

# KAIROS

GLOBAL

PRIVATE  
CIRCULATION  
ONLY

LIFE IS  
BEAUTIFUL  
WITH  
CHRIST

■ ANU SCENTO

**The  
miracle  
of five  
loaves  
and two  
fish**

■ SHARROL JOSE

The goodness  
contagion

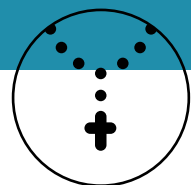
■ AKHIL PIOUS





## MARY MY BELOVED MOTHER

O most pure heart of Mary, full of goodness, show your love towards us. Let the flame of your heart, O Mary, descend on all people. We love you immensely.



# EDITOR'S ROOM

DR. CHACKOCHAN J NJAVALLIL

[@readkairos](https://twitter.com/readkairos)



**E**xperience and Share Goodness  
It was one of the toughest situations at work. I was entrusted with an important project, which involved several seniors and the whole management team. I would be able to achieve the task only with the abundant supply of data and with the cooperation of colleagues who were also working under extreme stress. There was a progress evaluation meeting, and one of the seniors blurted out, "It is you who created the whole mess, you are arrogant and insensitive". The target was me. Everybody was shocked at his outburst. All of them knew that I was going the extra mile and doing much more than what was necessary to get the work done. I was finding it very difficult to control my emotions; I was afraid that I would burst out. When it was time for me to give the final comments and feedback, I controlled my tumultuous thoughts and finished the proceedings. Later I learned that everybody was relieved at my conduct. The fact that I did not mention a single word about that particular person or the rude manner in which he expressed himself made them at ease. Maybe it was the Holy Spirit's gift of Goodness that helped me overcome such a difficult situation. Of course, it is true that it took some time for me to forgive that person completely.

There are plenty of occasions in which I was the beneficiary of God's gift of goodness, working in and through others. On one occasion, I was convinced that a particular senior officer had committed a serious wrong and in that belief I confronted him. It was a shocking experience for him. Later, I realized that I wasn't polite, my words were rude and I was arrogant. For the next few days I tried to avoid him but my official responsibilities meant that sooner or later I had to meet him and I dreaded that. Surprisingly he responded to me as if nothing unpleasant had happened. We never talked about it but there were no after-effects or consequences. That fruitful relationship is still flourishing. Thanks to the abundant gift of goodness in him, I was saved.

The illustrated Bible Dictionary says that Goodness in man is not a mere passive quality, but the deliberate preference of right to wrong; the firm and persistent resistance of all moral evil, and the choosing and following of all moral good.

Are you going through an inner spiritual warfare? If so, that's a good sign. It's the sign that you are pursuing goodness, which causes the bad in human nature to fight back. It may be an argument at home, and you just said that one thing and the next moment you realize that it was not the right thing to say. Don't worry. It is a sign that the virtue of Goodness is working in you. The urge for revenge, retaliation, all these are natural but finally you decide against all these things, and it reveals the fact that Goodness is working in you.

Let's make this world a better place to live by growing in and spreading goodness.

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ARE YOU SUFFERING AN INTERNAL SPIRITUAL WAR? IF SO, THAT'S A GOOD SIGN. IT'S A SIGN THAT YOU ARE PURSUING GOODNESS, WHICH CAUSES THE BAD IN HUMAN NATURE TO FIGHT BACK.



## Also LOOK OUTFOR

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- 14 Who is a Christian leader?
- 18 Youth Synod 2018

† The LORD is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble; he knows those who take refuge in him. Nahum 1:7



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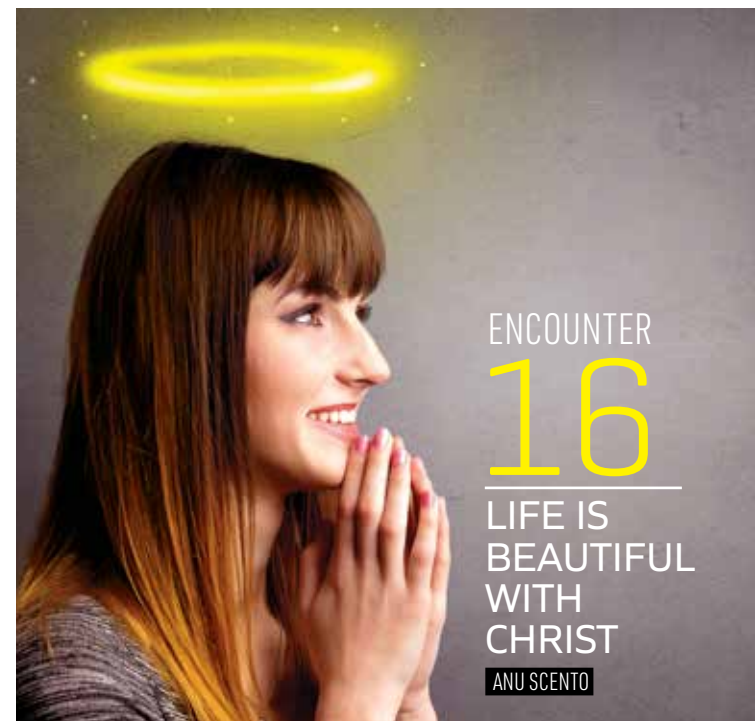
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# ASK

## FR. BITAJU



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.

**Q: Do we need to follow everything that the Pope says?**

Fastin Telare, Madhya

Pradesh, India

A better understanding on obedience in the Church may help answer this question. Obedience is the carrying out of orders from one's lawful superiors with the intention of carrying out their will. Catholics especially prize obedience because of Christ's own example, and because in their lawful superiors they see the representatives of Christ himself (Rom 13:1; Lk 2:51 and Phil 2:8).

It is the teaching of the Church that obedience is part of justice, one of the four cardinal virtues, which are in turn subordinate to the theological virtues of faith, hope and charity. Faith is greater than obedience. Therefore, if obedience acts to harm Faith, then a Catholic has a duty 'not to' obey his superior. "Now sometimes the things commanded by a superior are against God, therefore superiors are not to be obeyed in all things", said St. Thomas Aquinas (Summa Theologica II-IIQ. 104; Gal 1:8).

Catholic obedience is always obedience within Tradition. Now the truths of our faith were received even by Jesus himself as part of tradition or as handed down from His Father. "My teaching is not my own", Jesus replied, "it comes from Him who sent me" (Jn 7:16; 12:49). Likewise, Our Lord hands this faith down to us as a tradition, through our lawful superiors who are obedient to the Faith (Jn 17:8).

According to St. Thomas Aquinas, true obedience is a balance between the twin errors of 'defect' and of 'excess' – which are disobedience and false obedience (Summa Theologica IIa-IIae, Q. 104, 5 and 3). Three examples given below should give further clarity on this matter.

**1. ERROR BY DEFECT:** My own conscience is my absolute authority.

**True obedience:** God through His Catholic Church has absolute authority over my conscience. However as last resort, if His hierarchy is departing from His teaching, God intends for me to judge. Obedience to men has limits (Gal 1:8-9).

**Error by excess:** The Church hierarchy is the absolute authority. Obedience has no limits.

**2. ERROR BY DEFECT:** The Pope has no authority over me.

**True obedience:** The Pope, as the Vicar of Christ, is given direct authority over the whole Church by Christ, but he is not infallible in everything he says or does.

**Error by excess:** The Pope is infallible in everything he says and does.

**3. ERROR BY DEFECT:** I will not obey men, even servants of God be they bishops or priests.

**True obedience:** I will gladly obey the appointed servants of God, legitimate bishops or priests, but not when I know they are leading men away from God.

**Error by excess:** I will obey the bishops or priests even when they disobey God by forsaking Tradition.

We become obedient to the Church and her officials only when we become obedient to the constant teaching of the Church as taught by the Magisterium throughout the ages. If what is taught by an appointed servant of God (priest, bishop or Pope) is contrary to Catholic teaching, then they are not to be obeyed, even publicly rebuked (Tit 1:10) as they no longer speak on behalf of Church but has become representatives of their own novelty.

Source: <http://www.catholicapologetics.info/modernproblems/vatican2/obedience.htm>

Please send your questions to [askfrbitaju@kairos.global](mailto:askfrbitaju@kairos.global) and your questions will be answered here.



YOUCAT 45

## DO NATURAL LAWS AND NATURAL SYSTEMS COME FROM GOD ALSO?

**Yes. The laws of nature and natural systems are also part of God's creation. [339, 346, 354]**

Man is not a blank slate. He is shaped by the order and the natural laws that God has inscribed in his creation. A Christian does not simply do "whatever he wants". He knows that he harms himself and damages his environment when he denies natural laws, uses things in ways contrary to their intrinsic order, and tries to be wiser than God, who created them. It demands too much of a person when he tries to design himself from start to finish.

# POPE TALK...

Dr. Kochurani Joseph  
Animator, National Professional Ministry, India



### The Mass is not just a weekly commitment

Pope Concludes Catecheses on the Holy Mass at St. Peter's Square for his weekly general audience, by saying that the Mass is not just a weekly commitment that can be forgotten about once people go out the church doors. "Every time I leave Mass I must leave better than I went in". The Eucharist should leave a person with a better heart, a better spirit and a stronger desire to live as a Christian.

### Love demands 'all possible assistance' be given to sick and dying

God's love requires that we give our best to each and every one of our brothers and sisters, even those who are in the final stage of their life. Love for others cannot be reserved for exceptional moments, but must become the constant of our existence. That's why to the sick, even if in the last stage, we must give all possible assistance. This is why unborn children are always welcomed; that is why, ultimately, life must always be protected and loved from conception to its natural setting. And this is love.

### Evangelization is a priority

Catholics have a mission to evangelize, teaching people that God never tires of loving them. I feel like speaking to you from the heart about the mission, about evangelization, which is the priority of the Church today. This is because mission is to give voice to the faithful love of God, it is to announce that the Lord loves us and that he will never get tired of me, of you, of us and of this world of ours, which we may get tired of.

### Following Christ is an all or nothing deal

It is not possible to have a relationship with God if we are attached to sin and the devil. To the extent that I say 'no' to the suggestions of the devil – he who divides – I am able to say 'yes' to God, who calls me to conform to Him in thoughts and deeds. A person cannot put conditions on how they follow Christ, he said, explaining that it is necessary to detach oneself from certain bonds in order to be able to really embrace others; either you're good with God or you're good with the devil.

### Pope asks laity to live creatively their mission

In his prayer video for the month of May, Pope Francis said laypeople are on the "front lines" of the Church's life and activities, and asked Catholics of all states and vocations to pray for the laity



PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR JUNE UNIVERSAL

Social Networks

That social networks may work towards that inclusiveness which respects other for their differences.

and their mission. "Laypeople are on the front line of the life of the Church". He urged the Church to be thankful for the laity who take risks, who are not afraid and who offer reasons for hope to the poorest, to the excluded, to the marginalized.

### Love is not just what we see in movies – it takes work

Love is not empty words or what is depicted in romantic films – it is action and service toward others. Love is not playing violins, all romantic. Love is work. Love shows itself in works, not in words. Sometimes people might think that love is what they see between a couple in a film, but love is actually found in always working for others.

### Pope Francis says....

- Missionary work as a massive work of mercy without limits
- The Christian life is a battle against evil
- Without the Eucharist, everything the Church does is vain
- There's no 'maybe' when answering the Lord's call.
- The Church cannot be silent about economic suffering



# MISSION TALK

RUBAN NAVEEN DEVARAJ

Ruban Naveen Devaraj shares his experience of mission as a fulltimer in East Timor.

Meet Ruban Naveen Devaraj, a youngster from Saveriar Pattanam, a little-known village, in Tamil Nadu, India. He never imagined how life will bring him to East Timor, as a fulltimer. Distanced by water and land in thousands of miles, he grew up oblivious to the sufferings of the East Timor people.

### Growing up

His village was named after St Francis Xavier, the patron saint of his parish and village. He would read the biography of St Francis over and over and was deeply touched by the sacrifices he made to spread the good news. St John de Britto, the patron saint of his diocese was another inspiration. Visiting the saint's place of martyrdom, he dreamt of going on a missionary journey. Little did he know that in a few years, he would be treading the same path as many saints.

Growing up, the innocence of childhood was lost to the ways of the world. However, during a college retreat, he had a Christ encounter. "I realised Jesus came down to the earth for me, and accepted sufferings for my sins and thus gave us salvation. Now I am free because Jesus lives in me. This motivated me to come out of my sinful life." Ruban soon realised that many did not know this truth and lived in darkness. He sensed a responsibility to spread the good news. He was eager to know more about the fulltimership experience of one of his seniors. Meanwhile, he got the opportunity to spend some time with a full-timer. Understanding the beauty and essence of it, he wanted to take that chance. He discerned for a year, discussed with Jesus Youth elders and a priest, and decided to become a full-timer.

### First step in mission, smile at everyone

Ruban's initial days in East Timor were filled with new faces, culture, and language. The Timorese don't speak English, instead their language is Tetum. Smiling at everyone was his first mission. The accommodation and food were strange to him and he spent his time learning the language and building relationships. For the first few weeks, he even found it difficult to wake up early because of the time difference.

RUBAN'S INITIAL DAYS IN EAST TIMOR WERE FILLED WITH NEW FACES, CULTURE, AND LANGUAGE. THE TIMORESE DON'T SPEAK ENGLISH, INSTEAD THEIR LANGUAGE IS TETUM. SMILING AT EVERYONE WAS HIS FIRST MISSION.



Dili diocese had appointed him as a campus ministry counsellor. There were prayer groups in four universities and two training centres. But, one of his major role was as a tutor. He taught at the training centre run by the diocese youth commission. He also taught spoken English to kids at the Sunday school and Mathematics in an institute run by Salesian nuns. It helped him to spend a lot of time around youth.

The Timorese youth were emotional and aggressive as they had gone through various traumatic and difficult times in their fight for independence from Indonesia. When they became independent the youth took this to another level. They spent majority of their time on social media, had way too many parties, and couldn't-care-less about studies or careers. Addiction was another issue. Many of the youth were heavily into smoking and drinking.

### Connecting with the youth

Ruban soon realised that sharing the good news with these youths would not be a cakewalk. However, he wasn't discouraged. Most of them had not yet encountered Christ

and he felt that could probably be the reason for their inconsistency. They charted many interesting events for the youth. There were Christian movies screened, worship, interactive sessions, etc. However, the faces which showed up this week would be missing the next week. Rather than getting frustrated, however they felt encouraged.

He remembers going to the beach on Valentine's Day, along with a few campus ministry volunteers, and doing one-to-one evangelisation. They could speak to a lot of youngsters about God's true love. He could also organise retreats, pilgrimages, Holy Mass, Evangelization, confession, and way of the cross on campuses. On Pentecost Sunday they organized a "Pentecost vigil" that was attended by 90 people from different campuses. The power of the Holy Spirit was needed in Timor.

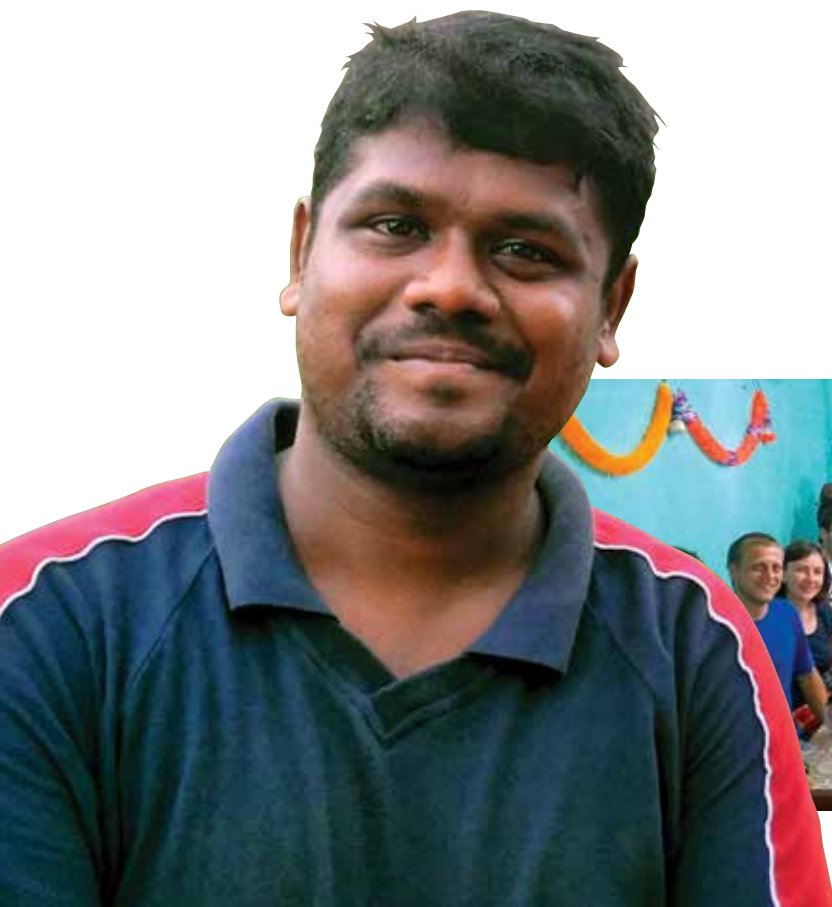
Ruban found yet another way to connect with the youth, cooking. When I first started cooking Indian food, people around me came to taste it. I started to invite people for lunch and dinner. Over the simple meals, we shared the love of Christ."

### The good testimony

Soon, Ruban realised that it was God's will for him to be a fulltimer in Timor. The people accepted him and Timor became his second home. His zeal and faith touched many hearts. Soon, Timor was opening her doors for Christ. During the Jesus Youth continental exchange program in Thailand, two native students represented Timor. One of Ruban's students, who was a drug addict, gave up his addiction because the Word of God touched his heart. He is now studying in the national university of Timor and stands firmly by his faith. These were a few of the visible changes. The Bishop of Dili who supports Jesus Youth in Timor gave Ruban a souvenir that read, "Thank you for your good Testimony."

### Dream for Timor

"My dream for East Timor is that they may be evangelized one day. Good news will reach all the peaks and valleys of Timor."





# JESUS YOUTH



Dr Edward Edezhath, one of the pioneers of Jesus Youth, gives us a glimpse of the growth of the movement.

## Come to JY and be part of a jolly good family!



→ "Something is seriously missing in our group. Our group has grown in prayer. A lot of people come here. We have very good teachings. But the old vibrancy is lacking. Somehow we are slowly becoming lifeless." I was interacting with this active city group with plenty of committed members. Over the years much change has come. And I could see their frustration.

I was reminded of a repeated message we received in our group years ago. 'Do all that is possible to build yourself into a loving community.' Reflecting on this we started many

new initiatives in our prayer group. The first one was a very interesting Christmas celebration with much joyful interaction, games and eating together. A 'welcome ministry' was soon set up. Occasionally we organised outings. Personal info of every regular member was collected and we began greeting everyone on birthdays. With many such little steps of getting to know each other and expressing our love and care a big change came over in our group.

A good Jesus Youth group is surely a sharing and caring community. When a group gets started, the first few meetings are like a boy and girl falling

in love, something quite exciting. But slowly other things come up and the love and enthusiasm fade away. No amount of prayer and fasting, nor any loud teaching would automatically do the trick. Building a community is all about little acts of caring, mutual acceptance and forgiveness. It's everyone's job to do his or her bit to keep the body of Christ alive.

### Encounter to Community

A walk with Jesus Youth begins with an encounter, an experience that brings a person closer to God. With this a person begins a brand new life of joy and love. But changes come and forgetfulness sets in, and gradually this new life fades away. So, if you want this encounter to deepen and bear fruits, some dynamics of endurance have to be there. And, what is the most important help to continue what you have started anew? In one word you have to 'belong'. In other words, if a person becomes part of an active community that tries to live Jesus Youth spirituality, there is every possibility that he or she would continue. So being part of a joyful community is the most important next step after a person comes to the Jesus Youth life.

I was introduced to a new experience and spirituality in a seminar. At the end of that we were

shown a film of a loving community and were told that if we did not belong to such a group, what we have started will gradually die out. Those of us interested in deepening this experience were invited to come together and I readily signed up. That was the beginning of our Wednesday Prayer Group. Everyone of us had one focus, a closer walk with Jesus. This in turn made us a very intimate community. Week after week we came together to praise God, meet with our wonderful friends, share our experiences, receive and give encouragement, and thus we slowly grew into a lively community.

**We often say 'Jesus Youth is a lifestyle'. Growing in the movement is all about growing in a joyful and fruitful lifestyle.**



Jesus Youth

Later I came to meet many active Christians. Most of them belonged to some lively group, which in turn made them disciplined and led them to be fruitful missionaries. One beautiful work of the Holy Spirit is that when a person has a renewal experience, a deep desire to be part of a Christian community is also planted in the heart of that person. But then it is the responsibility of those who guide new Christians to encourage and guide this desire to deeper belongingness.

At every stage of the development of Jesus Youth movement, this emphasis on being part of loving communities was there. Thus in 1982 about 20 of us from different parts of our state decided to gather every month and grow together as an active fellowship. We used to call that little community 'the First Line Group'. We were men and women of different age groups and career backgrounds, but a zeal for the Lord united us. And we used to look forward eagerly to this monthly third-weekend gatherings at Ernakulam. And what was happening there? A joyful celebration of the new life in songs and praise and loving interactions and reflections on how we should move on, made these weekends a deep formative experience. And these First Liners went back to their respective areas to form committed persons and loving communities. This gradually became the unique style of this fast growing network. And over the years a movement was born.

### Building Christian Community

It is a surprising reality that we often miss the simple yet wonderful message of Jesus. Our God is a loving community, and Jesus came on earth to teach us to love and help us to live as a loving community. The one commandment that He gave us is to love. And he asked us to love as he loved. At the Pentecost the Holy Spirit came upon the Apostles in a new way and the first tangible fruit of this was

the new experience of God they had which led them into praising God. Soon they came together as one community of much joy, great love and generous sharing. The Acts of the Apostles says, "All who believed were together and had all things in common" (2:44).

Look around! Everyone yearns for some good company and heart-warming friendship. And we all know that lack of love hurts a person and genuine love heals and builds up. Furthermore, a person comes to the Lord through a loving invitation of someone and a person grows in the life of the Lord through the loving companionship and encouragement of some good Christian.

Every group has its own ways of behaving and doing things. We call it the culture of that group. When a person becomes part of a group, he or she gets immersed into its culture. Sometimes we take note of the different aspects of that culture, but very often we may not notice it. Like fish breathing and living in water we dip ourselves into a culture. The best way to form and build a person in faith is to bring him/her to a group that has a rich faith culture.

We often say 'Jesus Youth is a lifestyle'. Growing in the movement is all about growing in a joyful and fruitful lifestyle. How does one build this? They say values are not taught, but caught. In the same way, a lifestyle is learned in a community. Jesus did it and we also have to learn to do it.

.....

Dr. Edward Edezhath, one of the pioneers of Jesus Youth movement, is a retired professor from St. Albert's College, Ernakulam. He is one of the Animators of the International Council. He lives with his wife Audrey in Kochi, India.



# WHY FRODOS COME FROM SHIRES

**SIMI SAHU REFLECTS ON HOW ALL OF US, EVEN THE GREATEST MISSIONARIES, ARE NURTURED AND FORMED BY THE LOVE OF OUR HOMES - OUR VERY OWN LITTLE SHIRES.**

# W

hile I was growing up, I had already read way too many stories to not know the truth that in any hum-drum classroom, any noisy vegetable market, any dusty old street could be hiding - in plain sight - heroes and superhuman mutants. Riding in the back of our car, I wondered if I would be smart enough to pick out these heroes or if I would be like most of the characters in the novels, clueless. Years later, coming to the movement and having my eyes opened to the wider Church, I became much more deeply and realistically taken by saints, missionaries and religious.

In 2012, as I walked behind Fr. Isaiah in the rocky, hilly paths of Courail, in Haiti, I was aware that I was with someone I could count myself lucky to read about some day. Fr. Isaiah had been a superior general of his order, and was part of many initiatives in the Church in Latin America, Europe, North America, and Africa. I was eager to gather everything I could from his vast repertoire. But to my dismay, Fr. Isaiah was not interested in talking about his missionary stories. When he had time, he preferred talking about the blood oranges that they sell in Northern Italy, or the forests near his seminary where he would take long walks or little "boring" things about his father or sisters. He was clearly present to all of us, but he still seemed to live in the little village near Padua, which he left as a 12-year-boy.

Years later, as I savoured on memories with Fr. Isaiah, the phrase kept coming to mind, "Frodos come from Shires." Frodo is one of the main protagonists from the novel and movies, Lord of the Rings. He was a regular guy who grew up in Shire - a very beautiful, ordinary town of "hobbits" who worked hard, loved their food and drinks and the place they lived. The place, although a bit idyllic, does remind you of good families living their lives. Frodo realised that he was destined for a dangerous adventure to get rid of a cursed ring, leading to almost certain death. He did not go on the mission because of his bravery or for the sake of adventure. He was a "true soldier" as described by Chesterton, who fought "not because he hates what is in front of him, but because he loves what is behind him." Whether he was in the beautiful land of Elves, or making his way to death while mortally wounded, Frodo always lived in the Shire in his heart. How many Shires I had passed by unknowingly.

Every home I had been welcomed into, from my relatives in India to the JY families, and of course my own family were little Shires. I may have been drawn to heroes, missionaries, and saints all these years, but they all came from their own Shires. Whether priests,

**HE DID NOT GO ON THE MISSION BECAUSE OF HIS BRAVERY OR FOR THE SAKE OF ADVENTURE. HE WAS A "TRUE SOLDIER" AS DESCRIBED BY CHESTERTON, WHO FOUGHT "NOT BECAUSE HE HATES WHAT IS IN FRONT OF HIM, BUT BECAUSE HE LOVES WHAT IS BEHIND HIM."**



religious brothers, and sisters go to distant places or live in a rectory or convent next to the local parish, they still serve these Shires in one way or another. Frodo needed the Shire to know what peace, trust, hard work, and rest really are if he was to know how deeply twisted many of the places he went to were. He needed the Shire to be Frodo and to make it to the end of the journey and to do so well.

Looking up at an icon of

the Holy Family recently gifted by a seminarian friend, I saw an earthly, veiled image of the Holy Trinity - Husband, Wife and Child. A natural family being formed by two persons who were once unrelated strangers. Their difficulties with one another and the world, somehow through the power of love still providing a place with enough peace and order to prepare the God-child to one day save the world. I could see in the hidden story of the Holy Family, what every family really is (in one way or another), and what every family, every person belongs to. Jesus did not only come from the perfect communion of the Holy Trinity, He also came to us from the loving community of the Holy Family.

I wish we had more saints who had written about the beauty, dignity, and the mystery of family life just like The Lord of the Rings, where we have so much written about Frodo, his adventures, his friends and his mission, and such precious few lines about the hidden life of the Shire. But it is perhaps just as well, because the Hobbits didn't read books about the Shire, they were just living it and perhaps the Shire needed the same privacy that the Gospels give to the life of the Holy Family. What an adventure, and what heroes! ■

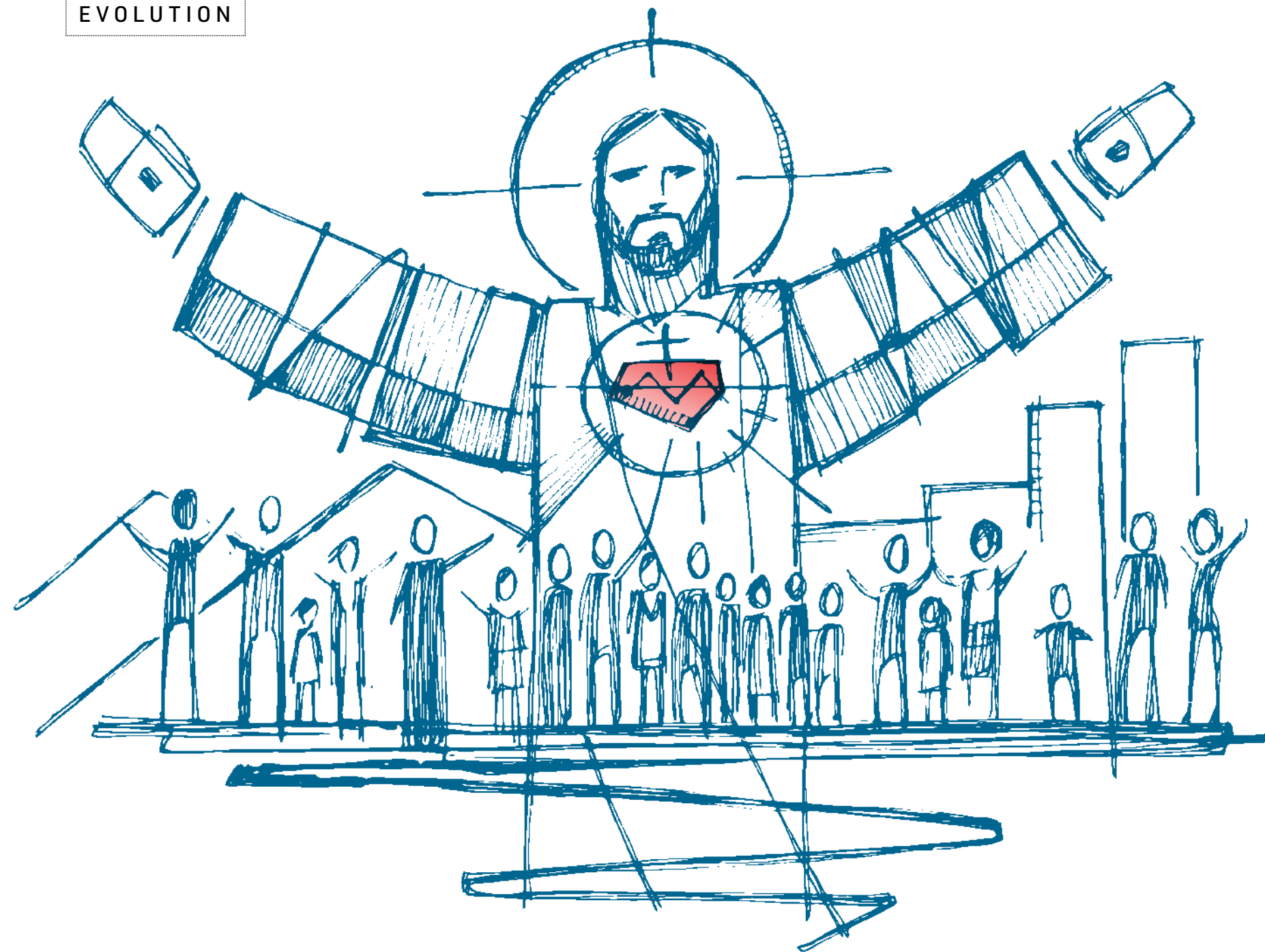


**Simi Sahu** is a graduate student pursuing a Masters in Arts in Theological Studies at St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary in Boynton Beach, FL. She is also a licensed Certified Public Accountant. She received the gift of her faith in Jesus Christ and love for the Holy Catholic Church through the Jesus Youth movement.





## EVOLUTION



# Who is a Christian leader?

**Biju Antony** throws light on the Christian leadership model and explains that it is not about power play but about being a servant leader.

Leadership is the art of motivating and forming a group of people to act towards a mission or achieving a goal. Leaders set direction (vision) and then, inspire others to reach that vision. Throughout history, we see inspiring leaders. But Jesus has shown us a unique way of leadership popularly known as Christian Leadership.

## JESUS' DEFINITION OF LEADERSHIP

Jesus summoned them and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and the great ones make their authority over them felt. But it shall not be so among you. Rather, whoever wishes to be great among you shall be your servant; whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave. Just so, the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many." Matthew 20:25-28

He promotes a leadership based on humble service and calls leaders 'Servants.' A Servant Leadership. Today, it is difficult to be a successful leader, and it is even more difficult to be a Servant Leader. However, Jesus proved that it is possible by 'grace.'

What was unique about Jesus as a leader was that he placed himself as a model and example to be followed. He preached what he practiced and he practiced what he preached. He even washed the feet of his disciples to show an example of what Christian Leadership really is.

## SOME OF THE CHARACTERISTICS OF JESUS AS A LEADER ARE AS FOLLOWS:

- ▶ Jesus was not self-promoting: (Matthew 3:13-15)
- ▶ Jesus was obedient: To His Father (Mark 14:36) and to the Holy Spirit (Mark 1:12-13)
- ▶ Jesus states his vision with clarity, simplicity, and directness: (Mark 1:15)
- ▶ Jesus was a strategic team builder: (Mark 1:17). The first two people that Jesus called were fishermen who also were brothers (Peter and Andrew). Then he called friends of Peter and Andrew who were also fishermen (James and John). To build a team, it is essential to have a core group of people who understand each other. Before he recruited the other eight disciples, his first action was to create a stable core.

▶ Jesus was a relationship builder: (Mark 1:19). Jesus began recruiting his disciples by finding those who shared some common ground. For example, Matthew the tax collector and Simon the Zealot (not Simon Peter). The make-up of these two people shows how Jesus can build relationships.

- ▶ Jesus expressed control and authority as a leader when needed: (Mark 1:23-25)
- ▶ Jesus engaged crisis head-on: (Mark 1:30-31)
- ▶ Jesus practiced daily prayer: (Mark 1:35)
- ▶ Jesus was all about empowering others: (Mark 1:40-45)

## HOW DID JESUS DEVELOP LEADERS?

When Jesus started his public ministry, many started to follow him. From his followers, he handpicked a group of men to become his disciples, to be the key leaders, in carrying his message to the world.

## HE ALLOWED THEM TO OBSERVE HIM AT WORK

The disciples were with Jesus when he taught and performed miracles. He would often clarify their doubts and explain what he had just taught the crowd. He let his disciples observe him performing miracles. In some instances, like feeding the 5000 and 4000, he even allowed them to participate in the miracle.

## HE SENT THEM OUT ON SHORT MINISTRY OUTREACHES

After his disciples had been with him for a while, watching him work, he sent them out on short outreaches to get real ministry experience. They would then spend time discussing their results and receiving further training from Jesus. Once they proudly reported that they had been able to cast out evil spirits, just like Jesus. He used this as a teaching point to stress what was really important. "Nevertheless, do not rejoice because the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice because your names are written in heaven." (Luke 10: 20)

## HE GAVE THEM THE HOLY SPIRIT

When Jesus ascended to heaven, he sent the Holy Spirit to dwell in his people. He promised that the Holy Spirit would lead his followers into all truth and continue to teach them. We see the Holy Spirit directing the steps of early Christians.

The good news is that, those who follow Christ still have access to the Holy Spirit. The pattern that Jesus left was a Spirit-filled, Spirit-equipped, group of people who continue to learn from their leaders, each other, and the Holy Spirit.



**Biju Antony** is the Jesus Youth National Formation Coordinator in Kuwait. An Engineer by profession, he has been actively involved in the movement since 1987.



# Life is Beautiful with Christ

**Anu Scento** recounts the tragic experiences in her life which became a turning point of her faith journey.

**G**rowing up, I would always have a conversation with Jesus even though I didn't know him much. I laughed with Him, fought with Him, and shared my heart with Him. Jesus knew me in and out but I didn't know him much.

I was in fourth grade and I remember my dad falling unconscious. There were numerous check-ups and I was told that he was fine. He looked normal and healthy. However, the gravity of his illness was never discussed in front of me. Life went on, and we were in the new millennium. It was 2003. One day, when my dad said that he was travelling to Kerala, I asked him to bring back banana chips for me. A few days later I was informed that he was not feeling well and that we have to go to Kerala. When my mom and I reached Kerala, the sight of my dad's dead body welcomed us. It was a shock! I couldn't cry. Instead, my mind was racing and there were too many questions for God. I told Jesus, 'you raised Lazarus! Raise my dad too!' The loss of my father was turning point in my life.

Meanwhile, my mother was undergoing some changes. She started hallucinating and became delusional. She would hear voices and started talking to these so-called voices she was hearing. In 2010, while attending a program, I told a nun about my mother's condition and she explained this illness in detail. She said that some people under extreme mental stress lose control of their mind and it makes them hear voices. The voices could be anything and the person becomes violent if we don't listen to them.



Through all those lonely years what kept me going was God's unfailing love. He gave me His love and his peace so I could smile with a peaceful heart. I realised I had Jesus whom I could call my own, who loved me very much and suffered and gave everything for me.

Though my mother's sickness made my life difficult, it was about the same time I experienced Christ's love for me. When I lost my father, my mother lost her husband, her soulmate. As a child I was not able to understand her loss. Around the same time, my sister was getting ready for marriage and without a man by her side, all the stress fell on my mom. She did not get any emotional support from anywhere and soon became ill.

I felt she was mad and I was kept a prisoner because of her. Based on the voices she heard, she kept accusing me of things I never did. She would get violent if I didn't listen to her or if I went against her senseless decisions. She would tell me not to talk to people because she heard about them and saw me talking to them in her mind. But through it all my loving Abba father blessed me to understand her pain and taught me forgiveness daily. Taught me to love her back and empathise with her.

Through all those lonely years what kept me going was God's unfailing love. He gave me His love and his peace and so I could smile with a peaceful heart. I realised I had Jesus whom I could call my own, who loved me very much and suffered and gave everything for me.

I started enjoying my life in midst of all pain. Whenever I thought about a future with a man, I felt nobody will marry me because I don't have an earthly father and my mom was not stable. Nobody would want to take such huge responsibilities. But once again, God surprised me. My marriage was arranged and I got married to Scento Jose in November, 2014. He accepted me knowing about my mom and now, God blessed us with a son, Gabriel Joseph, who is two years old. Life is indeed beautiful after knowing my creator and it continue to amaze me how he loves me, who is not perfect. ■



**Anu Scento** is actively involved with the Jesus Youth family ministry and lives with her husband Scento and son Gabriel in Chennai, India.



SYNOD

# YOUTH SYNOD 2018

PRE-SYNODAL MEETING (PART 2)

**IN THIS SECOND PART ON PRE-SYNODAL MEETING, CHRIS COLACO SHARES HIS EXPERIENCES IN ROME AND PRESENTS A SUMMARY OF THE DISCUSSIONS.**

**T**he Church's treasure is precisely the faith which is received through grace. I was blessed to be part of the Pre Synodal meeting of around 300 youth delegates from around the world. During the first day of the meeting, the Holy Father asked the young people to prepare a document, so it could be reviewed and used as part of the Instrumentum Laboris during the Synod. We were divided into language groups, of which 22 were English-speaking. In each group were 12 delegates from different countries discussing the theme, "Young People, The Faith and Vocational Discernment".

► Chris Colaco with Daniel Bashir, Youth Coordinator of JY Pakistan



Below is a summary of the discussion:

## A. THE CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE WORLD TODAY

### 1. The Formation of Personality

► Young people are looking for a sense of belonging. To forge this identity for themselves, in some cultures they move away from their families, whereas in some others, they seek this by remaining rooted in their family, traditions and culture. The church needs to support families and equip them so that the family can become the main source of rooting children in faith. Young people also spend a lot of time on social media, and often feel the need to be conformed to the values advertised on social media, especially if a large group is already following a trend.

► There are places where parishes no longer provide fertile base for youngsters or families. Often, families in such places are in search of a place to grow and strengthen in their call to holiness. This is where the Church recognises the role of ecclesiastical communities and associations in forming individuals and families.

► Young people seek a church that would

help them find a vocation, in all its meaning and richness. Nowadays the belief is very common that sainthood is something not easily achievable.

### 2. Relationship with Other People

► Often, young people tend to separate their behaviour, between online and offline environments. It is necessary to offer guidance to young people on how to live their digital lives. Online relationships can become inhuman. Digital spaces can blind us to the vulnerability of another human being, and keep us from self-reflection. In addition, problems like pornography distort a young person's perception of human sexuality. Technology used this way creates a delusional parallel reality that ignores human dignity.

► The impact of social media in the lives of young people cannot be understated. Social media is a significant part of young people's identity and way of life. The exchange of information as well as access to online learning tools has opened up educational opportunities for young people in remote areas, and has brought the world's knowledge to one's finger tips.

### 3. Relationship with Technology

► Technology is one area that most youngsters agreed is moving at a fast pace. When referring to technology, one must understand the duality of its application. While modern advancements in technology have greatly improved our lives, one must be prudent with its usage. As with all things, reckless application can have negative consequences. While technology has for some, augmented personal relationships, for many others it has taken the form of an addiction, becoming a replacement for authentic human relationships and even for God.

► We offer two concrete proposals regarding technology. First, by engaging in a dialogue with young people, the Church should deepen her understanding of technology so as to assist us in discerning its apt usage. Moreover, the Church should view technology – particularly the internet – as a fertile place for the New Evangelization. The

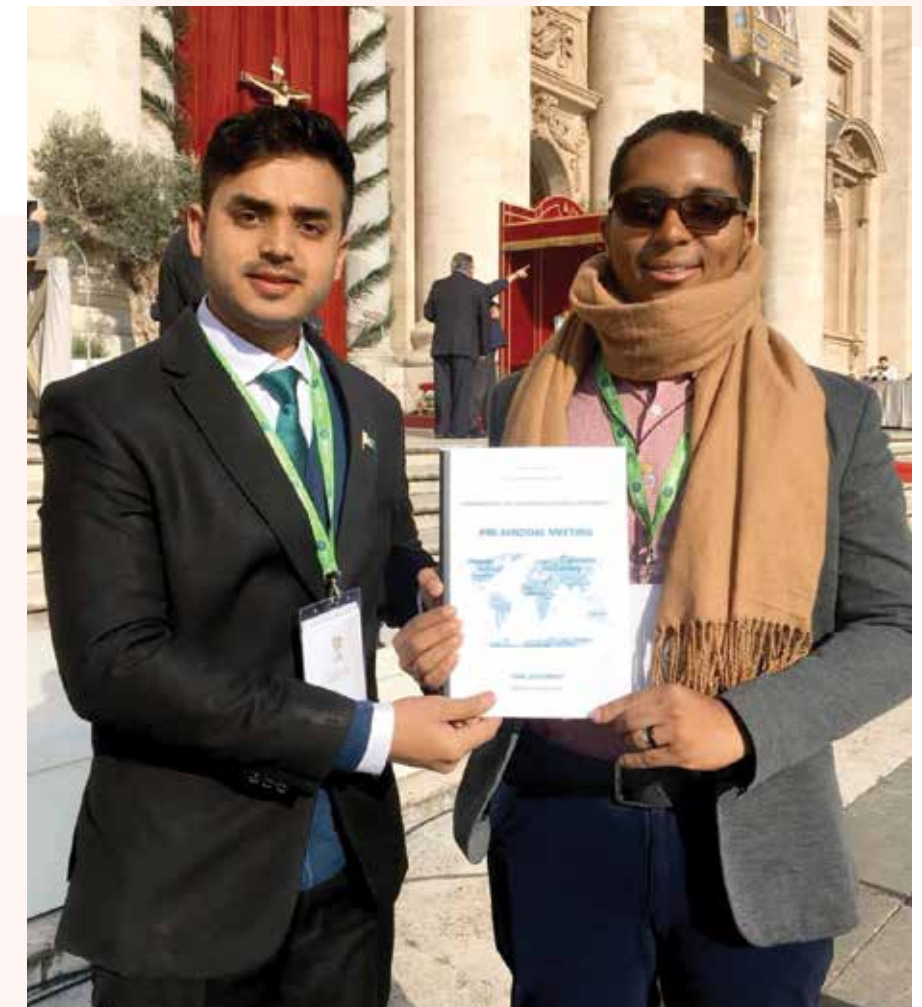
## THE CHURCH'S TREASURE IS PRECISELY THE FAITH WHICH IS RECEIVED THROUGH GRACE.

outcomes of these reflections could be formalized through an official Church document. Secondly, the Church should address the widespread crisis of pornography, including online child abuse, as well as cyber-bullying and the toll these take on humanity.

### 4. Search for Meaning in Life

► Religion today is considered a private matter, so much so that even any discussion or speaking about faith is seen as something that's not part of public sphere.

▼ Daniel Bashir with the final document





► In parts of the world where Christians are in minority, the Judeo-Christian roots of that land tend to gradually diminish and fade away, leaving people to doubt their faith, and gradually move away from it.

### B - FAITH AND VOCATION, DISCERNMENT AND ACCOMPANIMENT

#### 5. Young People and Jesus

► Many young people today relate to Jesus in different ways. Some say he is just a historical figure, others relate to him through mother Mary. While some have a very good relationship with Jesus, still others see him as a moral leader and a good man.

#### 6. Faith and the Church

► Many people have had negative experiences with the church and clergy and this has destroyed their faith and perception of Church.

► Another common confusion that many young people have is the lack of clarity on the role of women in the Church. If it is hard enough for young men to feel a sense of belonging in the Church, it is

## YOUNG PEOPLE SEEK A CHURCH THAT WOULD HELP THEM FIND A VOCATION, IN ALL ITS MEANING AND RICHNESS.

▼The participants of the Pre-Synodal meeting

harder for young women. To that end, it would be helpful for young people if the Church not only clearly stated the role of women, but also helped them to explore and understand and guide them into it more clearly.

#### 7. Vocational Discernment

► There is a deep need to understand what vocation is. Nowadays, vocation discernment is considered as applicable only for priesthood or religious life, forgetting that it is a call for all and that all are called to the vocation of holiness.

#### 8. Young People and Accompaniment

► Young people are looking to be accompanied on their journey by faithful men or women, who are open, who strengthen their faith, and give a sense of belonging to them.

► The Church should equip mentors – who not only know the gospel, but live it out and evangelise by their life



▼ Daniel Bashir with Pope Francis and the 12 representatives after handing over the final document.

### C - THE CHURCH'S FORMATIVE AND PASTORAL ACTIVITY

#### 9. The manner of the Church

► Young people today are looking for an authentic church, especially requiring the hierarchy of the church to be communicative, accessible, joyful and interactive.

► The church should be sincere in admitting its past and present mistakes.  
 ► The Church should be really clear in condemning sexual abuse, and the mismanagement of power and wealth.

#### 10. Young Leaders

► The church must involve young people in some decision making at the parish level, so that they too feel involved in the life of the parish.

► The church should create platforms for youngsters, so that they can go through formation or leadership training programmes to equip them in youth ministry.



Chris Colaco is currently pursuing Bachelor's degree in Philosophy in Maryvale Institute and also working as an administration assistant in St Joseph's Hospice in London, UK. He represented Jesus Youth at the Pre-Synodal meeting in Rome.

► Some young women feel that there is a lack of female role models/leaders within the Church, to show them ways of sharing their intellectual and professional gifts in the Church.

► We also believe that seminarians and religious should have an even greater role in accompanying young leaders.

#### 11. The Initiatives to be reinforced

► The young have many questions about faith, and desire answers which are neither watered-down, nor utilize pre-fabricated formulations. We, the young Church, ask that our leaders speak in practical terms, about controversial subjects such as homosexuality and gender issues, about which young people are already freely discussing without taboo.

► Youngsters feel that the church needs to have vibrant initiatives to participate and experience the Lord in unique ways.

I had the opportunity to present my views on the role of ecclesial communities in the Church, where I spoke about Jesus Youth. I shared on how it created a platform for me to experience Christ, and how its unique spirituality and formation helped in moulding me and other youngsters in today' day and age. Several youngsters were involved, from start to finish in this Pre-Synodal meeting, as they were given an opportunity to express their views and opinions. They were really passionate about this time spent together. Personally, I learned a lot from this gathering on how churches in different countries and cultures, struggle and overcome those struggles. This also inspired me to develop an interest in and learn about the Church's mission, the role of Laity in the Church, and to further my understanding of the previous Synods that took place. After reviews, the prepared document was submitted to Cardinal Lorenzo Baldesseri, the Secretary General of the Synod of Bishops. During the Palm Sunday Papal Mass, the final document was given to Pope Francis by 12 delegates. Going forward, this document will be used as part of the Instrumentum Laboris in the upcoming Synod in October.





# THEOLOGY OF THE BODY SERIES

## THE MARITAL EMBRACE AND THE CELIBATE VOCATION

In the last part of the series, Theology of the Body, **Maritta Martin** shares that marriage, sex, celibacy, are all intertwined; each must be given the proper understanding and a delicate balance must be maintained between them.

**S**o far, we have discussed some of the basics of Theology of the Body in brevity. This last piece will also venture to understand some more fundamental aspects of TOB and lay the ground work for more insightful articles. We have discussed that marriage is a reflection of the marriage of man with God in heaven. In marriage we imitate the Trinity- namely the self-giving and mutually receiving love of God the Father, Son, and Spirit. The marital embrace, namely intercourse, reflects this same love where a man and woman give of each other and receive love unconditionally and in the process are open to creating life- whether it is a child, a community or a stronger body of Christ through their service. Now that we have established this, isn't it fair to say that the celibate calling of the priests, religious, and consecrated singles is a contradiction? Perhaps to some, but Christopher West, the renowned writer and TOB enthusiast more aptly calls it a paradox.

In Catholic Theology there are many paradoxes, such as the truth of one God in three persons, the man Jesus who is also God, the blessed Virgin who is also mother and in marriage two people become one flesh. Striking, right? However, this "double speak" compels us to think with the mind of God. Truth is, marriage, sex, celibacy, are all intertwined; each must be given the proper understanding and a delicate balance must be maintained between them.

The Church basically says that the call to "spousal love" is the fundamental truth of our existence and the way we fulfill ourselves as human beings. With this in mind, the celibate vocation is actually a fulfillment of everything we have discussed. As we mentioned before, marriage is a reflection of the union of man with God in heaven. Marriage then is a sign and foreshadowing of things to come. Sexual desire ultimately points us to our desire for heaven- the perfect union with God. In heaven, in the beatific vision, Christ will make a gift of himself to humanity and the reciprocal gift of our self will be our response to the gift of the bridegroom. Hence, the marriage of the divinity and the humanity will be eternally consummated.

When Christ in the Gospel of Mathew says, some are called to embrace celibacy for the kingdom of heaven, this kingdom of heaven that he is referring to is precisely the heavenly marriage. With this at the backdrop, the call to celibacy makes sense. As West says, those who choose celibacy are "skipping" the sacrament in anticipation of the real thing. Those who choose celibacy are dramatically declaring to the world that the kingdom of God is here by expressing their marriage commitment directly to God. Celibates encapsulate eternity in their vocation by stepping beyond time, while living in time- they express their "I do" directly to God.

So ultimately, both vocations to marriage and to celibacy are in their own rights a fulfillment of the call to spousal love revealed in their individual bodies. Both taken individually can seem as a paradox. But like every paradox in our walk with Christ, we must die to live, surrender to be free and loose our life to find it. Celibacy and marriage are two such interdependent salvific paradoxes. Christianity, as late mother Angelica would say is not for the weak hearted, it requires courage and sacrifice. The call of both the vocations likewise, is a call of great courage and sacrifice- as they both require self-sacrificing love. We cannot escape the call of our sexuality.

Every man, by the virtue of his manhood is called to be a husband and a father. A celibate man becomes the "icon" of Christ and his bride is the Church. Every woman by the virtue of her womanhood is called to be a wife and mother. A celibate woman becomes an "icon" of the Church and her bridegroom is Christ. Furthermore, both celibate man and woman bear many spiritual children. Hence, each vocation is interrelated and interdependent. Both reveal the mystery of Christ and the beatific vision and are indispensable to building the kingdom of God. As West says, "Marriage reveals the spousal character of celibacy, and celibacy reveals that the ultimate purpose of marriage is to prepare us for heaven."

In conclusion, God designed us human so thoughtfully so as to even make our bodies desire and tend for Him. Our desires of an intimate union with another are just deeper desires for a stronger and more intimate union with God. Both marriage and celibacy are grace filled vocations to fulfil our deepest desires to be more intimately united with God and both are equally dignified paths to holiness in their own rights.

**Both marriage and celibacy are grace filled vocations to fulfil our deepest desires to be more intimately united with God and both are equally dignified paths to holiness in their own rights.**



**Maritta Martin**, a Jesus Youth from Florida, USA, is a keen reader of Pope John Paul II's works and Christopher West, both of whose works helped and contributed in writing this article.



## IN MEMORIAM

# Archbishop Abraham Viruthakulangara

AN ORDINARY MAN WITH AN  
EXTRA ORDINARY HEART



# A

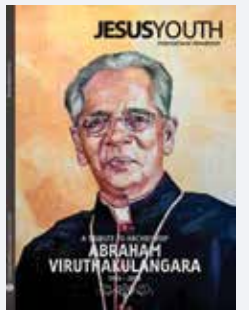
rchbishop Abraham Viruthakulangara was the first Indian blessed to serve 40 years in office as a Bishop. In 1977, he was ordained as the Bishop of Khandwa at the age of 34, and after 21 years, elevated as the Archbishop of Nagpur, where he has been serving for the past 20 years. He served as the first Chairman of the Youth Commission of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of India. He was the first Ecclesiastical Advisor appointed for Jesus Youth by a Bishops' Conference and then by the Holy See. He was also the Patron of Kairos Global and supported the magazine from the beginning.

Fondly called as "Bishop Swamy," he loved the youth and whenever he was at a youth program, he mingled with the youth, joined their conversations, did action songs, waited in queues and ate with them. Jesus Youth had a very special place in his heart. He walked with the movement as a shepherd and guided the leaders through the process for the Pontifical recognition. His guidance and bold convictions helped Jesus Youth become the first ever movement from India and the second from the Asian continent to receive the Pontifical approval. He was involved in the formation of the Jesus Youth seminarians and in 2016 he ordained the first two priests for Jesus Youth - Fr G.V. Das and Fr Ditto Devassy

A person who lived life in its fullness, Archbishop Abraham was constantly on the move. He never believed in wasting time and found joy in little things of life. He passed away in his sleep on April 19, 2018. Cardinal Baselios Mar Cleemis, head of the Syro-Malankara Church who led his funeral service said, "Archbishop Viruthakulangara was a precious gift to the church in India. He travelled a lot to be with ordinary people in the villages. He loved to be with people. He rejoiced with those who rejoice and wept with those that weep." Cardinal George Alencherry, head of the Syro-Malabar Church, remembered Archbishop Abraham as a person "won the hearts of people from all walks of life such as religious, social, and political.

We pray for the repose of the soul of our dear Bishop Swamy, and that he may intercede for the Jesus Youth movement and continue to guide us in our journey.

Sharrol Jose, Executive editor, Kairos Global.



Jesus Youth has published a special edition of the Newsletter in honour of Archbishop Abraham Viruthakulangara. We encourage you to get a copy of it from your regional coordinators.





# THE GOODNESS CONTAGION!

**Akhil Pious** on infecting a despairing world with the overflowing goodness of Christ.

**“God** saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good.” Gen 1:31  
The other day, as I was listening to the old, familiar song, ‘God is good’, I was deeply struck when the singer emphasized on the simple yet questionable fact: ‘God is good all the time, all the time God is good’. I wondered, if God is all good, why would he allow

sufferings, despair and darkness in this world to prevail? Since all creation came into being through God, everything around us should be all good and perfect. There should be no sorrow, confusion, poverty or pain that we see in today’s world. Let’s go back to Genesis 1:26 – “Let us make mankind in our image and likeness...” and the last verse of the chapter says, “God saw everything that He had made, and indeed, it was very good.” But wait, what does this really imply?

Well, let’s try and understand. God, who is all good has created every human being in His image and likeness. Yes it’s that simple: God has created you and me as all good. Goodness is an innate quality in each and every one of us, whether we realize it or not. When we see an elderly person on the train or bus, we tend to automatically give up our seat for that person (at least, I hope you do). Well, this is the expression of our goodness from within that makes us give up things for others. The dictionary defines goodness as, ‘a quality of being good: a belief in the basic goodness of mankind.’

The parable of the Good Samaritan is a perfect example, that showcases true compassion and love for a fellow human being. Not the priest nor the Levite (ie, the so-called important and chosen ones) but it is the Samaritan, the person considered an outcast, who breaks the social stigma to come forward and help a person in need: an act of goodness. It is very evident that love and goodness are inseparable.

When we look at the cross, we see a battered and bruised Jesus who gave up His life for you and me; the greatest act of goodness one can witness. In doing so, He teaches us and commands us to do the same – for ‘There is no greater love than this, to lay one’s life for one’s friends’. Now, perhaps this might sound too big a task. But one need not really die to be good. There are smaller things, which our conscience whispers in our daily



lives. One such thing I try to do daily at my workplace is filling the water bottles of my colleagues. Though it might sound a small deed, it’s worth seeing a warm smile or hear the ‘thank you’ from my colleagues, and these are the moments where we can share Christ with them. Another one of my colleagues, makes an effort to bring some extra breakfast for the teammates. There are many such small, yet powerful, instances of goodness in our lives.

A warm smile at your colleague, spending quality time with your friends, sharing your talents and knowledge with everyone around, helping each other in times of trouble – these are all means to spread goodness and happiness. As St. Therese beautifully puts it: ‘Not all of us can do great things. But we can all do small things with great love’.

In today’s fast-paced world, we have turned hostile towards our real call, the purpose for which we were created – To love and live for others. We live in a world with so much ego, anger, greed, jealousy, spite, cruelty, lust, fear, anxiety and turmoil, where the focus has shifted from ‘We’ to ‘I’. Unhealthy competitions at workplace, huge amounts of pressure at schools and colleges even resulting in depression or suicides, old parents being marginalized in old age homes, the widening gap between the rich and

**If evil is contagious, so is good, therefore; we must allow good to abound in us, more and more; let us be infected by goodness, and let us spread the good contagion**

**Pope Francis**

poor, social indifference and racism are all clear indications of our lack of ability to care and support our brothers and sisters. Today’s young generation has a major role in changing society for the common good of everyone, especially the marginalized.

Goodness begins at our homes, schools, colleges, workplaces and wherever we are. In the very words of our Holy Father, Pope Francis, “If evil is contagious, so is good. Therefore we must allow good to abound in us, more and more let us be infected by goodness, and let us spread the good contagion”. So, let us remind ourselves the responsibility we have in spreading goodness and, pray with St. Teresa of Avila:

*“Christ has no body now but yours  
No hands, no feet on Earth but yours  
Yours are the eyes with which He looks  
Compassion on this world  
Yours are the feet with which He walks  
to do good  
Yours are the hands with which He  
blesses all the world”.*

The world is waiting for a Christ in you and me. God bless and Godspeed!



**Akhil Pious**, a Jesus Youth from Delhi India, works as an analyst with the Royal Bank of Scotland. A man of few words, believes in silence as a way to sanctification.



# Can you reach that benchmark?

**Janish Mathew assures us that despite the messages of pessimism and suspicion around us, we can still see through the thickness of dread and find the light of goodness.**

Throughout history we have seen examples of lives transformed after an encounter with the Holy Spirit. The apostles, disciples, and the saints have shown an exemplary quality of goodness.

It is hard to identify goodness when there are more reasons to whine about. Today's media propagate more messages of pessimism, suspicion, and trepidation. Is it easy for us to see through

the thickness of dread and find the light of goodness? Where do I look? What is it that I am looking for? Is it the quality itself or am I looking for the benefits that I get from it? For instance, I go to a restaurant and order food. I look to gratify my hunger through the quantity and the taste of food the restaurant can offer. Similarly, when I look for goodness, I look for its quality and the benefits from the same source.


It sure appears to me that the supreme source of goodness comes from its maker himself, 'God.' My foundation and image of God is through the Bible and

as I browse through the pages of my Bible, I find that it is full of goodness in ways seen and unseen. It was fascinating to know how God, after having made everything in his time, found it to be good. He looked at his own craftsmanship and after having admired it, patted his back, and said it is 'Good.' Now, how can that something which God saw as 'Good' make any difference in me or the way I am? The answer is in the Bible itself. In Luke 18:18 and 19 when the ruler calls Jesus 'Good Master,' He asks him, 'Why do you call me Good?' He continues, 'No one is good, except God alone.' Now, when God created man (Genesis 2:7), He breathed into man and gave him life. Do you think He did not breathe goodness into him? The mark of goodness is set by God himself and we are to know, pursue, teach, and reach the goal. In doing so we will find the maker himself.

In the parable of the sower (Matthew 13:1-23) when the seeds fell on good soil, it brought forth plenty of fruits. Goodness can be clearly seen through our life when we are in line with what God wants from us. St. Paul in his epistle to the Romans (Romans 15:14) says that Christians (followers of

Christ) were full of goodness. Isn't that what people think of us? Being a Christian, we are expected to be good people and that is the standard that Jesus, his life and mission have given us as a benchmark. We are to show the world that we are good but, are we? All the time? We all can put that question to ourselves and answer it.

As some of us would say, "We find it so difficult and so very demanding to be good especially when we want to get things done and there are no positive results." When our friends do not co-operate with us because we have a different idea, when our parents do not approve of us because they fear we might end up regretting the decisions we make, when our spouses do not give ear or act as we want them to, when our business does not turn out the way we had planned, how can we act on goodness? Let me remind you, we were made good by the author of goodness. But when we chose to do "bad," we justify our actions. Let's keep a check on our goodness as the Bible teaches us. The way we look (Jesus looks with the eyes of compassion), the way we speak (Disciples speak truth), the way we touch (apostles touched and healed), the way we act (with kindness) and the way we are (living holy) should radiate this fruit. It's not about having it in you; show it, sow it and grow it in those we encounter. Let's not forget that these are given to us through the Holy Spirit. ■

 Janish Mathew, a Jesus Youth, lives with his wife Juliet and three children in Chennai, India.

# EVERY STEP COUNTS

**Neha Mary Thomas** observes that even if we don't see the fruits, the goodness we impart on others won't go in vain.

**God** is good, all the time! And all the time God is good! You might have heard this at least once. The Bible emphasises this. "For You, Lord, are good, and ready to forgive," (Psalm 86:5). If our God is filled with so much goodness, how can we humans, who are created in His own likeness, lack this quality? Goodness is a quality which cannot be quantified. We can never measure someone's goodness and someone who is good to me might not be good to you.

By the way, why are we talking about goodness? Do we really have to be good? Does it really matter? I love my dear ones, isn't that enough? Let's see...

More than a virtue, goodness is a call, a call to be like God himself. Just like He has been good to us through the ups and downs, we ought to be good to His people whom He gave to us. Whether it is our best friend, or our strictest teacher or a person who bullied us in school, or a beggar on the roadside, or a cousin of ours, or our ex-boyfriend, or our gym trainer, we ought to be good to them. It is relatively easy to be good to the people who are good to you, but.. "Even the tax collectors and pagans do that." The tough job comes when you have to do it the other way!

Look at the rain and the sun. It rains equally on a thief and a policeman, or on a beggar and a rich man. The sun shines equally on a man and a woman, or on a Christian and a Hindu. I see many posts on the social media emphasising how we should not keep loving people who do not love us back, or just forget the person who hurt you, or how to only give importance

to people who will be by our side. It is very easy to hate a person who hurt you or not love a person who doesn't matter to you. And today's world is supporting that quite a bit. But what change will that bring? Would Christ have done the same if he was in our place? He was so good that he asked forgiveness even for the people who persecuted Him. Let's try to bring a change today! Let our goodness change the other person's hatred to love.

Few years ago, I had started sending self-created messages to all the people in my contact list once in a week. The message would include a thought and an act of goodness. Initially, I was very enthusiastic and optimistic that it would help someone in some or the other manner. But as days passed, I couldn't notice any change and I decided to stop it. But then I realized how it was working. A friend messaged me asking why I stopped, and I explained my reason to him. He sent me back one of my messages which said, "This week might have not been as you expected. You might not have achieved what you wanted to. But as you go to sleep tonight, have the will to wake up tomorrow to rise and shine. Advance Good Morning!" When I sent him that message, he was depressed and tired of work, and this message, he said, helped him sleep peacefully that night. Even if you don't see the fruits, the goodness you impart to others won't go in vain.

Similarly, a senior of mine talked to an old friend of hers after years, seeing my message "Today let's call up an old friend whom we haven't talked to for a while." My senior and her friend had a big

fight years ago and since then they hadn't talked to each other, but that day they talked, and things got sorted out. Out of the overflowing joy of getting back a good friend the senior messaged me saying thank you for the messages. Your goodness doesn't stay with you, it propagates, even without you coming to know about it. I realized how these small good deeds were working so beautifully. A handful of good people are enough to make this world a better place, let's try to be a one in the handful.

Last but not the least, be good to yourself too. Your life, your body, you as a whole being is a gift given to you by God. Just as He is good to you, be good to yourself and that goodness will automatically flow out to others. Just remember, "Every step count!" ■



Neha Mary Thomas spent most of her life in Ranchi, India with her parents. She is currently working as an Electronics engineer in Bengaluru, India and is part of the Jesus Youth National Campus Team.





## The miracle of five

# loaves

and two

# fish

**Sharrol Jose** is amazed by the relentless faith of a bunch of youngsters from Loyola College, Chennai. From a few members, they have come a long way in short time. They share about witnessing the power of unceasing prayers and how faith is leading them on Campus.



**T**here was something different about them. But, what is it? I was curious to find out. Here's a bunch of determined youth from Loyola College (Chennai, India) who is making waves on campus with their prayers and acts of mercy. This is the story of their unwavering faith. Meet Ivin Maria Mathew, Aju Soni Thomas, James Sebastian, Joyeson S, Adheena Mary George, Eddith Sara Varghese, and Sharon Maria Jose.

**Q. Ivin, we see so many changes on your campus last year. How did all this begin?**

**IVIN:** It all began with the National Campus Conference in October, 2016. A small group of us attended it and we were asked to share our dreams for the campus. We decided to dream big and started praying. Our first opportunity came when ILO (In the love of the Lord), the zonal campus program, was planned. Since we wanted to host it on our campus, we started interceding for the intention.

Loyola College has a huge campus with five different Institutions. We walked around in groups and recited rosaries especially around the hall where we wanted to host the program. We surrendered our dreams to Mary and went on our knees (literally) to get the venue. And we got it! This was the first time a zonal JY program was being held on our Campus. We started to intercede more for ILO program with Rosaries and Divine Mercy Chaplets, and even used all kinds of social media for intercession.

Prayer was the back bone of the program and it was a great learning experience for all the team members. As a result, we got a strong group of people praying, supporting, and dreaming big for

the Campus. Love Campaign, an outreach to clean up different places brought us together in practicing acts of mercy. With the power of prayer and fellowship, our prayer group was strengthened. This has inspired me to be more rooted in Jesus and Jesus Youth.

All of us in the core team had a lot of dreams. Believing in the power of prayers, we dreamt big. Soon, we planned for 'IGNITE,' a one day program for freshers. We started our intercession with rosary in the evenings.

**Q. How did u prepare for 'IGNITE'?**

**AJU SONI:** This was the first time such a program was conducted in Loyola. We started rosary intercession and collected prayer support from other campuses in the zone. We mobilised through social media, one to one, peer groups, poster, videos, and all other forms of communication possible. We had an intercession room with adoration and confession, and all volunteers took turns to sit before the Lord. Today, we have more than 60 committed youth. Truly, this is

► The Principal & faculty of Loyola College visiting the Prolife exhibition.

►► At the Pro-life exhibition

▼ During the Love Campaign





the fruit of all the intercessions. It reminded us of the miracle of five loaves and two fish. This group is now actively involved in all the initiatives of the prayer group.

### Q. Was this just a group which always pray?

**JOYESON:** During the year, we had a few fellowship gatherings which helped us to forge a good bond amongst ourselves. On September 8, Mary's feast day, we visited the Shrine of Our Lady of Velankanni, Besant Nagar. Fr. Prince our chaplain celebrated mass for us and we had a time of fellowship, music, celebration, and games on the beach nearby. This outing really bridged the gap between seniors and juniors. Many more people were willing to come to prayer meetings after this. We had another outing to the Shrine of St. Thomas the Apostle, Little Mount. A Christmas outreach to Mithra, the differently-abled school, saw

more than 100 students from the college coming together. We had a display of the nativity and other fun games for the kids. We also did a bicycle riding to the beach. All these helped us to reach out to many more youth.

### Q. One of the main events in the college was the Prolife Exhibition - Livet. Could you please share how you prepared for it?

**EDITH & SHARON:** The main strength of this exhibition was our intercession. It was a three-month preparation. More than 1000 people joined in this. We prayed Rosary of the Unborn, and Holy Blood. We also prayed specially for the pregnant and unborn daily. We started a special intercession where two people walked around the venue of the Livet by praying the Rosary of Life daily for three months. In addition to this, we prayed 100 creeds daily for 33

▼ After the IGNITE program

days. We had a special adoration in the college chapel for Prolife intentions. Seeing some of us praying, someone asked us, "Why are you doing this in the hot sun and wasting your time. Will God listen to your prayers?" They had to wait till the exhibition for an answer.

### Q. And, how did the exhibition go?

**IVIN & JAMES:** The exhibition was held on March 8, 2018. We set up the stalls and were ready the previous night. We opened by 10am. There was a continuous stream of visitors the whole day. The Principal and various members of the faculty visited the stalls. Many were enlightened and shared that they found a new meaning in life. It was a new experience for many youth. Our faculty were amazed that youth were so concerned for life and were able to do such an amazing thing on a campus of more than 9000



◀ At the Prolife exhibition

### Q. What was the response of the college authorities to the Jesus Youth prayer group?

**JOYESON:** We felt Mother Mary was recognizing our prayers when our campus minister, Fr. Leolin invited us, the Jesus Youth, to put up a Rosary stall during the yearly Rosary Procession for the Loyola group of institutions on our Campus. It was a big recognition for us.

### Q. Were there any initiatives for women?

**SHARON & ADHEENA:** Another fruit of this year was the prayer meeting we could start in the women's hostel. As a preparation for the Prolife exhibition we kept a bottle in the prayer room, in the hostel, and a box of "Manjadi Kuru" seeds near it. We asked people to pray for the exhibition and also for the Syrian refugees. After reciting a Hail Mary, they were asked to put a seed into the bottle. The bottle was filled to the brim with more than 2500 seeds within two weeks. When we removed the bottle at the end of the prayer period, many of the girls came and requested us to continue this prayer campaign. We restarted it and the cycle of prayer for various intentions still continues. We also kept another box to receive prayer intentions which we pray daily in the hostel. ■



students. One of our professors saw the exhibition and returned with her students. Videos on Prolife were put on the college website on that day. More than 1000 people visited the exhibition that day. It went way past the working hours and into the night wherein we had to hold torch lights for lighting up the area.

It was indeed a miracle. We expected many challenges but with the strong prayer support, everything went smoothly. After the exhibition,

those who had questioned us and doubted us came and said, "It's a great thing that you have done. God has certainly heard your prayers."

Also, we had on-going adoration in the Chapel during the time of the exhibition. It was a great spiritual encounter of all of us. We were amazed by the support we received from every quarter. We are also thankful for the support and guidance we got from the senior Jesus Youth and elders.



**Sharrol Jose** has been actively involved with Jesus Youth movement since her college days and is currently the formation coordinator in Chennai and the Executive Editor of Kairos Global. She lives with her husband and three children in Chennai, India.



FAMILIA

# IDEAL PARENTING

## Can we Raise Saints?

Shalini George discusses the challenges of raising children with a catholic lifestyle.



Parenting is one thing that most definitely and consistently takes us out of our comfort zone almost every minute of your lives. It makes us the weakest and gives us the illusion of becoming the most powerful all in one. Besides being all this, is there a fool proof guide to parenting? Is there a Catholic way of parenting?

The answer to both questions is YES. The relationship of Christ and the church is in essence the perfect parenting lesson one could imbibe from. And Catholic parenting is different from secular parenting because the choices we make as Catholics differ from the choices of the secular world.

### Christ's self donating love for the church as the first lesson for parenting

The best example of parenting is Christ's relationship with the church. This unique synergy and partnership is often compared to the relationship of Christ and his spouse, the church. Marriages are based on the idea of this partnership as well. 'Parenting With Grace' elucidates Pope John Paul II's marvelous insight, The Theology of the Body, which describes love as self-donating. "Each and every person was designed by God to use every gift he gave them-especially their bodies- to work for the good of other people." Like Christ donates his body to the faithful so are we expected to in every love relationship to self-donate. We donate ourselves to our spouse and also to our children. "By demonstrating self donation to our children in meeting their needs, responding to their cries, giving generously of our time, our bodies, our energy and our love, leading them to do the same in return." Most often self-donation seems an ideal in a marriage which is much talked about but rarely achieved instantly. But with grace from above husbands and wives learn to be self donating over a period of time. But most often this concept of self-donation becomes instantaneously clear to the mother at the moment her child is born.

In being self donating is perhaps the number one way of raising saints. St. Therese, the little flower wrote in her autobiography 'Story of the Soul,' that

she never wanted to do anything that would offend her parents because the love and service they showered upon her compelled her to be the best of herself and reciprocate the exact same things. Her obedience was merely a logical response to her parents' self-donating love. Much like how the church responds to Christ by virtue of His total self-gift.

### Relevance of Catholic Parenting

An anxious mother of a teenager once shared with me a peculiar dilemma; "My son came back home visibly shaken one day. A senior student has a crush on Tom and is telling everybody about it. And now everyone is teasing Tom with him. The school is treating the issue as a perfectly normal thing. School chose to ignore the trauma of confusion caused on Tom." Now this Catholic mother was at her wits end.

This is just one of the many examples wherein the need for Catholic parenting becomes relevant today. Our children are growing up in a time where they are exposed to many things that are fundamentally opposed to the Scriptures. They are at crossroads much earlier in their childhood. Therefore are we exposing them enough to a Catholic culture?

As Catholics, our lives are grounded in Sacred Scripture, but the church also recognizes another source of revelation that is also of utmost importance: God's creation itself, which sometimes the church refers to as the book of nature. Pope John

**Any parenting style that in its very essence embraces the theological virtue of faith, hope and love and practices the fruits of the Holy Spirit is the ideal format for raising saints.**

Paul II in his encyclical Fides et Ratio (Faith and reason) encourages us to be of the opinion that good science and good theology are completely compatible with each other as both comes from the same source. God the father, the Son and Holy Spirit, the author of all truths. Therefore even though secular parents also rely on science, as Catholics we use the knowledge gained from science to learn how to cooperate with the Divine plan for creation which is spelt out in the Scriptures.

Again, I would like to quote Gregory K. Popcak and Lisa Popcak words from Parenting with Grace, "the difference between the Catholic use of Natural Family Planning versus the secular world's preference for Chemical abortifacants (pill). Or the Catholic "Brother Sun, Sister Moon" versus the secular "uncle global warming and aunty dioxin." Or for that matter the Catholic assertion that the technology exists to keep the community safe while protecting the dignity of even the worst criminal's life versus the secular world's cries for the blood 'justice' of Capital Punishment." are some examples of how as Catholic parents we are different from secular parents. Raising our children consistently in Catholic culture is perhaps the most important aspect of good parenting. Regardless of our many nationalities, customs, cultures or ethnic heritage, as Catholics, we are first called to be "chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession" (1 Peter 2:9). This is the common language we share breaking all barriers of differences and goes beyond borders and culture that unifies us all to the most effective way of raising saints. Therefore, any parenting style that in its very essence embraces the theological virtue of faith, hope and love and practices the fruits of the Holy Spirit is the ideal format for raising saints. ■

*[The article is almost entirely inspired by the book Parenting With Grace: Catholic Parent's Guide to Raising Almost Perfect Children by Gregory K. Popcak and Lisa Popcak. I recommend this book to every parent.]*



Shalini George, A Jesus Youth, a freelance commercial writer who writes under the banner of iOW! (In Other Words) lives in Kannur, India with her husband George and two children.



## CULTURE OF LIFE



risks to the baby, Rajiv and Jilu refused the test. There was never the slightest doubt in their mind as to whether to continue the pregnancy or not. They accepted their baby with deep love and faith, and prayed for this special blessing of God, who was created in the perfect image and likeness of God, even with all his anomalies.

*They accepted their baby with deep love and faith, and prayed for this special blessing of God, who was created in the perfect image and likeness of God, even with all his anomalies*

With each following check-up and scan, they prayed and hoped for a positive result and a miracle from God. However, the results went from bad to worse. They were sad and depressed, but they were joined by many JY friends and relatives in prayer. Finally when the day arrived for delivery, many were expecting a miracle and many others worried about the outcome. On Dec 14th 2017, baby Alphons was born. As the baby was conceived in March – the Feast month of St. Joseph, and as they had offered him to the patronage of St. Alphonsa, they named him Alphons Joseph Rajiv.

Baby Alphons was diagnosed with heart, brain and other genetic issues. Alphons had a very peculiar and rare genetic disorder. Physically he looked slightly different from a normal baby, and was unable to breathe properly or breastfeed. He was kept on ventilator with various ongoing treatments. However, his condition kept deteriorating daily, and the doctors were unsure on the future course of action. The pain and suffering of Jilu and Rajiv knew no bounds, especially as they watched their new born little one, caught in the midst of terrible pain and suffering. At times they saw baby Alphons' eyes filled with tears, as though sensing his parents' desperation and helplessness.

As their financial resources began to dry up, they approached their friends and a few Jesus Youth leaders for help. The JY family as well as other friends extended their love and support in an amazing way and raised enough money to clear the hospital dues and even keep some in reserve for the days ahead. Rajiv and Jilu were not very convinced of the treatment given by the first hospital, and so they shifted the baby to a bigger and more reputed hospital. The HOD of the Neonatal ICU informed Rajiv and Jilu that there was no point in continuing

Loved you  
with an  
Everlasting

**Love!!!**

*In a world seeking love in all wrong places, the life of **Jilu and Rajeev** stands as a testament of true love – a love that gives until there is nothing more to give..*

### *Jilu and Rajiv*

were very active members of Jesus Youth Prolife ministry in Bangalore. During Jilu's second pregnancy, the doctors found something unusual and the tests revealed multiple anomalies with the baby. Doctors suggested a diagnostic test to confirm their findings. However understanding the





treatment for the baby, as it might become a financial burden on the family, and because such babies normally don't survive to see their first birthday. However, Rajiv spoke to her about Jesus Christ, in whom he believed and about his faith and hope in God's blessing and providence in allowing them to come so far, even without a job for Rajeev. This instilled a change in the HOD's attitude, and they began to treat and care for Alphons more diligently. In the ICU, Alphons was observed to be very responsive to sounds – especially to prayers. Even if crying, while Rajiv used to lay his hands on Baby Alphons and

pray, he would listen to the prayers and sleep peacefully after. Often, he would place his hands in Rajiv or Jilu's hands and they would feel as if he wanted to say something to them – he was seen trying to move his lips.

Alphons was baptised and different priests and lay leaders came and prayed for him in NICU. Many staff in the NICU started loving and praying for baby Alphons. Baby Alphons won the hearts of many, and brought many people together in prayer. There was one Catholic doctor who would pray at night, on his knees with extended arms, for Alphons, and read the Holy Scripture to him. There

was another nurse, who also loved him dearly and offered sacrifices and prayed for him. As he was on ventilator, the costs came to around 25,000 INR per day at the hospital. The doctors were surprised and amazed at the perseverance and faith of Rajiv and Jilu, who kept suggesting they keep the baby on ventilator, even though the medical prognosis and their personal finance was not very good. In such a situation, the Catholic Church (CCC 2278) does not consider the removal of ventilator (an extra-ordinary means of supporting life) as morally wrong – however normal medication and nutrition should still be provided.

**R**ajiv and Jilu, with strong faith and hope persisted in spite of all their struggles and trials. They continued Alphons' treatment, bearing the expenses and like a miracle, money kept flowing in via generous hearts across the world. Following a brief period of prayer, discernment and discussions, it was decided that the ventilator support could not be continued forever, and they made the extremely painful decision to give written consent to remove baby Alphons from ventilator. This also meant that, they had accepted that he may die sometime soon, though they never wanted it to happen. Alphons so far, had not left the ICU. As there was nothing more to be done in NICU, Alphons was shifted to a room. Beyond all expectations, he was able to miraculously spend 12 days without ventilator support with his loving parents and his elder brother. He got all the love and care he was longing for from his parents. During their stay in the room, they continuously monitored baby Alphons 24/7, as AMBU might need to be given unexpectedly. There were many sleepless nights and they took turns, sleeping in shifts. Alphons was a determined fighter though, and he fought through such episodes, multiple times a day. Rajiv continued praying that if it were God's will to take Alphons back, that He would allow for a peaceful passing, and not one in the midst of the pain and struggle of the AMBU procedure.

Rajiv had strong faith that baby Alphons was part of a great plan of God, and that he would be healed and survive. By this time, Alphons' older brother Jovan, had bonded greatly with his little brother. Jovan was not happy at all, to see Alphons connected to the various hospital tubes, monitors and wires. On 5th of March, Jovan was heard saying to his brother, "Tomorrow for sure, I will take you home". On March 6th, around 6am in the morning, baby Alphons was found lying peacefully with no movement and vitals reading zero. The doctor confirmed that baby Alphons has left for his heavenly abode. During his brief stay on earth, he fought hard to be present to the love and affection of his parents for a

**He went around the room saying loudly 'Alphons won, Alphons won'. Though just 4 years old, he may have unknowingly confessed by inspiration of the Holy Spirit, that Alphons did indeed win his battle on earth, and has gone home to receive his heavenly crown.**

few days, and when the time his Eternal Father had planned for him arrived, he left peacefully in his sleep as prayed and requested by his father, Rajiv.

When Jovan came to the hospital that day, no one told him that his baby brother had passed away. He saw Alphons lying with no wires, oxygen tubes or monitor and was happy as he thought the baby was ready to go home, as he had promised the previous day. He went around the room saying loudly 'Alphons won, Alphons won'. Though just 4 years old, he may have unknowingly confessed through inspiration of the Holy Spirit, that Alphons did indeed win his battle on earth, and has gone home to receive his heavenly crown.

The HOD later told Jilu how amazed she was that Alphons lived with them for 12 days, and she believed it was due to his fight and desire to spend a few days in the love and care of his parents and brother before he said goodbye. She also said that it was Rajiv and Jilu's faith and hope which motivated the doctors to treat Alphons well.

When God the Father wanted to send his image and likeness in baby Alphons, even with all his anomalies, he may have looked at many parents and may have been worried, as many of them would have snuffed this gift of life in the womb itself, when the anomalies became apparent during pregnancy. Then He saw Rajiv and Jilu, faithful Catholics, and He was sure they would accept this gift of life and they kept up the faith of God in them. One can be sure that Alphons would be very proud of his parents and he may be their strongest intercessor, in heaven. There is no doubt that baby Alphons's life was a beautiful plan of God. However God's work and plans are sometime quite mysterious to us humans, and we may or may not understand its purpose while on earth. Many people, known and unknown to us have benefited tremendously from the short life, journey and of course, the suffering of Alphons and the witness of his parents. ■



**Dino Paul** lives in Bangalore, India with his wife Soumya and three sons Mighael, Raphael and Gabriel.

He is actively involved in Jesus Youth Prolife ministry in India.





LIVING LIFE

LIVING  
LIFE IN*Goodness*

*"And Jesus said to him, 'Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone.' Luke 18:19. To be good is a constant struggle for me because it involves surrendering control of my actions to God and to trust in him. But thankfully, being the one who created me, he knew that I would struggle to do good so he gave me the Holy Spirit to be with me always. The Holy Spirit constantly helps me see beyond myself, he shows me the needs of others and creates opportunities for me reach out to them. This often involves listening to a person who wants to share their story or to talk about a moment where Jesus has helped me. It always amazes me that God uses simple things like this to bring his goodness in to the world. The way I practise being good is simple, I ask God to do it through me and when I'm too weak to do that, I ask Mother Mary to pray for me so that I may let go of whatever I am holding on to and grab a hold of her son's hand."*

**Ajish Joshy,**  
MANCHESTER, UK

"All good giving and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights." James 1:17

We have been actively involved with Jesus Youth for past three years. God's abundant mercy is giving us the daily grace to live our lives in the six pillars of Jesus Youth. In one of the household meetings, the opportunity to extend our help to the children of Haiti through sponsorships was discussed. I had a strong desire to sponsor four kids as God has blessed us with four beautiful children. But, due to some financial issues I was putting that off. It was last month that God gave us the grace to sponsor one child. God, who sees our heart and faithful in His promise, blessed us abundantly 500 times more than we gave Him, in the following weeks. Thus, through the outpouring of His blessings, we sponsored three more children. This incident reminds me, "Whoever cares for the poor lends to the LORD, I who will pay back the sum in full. Proverbs 19:17.

"Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life."  
Psalm 23:6

**Sydna Sebastian,** TEXAS, USA

As a young person trying to understand the purpose of life I had always desired to be a 'good' human being. As I grew older and encountered Christ, I knew in the depths of my heart that my righteousness/goodness could only be comparable to filthy rags as written in Isaiah 64:6. However with the Holy Spirit having made a home in my being, it became a real possibility to display the holiness of God. I believe that a true test of goodness is always in the worst of circumstances and in the face of evil. Jesus says, 'If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you?'. So, when I am faced with situations that would naturally lead to me showing my not so good self, I stop and think. When faced with people who are attempting to hurt or humiliate me, I stop and think. Loving those who love you is for pagans. I as a Christian am called to overcome evil with good. I take this teaching very seriously keeping in mind that while I was STILL a sinner Christ gave His life for me. 'Not that I have already obtained all this... but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.' Phil 3:12

**Raifiel Cyril,**  
CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA

# NewsWatch

## Melodiam A Music workshop

Jesus Youth Mumbai organized a unique music workshop for the youth interested in music. This three-day event, Melodiam, was held in Mumbai on March 9-11, 2018. It saw the participation of 55 youth from various parts of Mumbai, Pune, and Gujarat. The resources were Shelton Pinheiro, Alphons Joseph, and Beena Manoj from Rex Band.

The workshop included various sessions and trainings on western music, Indian classical music, basic notes and notations of music, chords, and singing in harmonies. There were sessions on vocal exercises, body posture, and dialect. It also focused on leading praise and worship and understanding Christian music. The resources shared their testimonies and the challenges that they encountered in their journey of music and growing as a musician.

Question answer session and panel discussion allowed the participants to address their concerns related to music. The workshop also provided an opportunity for the participants to perform in groups and present their talents. It also included adoration, Taize prayer and praise and worship.

Melodiam indeed proved to be successful and was a blessing to all the participants. It concluded with Holy mass celebrated by Fr. Nicholas Dias from Archdiocese of Delhi.



## JY UAE National Assembly



Jesus Youth UAE had their National Assembly along with National Reconstitution on April 13-14, 2018 in Al Ain St. Mary's Parish. It witnessed the participation of 180 delegates from different regions. It was a revival experience for all who attended. The two day Assembly discussed various topics on 'Call within a Call' as a Jesus Youth, The Vision and Functioning of Youth and Family Streams, and the essential values to be inculcated in the lifestyle of a JY. It was also blessed with the presence of Fr. Stalin Varghese [National Chaplain] and C C Joseph [International Coordinator]. The New National Council was formed and Sajan Julious from Abu Dhabi is elected as the New Coordinator and Rijo John, Asst. Coordinator.



# Chandeliers

MODERN SAINTS

## \* Blessed Fredrick Ozanam

By Bernadette Avinash



**Born:** 23 April, 1813

**Died:** 8, September, 1853

**B**lessed Fredrick Ozanam was a husband, a father, a journalist, a lawyer, an activist, a professor and moreover a servant of the poor. Fredrick was the fifth among 14 children born to Jean and Marie Ozanam. Born on April 23, 1813, in Milan, Italy, he spent most of his childhood in Lyon, France. Growing up, he had a lot of

questions about his faith. He found most of his answers through long discussions with Fr. Noiroit. It deepened his passion towards the church. He wanted to study literature but succumbed to his father's wish to become a lawyer, and later on studied literature also.

In 1831 Fredrick left Lyon to study law at the Sorbonne University of Paris. During his student life, he defended the church and its teachings before his professors and friends. He collaborated with Mr Emmanuel Bailly, editor of the Tribune Catholique in reviving a student organization which had been suspended during the revolutionary activity in 1830. This new organization "The Conference of History" met on Saturdays to discuss various topics, but politics. During one such meeting a student challenged Fredrick and his friends on the works done by the Catholic Church. Those days Paris was stricken by poverty and distress since there existed no social welfare system and the poor were left to fend for themselves.

This triggered Fredrick to defend the Church and its work. And so, he called for a meeting with five of his friends along with Mr Emmanuel on April 23, 1833, which was also his 20th birthday. Inspired and driven, he founded "The Conference of Charity" to assist the

poor. The name was later changed to "The Society of Vincent De Paul" in honour of that patron.

Sr Rosaline Rendu, a daughter of charity became a mentor for Fredrick and the Society of St Vincent De Paul. Her zeal and work for the poor was of great inspiration to the early members of the society. One of the first acts of charity done by Frederick and his friends was to gather fire wood for a widow. Fredrick insisted his members to give themselves completely through their time, talent, and resources to help the poor. They contributed to a secret collection and then would visit the poor in their homes to distribute what they had collected. They would also visit the sick to give financial help, distribute food, candles, firewood, and counseling. After completing his degree in law, he taught law and then went on to do his doctorate in Literature. He was a well-respected lecturer who brought out the best in each student. On June 23, 1841, Fredrick married Arrela Soulacroix.

The revolution of 1848 left the Parisians in need of services of the society of St Vincent De Paul. The government asked Fredrick and the society of St Vincent De Paul to assist in supervising the government's aid for the poor. Meanwhile, he started a newspaper with the aim of securing justice to the poor and the working class. It was called "The New Era."

Fredrick's health soon began to deteriorate and on September 8, 1853, at an early age of 40, he passed away.

The works of the Society of St Vincent De Paul till date are noteworthy throughout the world. ■■

### Quick Facts:

1813

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## SOUNDREPLY



BOOK

### THE BROTHERS KARAMAZOV (FYODOR DOSTOEVSKY)

Evil, in its myriad of forms is an ever-present reality for us, and often goodness and holiness seem powerless to confront it – being blown away in the

face of its massive onslaught, uprooting and tearing human lives and sucking everything that is precious of life into a bottomless black hole. The question of Evil is, and always has been the most serious problem facing humanity, so much so that St Thomas Aquinas in his great Summa, stated it as one of the two possible objections to the existence of God. Man has always grappled with the question of why some people are more evil than others.

The Brothers Karamazov is an epic novel by the great Russian author Fyodor Dostoevsky, considered a classic and a masterpiece in the world of literature. This philosophical novel narrates a spiritual drama, with the story being laid out on a broad canvas and dealing with many fundamental questions – of evil, morality, ethics, guilt, culpability, faith, doubt and the existence of God. The story is set in 19th century Russia and narrates the story of Fyodor Pavlovich Karamazov, a wealthy landowner and his three sons – Dmitri, Ivan and Alexey. Fyodor Pavlovich is a depraved "senseless buffoon", whose life of promiscuity and acts of debauchery are as vile as they are weird. He is even rumoured to have fathered Smerdyakov, who



**REVIEW BY**  
**Joseph Anthraper**  
is a Jesus Youth living in Southampton, UK, with his wife Mahima and kids, Anna Claire and John-Paul. He is part of the Kairos Global Editorial Council.

now works as his servant, from a poor, mentally ill, mute girl.

Into this world of Fyodor Pavlovich and his wantonness, now enters his three grown up sons, each very different from one another, yet sharing a thin bond of kinship. Dmitri (Mitya), though a sensualist like his father, is a dashing young man, who loves poetry and everything beautiful. Ivan is the intellectual – calm and composed on the outside, and Alexey (Aloysa), the hero of the story is a deeply spiritual young man, whose initial desire is to become a monk at the local monastery, under the guidance of the elder there, Fr Zosima. Mitya has an ongoing inheritance dispute with his father and is desperately in need of money. He is in love with a girl named Grushenka, who though has a reputation as a 'seducer'. Unfortunately for Dmitri, his father also is ogling after the same girl, causing further tension between the two. Then there is Smerdyakov, who encompasses within himself even more evil than Fyodor Pavlovich himself. Dostoevsky has painted a wonderfully detailed portrayal of the moral choices involved for each of the characters in the story, and how each in their turn, deals with their choices and its consequences.

Many parallel threads run through this central drama. The story told by Fr Zosima on his deathbed of the strange nobleman, lays bare the motif of forgiveness and redemption in Christ that underlies the whole novel. Then, there is a the well known, oft-quoted poem

Though often times evil seem to prevail, it can never sustain, as evil in itself is not an entity, but an absence of goodness. In the end, it self-destructs itself.

of Grand Inquisitor, that Ivan narrates to his brother Alyosha, questioning the existence of an all-benevolent, all-loving God.

The profound exploration of the depth of individual characters, together with fundamental philosophical and theological motifs make it one of the all-time classics in literature. The primordial conflict between evil and good is an ongoing theme, both between the characters as well as within each character. Though often times evil seem to prevail, it can never sustain, as evil in itself is not an entity, but an absence of goodness. In the end, it self-destructs itself. Yet, there is no sin that the love of Christ cannot redeem, no sinner who cannot find forgiveness. And the story abounds of people who turn in humility to find this redemption. Yet, this story is also of people who choose to reject this redemption. Extending to well over 850 pages, The Brothers Karamazov is not an easy read, even dark and laborious at times. However, it is a highly rewarding experience for all who are interested in the intricate complexities of human nature, and for the pure joy of reading the literary brilliance of Dostoevsky. ■■





## WHO CAN BE A PERFECT HERO?

*Elizabeth Jaison  
ponders on the  
parable of the  
good Samaritan  
and realises that  
it is not easy to let  
go of ourselves  
and put others  
before us.*

**R**emember the parable of the good Samaritan? Ever wondered why the priest and Levite choose to turn a blind eye on him? Aren't they the ones who teach us about God and pious conduct? Then how is it that they failed to be all that they preach?

You might have noticed that there is a common image for Christians, an image of being a "good person." And when one responds differently there is shock. We have an inherent nature to lean towards goodness. With various life circumstances it might change but the core self will always yearn to be like the maker – good.

What made that Samaritan good? Two commandments were given to reach heaven, love God and love one's neighbour. However, what does goodness have to do with this love? The parable spoke about different men who crossed paths of the wounded man and yet, the only one to be remembered as 'good' is the Samaritan man. The only thing that was different about him was that, he was able to show love to his neighbour. His action acknowledged the love he carried in his heart.

All of us love to be a hero, and we have read in our favorite comics that no hero is born without sacrifice. No hero is born without struggle. Do you think the good Samaritan had an easy time taking care of the wounded man? If you remember your sibling, friend, or parent getting sick and needing your help, you will notice it is not easy being good, you will be irritated at times but you know that it does not stop you from being nice to them when they really need you. At times, when we are given occasions to respond positively for the good of others we do think twice. Nevertheless, in all circumstances, we need to remember to be Christ-like, 'the perfect hero.' We need to let go of ourselves and put others before us. "For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. The good man out of his good treasure brings forth good, and the evil man out of his evil treasure brings forth evil" (Matt 12:34-35). The goodness Christ speaks of is often based on the core concept of sacrifice. Sacrifice compels goodness to become something that is no longer selfish.

At the heart of it, Jesus knows that no one will completely achieve the goal of being good. "No one is good—except God alone." (Luke 18:19). Goodness is something we are all asked to strive for but know that we may not achieve it in its whole sense. However, that should not deter us from trying. For with the grace from above, we can all become good Samaritans.

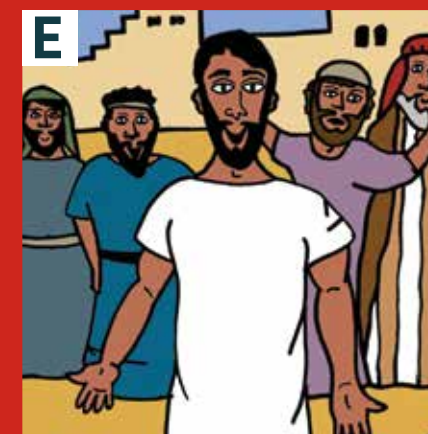
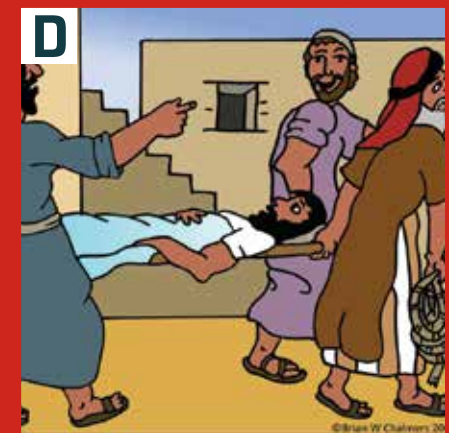
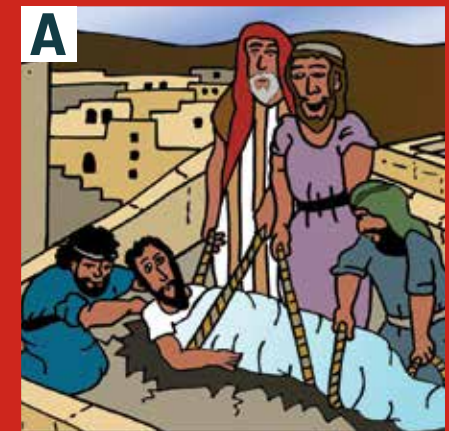


Elizabeth Jaison is a teacher by profession. Having completed her studies from St. Xavier's, Mumbai, she believes that education and talent when offered to God, creates miracles.

# SHUFFLED STORIES FROM THE BIBLE

EACH SLIDE CONTAINS PICTURES RELATED TO A BIBLE STORY

- Identify the bible story
- Put the pictures in correct sequence
- Give the bible portion





# QUIZTIME

Hi all, this time I want it to be a most fascinating few moments for you. Yes, there will be some really easy ones to spot. Truthfully, from answers we get, we are forced to admit it usually takes a minister or a scholar to see some of them at the worst. Those able to find all of them will hear great lamentations from those who have to be shown. See how well you can compete. Relax now, for there are two challenges only. Also, keep in mind that question takes a distribution form of normal. A chipper attitude will help you compete really well against those who claim to know the answers. Happy Hunting!!

## CHALLENGE #1

**Directions:** This puzzle is called a Cryptogram. At the top there is a KEY that lists all the letters from A thru Z with a box below. Few of the letters has a corresponding number. The bottom part contains a secret phrase. Fill in the letters that correspond to the numbers below the blanks to solve the phrase

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
14				20				12						19						25					

\_\_ E \_\_ U \_\_ \_\_ A I \_\_ , \_\_ O \_\_ E , \_\_ O \_\_ \_\_ O \_\_  
 3 20 1 25 1 1 14 12 10 13 19 22 20 18 19 2 2 19 8

\_\_ E A \_\_ \_\_ I \_\_ I \_\_ \_\_ A \_\_ E \_\_ O U  
 22 20 14 5 10 12 8 12 2 2 22 14 11 20 24 19 25

\_\_ I \_\_ \_\_ E \_\_ \_\_ O \_\_ \_\_ E \_\_ .  
 18 12 1 23 20 4 1 19 18 22 20 5 (Clue: Matthew 4)

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
																19	24								

\_\_ \_\_ \_\_ \_\_ R \_\_ S \_\_ S \_\_ \_\_ R \_\_  
 18 11 14 6 3 19 9 4 24 8 10 24 11 14 16 11 14 19 9

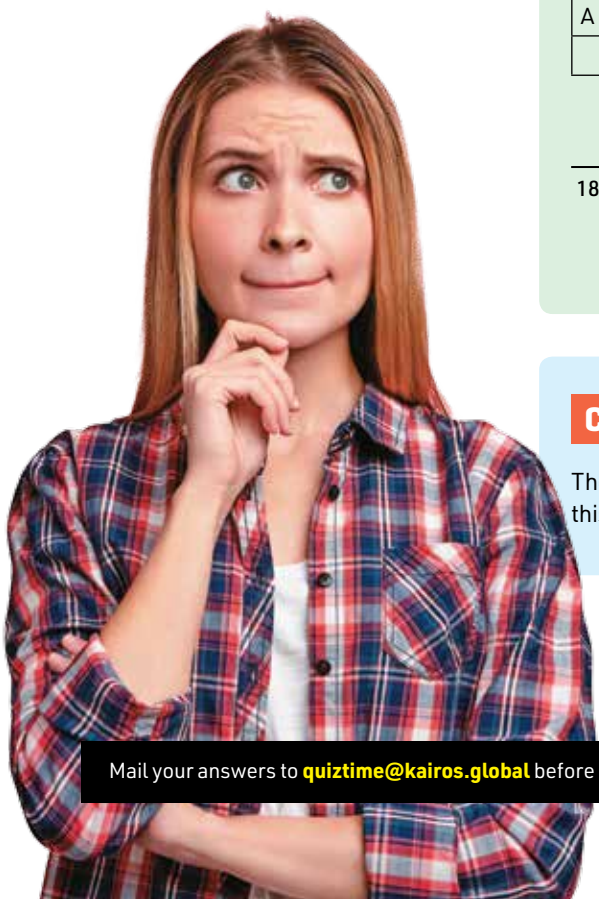
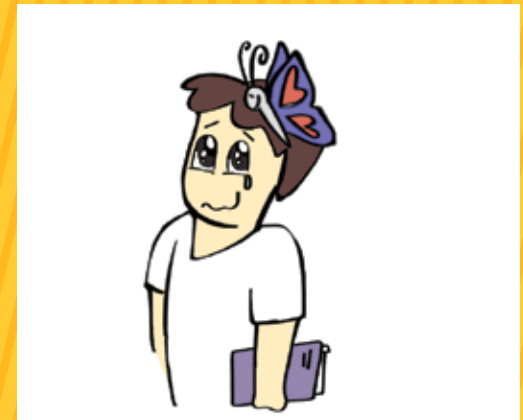
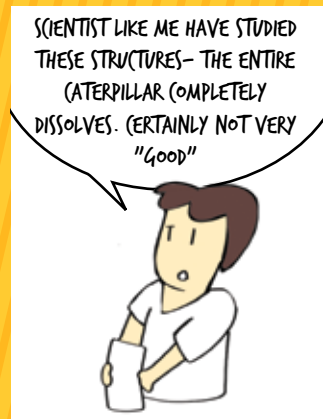
(Clue: Psalms 23)

## CHALLENGE #2

The names of ten books of the Bible are hidden in the introduction paragraph of this page. Can you find all ten of them?

# Lukas and Ray

By Steffi Andrat



Mail your answers to [quiztime@kairos.global](mailto:quiztime@kairos.global) before 30th June 2018. The winner will be rewarded with 1 year subscription of Kairos Global.



# ...IT IS THE TIME TO PREACH IT FROM THE ROOFTOPS!

SAINT JOHN PAUL II



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