondary school friend, Jennifer, used to invite me to St Michael’s church. Out of curiosity to know what was happening there, I started following her. One day when we reached the church, a healing Mass was happening at the church, and I witnessed a priest laying hands over people, and people were getting healed.

Fionne with her parents



It is no longer I, but Christ who lives in me.

GALATIANS 2:20



I could see with my own eyes the healings, deliverances, and a peace and joy that spread over the place, but I didn't realize who this God was behind all the beautiful things happening in front of me. However, I was afraid about causing problems if I continued to go to church, since I was submitted to the goddess of mercy. I decided to stop the occasional church visits with Jennifer and told her "Since I am a person submitted to the goddess of mercy, I won't be coming to church anymore."

After my studies, I started to work in the corporate world, rushing for work, back home, sleep, and next day repeating the same routine again. Over the weekends, I used to spend time with my friend at the movies, for meals and shopping, the usual things the youth were doing. Nothing significant or special was happening in my life. I used to be a very negative person, full of complaints, and my life went on like this till the year 2009, a special year that had changed my entire life.

One day I met Jennifer on a bus after work, almost 5 years after our secondary school graduation. That meeting was a renewal of our friendship, and thereafter we used to meet up for meals. Those were occasions of great relief, to be able to share the struggles of work and life with a friend. Within my heart I knew Jennifer was special because her God was powerful, and I learned that she was a Jesus Youth.

During that year, my friend, Phyllis shared

with me that she was having some struggles at her workplace. Somehow, I got this prompting within my heart that Jennifer would have a solution to the problems Phyllis was going through. I connected both of them together. As a person who always thirsts for souls, Jennifer invited Phyllis to a Jesus Youth prayer group at The Church of the Risen Christ, Toa Payoh. Phyllis went with Jennifer into the prayer meeting, where they all prayed together for the problem which Phyllis was facing in her work. Miraculously, her job situation improved as result of the prayer, and she continued to attend the weekly prayer meeting. I was curious, and wanted to find out what they had done. They shared with me that they had prayed to God, He answered her prayers, and things seemed to move smoothly.

Having witnessed the miracle in Phyllis' life, what was the impact in your life?

One day Jennifer, Phyllis, and I went for a dinner. During the meal, I was listening to what Jennifer and Phyllis were sharing about one true God, prayer, and Catholic faith. Though I couldn't grasp the meaning of what they were talking, I received a divine inspiration to know more about that miraculous "Power" that changed Phyllis' life. I was very much excited and surprised by the things God was doing, a God who was tangible and near.

What was the first Jesus Youth program you attended? How was your experience?

Jennifer brought me to a Jesus Youth professionals gathering at CANA Catholic Centre, which was my first Jesus Youth program. During the praise and worship, I was deeply touched by one song that drew me to tears. I felt that God's love was flowing into my heart. I sensed that God was calling me too. I was inspired to journey with Jesus Youth. As a result, I started attending the weekly prayer meeting at the Church of the Risen Christ, Toa Payoh.

How did you decide to join RCIA (Rite of Catholic Initiation of Adults)?

During the prayer meetings, I was very much blessed with the presence of the loving people of Jesus Youth, who helped me to know about Jesus, and to grow in a relationship with Him. I came to learn about RCIA, which is a one year faith formation program that eventually leads to Baptism, to be a Catholic. My prayer group encouraged me to join RCIA. With the prayers and support of Jesus Youth, I started the RCIA

journey. Jennifer was my RCIA sponsor. I thankfully remember the immense prayers, sacrifices, and efforts taken by people like Jennifer, Nimmi, Sijumon, Dr. Julio, Dr. Mathew, and many others, who longed to see me grow in Christ Jesus. During that one year of RCIA, along with the formation received in RCIA, I was given many opportunities to attend initial retreats, and other programs organised by Jesus Youth, that catalysed my faith journey.

We can only imagine how excited you were for Baptism after a yearlong RCIA journey. Can you share about your preparations for Baptism?

Yes, I was very excited and awaited my Baptism. I had to find a Baptismal name. Jennifer suggested many names, but I could sense that the Holy Spirit was prompting the name 'Grace' through praying the Holy Rosary. Mother Mary is always close to my heart in a special way. So finally, after a yearlong preparation, prayer, and waiting, I received the Sacrament of Baptism in 2010. This took place during the Easter Vigil Holy Mass at Church of the Risen Christ, Toa Payoh. Fionne Lai became Fionne Grace Lai. My heart was overjoyed to see many Jesus Youth friends present for the Baptism.

How did you grow in 'Grace' after the Baptism?

Friends started to notice changes in me and I also felt them in myself. I became more positive and joyful, and I could handle more challenges in my life. I believe this was the work of the Holy Spirit within me. When I am weak and when I am down, I recite the Holy Rosary, and it has given me tremendous comfort and strength to carry on. It has become a part of me to recite the Rosary, and communicate with Our Lord, Jesus Christ, through Our Lady, in many ways.

After my Baptism, I had an intense desire to share the love of God which I experienced in my life. I was very much attracted to the 6 pillars of the Jesus Youth movement. I became involved in the Jesus Youth Singapore Outreach Ministry. God used me as an instrument to help in initial



Fionne Grace at her Baptism

retreats and to coordinate various outreach programs, targeting local youth. Over the past 5 years, we did retreats for Marymount School Primary students. Though unworthy, to my surprise, God called me to serve as Coordinator of Jesus Youth Singapore since 2014, and throughout these years, the movement helped me to deepen my faith and to enrich my spirituality. "It is no longer I, but Christ who lives in me," Galatians 2:20.

Can you share your dreams about your mission?

I dream of resigning my job one day to become a fulltime missionary. I was enlightened on the need of more "labourers" in our Lord's vineyard during my visit to East Timor a few months ago. So many souls are waiting for spiritual food. So many people are urgently in need of Jesus in their lives. We need to pray more, we need to do more for the mission areas. I have one more dream. I wish my parents and siblings could be part of our beautiful Catholic Church one day...I hope you all can join me in praying for that special dream too. ■■



Nobin Jose is the Assistant Coordinator of Jesus Youth, Singapore. He has been living in Singapore for the past decade. Nobin is married to Jilu and they are blessed with a baby boy, Savio Joseph.

IN FOCUS

Simply Love

Julia Mathew takes us on a journey of compassion & love as she describes her mission experiences in South Asia



♥ I recently returned from a six week trip to South Asia. During my time there, the Lord gave me opportunities to see Him in poverty and brokenness. My time there colored how I view this world, and even my life. The Lord broke my heart in ways I could have never imagined yet brought me so much joy through the smallest encounters. More than all of that though, He pushed me to dream of what this world would look like if all His followers obeyed His greatest commandment, to love one another as He has loved us.

Since the beginning of this year, I have been asking God to teach me to increase my capacity to love. During my trip, the Lord allowed my heart to hurt for what hurts His. This taught me how to love more intimately, like He loves us. In order for me to love more intimately, I had to endure a part of the pain He endures. One of the main ways God did this for me was through how I saw people. I would see the Sunday school kids I taught in the local children playing at the train station. I would see my little cousin in the young boy working everyday at the sweet shop making jalebi (an Indian sweet). I would see my own grandparents in the elderly man or woman begging for money.

By opening up my eyes and heart to the brokenness in this place, the Lord entrusted me with a piece of His heart while taking and shattering my privileged, comfortable, American-born heart. The Lord had my heart shattered for the people I wanted to love, so that compassion would grow in the brokenness of my heart. The dictionary states that compassion is “a feeling of deep sympathy and sorrow for another who is stricken by misfortune, accompanied by a strong desire to alleviate the suffering.” It is this feeling that took root and grew in my heart throughout my entire journey.

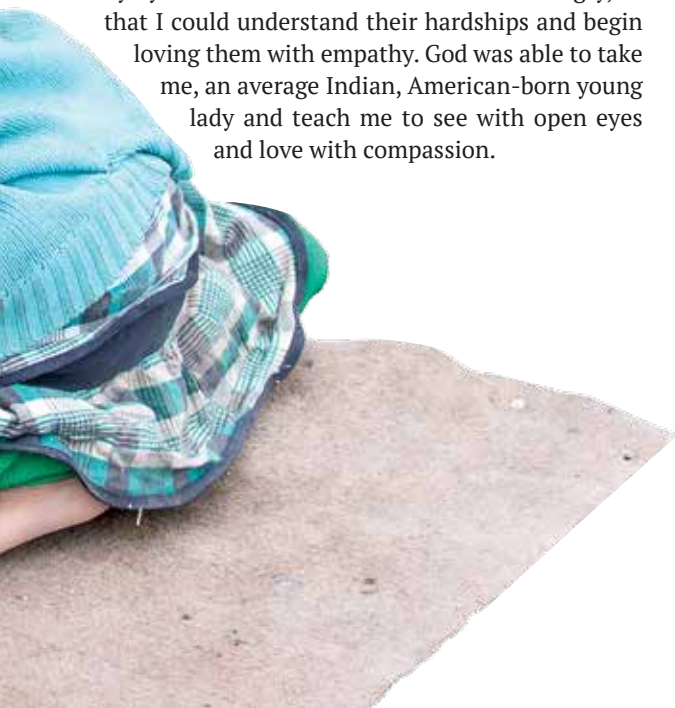
In order to be compassionate, the Lord had to first give me a vision to do so. He had to help me see those who were hurting. God began to open my eyes to see those who were sick and hungry, so that I could understand their hardships and begin loving them with empathy. God was able to take me, an average Indian, American-born young lady and teach me to see with open eyes and love with compassion.

My trip director challenged my team to really seek out God in these places, and to ask Him to teach us how to be compassionate.

One of the sights that broke my heart was seeing grown men and women ignoring the elderly who were begging. It would not just be from a distance, but many times they would ignore an appachen or ammachi (grandpa or grandma) who was tapping on their shoulder, or standing right in front of them. In South Asia, respect, especially to elders, is very important, and is a value embedded into the culture. It made my blood boil that while being in a country where the elderly are traditionally given so much respect, they could also be continually ignored because of their lack of wealth and lower social class. Neither one of our lives matter more than another's, but in many societies, the wealthy or those making up a certain ethnic background, can sadly be the most significant, deciding group.

My trip director challenged my team to really seek out God in these places, and to ask Him to teach us how to be compassionate. As I would walk through the train station, I would smile at the kids playing. When I encountered a man or woman begging, and if I didn't have anything to give, I would fold my hands together as a sign of respect to show that I acknowledged them and valued their life. During each of these different encounters, the Lord continued to reveal to me how, even when I couldn't give or help, the people I encountered mattered. I was given the privilege to share this message with those I encountered daily, without using any words for communication. Every day, I was reminded of how even when the poor or marginalized are invisible to the Lord, they are seen by God. I knew that I wanted my vision and sight to be aligned with His. I wanted to see who He sees, touch who He touched, care for whom He cared for, and love who He loved.

God let me in on an immense secret this summer that changed the way I see love. During my time here, I realized that the more I sought the Lord, the more I was able to find Him. I started to play hide and seek with God, and I was always the one seeking. He would hide, but sometimes He would jump out of His hiding places, like young children do when you play this game with them. I saw His joy in the laughs of the children I played with at the train station. I saw His gentleness in the hands of the elderly man that would hold onto my hand after I would place a coin in his cup. I saw His love in the sweet smiles of the women who would help me figure out which train would take me home. I experienced this summer what Israel is told in Jeremiah 29:13, “When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart.” There is no “if's” or “maybe's” in this verse, but a bold statement and promise of God that we WILL find Him when we search with all our heart. The greatest lesson the Lord was able to teach



If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless



me was when I continued to seek Him, I would find Him, and then the more I was able to love Him. As I fell more in love with the Lord, He taught me how to love what He loved.

This summer, God challenged me to love those He loves...those the world doesn't even see. In James 1:26-27 we read, "If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world." There is a difference between those who are "religious," and what religion in the eyes of the Lord looks like. In The Message's reflection of this passage in James specifically explains how the Gospel is not about us making a good name for ourselves, but rather about showing love, especially to the poor and marginalized. It was only after my experience this past summer that I understood this part of Scripture

in its entirety.

If we, the body of Christ, could love like how we're called to, how different this world would be! So much of the world's brokenness would look different. Poverty, terrorism, human trafficking, and starvation among other things would be eradicated! If we, the Church in America, love as much as we claim we do, why do we not have compassion towards those we see holding cardboard signs, asking for money at red lights? Why do teachers ask their students to turn in their homework, but not if they ate breakfast first thing in the morning? Many times, we claim to be Christians who share the love of God, but tend to live more like the Pharisees because our words don't match with our works. Yes, our works do not attain us salvation, but the love that we show through our works could bring someone else to Jesus. This, through the power of the Holy Spirit, could lead them to having a relationship with God, and accepting Him as their Lord, attaining them salvation.

If there is one thing that I could change about how our country is seen in the world, it is that I wish it was not simply labeled a Christian country.

I wish that we could be a Christ-like nation, that strives to love like our Lord. I wish that we did not just say, "one nation under God" in the pledge, but as a nation we lived out those words through racial reconciliation and by minimizing the gap between the rich and poor. I wish that instead of being forced to help our brothers and sisters through food stamps by having to pay taxes, that we would help and give out of love and compassion. These are all dreams that I hold in my heart and pray to see come true. Even if it does not happen during my lifetime, I know that on that day when my Savior returns, there will be no more pain, hunger, or injustice, just LOVE. Until that day, I challenge you to love like our God invites us to.

Having had the privilege to experience Him in a new way this summer, I want to

encourage you to seek the Lord and to seek Him with confidence, knowing that when you seek Him whole-heartedly, you will find Him! He wants you to find Him. He might hide Himself at times, but also reveals Himself in beautiful moments. As you seek and find, you'll catch yourself falling more and more in love with Him. And as you fall more in love with Him, you will begin to love those He loves. ■■



Julia Mathew gave her life to Jesus at the age of 18 when she was convicted by the Lord while at a week long mission trip. She currently attends TWU in hopes of becoming a teacher.

Love

AGNES SUNNY EXPLORES THE

BEAUTIFUL RELATIONSHIP

BETWEEN OUR HEAVENLY

FATHER, LOVE, AND US....

WE NEED TO BE FULL OF

HIS LOVE THAT WE MAY BE

ABLE TO LOVE OTHERS....

An artist creates something they have thought of. He or she has a sense of it in their mind. It could be a painting, a song, or an essay. They hold the idea close to their hearts. As Bishop Fulton Sheen describes it, the artist becomes the first lover of a piece of art. The emotions conveyed to anyone looking at a piece of art is the heart of the artist, captured and expressed in a way to reach the viewer. This is the beautiful relationship between our heavenly Father, love, and us.

It's through our heavenly Father that we receive and experience true love, the same love with which He created us. It is this same love that we are called to share with others. People kept from going close to Him, because they felt unworthy in the presence of His glory, majesty, and might. Therefore, He sent His son to become one among us and to bridge the distance between God and man forever. He never wants us to feel far away. We are worthy, and He promises to hold us close to His heart. Each and every day, he keeps His promise through the presence of Jesus in the Holy Eucharist. He gives Himself completely to us in the Eucharist during the miraculous moments of the consecration at Holy Mass. The truth is that He waited for you and me all this while. He is therefore the true source of Love.

We associate love with the things we like a lot. We love certain people more than others, we love certain hobbies more than others. We love something that makes us happy, we love someone who makes our eyes twinkle. Yet the love we receive from Jesus sometimes differs from this rosy perspective of love that we hold dear. He teaches us a love that is sacrificial and requires self-denial; a love that is about selfless giving and seeking the good of another. His death on the cross captures completely the true meaning of love.

We have been created in the image and likeness of God, for a purpose no other human being can fulfill. We are told to "Love your neighbor as you love yourself," but we often ignore the "as you love yourself." Loving yourself is very important, for when

you love yourself, you are taking care of your heavenly Father's creation. Don't be harsh on yourself, rely on Him completely. Be ready to receive love as well. If you ever feel empty, incomplete, or drained, run to Him in the Blessed Sacrament, trust Him, allow Him to take care of you.

You can give to others only what you have. We need to be full of His love that we may be able to love others. We need to be receptive of

His love. The amazing lives of saints prove how important the role of true, authentic, and selfless love plays in our journey to Heaven. Saint Pope John Paul II lost his entire family; almost everyone he loved, by the age of twenty. A person in that situation would usually be broken, lonely, and probably bitter. Yet, he inspired people with his contagious joy and enthusiasm, all because he was full of the love he received from Jesus in the Eucharist. Saint Pope John Paul II said, "From the Eucharist comes the strength to live the Christian life."

ST. THERESE of Lisieux set before a beautiful model and goal when she said "My vocation is love." Love is incomplete without humility. We bow down with reverence when the sacred monstrance is lifted up by the priest, and we believe that it is Jesus fully alive there with us. The same Jesus we bow down to is present in the people we meet in church after celebrating the Holy Mass and now they become the monstrance; another sacred vessel carrying the person of Jesus. Are we able to love them? Are we able to bow down and help them? Do we acknowledge the fact that they carry Jesus in them? Love is demanding, but He asks you and me to be courageous. Let us look to Jesus on the cross and the saints who have gone before us to step forward with this great love. ■



Agnes Sunny is an engineering graduate, currently working as a marketing professional in Mumbai



Have You

Met The One

**"HOW MANY
TIMES HAVE
YOU WISHED
FOR SOMEONE
WHO LOVES
YOU FOR
EXACTLY WHO
YOU ARE?"**

GROWING up in a traditional Catholic family, I was very aware of God and my faith. However, my idea of God was of someone who would wag his finger at me every time I did something wrong. He was a God that I feared, and thus someone with whom I had no desire to cultivate a relationship. I simply wanted to stay within the lines, existing without causing any ripples or giving God any reason to smite me. At some point in my life, I fell in love with Him, The Perfect Lover, One whose desire was for me. So, you may be wondering, how did I finally move from fear to love? I'd love for you to meet Him.

Let's start at the beginning though, shall we? Any movie fans in the house? How many times have you watched a movie, let's say with Shahrukh Khan or Ryan Gosling, and seen this hero who tries to win the girl's heart over? How many times have you wished for someone who

loves you for exactly who you are? Someone who would give up everything for you? Well I've got good news for you, there is! A guy who sees you all day when you look your best and, your not-so-best, when you do things that you know others would just not understand, when you're good and when you're not so nice, and He loves you just the same. My point is, that guy is... drumroll please.... God!

A friend of mine says, the whole Bible is the greatest love story ever told, and I have to agree. It's the story of a God who loves and wants us so much, that He not only created us, but also created a vast beautiful world for us. A God who wanted us to be happy and so gave us free will. Think about it, He is God and He gave up His ability to control us and make us love Him as much as He loves us? What human being would give up a chance at love like that? Not many, I'd imagine.

This God eventually was so hurt by what we humans did with that free will that he decided to take us to a promised land so maybe there we'd be happier. Instead what did we do? We couldn't see past the petty things, like not having great food, meat, and abundant water, and yet, He didn't give up. He put up with us even as we complained after reaching the Promised Land. We continued straying from Him, when all He had done for us was to keep His word.

Your Soul Loves?



**YOU HAVE
MADE
US FOR
YOURSELF,
O LORD,
AND OUR
HEARTS ARE
RESTLESS
UNTIL IT
RESTS IN
YOU”.**

St. Augustine

So, still in love with us, and trying to save us at a point when most of us humans would have lost patience and just given up, or reduced everything to dust from sheer frustration, He keeps trying by sending prophet after prophet to beg us to come back to His love. He does all of this to save our souls. God was not getting anything out of this, but the pleasure of our company in heaven, while we were the ones with everything to lose. Of course, finally realizing that nothing else was working, He sent a part of Himself, His own heart and soul, so that maybe if we saw His love incarnate, we'd finally understand Him and love Him, and save ourselves. How do we respond to this love on earth? We kill Him. Still, He says, “No worries, I’m still going to send you the Holy Spirit to help you daily with your life, and here, I’ll even give you mother Church to guide and support you, and the sacraments to help you when you fall so you can dust yourself off and keep trying.”

After this entire epic love letter written to us, what do we say in reply? We say, “No thank you, not interested!” or “Ask me when I’m 60” or “I have other things to do, like live a life!” We are stubborn, tantrum throwing divas, who while God is trying to rescue us from our own distress, say “no” and continue to moan about how bad our lives are. So, if you think you’ve ever done this to God, do me a favor and smack yourself in the face really quick. Ow! (Yes, I just smacked myself too). Good, I imagine God

got a good laugh out of that (and He deserves it, the poor guy). So now ask yourself all those questions you were asking the heroine in the movie. “Why don’t you like Him? He’s amazing,” “Are you blind, can’t you see how much He loves you?”

I once heard an analogy where you imagine your heart to be a jigsaw puzzle. All the different pieces are the different things in your life – work, school, emotions, personalities, wounds, addictions, etc. Now imagine a piece in the center that is God, and all He is. Now in the chaos that is life, sometimes we misplace this piece, or sometimes we ignore it altogether, and we end up with a hole in our heart. Naturally, we want to fill this hole, so we try everything, we try friends, family, parties, drugs, alcohol, and even sex. But the catch with a puzzle is that every piece is unique and, you must get the piece that is of the same size with the same outline as the hole, or it will never fit, no matter how much you push and shove. When we have a hole in our hearts from misplacing our relationship with God, and not realizing his love, nothing else can fill that hole. Unfortunately, we could spend a lifetime trying to shove other pieces into our hearts to feel whole again, without turning into the person who can resolve the matter. We look everywhere in the world, but take decades to realize the truth. St. Augustine stated it perfectly, “You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until it rests in you”.

The story doesn’t end here though. This God is still, to this day, knocking at our heart’s door, asking us to open up for a minute and let Him in. To let Him heal us and hold us as we cry, and to let Him give us the peace, love, and joy we crave in our daily lives. He is still waiting, day in and day out, mass after mass, hour after hour in Adoration, problem after problem, for you to turn to Him, to just talk to Him. He is waiting for us to finally open our eyes, and realize He is the one. His love has been surrounding you since the very beginning, and that love is the only reason and answer for our lives. He has no need to concern Himself with us for even a millionth of a second, and yet He has been there our entire life, listening to our every complaint, whining, and prayer, while trying to give us a reason to smile. He has been in love with us before we even knew what that word meant, and He is waiting for us to finally open our eyes, for our hearts to go pitter patter, and for us to open the door, so our lives will never be the same again.

Have you fallen in love with Him yet? ■■



Sonia Kurian currently works in Houston as a Clinical Systems Analyst in the Healthcare sector.

PRIME QUOTES

When I acknowledged God's love and chose Him to be my first priority, my life transformed over the years from a workaholic to a Christ centered life. I can feel that God is part of every single thing that's going on in me and my family's lives. Today, I get up each and every day with strength and determination that I share with others; the same God's love that I experience each moment in my life. Praise be to Jesus!!!!

HONEY ANURAJ
(Canada)

LIVING LIFE IN

Love

The awesome and empowering love of God which I receive anew and fresh everyday (Rom 5:5) through my prayer and sacramental life, propels me to respond, to reciprocate to God and to my neighbour. As the love of the Father and Son love begets the Holy Spirit, so also the love between my spouse and me overflows into our children and all whom we meet. There is a natural motivation to be more loving, kind, patient and merciful

at all times. Obviously, we fall short on many occasions but Our Lord who is ever faithful lifts us up and renews our strength to walk again on this journey of Love.

ANI THOMAS
(United Kingdom)

Love is a free gift; freely given and freely received. I have come across this particular description of love so many times that it's engraved in my mind. I have to be free to choose love and hence it's a choice. It's a decision too, not merely a feeling. Hence out of my free choice, I decide to Love and even when faced with trials. I started experiencing anew the grace required to Love more recently after I became a wife and mother. Everyday brings new surprises and challenges and I have more opportunities to Love. Thus what started out as an experience of Gods Love, became a deeper understanding when I was taught how to Love and now it has become more of a daily reality. This lived experience seems far more enduring than the Love based on feelings alone.

PONNY SEBASTIAN
(Ireland)

I used to struggle a lot in this area – to love myself & others for years until I realized that my calling primarily is to love, not to be loved. I understood the key to loving myself & others – not to judge anyone. It took some years for me to understand this and now I am at peace with myself & others. The only one who loves me as I am is God the father and now I am able to be myself before him without any shame or guilt just because he doesn't judge me but loves unconditionally. This conviction enabled me to love myself & others without being much judgmental.

SUBIN JACOB
(Director of Jesus Youth International Missions)

Fireside *chat*

WITH DRs. ANUP & ANNILYN

Dr. Anup Kudakkasseril, a sincere and zealous Jesus Youth leader, graduated from Kottayam Medical College, Kerala. After encountering Christ in a very difficult time of his medical college career, Dr. Anup decided to commit his life to the Lord. Dr. Annilyn Sebastian, an ardent leader and minister of Christ, graduated from Thiruvananthapuram Medical College, Kerala. Dr. Annilyn was deeply moved by God's helping hand during her entrance into an especially selective residency program. As young people who loved Christ and grew through the JesusYouth movement in medical school, Dr. Anup and Dr. Annilyn got married on February 6th, 2003. Later

that year they moved to the United States, where they both completed their medical residency at Hershey Medical Center, Pennsylvania. A traditional, model Catholic family rooted in the JesusYouth lifestyle, Anup, Annilyn, and their seven children – Anita, Antony, Albert, Aaron, Abel, Abraham and Ann – now live in Houston, Texas. Anup practices as a pediatrician in Houston, and is the JesusYouth America National Family Coordinator. In addition to managing their family, Annilyn coordinates homeschoolers, mentors families, and facilitates marriage preparation courses. Dr. Anup and Dr. Annilyn lead a large, beautiful family together, and are actively engaged in the JesusYouth Houston ministries. Here is some insight into the story behind this inspiring family.



Dr Anup
and family

How have you integrated the Jesus Youth family lifestyle, with its pillars, into your family?

Three aspects of Jesus Youth spirituality are prayer, fellowship, and mission. Bringing these aspects to the dynamics of the family ministry is one of the main goals of the family ministry. Prayer and a personal relationship with God is the foundation for everything. Knowing the will of God, and being able to strive for it, is only possible through prayer. The fellowship of the movement brings together families who strive for the same goal, which is a great inspiration and encouragement for all. Formation of young people is one of the foremost missions of the families in the movement. Reaching out to other families, and encouraging them to lead an active Catholic life, is another area that we focus on. We strive our best to achieve these goals with a lot of encouragement and support from other Jesus Youth families and youth. We try to keep our house open for all families and youth.

How do you impart the Catholic values, with its traditions, to your children and family?

We believe children learn best from examples. Besides giving them an introduction to the basics of our faith, we strive to become role models for our children. This challenges and inspires us to practice what we preach, but at the same time, acknowledge our limitations. We keep our focus on God, knowing that He alone can work through our weaknesses to impart the formation that our children need. We try to instill an atmosphere

of faith, discipline, and virtues. We encourage kids to see God's helping hands in our daily activities and life. We also encourage our children to develop a personal relationship with God, through personal prayer.

Through the fellowship of the Jesus Youth movement, and spirituality, how have you been impacted, and your family blessed? What struggles do you encounter in managing both a large family and a ministry?

We owe a lot to the Jesus Youth movement for everything that we have today. We are able to see the beauty of many other families who are striving to attain the same goal that we are working towards. The Lord, working through the movement, continues to give us clarity about the various teachings of the

Church on marriage and family life. Keeping an open house for family and youth, we have been blessed tremendously through the fellowship and relationships we have made over the years. Our kids are also blessed with the benefits of these fellowships, as they now have lots of uncles, aunties, and friends they look upto. We have definitely experienced growth in our spirituality as the Jesus Youth spirituality keeps challenging us to live upto its standards. Having a large family brings along its own challenges and struggles. We have, by God's grace, been able to keep a reasonable level of organization within the family, which has helped us a lot in running a large family. Even with the struggles of a large family, what we have seen repeatedly is that when we are ready to make a sacrifice, and are open to receive grace, He is very ready to provide the grace we need. Having said that, we don't feel that we are responding enough to God's call in our lives. Giving first priority to the Kingdom of God is our hope and prayer, which is not always easy. Our limitations come in the way. Our hope and prayer is that the Lord will give us the courage and strength to do His will each day of our lives.

WE STRIVE
TO BECOME
ROLE MODELS
FOR OUR
CHILDREN.



Despite Dr. Annilyn being a trained physician, your



family has chosen to have her stay at home - managing the family and homeschooling children, among other things. Why is that? What is the motivation behind leading such a traditional family unit?

Annilyn completed her MD in Pathology and fellowship in Blood Banking and Transfusion Medicine. After residency and fellowship, she applied for a job. She was offered a job in San Antonio, which was later retracted due to certain managerial issues of the institution, which was beyond our control. By that time we had our fourth child. We felt that the Lord was telling us that we should be focusing more on the formation of our children. "Parents are the primary educators of their children." CCC 2221-2231. This means that we should be actively engaged in the lives and formation of our children, regardless of whether they are educated at home or school. We also knew of some families within the movement, who taught their children at home. This was an inspiration for us to start homeschooling our children and Annilyn decided to stay at home for this purpose. The most compelling reason was to be able to provide a strong Catholic foundation, and impart family values and morality, which to us seemed very challenging with a 'modern' lifestyle. As parents, we believe that we are in the best position to help our children reach their full potential, which God has bestowed on each one of them. We as parents should not forgo our duties to impart education in faith and virtues. We can only do so by spending time with the children. For us, homeschooling has been providing a means to do so.

Most families today are quite nuclear and small. What is the inspiration behind choosing to raise a large family, now with seven children?

We have always tried to be open to the will of God in our lives. Children are a blessing from the Lord.

Understanding the Church's teaching helped us realize that we should be open to life, and to accept the children that God is giving us. Learning the Church's teaching on Natural Family Planning helped us to realize that God has a way of planning for a family. We felt that we need to come out of our selfishness and comfort zone, and embrace God's plan in our lives. Though we were both open to the idea of a large family, we had never imagined or dreamed that we would end up with seven kids! As each child was born, we were really able to treasure and cherish the uniqueness of that child, and the joy each one gave us. This led us to where we are now, and we thank God for blessing us abundantly! Each of our seven children is a special blessing. Our life wouldn't have been complete without all of them.

How has faith and family life been working together in your life?

Our Catholic faith is of foremost importance in our family life. Not only do we try to live according to the Church's teachings, but we also try to tap into the graces flowing through the Church. We try to attend regular communion and have regular confessions. We also try to celebrate the lives of the many saints in our day to day life. We pray with the children throughout the day, and have family prayer at night. We try to lead a life dependant on God. Through all these, we try to integrate faith into our family life. Children need to see that faith life and family life go hand in hand, and are not two separate entities.

You are the JesusYouth America National Family Coordinator. How has the ministry helped further furnish your family life? What do you see yourself, both you and Annilyn, in near future with ministry?

The Church's teaching on family is based on the self-giving life of the husband and wife, and the formation of the children. The movement has helped us to live this in our daily lives as much as possible. The Lord has blessed us in many ways, and we feel that we have not responded to His call enough. Our innate weaknesses prevent us in executing His will in our lives. Our hope and prayer is that we may gain the strength to do His will in our day to day lives. We also pray for the courage to take that blind leap of faith when we realize His will.



Athulya Johnson is a 2nd year biology undergraduate student from Houston, Texas at University of Houston. She is part of Jesus Youth in Houston and have been very blessed through the movement.

child

OUR GIFTS FROM GOD

The wonderful gift of life begins at a time unknown to the world. Even the womb that carries it is unaware of its presence until at least the baby is in its second week of existence.

"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you." (Jeremiah 1: 5) "Thus says The Lord, your creator..... You are mine" (Isaiah 43:1)

A fact that we should keep reminding ourselves from time to time is that our children are not really ours, but simply gifts from God to love and nurture for a short period of time. They belong truly and completely to God, their true and original maker. We forget this fact too often and try to bring them up in ways most pleasing in the eyes of the society or in ways that we feel bring honor and pride to ourselves. Is that why God has placed them in our hands? Did God entrust them to us to satisfy our needs and desires, using them in hopes to get the admiration and approval of those around us?

Get frustrated with your kids sometimes? Are you asking if you are good parents? Lets take a walk with **Aji Martin** and see her perspective on children and parenting



ren

Imagine this. Some kids were playing outside and had mud all over them. Another family visited them during this time. The other family thinks, "look at the way these people are bringing them up- worse than pigs!" On the other hand what would God say about them? Would he respond in the same way those visitors responded? What is God looking for in our children? Is he looking for kids that are elegant in their ways, refined in character, the 'coolest' kid of all, or someone smart enough to get into the 'best college'? Is he asking if they are talented enough or if they will have the career that earns the highest salary? Or are these our concerns?

It's easy to say not to be concerned about these but with the competition around we wonder, how are they going to survive? The response to that is another question, aren't they God's children? Isn't He more concerned about every aspect of their lives than we are? Well I truly believe that we have to give the best of everything to the children that God places in our hands, but isn't there something else to add to it? Isn't there something more to add to it?.. Best of everything in ways that the Lord finds best for them. Won't that be different for each child as God's call and purpose for each of them is unique?

After doing everything possible within our limits and praying for them to live God's way, they choose some other road away from His love, the fact that they are His children and He loves them more than we ever could and that He is capable to change all their experiences for their good and for His greater glory, is

very reassuring and cause for gratitude.

There is something else that should come to our minds when reminding ourselves that our children belong to God. The fact is that each and every child around us is as precious in the eyes of our Lord as our own biological kids. I think we, too often, forget that the kid next door is as wonderful and precious as the ones in our own homes. Don't we have the responsibility to love them and help them- the brothers and sisters in Christ to our own children? Shouldn't we spend some time talking to and encouraging and praying for them? Especially the 'troubled' ones? It may be easier to just complain about how bad their parents are at raising them, (when their own parents may be saying the same thing about us!) but to what are we actually called?

I doubt that God placed His children in our hands and in our homes because he thought we would be perfect parents. He made us unique with different talents and strengths as well as issues of our own making! He simply gives children into our hands and asks us to trust Him to bring up these children in

ways that would help them be what He wants them to be, saints in His kingdom. We have to believe that He will do a great job even though it might not be the path that we would want for them. We should be really tuned in to Him and tuned out of the world to be able to hear what He really wants us to do, so that when they do leave our homes, no matter who they have become, we can look back and tell ourselves - there's nothing else in this world that I could have possibly done to bring them up in the image of Christ!

May God bless us with an abundance of wisdom in leading our lives and bringing up our children in ways He finds fit. ■■



Aji Martin, a JY, a wife and mother of 3 kids, lives with her family in Houston, Texas in the United States and Home schools her children.

The Ecosystem of Love

As **Jilu Jacob** explores role of a family centered on the larger reality of the society, let's take a peek into what it means to not just coexist in society but to be the center of life in an increasingly isolated world

It is truly a blessing to be loved and to have a family. Not only did I have such an experience in my nuclear family, but also through my extended Jesus Youth family. Throughout my single years, I would visit my Jesus Youth elders hoping for some wisdom or enlightenment regarding



various questions of life. “How do I get through this situation?” “What is God calling me to?” and of course “Tell me if he is the one!” While it would have been nice to have these conversations over a cup of tea, most often they happened during the ‘in-between’ moments of life, such as during dinner preparation, in a doctor’s waiting room, during a child’s bath/dinner/naptime, and car rides, among others. Rather than feeling annoyed that I was squeezed into the ‘in-between’ moments, I realized that I was incredibly blessed. I wasn’t just a stranger, but family.

The Jesus Youth families in my life opened their homes and lives to me and other young people, sharing their joys as well as the messiness that comes with marriage, kids, and life. I ate freely from their kitchens, played with their kids, sought advice and answers to life’s deeper questions, and spent endless hours enjoying the love that radiated from their marriages and faith filled homes. Over the years, it challenged me and opened my eyes to the endless possibilities for a family truly living out their vocation. In turn, through us, they relived the creativity and joy of youthfulness. They were also grateful for the positive influence that we had on their children. In the same way that my peers looked to the elders in families as mentors and role models, their children came to us with questions as they navigated through their formative younger years.

These families, in their desire to live out their vocation, made sacrifices freely and generously as they shared the joys and struggles of life. They planted seeds with expectant hope, continuing without discouragement, even when these seeds didn’t seem to bear fruit. We know that “God works for the good of those who love him” (Romans 8:28), and over long years many have been blessed with seeing fruits in the lives of these youth, as well as in their own lives and family. In this way, a beautiful and intricate collection of relationships, an ecosystem, developed around these families.

Merriam-Webster dictionary defines the word ‘ecosystem’ as the “complex of a community of organisms and its environment functioning as an ecological unit.” Typically, the word ecosystem brings to mind the humid rainforests of South America or the wild animals of the jungle. In fact, the concept of an ecosystem is not limited to just nature, but can be beautifully applied to a faith community, and the interdependence of family within that community.

Merriam-Webster dictionary defines the word ‘ecosystem’ as the “complex of a community of organisms and its environment functioning as an ecological unit

Today the family unit is relatively isolated. Gone are the days when children could run and play freely in the streets. These days, we are lucky if we exchange more than a polite hello to our next door neighbor! As my husband and I talked and dreamed about our family, we both recognized the need and importance of a community for ourselves and for our children. We wanted to be active members in our church and local community, and our own home and family to be a base for community. We had grown up with that example in

our parent’s lives, and for me in particular, through my life as a Jesus Youth. We deeply desired the same for our growing family.

By living the fullness of our Christian vocation, we have the beautiful opportunity of influencing our larger community with faith and joy. Every time a friend, coworker, or fellow parent comes home, an opportunity presents itself to share our faith through acts of everyday life. Grace before meals, the affection between family members, and the love that comes from a strong marriage in Christ, can give hope to those from broken families. To those who have not experienced much love, our open homes and our gentle influence can be a soothing balm for the wounds of the heart. These actions and desire to witness to those surrounding your family can in turn be a great blessing. Your child will remember your example, and also enjoy their home as a safe and encouraging space to bring friends, widening and growing that ecosystem of faith and love.

Now that I am married and have my own home, my husband and I long to have such an ecosystem develop around our own family. We hope that our home is inviting and comfortable, not marked by pretenses or a false sense of perfection, but a place where love and faith is markedly present through the ups and downs of life, and where we can grow with everyone who walks through our doors. ■■



Jilu Jacob is a wife, mother and nurse living in Massachusetts, USA. She has been with the Jesus Youth movement since her teen years and is looking forward to the transitions in her life and ministry as the years go by.

CULTURE OF LIFE

Choosing Life and Love in a Culture of Death

Let's walk with **Dr. Finto Francis** as he journeys with one family in their decision to choose life for their unborn child or to choose death



“**T**o all the members of the Church, the people of life and for life, I make this most urgent appeal, that together we may offer this world of ours new signs of hope, and work to ensure that justice and solidarity will increase and that a new culture of human life will be affirmed, for the building of an authentic civilization of truth and love”(Evangelium vitae no.6)

One day, a couple came for consultation with their 1 year old child and informed me that the wife was pregnant for the second time. I congratulated them but they did not seem too happy. They told me that the pregnancy was unplanned and an accident. I told them even if they had not planned, the baby inside was formed according to God's plan, in His time. The Husband responded that his wife is weak and not in a position to continue the pregnancy and they wanted an abortion.

I explained the dangers associated with abortion and reassured them that continuing the pregnancy would never harm her health. Yet, they insisted on having an abortion because the husband had lost his job (financial crisis), and there was nobody to look after the wife and the first child during delivery. I told them the baby inside was equal to the

baby outside and that the biggest loss in abortion was the loss of happiness and dreams that the baby would have brought to that home. I told them if they can't look after two babies now, then they could entrust their elder child to me and continue the pregnancy with the little baby inside. I also offered to arrange somebody to help her during the delivery and promised to give all medications needed during pregnancy and delivery free of charge. At those suggestions, they realised that I was really serious about



continuing the pregnancy. They left to reconsider the suggestions. A week later they returned to inform that they would continue the pregnancy. I gave her all necessary medicines. Two months later when she came for check-up, her husband was not with her because he had gotten a new job abroad. This time, she didn't take any more free medications because her husband had a good salary.

She happily continued the pregnancy and gave birth to a healthy baby boy.

She then shared how her second child was a big blessing from God. Shortly after his conception, her husband got a nice new job and her family problems were settled. Many people don't realise the possibility of a blessing and opt for the path of sorrow and loss.

Today we are living in a world where there are so many challenges against the value of life and the family. St Pope John Paul II brings to our notice the urgency of the situation in Ecclesia in Asia: “There is no true progress, no true civil society, no true



human promotion without respect for human life, especially the life of those who have no voice of their own with which to defend themselves. The life of every person, whether of the child in the womb, or of someone who is sick, handicapped or elderly, is a gift for all” (No.35).

The Lord says “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you....” (Jer 1:5). God has his own specific plans for each and every individual formed in this world. Sometimes parents might feel that it is an ‘unexpected pregnancy’; but it is never an unexpected human being for the Lord. Proponents of ‘planned parenthood’ deceive people by making them think that any life beyond their plan is a burden. Yet, the Lord created man as a blessing and not as a burden. “Sons are indeed a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward”(Psalm 127:3)

Mass media has a tremendous influence on man’s thinking and decision making power. However, the media, instead of spreading the value and sanctity of human life, often conveys conspiracies against life. As a result, the world witnesses a dangerous culture—the culture of death. “Humanity today offers us a truly alarming spectacle, if we consider not only how extensively

I was an unborn child, and you welcomed me by letting me be born.

attacks on life are spreading but also their unheard-of numerical proportion, and the fact that they receive widespread and powerful support from a broad consensus on the part of society, from widespread legal approval and the involvement of certain sectors of health-care personnel.”(Gospel of life no. 17)

We must recognize that it depends on us whether ‘a new culture of life is affirmed’ or not. In ‘Letter to families,1994’ Pope John Paul II wrote about the judgement: “Come, O blessed of my Father... for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me” (Mt25:34-36). This list could of course be lengthened, and countless other problems could be added. There we might find statements like: “I was

an unborn child, and you welcomed me by letting me be born”; “I was an abandoned child, and you became my family”; “I was an orphan, and you adopted me and raised me as one of your own children”. Or again: “You helped mothers filled with uncertainty and exposed to wrongful pressure to welcome their unborn child

and let it be born”; and “You helped large families and families in difficulty to look after and educate the children whom God gave them”. We could continue with a long and detailed list, including all those kinds of true moral and human good in which love is expressed.”

Dear brothers & sisters, it is our moral responsibility to respect, protect and serve human life in all its forms. Let us be empowered in building a counter culture—“The Culture of LIFE”. Let’s arise to become the voice of the voiceless! May God Almighty strengthen us all! ■■



Dr.Finto Francis, gynecologist by profession is actively involved in the Jesus youth Prolife ministry. He lives in Thrissur, India with wife Dr.Asha and 2 kids, Theresa and Francis & expecting their third baby.

Chandeliers

MODERN SAINTS

✦ Saint Jose Sanchez del Rio

By Thomas Koshy



Born: Sahuayo, Michoacán (Mexico), on March 28, 1913

Died: February 10, 1928

Canonized: October 16, 2016, Saint Peter's Square, Vatican City by Pope Francis

Feast: February 10

Parents: Macario Sanchez and María del Río

In 1926, the socialist government of Mexico led by Plutarco Elías Calles, an atheist was waging a bloody war against the Catholic Church by strict and violent enforcement of anti-clerical laws. Ley Calles (Calles Law) of July 31, 1926 prohibited the practice of the Catholic religion in public; Monasteries and convents were dissolved, religious vows were illegal, and Religious could no longer use habits. Church property was confiscated. Fervent Catholics known as the Cristeros rose up to defend the Catholic faith and Christ the King leading to the Civil War - The Cristero War. The Mexican government violently persecuted the clergy and massacred 'Cristeros' and their supporters. On 1st January 1927, a war cry went up from the faithful Catholics, "¡Viva Cristo Rey!" which means "Long Live Christ the King".

When Jose was around 13 years of age, the Cristeros war was just beginning. As a child, Jose had a strong love and devotion to the Catholic Church. His fervor for the church could be illustrated by this comment to his mother "In order to go to Heaven, we have to go to war." Jose begged his mother to permit him to join the Cristeros saying "Never has it been so easy to obtain Heaven!" So he went forward with this fervor and entered the war. A short while after Jose joined the Cristeros, he engaged in a battle against the government forces where he was captured. He gave up his horse to his general to escape which has led to his capture. When Jose was first captured, the troops forced him to witness the execution of another Cristero, thinking that he would weaken in his defiance when he saw the killing. Instead, Jose encouraged the man, who while preparing to be

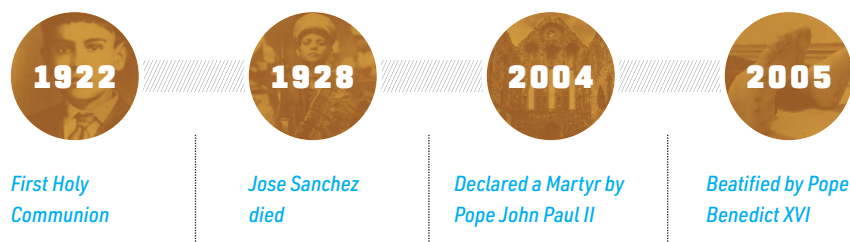
executed, to embrace his martyrdom

After this heroic firmness, Jose was imprisoned. His prison was the local church which was converted to a prison. The local government authority, Rafael Picasso, asked for a large ransom to let Jose go. However, Jose told his people not to offer them any money since he preferred to go to Heaven. While in prison, his food was brought to him in a small basket, and in that food his uncle, Fr. Ignacio Sanchez, would put a consecrated Host. When he got it, he knelt there, gave thanks, and then gave himself Holy Communion. People on the street could hear Jose praying the rosary and singing hymns to Our Lady. He never wavered in his prayer life while he was imprisoned, but only grew stronger.

On February 10, 1928, Jose was tortured in a very brutal way - the soles of his feet, the very skin of his feet, were sheered off by a knife. He was then forced to walk on salt, through the entire town, even walking up stone steps, to the cemetery where he would eventually be buried. Although he would scream in pain, the young saint refused to give in to his captor's requests. During this long walk, the soldiers would taunt him and say, "If you shout 'Death to Christ the King', we will spare your life." His response, "Long live Christ the King, Long live Our Lady of Guadalupe!" Upon arriving at the cemetery, Jose was asked one last time if he would deny his faith in Jesus Christ, he responded with great strength and conviction, "Viva Cristo Rey!" (Long Live Christ the King!). He was first stabbed and then eventually shot in the back as he lied on the ground kissing a cross that he had drawn with his bloody hand.

At age of 14, St. Jose was martyred by the Federal Army on Feb. 10, 1928. With an example as this, his life is a constant reminder that the call to follow Christ is for all people, whether young or old. His feast day is February 10—the day he died.

Quick Facts:



CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

DO YOU DESIRE TO SACRIFICE TIME AND OFFER YOUR TALENT FOR GOD, GIVING ALL GLORY TO HIM?

INTERCESSORS

"Kairos Power House," the 24/7 intercessory WhatsApp group prays for the various needs of Kairos. Pls contact Robin Joseph at +91 9495238657 to join the Kairos Power House.

KAIROS POC (PERSON OF CONTACT)

Kairos POC for each Country/Region/Zone, will voluntarily help to promote Kairos Magazines in their area, identify writers, conduct interviews, and get articles based on requirements.

WRITERS

We welcome articles, personal experiences, mission experiences, testimonies, practical teachings, reflections, interviews, insights, and much more by writers who are with the church and for the church. For more information, and to submit articles, please email editor@kairos.global.

WEB/GRAPHIC DESIGNERS

Designs and maintains WordPress websites using latest theme for Kairos. Design flyers, posters, wallpapers, ads, etc.

SOFTWARE ENGINEERS

Develop and maintain Online Payment System (OPS) and Subscription Management System (SMS) for Kairos on ASP. Net MVC. Degree in Computer Science or in related streams, with solid experience in programming required.

MOBILE APP DEVELOPER

Develop and maintain Mobile App for Kairos on Android and iOS. Degree in Computer Science or in related streams, with solid experience in Mobile App development.

FULL TIMERS

Commit to volunteer full time with Kairos for 3 months/6 Months/1 year.

FINANCIAL SUPPORTERS

Join "Friends of Kairos," to financially support Kairos by contributing Rs. 100/200/500/1000 every month.

We look forward to hearing from you!

If you know someone, please email info@kairos.global at the earliest.

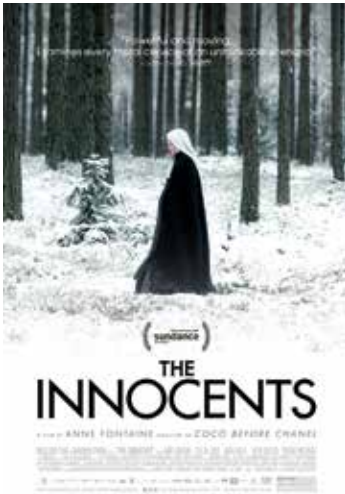
Kairos, the Jesus Youth magazine, is looking for committed and dedicated volunteers to make our mission a success! Please consider helping out as much as you can – we have wide range of needs.

BENEFITS

Benefits are secondary as the primary motive is giving glory to God. However, Volunteers will receive solid experience in the world's latest development methodologies and tools. Experience certificate from JesusYouth will also be issued.



SOUNDREPLY



MOVIE

THE INNOCENTS (2016)

GK Chesterton wrote "the true soldier fights not because he hates what is in front of him, but because he loves what is behind him". Yet, time and again we see that

when the battle lines are drawn and the trumpets blown, men in their zeal often fail to see what or who is in front, thus trampling on and destroying mercilessly even the weak and the defenseless. *The Innocents* [original title *Les innocentes*] is a French film based on actual events in the lives of a group of young nuns in Poland, who at the end of the Second World War, end up on the wrong side of the advancing Red Army.

The film opens with Morning Prayer at a Benedictine convent in Poland during the bitter winter of 1945. At the end of the prayer, one of the young novices quietly slips out and hastens to the Red Cross Medical Camp and requests the help of a young French doctor, Mathilde (Lou de Laâge) who, though she doesn't understand the Polish nun, relents to go with her. In the convent Mathilde meets the Abbess and the French speaking Sr Maria. Though initially hesitant to let Mathilde into the convent, the Abbess eventually agrees to let Mathilde examine and deliver the baby of a young woman named Zofia.

As the movie progresses, Mathilde returns to visit the convent again and over time, she realizes that when the "liberating" Red Army advanced through Poland at the end of the war, they entered the convent and stayed

there for many weeks, raping the nuns repeatedly leaving many of them pregnant. The trauma of the abuse, the fear of scandal and dishonor, and the pangs of conscience at what has happened, are all very real and present for the nuns. Similar to Job from the Bible, the young nuns struggle with many questions - questions of faith, of hopelessness and of 'where God is' in all this supposedly senseless suffering. On the one hand we see the novice Ludwika, who with her body and mind refuses to accept what has happened and completely rejects her newborn, and on the other hand, there is Sister Zofia, who fully embraces her maternity and her child. Then there is the Mother Abbess, who in her determination to keep the secret safe and save the nuns from disgrace, abandons the newborn babies in the wilderness, while Sister Maria, who in spite of her struggles and fear, finally conjures up the courage to do what is right.

The film deals with the moral predicaments of these women, and how each of them wrestles with her choices, or lack of, in the light

"Faith is twenty four hours of doubt and one moment of hope"

Sister Maria tells Mathilde in the movie

of what little faith is left in each of them. In one poignant scene, Sister Maria tells Mathilde that, "Faith is twenty four hours of doubt and one moment of hope". The protagonist of the story Mathilde, the atheist doctor, is drawn into the life of the nuns and goes far beyond the call of her duty to help them, even at the expense of her reputation and job. In her conversations with Sr Maria, Mathilde is often critical of faith and its alleged lack of reason, yet in the later part of the movie, she admits that even she is in search of that unknown thing, which she hopes would make her life complete.

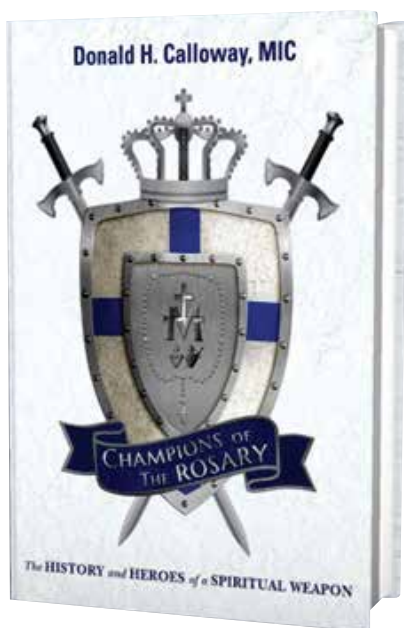
'The Innocents' is a brilliant movie which deals with Providence, Grace, Love and the consequences of one's actions, yet never in a judgemental way. As the famous psychiatrist Viktor Frankl, who was a Holocaust survivor, says in his memoir 'Man's search for Meaning'; "For the first time in my life I saw the truth - that Love is the ultimate and highest goal to which man can aspire. Then I grasped the meaning of the greatest secret: The salvation of man is through love and in love". *The Innocents* is a magnificent portrayal of the nuns' struggle to grasp and arrive at this truth.



REVIEW BY Joseph Anthraper

A Jesus Youth, currently a Software Engineer, lives in Southampton, England with his wife Mahima, daughter Anna-Claire and son John





BOOK

CHAMPIONS OF THE ROSARY

In “Champions of the Rosary: The History and Heroes of a Spiritual Weapon,” Fr. Donald Calloway MIC, establishes himself as one of Our Lady’s great soldiers in modern day’s spiritual warfare. Along with the Sacraments of the Church, Traditions, and the Word of God, Fr. Calloway shares exactly the tool we need to experience grace in these tumultuous and challenging times in which we live – The Holy Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary! To restore peace and happiness into a restless heart, there is no better way but to ponder the presence and mysteries of God, through Our Lady’s “garden of prayer.” In that prayer, we encounter Christ, and through Him, with Him, and in Him, the world will be transformed.

The history of the Rosary is fascinating and very rich. There are saints who have died with it in their hands. There are Popes who promoted it in unbelievable ways. If we begin to appreciate that more, then we’ll realize the gift and treasure that we have. According to Pope Leo XIII, “The Rosary is more of supernatural origin than it is of human origin,” with its beginnings traced back to the Annunciation, when Angel Gabriel says to Our Lady, “Hail full of grace, the Lord is with you.” It all comes together in the 13th century through St. Dominic, but the early parts of it [the antecedents] were being put together throughout the first centuries of the Church. The Rosary has always been understood to be a spiritual weapon that Mother Mary gave to Saint Dominic in 1208, when she instructed it to be used to defeat heresies of that time, such as Albigensianism that originated in Southern France. This heresy taught that only spiritual realities were good and everything material was evil. Likewise, a person’s body was evil and had to be freed from their soul. Saint Dominic was trying to defeat this heresy with his preaching, but he wasn’t having much success. He asked Our Lady to help him and she appeared to him and gave him the Rosary. Praying the scriptural beads helped many come back to

the fullness of truth.

The book then traces the continuing development and spread of the Rosary through the centuries in three sections titled: the History, the Champions, and the Practical Aspects of Praying the Rosary. Fr. Calloway also touches on modern history and events, which might seem more significant to present day readers, and how praying the Rosary can defeat the evils of abortion, suicide, the occult, pornography, euthanasia, lukewarm Catholicism, and radical Islam.

The section titled “Champions of the Rosary” describes why every one of the 26 people mentioned there deserved that title. It is then followed by “Rosary Gems,” which are words of wisdom, either from or about the person. Champions mentioned in this section include some well-renowned people such as St. Dominic, St. Louis de Montfort, St. Anthony Mary Claret, St. Maximilian Kolbe, St. Pio of Pietrelcina, Ven. Fulton J. Sheen, and Pope Benedict XVI, along with those lesser known who have also played a key role in championing the cause of the Rosary.

The “Practical Aspects” section of the book explains the reasons behind praying the Rosary. Fr. Calloway provides a diagram of how to pray the Rosary, a list of all the mysteries, practical ways on how to become a champion of the Rosary, the 15 promises made by Our Lady to those who pray the Rosary, and a section describing the indulgences attached to the Rosary. The book concludes with a selection of works of art from various time periods, across the world, depicting Our Lady in the imaginations of various artists inspired by Her many apparitions, and a lengthy statement that Our Lady made to Blessed Alan de la Roche on the Rosary.

This gem of a book is a one-stop shop for the Rosary. It provides a comprehensive and panoramic sweep of the history of this spiritual weapon, with Marian piety and solid analyses, delicately intertwined with each other. Truly a must-have in every Catholic home and parish!



REVIEW BY

Diana

A Jesus Youth, a faith formation teacher and part of JY Music Ministry. She is currently finishing graduate school and lives in Houston, Texas with her family.

Blooming KIDS

CALLED TO BE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

Let me tell you a story about a boy named Nick. He is 10 year old boy with a great family. They go to church and Nick goes to Sunday school. Like any other kid in the world, he likes video games and doesn't like school and homework, but he likes his life.

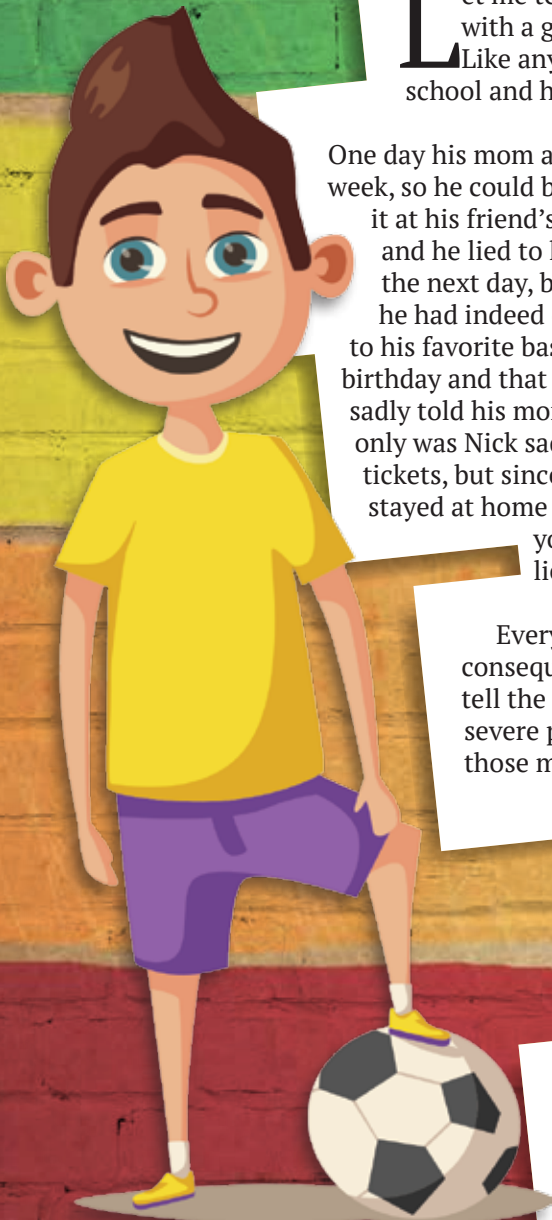
One day his mom asked him to finish all his homework early for the entire week, so he could be free on the weekend. He agreed and planned to do it at his friend's house, right after playing some video games. But of course, he forgot, and he lied to his mom about finishing his week's homework. He decided he would do it the next day, but he forgot every day until the weekend came along. His mom, thinking he had indeed completed all his homework, happily told him that they would be going to his favorite basketball team's game the following day. She had gotten tickets for his birthday and that is why she asked him to finish his homework. Nick was devastated and sadly told his mom how he had lied and never finished his homework for the week. Not only was Nick sad, but so was his mother. She had paid a good amount of money for the tickets, but since Nick hadn't finished his homework, he wouldn't be able to go! So Nick stayed at home doing homework while his brother got to go to the game instead. Now, you might say that all he did was disobey his mom, but because he had also lied, he wasn't able to go to the game.

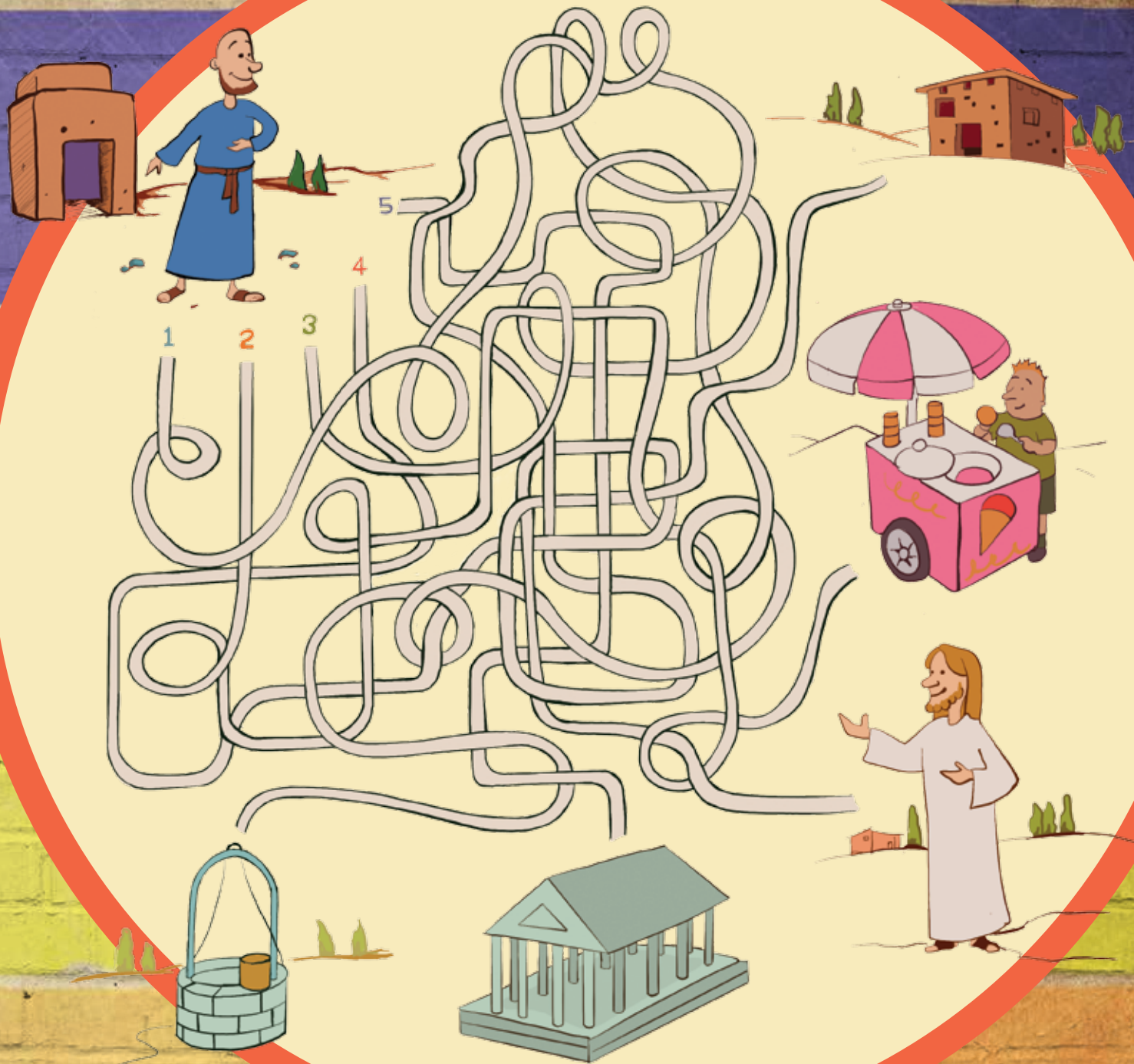
Every time you lie, and every time you disobey, it comes with consequences. Now, it is up to you to make a choice. Would you rather tell the truth and get a simple punishment, or tell a lie and receive a more severe punishment? Everyone makes mistakes but we need to learn from those mistakes, and do what is pleasing to God. "Do all things without grumbling or questioning, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world" (Philippians 2:14-15).

God is waiting for us to make one step closer to him. Telling the truth and obeying your parents will get us closer to Him, so that one day we will be with Him in Heaven. **■**



Julia Roncy is a 12 year old catholic homeschooler, with versatile interests. She enjoys reading, cooking, and spending time with little kids, but her favorite hobby is art. She is proud to be a JY kid, and aspires to be a teacher in the future.





**Help the
cured leper return
to Jesus in
order to
thank Him.**

QUIZTIME

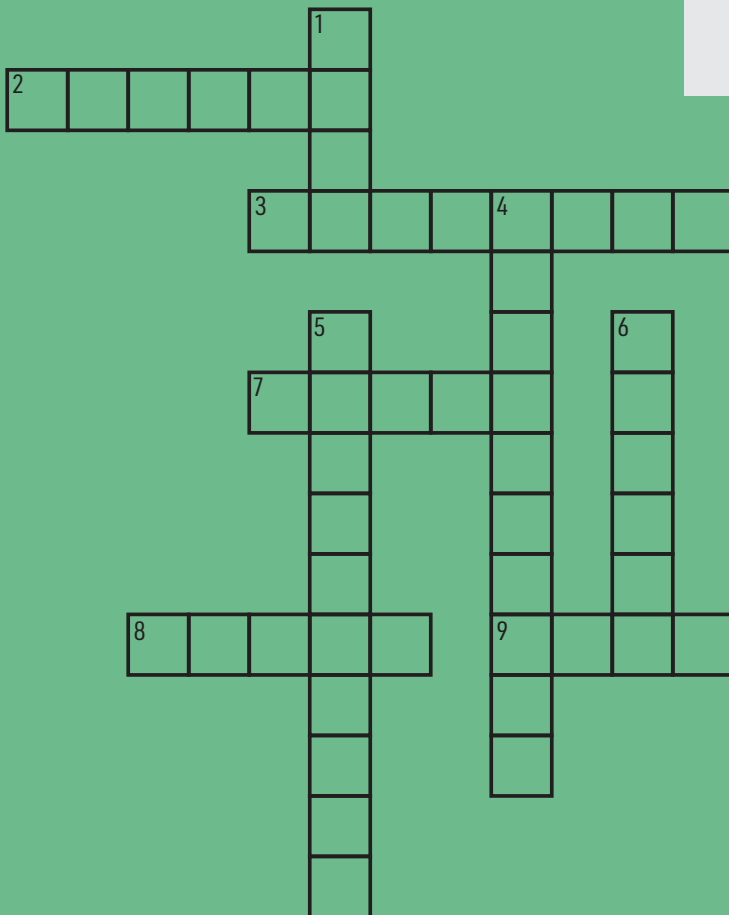
CROSSWORD

ACROSS

2. "A sword will pierce through your own soul also." (6)
3. "Behold the _____ of the Lord, be it unto me according to thy word." (8)
7. Genesis 3:15, John 19:26, Revelations 12:1 (5)
8. Second sorrow of Mother Mary (5)
9. First Miracle of Jesus (4)

DOWN

1. Mother of Mary (4)
4. The canticle Mary sang is known as (10)
5. When Elizabeth heard the greeting of mary, the baby leaped in her womb;and Elizabeth was filled with the _____. (4,6)
6. "Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, a _____ shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel" (6)



Courtesy: IISc JY Prayer Group, Bangalore

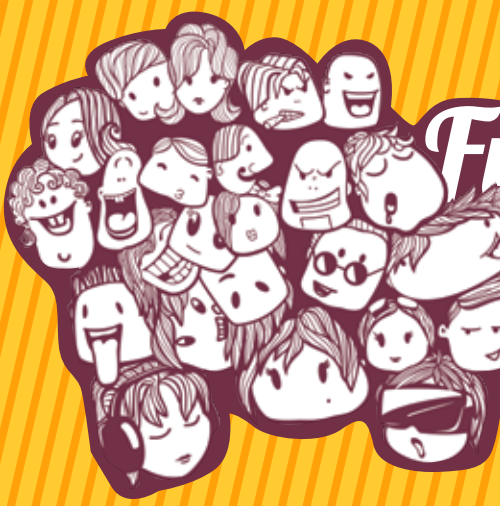
WHATS ODD?

Point the odd one out from the following, clues below will get you there faster

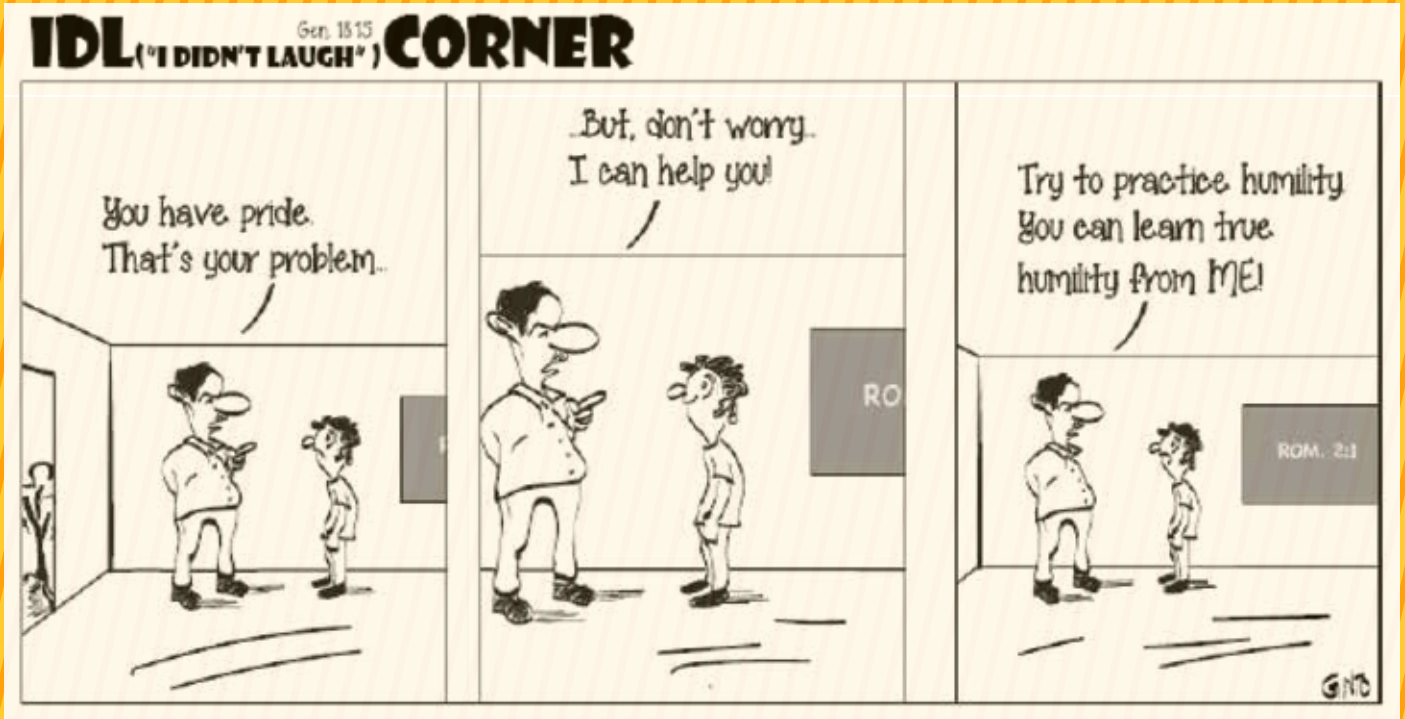
- 1 PAUL, MATTHEW, JAMES, PETER
- 2 REVELATION, HEBREWS, TOBIT, EPHESIANS
- 3 JAPHETH, HAM, SHEM, SHUAH
- 4 FROGS, LOCUSTS, DARKNESS, FLOOD
- 5 SAMUEL, DAVID, SAMSON, TOLA
- 6 AHAZIAH, BILDAD, ZOPHAR, ELIPHAZ
- 7 POOR IN SPIRIT, WEAK IN FAITH, MEEK, PEACEMAKERS
- 8 AHAB, HEZEKIAH, ZACHARIAH, HOSHEA
- 9 GALILEE, JORDAN, EUPHRATES, JABBOK
- 10 HOREB, SINAI, EBAL, AMMAH

CLUES

1. 12 Disciples of Christ
2. New Testament
3. Noah
4. Plagues upon Egypt
5. Judges
6. Job
7. Matthew 5
8. Kings of Israel
9. Rivers in scripture
10. Mountains in scripture



Funny Bone



THANK YOU

FOR PICKING UP THIS COPY OF KAIROS MAGAZINE

FOR SUBSCRIPTION PLEASE MAIL TO SUBSCRIPTIONS@KAIROS.GLOBAL WITH THE BELOW DETAILS

FULL NAME:.....
 ADDRESS:.....
 CITY:..... STATE:.....
 COUNTRY:..... ZIP/PIN:.....
 EMAIL:.....
 PHONE:.....



IN INDIA
 1 Month : Rs.50,
 1 Year : Rs.500,
 2 Year : Rs.1000,
 3 year : Rs.1500

OUTSIDE INDIA
 1 Year : Rs.3000 (US\$ 50)
 2 Year : Rs.6000 (US\$ 100)
 3 year : Rs.9000 (US\$ 150)

NewsWatch

FULLTIMERS JUBILEE CELEBRATION



INDIA: The Fulltimers Jubilee Conference, a much-awaited event by the Jesus Youth family, took place at Rajagiri Sports & Cultural Centre, Kalamassery from December 29th to the 31st, 2016. The conference kicked off in the afternoon of the 29th with an inauguration blessed by His eminence, Cardinal Mar George Alancherry, His grace, Archbishop Rev. Abraham Viruthakulangara, His excellency Bishops Rev. Dr. Samuel Mar Ireneos and Rev. Robert Muhirwa.

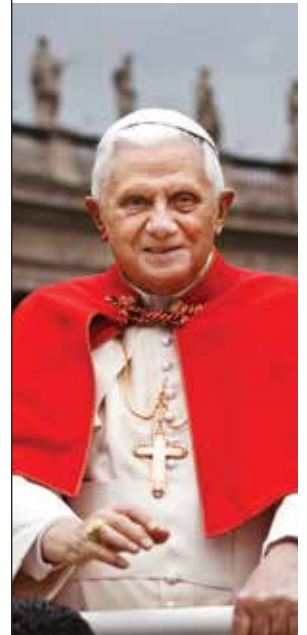
The event was blessed with over 700 participants which included 400 fulltimers and their family. The sessions were led by acclaimed Jesus Youth veterans such as Mr. Edward Edezhath, Mr. Manoj Sunny, Mr. C C Joseph, Mr. Raiju Varghese, Fr. Cherian Nereveetil, to name a few. The pioneers of the movement who laid the foundation in the initial stages such as the beloved Babchayan, Alicekutty Chechi and Fr. Abraham Pallivathukkal, were also present for the conference. Adv. Johnson, the General Coordinator, Mr. Abhilash Thomas, the General Convenor, Mr. Benson Mendez and Mr. Regi Karot presided over the conference.

Fulltimer batch specific gatherings were conducted to renew the spirit of friendship and oneness in Christ among the batchmates. Numerous Jesus Youth commented that they received many insights from these gatherings which helped to reignite the fire of service in them. The conference helped many fulltimers to choose

a personal mission goal in their own life situation and vocation; “once a missionary, always a missionary”.

A notable event in the conference was the Jubilee festival held on the evening of 30th December. It comprised of many fun activities, music and games and was closed

by a sumptuous dinner. All the participants remarked enjoying the festival and took this opportunity to share their experiences and get to know other batches as well. Although the Jubilee conference came to an end with lunch on 31st December, the batch specific meetings continued till late evening; leaving was easier said than done. Ultimately however, all the participants returned home with a new missionary zeal and renewed anointing from Holy Spirit.



Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI turned 90

VATICAN: Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI who turned 90 on April 16th 2017, celebrated his birthday with his brother, Monsignor Georg Ratzinger, Bavarian prime minister, Horst Seehofer, German friends & family on Easter Monday at his residence Mater Ecclesiae. Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI thanked God for “the 90 years that the good God has given me”. He remarked “There have been challenges and difficult times, but He has always guided me and pulled me out [of those situations], so that I could continue my path.” On April 12th, Pope Francis visited his predecessor to wish him a happy birthday.

"Because the LORD
kept vigil that night to
bring them out of Egypt,
on this night all the
Israelites are to keep
vigil to honor the LORD
for the generations to
come."

-Exodus 12:42

*We are here to pray
for you. Send us your
prayer requests!*

K A I R O S N I G H T V I G I L

In the still silence of the night, we offer before the Blessed Sacrament all the prayer intentions coming to us through phone, e-mail, and online requests. It is a day of blessings. The Lord touches many who are lost in despair. The sick are healed! Sinners are liberated! Youth groping in darkness find a new light! Peace returns to shattered families!

When you feel forlorn, dejected, and weighed down, by the diseases and cares of life, remember our Kairos Night Vigil!

Every Second Friday of the month from 6 PM to 10 PM at
Little Flower Church, Aluva, Kerala, India.

Send us your prayer request:

✉ prayer@kairos.global , ☎ +91 9847538140

Love is patient;
love is kind; love
is not envious
or boastful or
arrogant or rude.
It does not insist
on its own way; it
is not irritable or
resentful;

1 CORINTHIANS 13:4-5

