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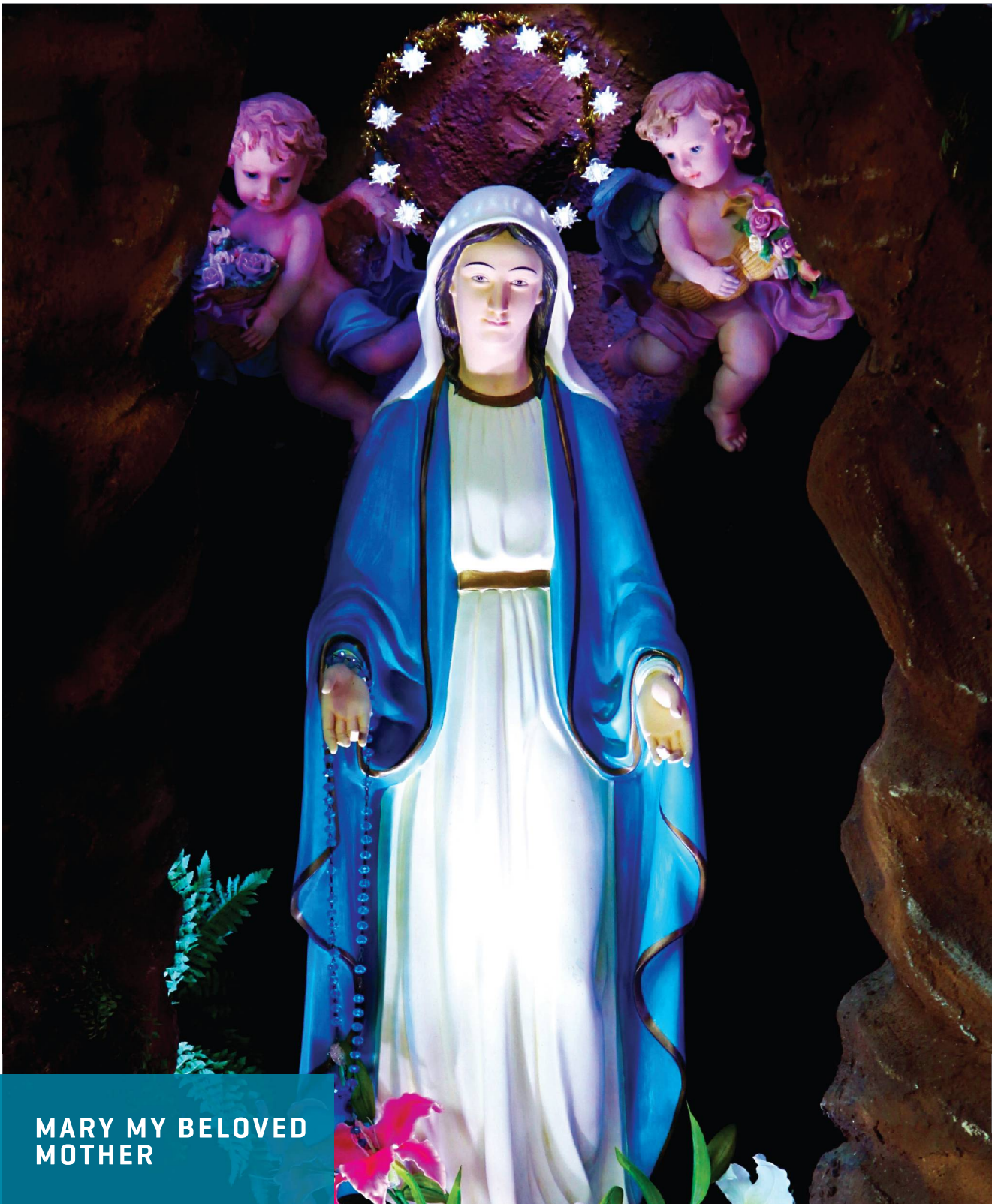
■ SHERIN ALEXANDER

*Everything
Else Followed*

READY TO
SPEAK THE
LANGUAGE
OF LOVE

RAIFIEL CYRIL WITH RAJESH AND SILGIA

■ DR SUNNY GEORGE WITH
FR KEVIN MUNDACKAL



MARY MY BELOVED MOTHER



Hail Mary, full of grace through faith, enkindle in us the quiet faithfulness you had to God, our Saviour through your prayers.

EDITOR'S ROOM

DR. CHACKOCHAN J NJAVALLIL



FAITHFULNESS IS THE QUALITY WHICH ENABLES A PERSON TO CONTINUE DOING THE RIGHT THING, EVEN IN THE FACE OF DIFFICULTY AND OBSTACLES

Faithfulness is the quality which enables a person to continue doing the right thing, even in the face of difficulty and obstacles. It stems from a deeply rooted confidence in God's truth and promises. Rooted and buttressed by this confidence, which is our faith, the faithful person remains committed to live and behave in a way consistent with the light that the Spirit has revealed to him or her.

How long are you willing to wait for the promises of God to be fulfilled? How much longer can you hold the fire for the Lord to act on the problems and difficulties in your life? Can we honestly share the sentiments of the Prophet

Habakkuk expressed in verses 17 and 18?

"Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines, though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food, though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will be joyful in God my Savior.

The life and story of Abraham is truly amazing and there is no wonder that he is called the father of all faithful. It was in his youth that he was promised a son and of having descendants, 'I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore' Genesis 22:17. But he had to wait for a long period of time. The promise of a Son was fulfilled when he turned 100. A waiting of 70-75 years!! Day in and day out he had to trust and wait for the promise of the Lord to be fulfilled.

Can you imagine the ordeal of Abraham? How long have we been praying and will be willing to pray for the Divine intervention in our lives?

Abraham's tryst with faith did not end there. He is asked to offer his only son Issac as a sacrifice at Mount Moriah. The Bible says that Abraham bluntly obeyed the Lord. But can we understand his agony? The pain, which he alone had to suffer, knew no limits.

This insight is relevant for today's faithful too. Belief in God is not a magic band to remove all the difficulties and pains in our life. It is not an assurance that, there won't be any problems and that life will be a bed of roses. But it is true that God will work in His mysterious ways in His own time. Of course, God did intervene to save the life of Issac. It was the result of Abraham's blind faith in God, believing in Him without any reason or logic. Just trusting and being faithful to God.

Isn't that kind of blind faith and faithfulness in the Lord which resulted in the making of such a large number of martyrs in the Church? They loved the Church, they loved Christ and they believed in His words. It was enough for them to go through great persecutions and pains, and to embrace martyrdom. Starting from the first martyr of the Church St Stephen to Apostles and to the present age, this holds true. Let's pray that we will also be gifted with the unwavering faithfulness to Christ and His Church.

Yearning for the gift of Faithfulness,

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He will cover you with his pinions, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness is a shield and buckler
Psalms 91:4

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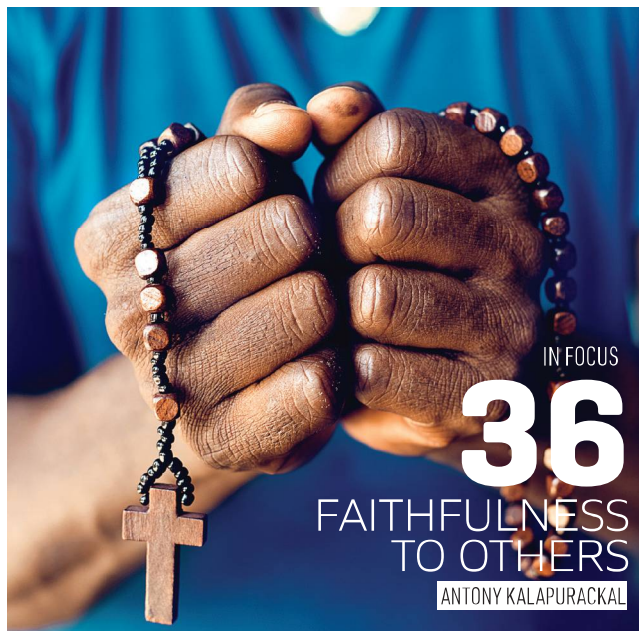
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ASK



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

FR. BITAJU

Q: When we share a message or a story orally we tend to add or omit details. Before it was written down, the story of Jesus was initially passed on orally for about 60 years. Yet, many details of Jesus (of even before his birth, life in wilderness, miracles, parables, etc) are written in the Gospels. Isn't it possible that many of these incidents were just added?

Alan Michael, Rajasthan, India.

Your question seems to inquire the credibility of the oral tradition in the New Testament. So, without going to the details of the question, I shall focus only on the trustworthiness of the oral tradition based on the Scriptures and the teaching of the Church.

Besides the written Word of God, Catholics believe also in the unwritten Word (oral tradition), known in Holy Scripture as the Word of God spoken (Acts 4:31), the Word of Faith preached (Rom. 10:8), the Gospel heard and preached (Col. 1:23), the Word of God received, heard, believed (1 Thes. 2:13) and the Word of Christ heard (Rom. 10:17). Whenever in the New Testament the Word of God revealed by Christ or through His apostles is spoken of before it was committed to writing, it refers always to the unwritten Word of God. Even after the Word of God was in part committed to writing, some passages evidently refer to the Word of God unwritten (1 Pet. 1:25). Therefore, whenever the Word of God, without any qualification, is mentioned in Holy Scripture, it should not be taken as referring exclusively to the written Word, for it generally refers both to the written and unwritten Word of God. The Word of God that

was preached for instilling faith in the hearers, which contained the various details of the life of Jesus, falls under what the Church calls as the Sacred Tradition.

By Tradition we do not mean a mere report, a hearsay, wanting sufficient evidence to deserve belief; or a local tradition started by men, and therefore merely human, as were those traditions of the Pharisees condemned by our Lord; but we mean a Tradition first coming from God, continually taught, recorded, and in all desirable ways kept alive by a body of trustworthy men successively chosen in a divine or divinely appointed manner, well instructed, and who are as a body protected by God from teaching what is wrong or handing down unfaithfully to others the doctrine committed to them.

St. Paul gives us an idea of how this Tradition should be handed down when he says: "For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had **received**" (1 Cor. 15: 3). Again, he says: "What you have **heard** from me through many witnesses entrust to faithful people who will be able to **teach** others as well" (2 Tim. 2:2).

St. Basil says: "Of the dogmas and teachings preserved in the Church, we have some from the doctrine committed to writing, and some we have received transmitted to us in a secret manner from the Traditions of the Apostles; both these have the same force in forming sound doctrine, and no one who has the least experience of ecclesiastical laws will refute either of these. For should we attempt to reject, as not having great authority, those customs that are unwritten, we should be betrayed into injuring the gospel even in primary matters, or rather in circumscribing the gospel to a mere man"

 Please send your questions to askfrbitaju@kairos.global and your questions will be answered here.



YOUCAT 12

HOW CAN WE TELL WHAT BELONGS TO THE TRUE FAITH?

We find the true faith in Sacred Scripture and in the living Tradition of the Church. [76, 80-82, 85-87, 97, 100]

The NEW TESTAMENT developed out of the faith of the Church. Scripture and Tradition belong together. Handing on the faith does not occur primarily through documents. In the early Church it was said that Sacred Scripture was "written on the heart of the Church rather than on parchment". The disciples and the APOSTLES experienced their new life above all through a living fellowship with Jesus. The early Church invited people into this fellowship, which continued in a different way after the Resurrection. The first Christians held fast "to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of the bread and to the prayers" (Acts 2:42). They were united with one another and yet had room for others. This is part of our faith to this day.

POPE TALK...

Dr. Kochurani Joseph
Animator, National Professional Ministry, India



The Holy Spirit is the invisible gift of God.

Confirmation is the sacrament in which Catholics are marked with a seal that solidifies their belonging to Christ through the Holy Spirit. It is God's invisible gift to each person who receives the sacrament. It is God himself who confirms us in Christ and who has given us the anointing, he has impressed us with a seal and has given us the deposit of the Spirit in our hearts.

In missionary work, prayer comes first.

Every Christian is called to be a missionary through prayer, working in collaboration with the Holy Spirit, who gives prayer efficacy. Prayer is the first 'missionary work' that every Christian can and must do, and it is also the most effective, even if this cannot be measured. In fact, the principal agent of evangelisation is the Holy Spirit, and we are called to collaborate with Him.

God is not indifferent – He's close and personal

The Lord is not ever far away, but is an attentive and loving Father to all. "God does not

want so much to reveal to us that he exists, but rather that he is the 'God with us,' that he loves us, is interested in our personal story and cares for each person, from the smallest to the greatest.

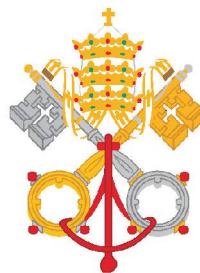
A 'false dichotomy' exists between religious ethics and business.

A "tragic" and false dichotomy has been created between religious ethics and the economic-financial sector of society. The two are not only compatible, but necessary for social advancement. A tragic and false dichotomy has developed between the ethical teachings of our religious traditions and the practical concerns of today's business community. The ethical dimension of social and economic field requires the commitment of all persons and institutions in society.

The Holy Spirit makes our works effective

The Holy Spirit helps Catholics to do good works by giving them the gifts they need to be effective 'salt and light' in the world. If in Baptism it is the Holy Spirit that immerses us in Christ, in Confirmation

it is Christ who fills us with his Spirit. In Confirmation, Christ consecrates Catholics "as his witnesses, partakers of the same principle of life and mission, according to the plan of the heavenly Father."



PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR JULY Evangelisation- Priests and their Pastoral Ministry

That priests, who experience fatigue and loneliness in their pastoral work, may find help and comfort in their intimacy with the Lord and in their friendship with their brother priests.

Lay movements should be bold, persevere in living the Gospel

Laity has a "prophetic" way of living the Gospel and must continue it with boldness and perseverance. Theirs is "a prophetic reality that proposes the creation of a new civilization, implementing the Gospel as a form of a good and beautiful life." So keep firm in choices, even at the cost of difficulty and opposition, knowing that this constancy, this firmness and this patience produce hope, and hope does not disappoint.

Pope Francis says.....

- ▶ Announcing the Gospel is a "common task"
- ▶ The Church continues to open itself to everyone and to joyfully proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ, Saviour of the world.
- ▶ Lay people are on the front line of the life of the Church
- ▶ Don't forget that "Mary was a laywoman."
- ▶ Have courage and sincerity in bearing witness to the truth
- ▶ Perseverance means learning to move beyond the difficult situations that life presents and not get bogged down by challenges.

MISSION

TALK

AUGUSTINE NOJAN

Augustine Nojan talks on answering Christ's call to love your neighbour, his experiences of mission in Papua New Guinea and as the mission coordinator for Australia.

Augustine Nojan moved to Australia from Kerala in 2014. He has been a Jesus Youth for 19 years. He is married to Anju and, the couple have two daughters- Alaina and Asella. He works as an Administration Officer with the Australian Government and has been the Assistant Coordinator for JY Australia for the last two terms. He was also the Mission Coordinator for Australia. In these past 3 years, Australia has completed 11 mission trips to Papua New Guinea and Nauru. Let us now hear from Nojan about his unique experiences.

Nojan, what prompted you to become the 'Mission coordinator' for Australia in 2015?

I have loved mission trips since when I was a full-timer and went to different regions of India. So when I was asked to join a mission trip to Papua New Guinea (PNG) from December '14 - January '15, I didn't think much of it. But when I got there, my eyes were opened. It was nothing like India. The situation was terrible with widespread poverty, zero infrastructure and an indifferent government. Truly an abandoned people. Perhaps that mission's memories prompted me to say 'yes' to the coordinator role too. Missions have slowly grown to take a large place in my heart and have never left my heart since.

How did the people at PNG respond to that first mission you were a part of?

They were always waiting for us, to know and talk to us. We grew close to them. They had high expectations of us. The priest there used to say that when Jesus Youth about, people listen. One priest in PNG has to cover 30 to 35 villages, which means one village gets to see the priest only twice a year. Our presence there on a daily basis with them was for them, like winning the lottery.

What does Jesus Youth do on these missions?

We proclaim the basic gospel of Jesus when we are there. We also address their social and behavioural needs. There is a lot of moral degradation there, including polygamy and child abuse. We speak the truth into their lives and find ways of uplifting them in a holistic manner.





Is there any one person you remember from that first trip who has stayed in your heart?

Yes, I remember a young 21-year-old man named John, who always listened keenly and showed a lot of interest in the Word and in prayer. In later trips, he also helped us with interpretation where required, thus continuing to work very closely with us. We were later told by a priest that John was thinking about joining the seminary. In 2017, I heard he has joined a seminary along with a few others.

What has your experience been working as a mission coordinator, having coordinated so many missions over these three years?

I have found that God's hand is always upon us. On one of the trips, the visa was not approved for a member and it was already the last day before Christmas holidays. Thirty minutes before the visa office closed for the year, we got a call asking us to reach the office within 30 minutes. Before the office closed we received the approved visa. That's God.



When people return after mission trips, I am able to hear their experiences and see how it has deepened their faith. There have been struggles, but God has not permitted us to struggle beyond a point. He always makes a way. I never thought we would reach this point where we could place a full time missionary there.

Wow Praise God! How did that happen?

Ebin was in CST seminary and had heard about work being done by the CST priests in PNG. This prompted in him a desire to work there as well. However, 5 years into his seminary studies his only brother passed away, and he returned home to care for his parents. When he left the seminary, he had thought that he would have to forget about the PNG dream. A Jesus Youth from Australia, Reji Kottukappally, met Ebin while he was visiting his hometown. Ebin was the Zonal Coordinator of Jesus Youth at the time and had just completed his Master's. Reji told Ebin that PNG was looking for teachers and encouraged him to apply and thus pursue his dream. In a year's time, Jesus Youth liaised with the Bishop in PNG and were able to successfully place Ebin there with the Bishop's sponsorship.

It's amazing how God works things out. How do you manage the huge financial needs to support these missions?

We have spent approximately \$120,000 (Rs. 60 lakh) on these 11 missions. Usually those who go would help raise some part of the money, and the rest is supported by Jesus Youth in Australia. I have found that just by sending emails and messages, JY's are happy to contribute. Some people deliberately set apart money to support the mission as well. Recently, two JY couples asked guests to contribute toward the JY mission instead of bringing gifts for their children's birthday parties. Thanks be to God, we are not in deficit.

What advice would you like to give any JY going on a mission?

I don't think much preparation is required for a mission. We only need to carry Jesus. All other things are secondary. You can't predict anything, regardless of last-minute preparations anyway. Flights can get cancelled and also if we don't arrive 3 hours before the flight, they may allocate seats to others. You must be prepared to go through uncertainties and enjoy the adventures as they come.

JESUS YOUTH



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

Learn anew to connect with youth

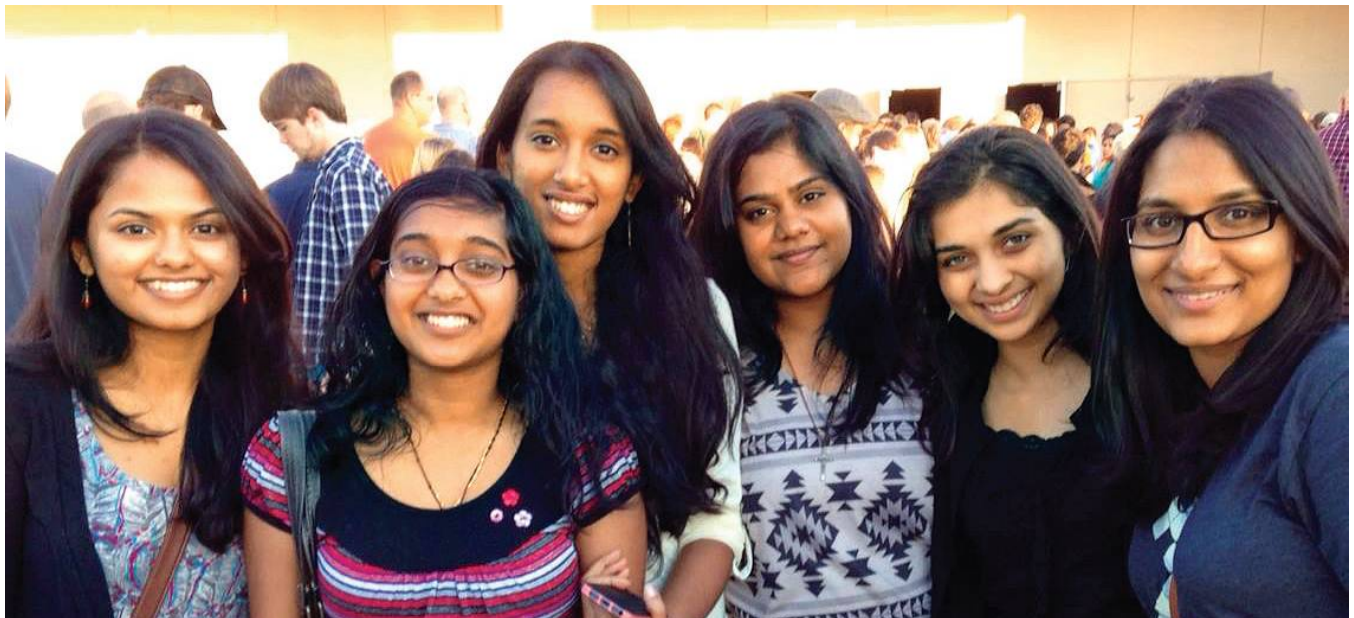


It was September 1981, and we had met in a room at St Teresa's College, Ernakulam for an initial discussion on the forthcoming National Charismatic Convention to be held in Cochin. Fr Gino, who had recently taken charge as the National Chairman of Charismatic Renewal in India, was with us to form different committees. He was also checking about the preparedness to host the Convention in Cochin.

Among other things, he wanted to know if we had enough young volunteers. Someone commented that though we had an event for around thousand (in 1978), only a handful of active youth were there. To this Fr Gino commented, "Think of it! Why those youth did not continue?" What the National Chairman posed to the Kerala team was indeed a big challenge. He told the group that youth are so very important and without them what they do will be futile. For young people to

come forward and to continue to grow with the Church they had to use certain relevant dynamics; we need to search and find a renewal approach suited for today's youth.

The same day, a five-member youth team to create plans for building up young people, were formed. This was a turning point in our whole approach to youth, and a major foundation for the formation of Jesus Youth movement. There was a lot of excitement in the air. A new mode of coming together



and searching for the Lord's ways shaped up. As we look back, it is good to ponder on some of the important elements of this approach.

1. Lifting up the eyes to look around (Jn 4:35): 'Consultation' was a new word that we learned. We gathered youth and those accompanying them in different places, asked them questions, had discussions with them, and took notes. This way of preparing for the unknown and its unexpected results were entirely new to us. It also helped to get over the 'oh, I know it all' attitude and look around for real issues.

2. We were getting connected fast: We wanted anyone and everyone to chip in whatever they can; ideas, contacts, and insights and messages from the Lord. This all-inclusive approach was not so easy, as certain people would rub you on the wrong manner, while some others were adamant with their ways and ideas. While some of us learned tolerance and patience, a wide network of friends was shaping up.

3. Learning a new language: Sitting around and informally exchanging ideas brought insights. We learned there are very simple ways of doing things that this generation really likes. At the heart of all this was genuine friendship on which all learning was built. We were often reminded the importance of the 'new wineskins' that Jesus talked about (Mt 9:17).

4. All this brought in a renewed vigour: As we began this new phase of 'youth coming alive,' we started



Jesus Youth

Jesus Youth movement is all about bringing Jesus, His message and a new lifestyle to the contemporary world



praying more fervently. We came together before the blessed sacrament to intercede for others. Enthusiasm is always a chain reaction. Many others with whom we were connecting were coming alive in their spiritual life. These interactions brought in a new spiritual motivation.

5. There was also a new learning about perseverance and continuity: Any social or spiritual growth process is a movement forward with a wave after wave progress. We learned that one important virtue of leadership is not giving up, but rather ensuring continuity under all circumstances. What had been started in earnest three or four years ago was relaunched with added enthusiasm during this early 80's. This ongoing process of ensuring continuity produced surprising results in the subsequent years.

Years have gone by after that historic discussion, but certain lessons continue to educate. In every age and place, young people need a renewed focus and rediscovered mode of

connecting with them. We can never take them for granted. This approach of renewed learning about youth culture has become a very important foundation of our movement.

Jesus Youth movement is all about bringing Jesus, His message and a new lifestyle to the contemporary world. But this world is constantly changing. In the movement, there is a huge awareness to connect with the ever changing youth culture, also the realization that a lively process of dialogue has to be built into all that everyone in the movement does. May we never forget this not just in the movement, but in our families and in all the places where we connect with young people!

.....

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.

ENGAGE

THE LOG IN OUR EYES



Jethin Thottan sheds light on how following the basic precepts of the Catholic Church will assist one to deal with the weakness and sinful desires, which are revealed by the Holy Spirit

I am at a time in my life where I come back home from work to an empty home – I live alone temporarily. The Lord, through his mysterious and unforeseen ways is revealing to my family members (back in my home town) his love and ever open invitation to ‘taste and see’. In his divine plan, it became necessary for my wife and son to return to be with the family. And now for me, the saying has come true – “You never miss water until the well is dry”. I miss the healing hug of my son and the evening walks with my wife. The house is quiet now, and no one is there to playfully wake me up on Saturday’s, the only holiday where I get a lie-in. But in this silence, the Holy Spirit is continuously pushing me to

look at His mirror, reminding me of who I am and gently exposing the uncomfortable truth of 'the log in my eye'.

If you are like me, dealing with this log can be difficult. On numerous occasions we may take decisions to try to remove it, yet often all our efforts go in vain. Again, if you are like me, we get tired and finally convince ourselves that there is no end to this viscous cycle of feeling guilty, unworthy and like a failure. However at this point, the Holy Spirit inspired me to ponder deeper. I know that I am a child of God and I am Catholic – part of the Church divinely instituted by Christ himself. There must be some tips that I could use from the Church teaching that could assist me in dealing with "my log". In my search and to my surprise, I came across something that is so basic, yet over the years of practicing faith, I had taken for granted.

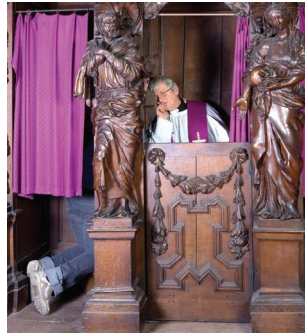
The first three precepts of the Church were an eye opener for me. According to CCC 2041, it states that 'following the precepts guarantees to the faithful the very necessary minimum in the spirit of prayer and moral effort, in the growth in love of God and neighbor'. What this basically means is that these precepts are the basic minimum (obligatory positive laws), which we are to practice in order to stay connected with Jesus, and share his love with the community. I lacked a true understanding of what this meant, until I sincerely made an effort to practice them and experience the fruits myself. I would like to journey through these precepts from my own personal experience in the hope that it may inspire you to take action.



FIRST PRECEPT: You shall attend mass on Sundays and on Holy Days of obligation and rest from servile labor.

As practicing Catholics we're asked to join in the celebration of the Eucharist every Sunday and on Holy Days of obligation. Even though I used to follow this diligently, I lacked the understanding to know what I was doing. A wise and kind priest opened my eyes and revealed its mysteries. From then on, the Holy Mass became my personal encounter with our Saviour and Lord Jesus Christ and, His word coming true in my life – "for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins" (Mt 26:28). At that altar I learned to submit my log, my sins and myself.

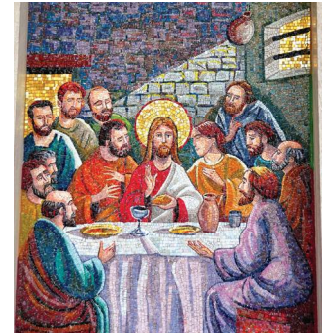
When we receive communion we are merely responding to Christ's desire to live in our hearts and lives. His calling is not just to believe, but to be in a relationship



SECOND PRECEPT: You shall confess your sins at least once a year.

Participating in the sacrament of reconciliation is one of the most liberating experiences I've had. It's like a huge burden taken off my shoulders. But the most difficult part is to confess the same sins repeatedly, and most of us think to ourselves, "Here I go again, the Lord surely must be disappointed". This is never the case. The desire in our hearts to confess our sins itself shows the nature of our dear Lord, always at the door of our hearts, faithfully desiring another chance to renew our relationship. When we go to confession, we are only responding to His invitation. Christ is always the initiator as he himself instituted this sacrament. Jesus said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained" (Jn 20:23).

Just like with Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden, God desires to walk with us in the cool of the evening. Are we ready to respond to his call? Are we ready to say, 'Lord please work on my log'?



THIRD PRECEPT: You shall humbly receive your Creator in Holy Communion at least during the Easter season.

This open invitation from our Lord to be in union with him is the greatest expression of his love for us.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life" (Jn 3:16).

When we receive communion we are merely responding to Christ's desire to live in our hearts and lives. His calling is not just to believe, but to be in a relationship. This relationship will elevate us to be what our Creator has made us to be. Never be afraid to be in union with Christ, his grace can overcome any and all obstacles. He'll teach us to walk on water.

My friends, let's open our eyes to see the log in our eyes as the Holy Spirit reveals. Let's acknowledge and pray for the grace to deal with it, not focusing on our weaknesses, sins or guilt, but on Christ himself who cleanses and renews us. These precepts - the bare minimum's, has greatly helped me focus more on him and less on me. ■



Jethin Thottan encountered Christ when he was just nine-years-old. He lives with his wife and son in Australia, and is part of the National Council.



The Vineyards of God

“Get the hell out of my room, you don’t know what you are doing.”

One of my patients yelled at me in the middle of a busy night shift for something I was very confident in doing. I felt beyond frustrated and infuriated, and wanted to yell back, “I know what I am doing, no wonder why you are not getting better...”

It was when I sat down, thinking of the reason for him to blow up on me like that, I realized it wasn’t even 12 hours since I “preached” to the children in our kids’ ministry how to be merciful and forgive others as Jesus did. “Wow, Lord your ways of testing me and teaching me.....” felt a cry settling inside, which turned into a prayer, “Lord I feel frustrated and angry at this person, and I am unable to accept and pray for him, but I know this is not what I should be doing as your daughter, help me to forgive and pray....” Recited a few “Apostles creed”, my favorite prayer. The fruit of that prayer was convincing

Do we consider our work as a means of sanctification where we transform ourselves to become like Christ? asks Sujatha Joseph, and shares her pruning experience

that the merciful Lord was sanctifying me through this small humiliating experience at work. Next day, an apology came from my beloved patient, his family, the neuro surgeon who treated him, and my manager.

Now, the question is, "Do we consider our work as a means of sanctification where we transform ourselves to become like Christ? Do we use our work to help others to get transformed? Jesus said, "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing" (John 15:5). A branch has to be attached to the vine to bear fruit. Our work places are great areas for redemption where one can sanctify self and others by enduring the hardships and carrying the cross as our master did. To do it fruitfully one must remain attached to the tree and the root, to be nourished and immersed in its masters' love and grace.

Sanctifying self involves surrendering to the will of God, allowing ourselves to be pruned to blossom, to bear fruits which can render nourishment to the ones we come across and beyond. "He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, so that it will be even more fruitful (John 15:2)." Our workplaces can be the vineyard where he prunes us to become our better selves, resembling Christ in our thoughts and deeds. But in reality, we miss these opportunities very often, thinking that I don't deserve to be treated like this. Creation has its own goodness and proper perfection, but it did not spring forth complete from the hands of the Creator. The universe was created "in a state of journeying" toward

an ultimate perfection yet to be attained, to which God has destined it (CCC 302). Pruning is the creator's outpouring love for us to bring us to this perfection. If we are able to see our hardships, and the humiliating experiences at our work and at home as opportunities to be pruned to bear more fruits, we are surrendering ourselves to be sanctified to reach the perfection God has designed for us.

Sanctifying others through our work is our gift of love to the one who sanctifies us. Imagine how pleased our creator will be, if we can bring one of His lost children back home by just allowing Him to prune us without whining. St. Augustine said, God is "higher than my highest and more inward than my innermost self." Our Lord knows what "He is doing." Whatever profession we are in, it is meant to manifest His glory. As God's children, we ought to manifest his love in our workplaces and emanate light that illuminate the darkness, and bring others to the light, our Lord, who illuminates the

world. If we act this way, no doubt, people around us will say "he or she is different." Yes, he or she is different, because Christ lives in them, and He uses her/him to spread his light. So, let us be His light. ■



Sujatha Joseph is a nurse and has been part of the Jesus Youth movement for a decade. She lives with her husband and three children in Dallas, USA.



ENCOUNTER



Having grown up in a Catholic family, I have heard many testimonies over the years. Often people speak about the instant that God touched their lives and express it as being the ultimate turning point. As a result, I waited for my 'turning point' and my 'moment' to come along. I always wondered if my story would ever be worth sharing, simply because it didn't seem as inspiring as the testimonies of people who have overcome big obstacles. I considered myself a measly teenager who had nothing interesting to share. If I could go back in time, I would tell myself to wait, because God had the perfect plan and perfect timing for me.

Contrary to my expectations, my encounter with Christ was not a perfect moment but a long journey. A journey that took years for me to understand and one that was seemingly slow and agonizing. Along the way there were times when I lost hope and times when I denied Him. At the end of the day

Tanya Jojo shares the story of how God draws the restless, bleeding heart, to his bosom of love

what really struck my heart was that He stuck around no matter how much I pushed Him away. Jesus crawled his way into the parts of my life that I kept hidden, and he pushed me to acknowledge things that I simply wanted to forget.

When I was twelve years old, my family migrated to Australia from Delhi, and at the time I believed it to be the worst possible situation to be in. I had always considered myself to be average or below average at everything I did – be it academics, sports or socialising. I was certain that I had absolutely

nothing special to offer to the world. I made friends and settled in quickly, yet I always knew in the back of my mind that I just wasn't good enough. Over the years I became a little louder and a little more confident, yet these fears continued to haunt me. I constantly compared myself to others to justify why I wasn't worth it. As much as I hated myself at the time, I hated God even more for making me the way I was.

Like most Jesus Youth, I was incredibly blessed to have elders, whose persistence led me to seek



Despite what life throws at me, God seeks me in the wilderness and holds me in my darkness

E God, even in the times when I did not want Him. For two years, they journeyed with me, spoke to me, listened to me and simply loved me. Even though I felt distant from Jesus, I experienced him very intimately through the outright love and guidance that these elders gave me. My journey with Jesus Youth has honestly been my journey with Christ. Whenever I felt far away from Him, I still experienced Him in the people around me. Whenever I felt He wasn't listening, someone always called to check in on me. It was when I became aware of these simple blessings that I became aware of how present Jesus had been in my life, all along.

Like all journeys mine too had its ups and downs. There were times when I denounced Jesus despite knowing He was real, and there were times when I refused to let Him in. Even today I have a tendency to distance myself from Him because often, I simply cannot comprehend why He would choose to love me. More often than not, my fears consume our relationship, and I find myself telling God that I am not as good as someone else and therefore not deserving of Him. However Jesus always finds his way back into my heart, reiterating his kindness and goodness. One thing I have learnt about Jesus is that He never tires of waiting for me. No matter how many times I turn away, I find His love overwhelming me through the people around me. Each day I

learn more about Him and in turn, about myself.

My turning point came along when I accepted that I am exactly who my Father intended me to be. Though I struggle to remember this every day, I have seen the way He has transformed my life, and reaffirmed my worth. He constantly uses my weaknesses to help me find my biggest strengths and uses my sorrows to help me reach out to others. When life becomes overwhelming and my burdens appear never ending, I find rest in the Blessed Sacrament – be it through Holy Mass or Adoration. The Eucharist has never disappointed me for He tells me exactly what I need to hear through my struggles. Everyday Jesus reminds me of the love and beauty that the world is capable of, and every day I come home disappointed. What my journey has

taught me is that, I am incredibly loved in spite of my imperfectness.

In a nutshell my walk with Christ is less of a walk and more of a rollercoaster ride. I stumble, fall, I get scared – through many tears and laughter. Despite what life throws at me, God seeks me in the wilderness and holds me in my darkness. Time and again He has forced me out of my comfort zone to achieve things that are beyond me, and each time I have relentlessly complained. I try my best to seek God in everything I do and every person I meet. I've found that it's easy to discover Him in the beauty of the world, but it's promising to encounter Him in the hurt and the filth. At the end it's all about the choices I make, for each moment dawns a new beginning for my relationship with Christ and each day I fall in love with Him just a little bit more. ■■



Tanya Jojo is currently pursuing a Bachelor's degree in International Relations and Spanish at the University of Queensland. She was introduced to Jesus Youth in 2012 and has subsequently been involved with the movement for the past 6 years

SYNOD

YOUTH SYNOD 2018 PASTORAL ACTIVITY

JILU JACOB DELVES INTO A FOCUS AREA OF THE PREPARATORY DOCUMENT ON THE SYNOD FOR YOUTH, FAITH AND VOCATIONAL DISCERNMENT - PASTORAL ACTIVITY

As we eagerly await the gathering of the synod on Youth, Faith and Vocational discernment we dive deeper into a focus area of the preparatory document for the Synod for reflection- Pastoral activity. Pastoral activity, in this case, can be loosely identified as anything connected with the spiritual care of young people and their faith. Let's take a deeper look at what the Church identifies as some of the main pieces for pastoral activity of youth!

The preparatory document for the Synod outlines 4 main areas for our reflection answering some basic questions: What are we doing? Who is doing this? Where is this happening? What do we need to do it?

What are we doing??

ACCOMPANYING

Walking with young people, accompaniment requires a boldness and creativity rooted in a heart of love and a desire to evangelize. As those who minister to youth, we are encouraged to look to Jesus to adopt his unique pastoral style with three specific verbs.

We have "to go out" by abandoning rigid attitudes which lack a credible joyful witness and be open to new frameworks and understandings. In this action of going out, we welcome each young person and their unique contribution to the Church and world.

We have "to see" by spending time with young people in their joys, hopes and anxieties, with the desire to share the Gospel in the midst of life's tumult. We are called to "peer into the depths of the heart without being intrusive or threatening" and can only do so by setting aside our usual mental framework.

We have "to call" young people to a newness of life, awakening them out of complacency or a life of sin. When they answer the call, they actively embark on a journey to encounter the Gospel.

As Jesus Youth, we can accompany young people by learning the "style of

Jesus, who passes through places of daily life, stops without being hurried, and by looking at our brothers with mercy, leading them to encounter God the Father” (Pope Francis).

Who is doing this??

EVERYONE!

All young people, without exception are agents in this journey of living and sharing faith. Perhaps those who have gone through great poverty and hardship provide the most beautiful sources of inspiration and learning for the Church.

However, young people also need those around them to provide credible witnesses in the course of their human development and vocational discernment. The roles of a responsible faith community, led by parents, family and clergy, are essential to a young person’s journey. “All these people bear witness to the human and Christian vocation which accepts and is lived with faithfulness and dedication, arousing in those who see them a desire to do likewise.”

In some cases, these natural agents in a young person’s life may fail to provide the needed witness of faith. In many cases, they may even act as counter witnesses – pushing a young person away from the Church. As a movement called to evangelizing young people, we have a unique role to supplement and perhaps provide what a young person hasn’t received through the faith community around him/her. We have the opportunity, through various roles of mentor, friend, elder and guide, to help them regain and discover the confidence and beauty of a life in Christ!

Where should this be happening?

EVERYWHERE!

A primary place where accompaniment of youth needs to happen is in their daily lives and social commitments. The struggles of managing finances, learning to study, choosing friends and using time wisely are just as important in a young person’s journey as making decisions about their future, career or vocation. When we accompany young people in



these daily struggles we are provided an avenue to introduce a new, authentic and challenging way of life – with faith. Many times, when a young person sees the beautiful struggle that is the daily life of someone who is walking with them, they are encouraged to be vulnerable and allow Christ to enter into the smallest decisions and moments of their own life.

The Church is also called to provide various avenues, with the pastoral style of “going out,” “seeing” and “calling,” where young people can encounter the truth of the Gospel. Some of these include World Youth Days, Catholic schools, parishes, social activities, volunteer work, and ecclesial movements – like Jesus Youth!

This accompaniment also needs to be happening in the digital world, where today’s young person spends much of his/her life. This is an area where those accompanying young people may even need to allow young people to teach them the ways of the digital world!



Jilu Jacob is a wife, mother and nurse and currently serving as the national coordinator for Jesus Youth of America. She has been with JY since her teen years and is passionate about bringing the light of Christ to young people.

What do we need to do it?

OPPORTUNITIES!

Providing fruitful encounters can happen in various ways. Sports, music, and education, among others, provide avenues for a young person to be introduced to faith. By journeying with them and giving them a love for the Lord and his Word, we provide them with further tools and opportunities to live out authentic lives of faith.

There are numerous opportunities that surround someone looking to walk with young people. The challenge of pastoral activity remains with those responsible for carrying out this activity. It requires one to have boldness, courage and creativity. It requires one to be vulnerable and share the beautiful struggle of a life striving for holiness. It requires a credible and authentic witness of a life experiencing the joy of the Gospel.

As a movement, we eagerly await the discussions, findings and teachings that the Church will share after this Synod. In the meantime, as missionary disciples who have a desire to carry out this pastoral activity, let us continue to strive for greater heights of holiness for all the young people who long for genuine witnesses and living saints to walk with them!

BODY AND SOUL

50 years of Humane Vitae



In 1963, Pope John XXIII set a commission that included married couples and experts in the field. They examined the different views and opinions regarding married life and especially on the correct regulation of births. They sought to provide an apt reply to the faithful and the whole world. In July 1968, Pope Paul VI issued the encyclical “Humanae Vitae (Human Life). As we celebrate the 50th anniversary of Humanae Vitae, we have a special call to revisit the document and revive our own marriages and communities with the truth of the sacrament.

The 1960s was a decade of great advancements and changes. Man’s desire to exercise control of his body, mind, emotions, social life, and even regulate the transmission of life took new interests and forms. Post-war culture redefined women’s role

It is the golden jubilee of Humane Vitae and [Sherin Alexander](#) reminds us that we have a special call to revisit the document and revive our own marriages and communities with the truth of the sacrament

in the society and they strived to increase their potential in workplace. In 1957, hormone pill was introduced to manage several menstrual disorders; it helped to fill the gap between male and female work potential. By 1960, birth control pill was approved for use as contraceptive.

Governments were already concerned about the rapid increase in population and they feared that population will outgrow available resources. This fueled the promotion of contraceptives by public authorities as they feared the greater economic demands of larger families.

In the midst of this culture, the conscience of the married people was posed with many questions. At a time when birth control pills were becoming the new norm, this encyclical came out as a clarification and encouragement of conjugal love as it was intended from the beginning.

Humanae Vitae reasserts and reminds people about the Church's teaching authority in clarifying the moral teaching on marriage. Jesus communicated his divine power to Peter and other Apostles and sent them to teach His commandments to all nations. He gave them the power as guardians and interpreters of the moral law and natural law. Faithful observance of natural law is necessary for men's salvation as it declares the will of God.

In the second part of the encyclical, Doctrinal Principles, Pope reminds the readers about the beauty and mission of the sacrament of marriage. "It is in reality the wise and provident institution of God the Creator, whose purpose was to effect in man His loving design. As a consequence, husband and

wife, through that mutual gift of themselves, which is specific and exclusive to them alone, develop that union of two persons in which they perfect one another, cooperating with God in the generation and rearing of new lives" (8). The indispensable qualities of the married love are explained and defined: free, total, faithful, and fruitful.

Fruitfulness of marriage is given special emphasis: "Marriage and conjugal love are by their nature ordained toward the procreation and education of children. Children are really the supreme gift of marriage and contribute in the highest degree to their parents' welfare" (9). In entering the commitments of married love, husband and wife ought to be fully aware of the obligations of responsible parenthood. In the face of innate drives and emotions, responsible parenthood requires the couple to exert reason and will for regulation of births. Couples are encouraged to prudently and generously decide for themselves about having more children. This involves taking into account the physical, economical, psychological, and social conditions while being generous with the gift of fertility as a couple.

The marital act involves the two-fold essential qualities of unitive and procreative. Each conjugal act ought to have both these aspects. Thus, any act of sterilization, of man or woman, permanent or temporary are against the procreative aspect of the conjugal act. This includes "any action which either before, at the moment of, or after sexual intercourse, is specifically intended to prevent procreation—whether as an end or as a means" (14).

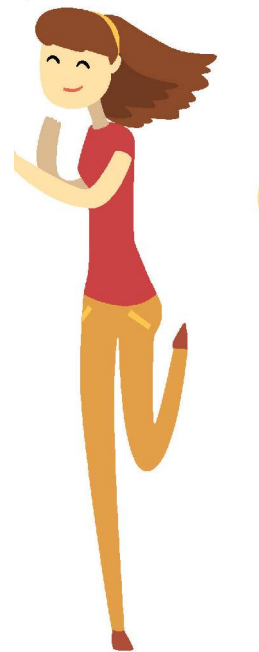
In anticipation of the difficulty in accepting this message, Pope clarifies, "Others ask on the same point whether it is not reasonable in so many cases to use artificial birth control if by so doing the harmony and peace of a family are better served and more suitable conditions are provided for the education of children already born. To this question We must give a clear reply. The Church is the first to praise and commend the application of human intelligence to an activity in which a rational creature such as man is so closely associated with his Creator. But she affirms that this must be done within the limits of the order of reality established by God" (16).

The natural law established by God and recommended by the Church in the regulation of birth is the use of the natural cycles of the woman's cycle. There are innate periods of fertility and infertility in a female cycle monthly. Couples

are encouraged to study the wife's fertility signs and use that information to live out their combined fertility maturely. These systems will promote self-discipline, chastity within marriage and the shared responsibility of parenthood in faith and willingness.

The last section of *Humanae Vitae*, Pastoral Directives, includes appeals to several groups: to public authorities to prevent any legislation that introduces any practices that are against the law of God into families; to scientists to pool their efforts to study and promote the knowledge about the female cycle for proper regulation of births; to Christian couples to respond with freedom and love to the design of the Creator and directives of the Church; to married couples to communicate their own experiences to other couples regarding this realm of their relationship and thus be apostles; to doctors and nurses to "endeavor to fulfill the demands of their Christian vocation before any merely human interest" (27); to priests to clearly, completely, and confidently communicate the Church's teaching on marriage, especially regarding this particular area of married life; to bishops to devote themselves to work that safeguard and promote the holiness of the sacrament of marriage.

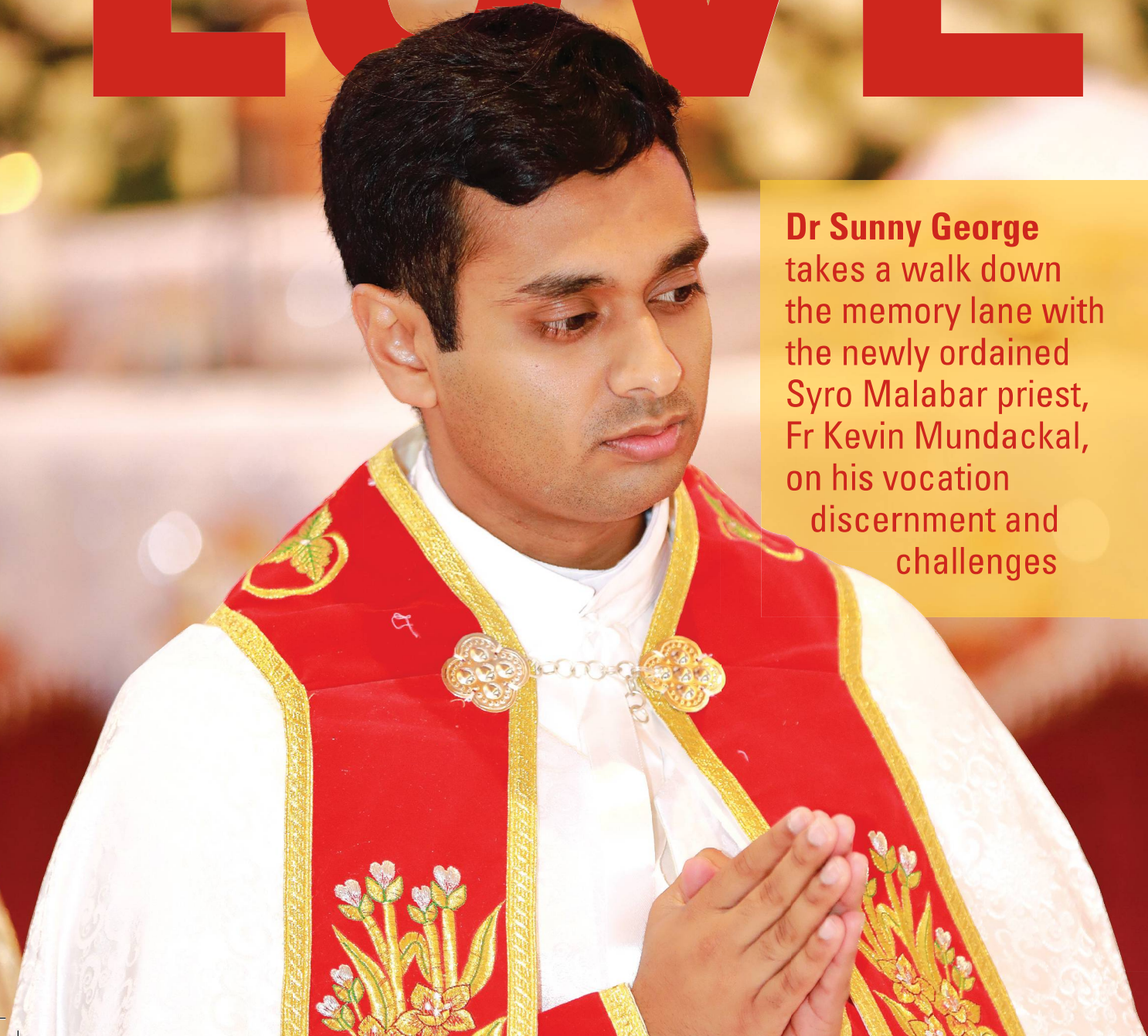
During this golden jubilee year of *Humanae Vitae*, let us be open to the personal calls regarding the sanctity of marriage and respond with courage and zeal! ■■



Sherin Alexander, a Jesus Youth, a Physician Assistant at a family practice, and a certified Marquette Model Natural Family Planning instructor lives with her husband in Chicago, USA.

UP CLOSE

READY TO SPEAK THE LANGUAGE OF LOVE

A young man with dark hair, wearing a red and gold clerical vestment over a white shirt, is shown in profile with his hands clasped in prayer. The background is a warm, blurred indoor setting with bokeh light effects.

Dr Sunny George takes a walk down the memory lane with the newly ordained Syro Malabar priest, Fr Kevin Mundackal, on his vocation discernment and challenges

Fr Kevin Mundackal made history when he became the first U.S. born priest to be ordained for the Syro Malabar church. Born into a family where faith was the top priority, he was taught to seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit at all times, even at a young age. He shares about his journey to priesthood and how God surprised him by making him a Syro Malabar priest.

How did you experience God's intimacy?

When I was in high school, I had a personal and intimate encounter with our Eucharistic Lord. I was able to feel God's presence and feel the embrace of His love. There was an overwhelming sense of peace. Christ became much more than just knowledge; He is a living and loving Person who dwells inside of me. I came to the realization that the God who loves me with an unconditional love also has a plan for me. I began to have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and like all relationships, I knew it would take much hard work.

What are the challenges you faced while discerning your vocation?

Trying to live a Christ-centered life in our modern culture is not easy, but the Lord had blessed me with people who made it easier for me to hear the voice of God. I was very good in my studies, and I could have excelled in any field of my interest. However, thoughts on giving my entire life to Christ filled much peace in my heart. Through prayer, I was convinced that I am not alone in this journey and there are many people out there to help me.

My parish was a great blessing for me in my faith formation. Our pastor, Fr. Jose Kandathikudy, made youth ministry one of his priorities and would encourage us in whatever initiatives we had. He let us use the church facilities for youth events and would always remind us that we, the youth, were the future of the Church. His witness and example were a great inspiration for me. He would faithfully attend and lead the parish Bible classes, even after coming from a long day of dialysis. He had a great zeal for preaching the Word and would encourage



GOD LOVES WITH AN INFINITE LOVE. HE IS INFINITELY HAPPY BECAUSE HE IS INFINITE LOVE. HE DESIRES THAT WE, THE CHILDREN OF GOD, TOO, ATTAIN TO HIS INFINITE HAPPINESS

the children to be passionate about our faith and to even think about pursuing a religious vocation.

How did the Jesus Youth movement help to shape your spirituality?

The Jesus Youth Movement played a vital role in my prayer life as well as in my vocational discernment. It was through Jesus Youth that I was able to attend several retreats and experience the Eucharist in a very intimate and personal way. It was here that I was able to understand that our Catholic faith is not something that we set apart for Sundays, but that the faith is a lifestyle that encompasses all aspects of our life. I was able to make many great friends through the movement, many of whom would encourage me to persevere in strengthening my relationship with Christ.

Many joyful people consecrated to Christ and His commandments of love journeyed with me and helped me to respond to God's call to the priesthood. There were many elders in the movement who helped lead me and encourage me through their spiritual guidance. Through their self-sacrificial love and unconditional care for me, I was able to experience the love of Christ through them.

When and how did you receive your call to become a priest?

As I continued to grow in my faith, I started to get thoughts of priesthood. There was no loud booming voice or any special vision; it was just the Lord tugging on my heart and placing this desire in me to think about priesthood as a possible vocation. I did not make of anything of it at first, but as I could continue praying and spending time in front of the Blessed Sacrament, these thoughts of the priesthood continued to grow.

It was also providentially the Year of Priest, which lasted from 2009-2010. I was able to learn a lot about priesthood during this year. Also, my spiritual director, Fr. Vincent Euk, helped me to see that the Lord was leading me in the direction of the priesthood. I was also blessed to attend the Discipleship Training Program called 'Overflow' conducted by the Jesus Youth of America during this time, which strengthened me to have a deeper prayer life.

What made you choose to become a priest for the Syro Malabar Church?

I was open to becoming a priest for any congregation, but there was one type that I could not become – a Syro Malabar priest. Though Syro Malabar parish helped me greatly in my faith formation, I felt it would be better for me to join the American diocese, rather than the Indian

diocese. At the time, we only had Sunday Qurbana in Malayalam. Since I did not know Malayalam very well, I associated everything about the Syro Malabar Church with the Malayalam language. I even thought that the Syro Malabar Qurbana was an Indian-version of the Latin-mass.

But all that changed when our pastor introduced the Syro Malabar Qurbana in English. For the first time, I was able to understand the meaning of the prayers. I was moved by its richness and beauty. After that Qurbana, I took one Qurbana book home and would read the prayers before going to bed each night. Soon, I fell in love with the Syro Malabar liturgy, and I started to research more about the Syro Malabar Church, the history, and what makes it different from the Latin Church.

I started to wonder whether it was possible for me to become a Syro Malabar

priest. I met with my pastor and told him about the slight dilemma I was in, that I have recently begun thinking of becoming a priest for the Syro Malabar Church, but that my lack of knowledge of the Malayalam language would be an obstacle for becoming one. Fr. Jose then asked me a question, "Kevin, which language did Jesus speak?" I responded saying that Jesus spoke perhaps one of the ancient languages like Aramaic. He then said, "No. The language that Jesus spoke was the language of Love. If you can speak that language, you can become a good Syro Malabar priest." I was overjoyed. I knew that the Malayalam language was important for the Syro Malabar Church, but what is more important is that I learn to love like Christ and then perhaps the Lord will give me the grace to improve my Malayalam.

Jose Achan then helped me get in contact with Bishop Mar Jacob Angadiath and told him about my desire to become a priest. Bishop Angadiath accepted me as a seminarian for the St. Thomas Syro Malabar Catholic Diocese of Chicago and I joined the seminary after finishing 12th grade.

DRAW CLOSE TO JESUS IN THE REAL PRESENCE OF THE EUCHARIST AND HAVE AN ASSIDUOUS PRAYER LIFE AND AN INTIMATE RELATIONSHIP WITH BLESSED MOTHER

Any thoughts for those youngsters who are considering priesthood/religious life?

"Come follow Me" (Mark 10:21) "Behold, I come, O Lord" (Hebrew 10:7). Our life is framed by these two scripture verses. The first from God, the second from man, request and reply. When the request finds no reply, man is forced to live a failed, tragic life.

Your vocation is your destiny. Draw close to Jesus in the real presence of the Eucharist and have an assiduous prayer life and an intimate relationship with Blessed Mother. She is the Mother of Vocations. If you want to perfectly preserve and fulfill your vocation to priesthood and religious life, entrust it to Our Lady. ■■



Sunny George, former intercession coordinator of the Jesus Youth in America, lives in Kanjirappally, India with his wife, Dr Mini Mathew and four children. He is currently working in Homegrown Biotech, Kanjirappally, and shares the knowledge of natural organic farming across the globe, by being a Marian pilgrim.

LIVING LIFE

LIVING
LIFE IN

Faithfulness

We all strive to be faithful, yet sometimes find it difficult. However, God does not give up on us. He, who knows our weaknesses, prepares us to be more faithful every day. "It is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for His good pleasure" (Phil 2:13). Faithfulness is a fruit of the Holy Spirit, not something we achieve on our own. Looking at myself, I see everything that I'm not capable of doing and easily fall apart. On the other hand, when I realise my weaknesses and still surrender all to the God for whom nothing is impossible, everything becomes possible. So where do we start? As Mother Teresa says, "Be faithful in small things, because it is in them that your strength lies". God will do the rest.

Shilpa Shaurya Michael

BRISBANE, AUSTRALIA

Faithfulness - being faithful or remaining loyal to the things entrusted to us, is a fruit of the Holy Spirit and it is something I have always tried to practise in my life. One reason is to glorify God through my actions, accomplished through the graces and talents that I am blessed with. Another is that I value the smile I see on people's faces when they see the outcome of my work or when they get to experience the result my work brings. As Jesus says, "whatsoever you do to the least of my brothers, you do it unto me" (Matt 25:40). This satisfaction that the work done for my fellow brothers and sisters in Christ is actually for the glory of His name keeps me motivated to practise this fruit of the Holy Spirit. "Faithfulness is not doing something right but doing it rightfully".

Diana Sony

BRISBANE, AUSTRALIA

I sometimes think of the extent we often go to stay faithful to someone in our life that we love. The things we do and the thoughts that go through our mind of things we can do to please them. In my life, when it comes to God, this is often a lot harder and it is sometimes easier to take for granted His mercy and think, 'it's ok, God will understand'. So for me, faithfulness requires asking for a desire to please Him and subsequently for my actions to stem from that desire. It requires me to live a life of integrity in small things through asking for the wisdom to know how, in each area of my life, I can serve him. That [wisdom] may be with me and work with me that I may know what is your pleasure' (Wis 9:10).

Della John

BIRMINGHAM, UK

The Oxford Dictionary defines faithful as 'remaining loyal and steadfast'. Pain clouds our understanding of God's plans and His for us, in turn shaking the very foundation of our faith. Sometimes, only in hindsight do we see that it was for our good and the good of His Kingdom. Recently, my husband and I were strongly beginning to desire for a second child and God gifted us a life. I was 7 weeks pregnant, looking forward to celebrating the Sacred Triduum. However, over Good Friday and Easter, we were in the hospital caring a miscarriage. I was going through a rollercoaster of emotions and pain, but not once was I compelled to ask God why. My light at the end of the tunnel is His faithfulness, His perfect plan for us and we await His perfect timing for the gift. Amen!

Lydia Langlin,

ADELAIDE, AUSTRALIA

Itruly believe that to practice faithfulness, we should be first faithful to His call. In our daily life, we come across many opportunities to be faithful, which we refuse or carelessly forget. This could be even simple things like calling a few people for the prayer meeting, or making a presentation for the youth mass, or serving food at a church gathering and so on. Hence for me it is just a matter of saying a complete yes to his call, thereby letting go of my ego and at the same time realizing that all that we do in the Lord's name glorifies him. The immense joy that I have received by just saying yes to God, I feel cannot be replaced by anything else in this world. This joy has always been one of the driving factors for practicing faithfulness in my life.

Dijo Joy

BRISBANE, AUSTRALIA

IN FOCUS

Faithfulness An act of

Jento Arakkal shares his thoughts on how we can tackle "the what, the why and the how of faithfulness"



Love

Being 'faithful or committed' – these are big words for our generation. Though our generation is much advanced in education, financial security and freedom, we find it difficult to be faithful to our fundamental human calling as husbands, wives, fathers and mothers. In secular contexts, we see an increasing unfaithfulness – more freedom but less accountability for our actions.

Faithfulness can only make sense within the premise of absolute truth. The opposite of absolute truth is relative truth – a type of truth that can be interpreted differently according to the convenience of each individual. Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI has commented a great deal on the dangers of relativism – which states that there are many truths, paving the way for all of us to have different versions of faithfulness, depending upon how we choose to interpret a given truth.

For us, the model of faithfulness is Jesus himself. At the garden of Gethsemane, it almost seems as if he was not ready to go forward with the mission entrusted to him by the Father. But his faithfulness to the Father helped him go forward and accomplish the greatest act of love the world has ever witnessed.

So, what really is faithfulness and why should it matter?

Faithfulness is not rocket science, nor an abstract philosophical thought – it is simply an act of love.

It is easy to trust someone when what they do doesn't affect you in any way, or even when it does, there might be an easy way out of it. This may be true at a workplace in one's faithfulness to a job or to his/her manager. In so much as the manager's actions don't affect us directly, we are happy to remain faithful. However, as soon as the manager's actions or inactions prove critical for our job, one usually begin searching for a new job.

But when we are called to trust someone with everything we are and have – then it requires courage. But how can we trust in such a way, when we neither

Faithfulness is not rocket science, nor an abstract philosophical thought – it is simply an act of love

have any control over the future, nor on the other person. Marriage is a great example of such a scenario. Even before we fully understand him/her, we take the vow to be faithful till death – that is courage.

Where does one acquire such courage? I believe that this courage is a result of faithfulness. Not the other way around. "We walk by faith, not by sight" – famous words from St Paul's letter to the Corinthians (2 Cor 5:7). St Paul is coming hard on the Corinthians, encouraging them not to lose faith but to advance in faith by forgiving their offenders.

Among many heroes in the Bible (and even in real life), we see great faithfulness displayed by those who were considered not-so-important or even as cast offs. In the Old Testament, we read about Joseph who was sold into slavery by his brothers, who didn't consider him any important. But he was still faithful to the GOD of his fathers in the foreign land, even at the cost of his reputation.

In the story St John Vianney, who came from a humble farming background to be raised as the patron Saint of Priests, we see how his faithfulness to the call of priesthood resulted in a courageous life, first transforming the French parish of Ars, and the many who came to see him at the confessional.

So, what are we saying – that to be faithful you need no education or should come from a simple background? Certainly not. But we really do need some of the qualities that these people had. Whilst it may be true that some of the experiences of their childhood carved a simplicity deep within them, we cannot deny the fact that it only happened because GOD allowed it. But above all, these people allowed GOD to complete the work of His creation in them. They loved GOD who allowed all the struggles in their life with utmost trust in him, even when their lives were in danger. Thus, faithfulness became a way of loving GOD.

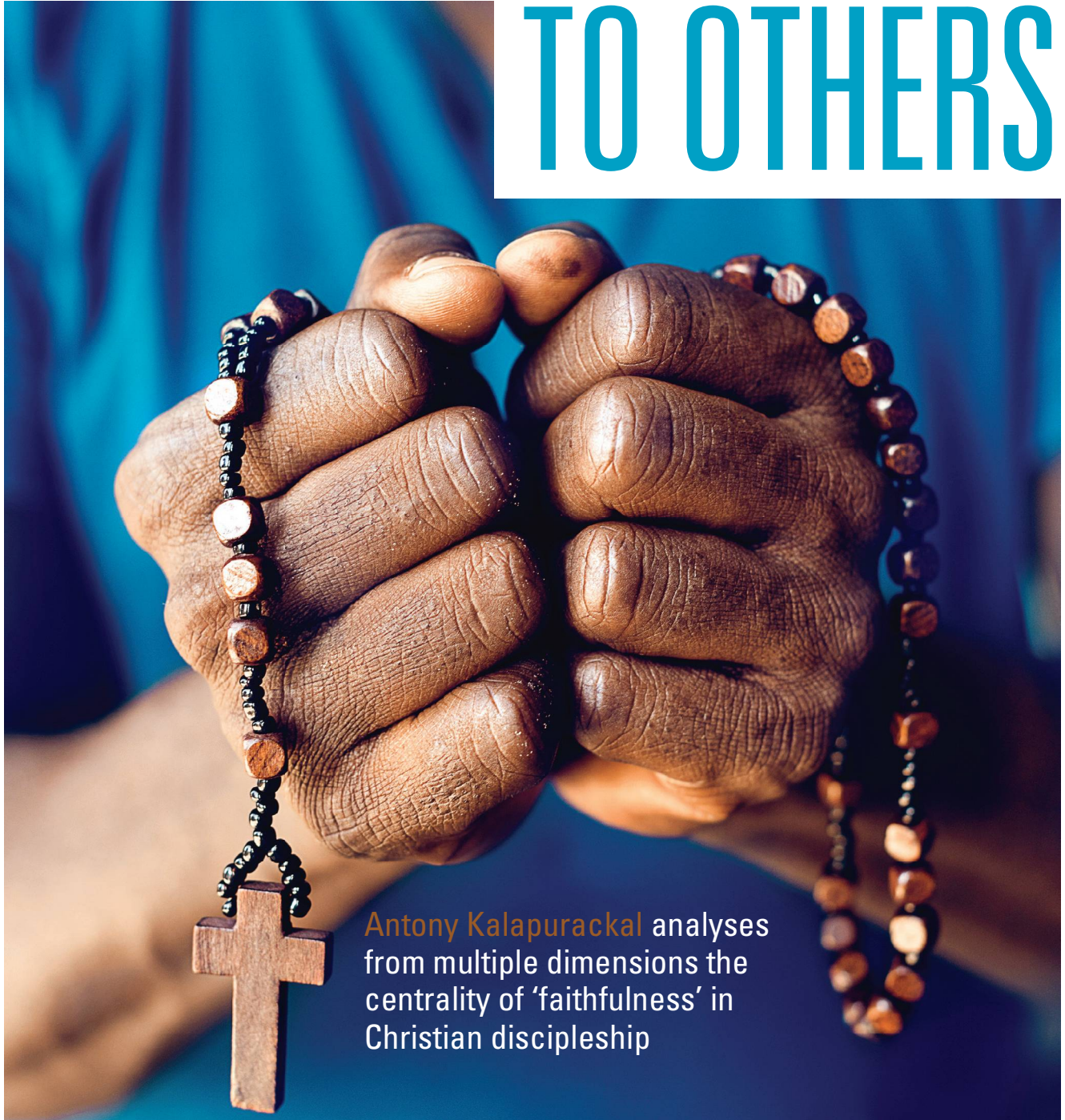
When there are disagreements in the family, can I be faithful to the GOD who has called us to be a family and cherish his presence? When I am presented with a career and monetary opportunities to amass wealth, can I be faithful to my GOD who may be calling me to follow him more closely? In the words of St Paul, "It is no longer I, but Christ who lives in me". When this happens, it is Christ who is being faithful in us, because we cannot be.

Often it doesn't start big – few simple thoughts, some words, small actions. Whenever we do our chores at home, when we allow others to rise up, when we are bold enough to acknowledge our mistakes, before we know it others will start noticing it and then we realize that the MAKER is making something new. ■■



Jento Arakkal is the National Coordinator for JY Australia and is a Software Engineer by profession. He lives with his wife, Femy and children Ryan and Rose in Melbourne, Australia.

FAITHFULNESS TO OTHERS



Antony Kalapurackal analyses from multiple dimensions the centrality of 'faithfulness' in Christian discipleship

“God

has not called me to be successful. He has called me to be faithful”

– Mother Teresa

In a world which looks for success and fame, faithfulness is a quality often pushed aside. On the contrary, in Christian life the only thing that matters is faithfulness –towards God and towards our brethren.

A person who is not faithful towards his brethren cannot be faithful towards God. “Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gifts you have received” (1 Peter 4:10). Being faithful is a call for every Christian. God expects us to be faithful to our call, wherever we are. He is more interested in our faithfulness rather than the result. It is important to be faithful in small things, the size of the task is not very important.

These ‘small things’ might make a big difference in someone’s life, so we need to do it with all our heart. In the famous starfish story, the boy trying to save the washed-up starfishes by throwing them back to the sea was mocked, since it couldn’t possibly make any difference as there were tens of thousands of starfish washed ashore. The boy however, picked up another starfish and throwing it as far as he could, responded with a smile, “It did make a difference to that one”.

Faithfulness in small things will help us to be faithful in bigger things. “Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and whoever is dishonest in a very little, is dishonest also in much” (Luke 16:10). Faithfulness requires integrity and God tests our integrity in little things. A person who is not faithful in his private life, will find it difficult to be faithful in his public ministries. Often it is not the big things,

but the small things that we do within our heart, in our private life, that helps us grow like Christ.

A faithful Christian needs to develop the heart of a servant. The Jewish carpenter who walked on earth two thousand years ago, taught this lesson by washing the feet of his disciples. Jesus never kept himself from doing small things. He prepared breakfast, distributed dinner, played with children and served the sick and needy. Jesus did not consider anything beneath him, and so we should neither. Many saints spent their whole lives serving others: Mother Teresa, Fr. Damian, Don Bosco, the list goes on. Scripture says if we think we are too big to do something, we deceive ourselves. “For if those who are nothing think they are something, they deceive themselves” (Gal 6:3).

God expects us to be faithful to our call, wherever we are. He is more interested in our faithfulness rather than the result



A faithful person can always be trusted. He will do his best to keep promises. He won’t make casual promises, which might be broken. A faithful person never lives for himself and never retires from serving others. God partners with his faithful people to do great things on earth. Those people who do their duties silently, but with great passion and commitment make a big difference to the society they live in.

When I look back, I think I do not have much to boast about my faithfulness. But I realise that who I am now is because of the faithful people around me. It is these people who have taught me the important lessons of faithfulness. The personal integrity and honesty maintained by my Dad even during the toughest time of his life, taught me the importance of integrity and honesty in life. The college lecturer who gave me a treat in a restaurant to motivate me, so that I put more effort into my studies, surprised me with the level of faithfulness he showed in his professional life. The ‘Jesus Youth’ leader, who kept on inviting me to the college prayer meetings regardless of my indifferent responses, taught me the consistency a faithful person should have in his life. The Bible study group leader who never missed a single session, even when he was going through times of personal struggles, showed me how passionate a faithful person should be while doing his duties.

The Word of God confirms that, if we are faithful in small things, God will entrust us with many things.

“Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master” (Mt 25:23). However, the bible confirms that faithfulness is a rare quality. “Many proclaim themselves loyal, but who can find one worthy of trust?” (Proverbs 20:6).

Faithfulness is a gift of Holy spirit. So let us pray to the paraclete, who dwells in our heart to mould us into faithful servants. ■



Antony Kalapurackal is a Software engineer and lives in Brisbane, Australia with his wife Vinita and three children. He has been involved with Jesus Youth for 12 years and is currently part of the Formation team.



To Let God A RESTROOM

All of us have a Spiritual restroom in our life which God provides to flush out our sinfulness and to let God into our life shares **Roby Joshua**

When my project mate told me that she was quitting our project to go into another job, I remembered how just the previous week I was pondering whether the management would renew our work contracts. Between us, I reasoned that she had a far better chance as she was much more experienced than me. I was overawed with the feeling of God's providence, and I quickly went into the restroom to thank my heavenly father with a wholesome heart. Within two days, I received my work contract renewal, and heard from my manager that others who had major roles in the project had not received their renewal, but I had even as the least experienced person. I went for my usual short break to the restroom and remembered again His faithfulness to me.

I take my restroom breaks quite often each day, where I quickly invite God's help especially when I feel that I am not being faithful to my work. The men's restroom is near my cubicle, and it's easy for me to go there and say a quick prayer asking forgiveness for not being faithful at work. Over the years the Lord has convinced me that no matter what state I am in, I can still call him 'Abba Father' (Mat 6:9). Inconsequential as it may sound, I truly believe that in his providence, God is caring for me by always providing a place like the restroom near my cubicle. I can see that over the many years I have changed projects and offices, God has always placed my cubicle space near the restroom, in whichever office I have been. As I started thinking about it more, I realised that the restroom is the place I am reminded of God's presence more than any other time when I am at work, because during my restroom breaks I call on the Father to be with me.

for confession and as soon as I came out of the confessional, the sacristan of the church came to me and asked whether I would like to become a sacristan – so that I can open the church. I realized how God wanted me to come first to His dwelling place, before anyone else came into the church.

Whenever I am tempted in life, this bible verse has always come alive in my life, "No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it" (1 Cor 10:13). And when I get hurt and don't feel like loving people, God gives me the grace, by bringing to mind specific circumstances to pray about and ask for forgiveness – his process of flushing out. He reminds me always that he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9).

I believe God provides everyone with a spiritual 'Restroom', where we will be able to flush out our weaknesses, brokenness and sinfulness, and also 'Let' God into our lives, thereby helping us to experience his fellowship. God has called us to be faithful, as he is faithful. When I look back, I realise how God was always trying to teach me to be faithful in my walk with him. "God, who has called you into fellowship with His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, is faithful" (1 Cor 1: 9). One thing is sure – God is faithful, and His faithfulness reaches the heavens. ■

RELATIONSHIP

Although 'restroom' is the place for flushing human waste, I believe God provides in our lives a Spiritual restroom, where we can flush out sinful thoughts, 'To Let' God dwell inside us. This Spiritual restroom can be a place, person, scenario, or it could be anything where God helps us to enjoy the fellowship of his Son by his Spirit. I experience this faithfulness of God everywhere – in my personal life, family life, ministry life and work life, as St Paul says, "called by his grace" (Gal 1:15). However, above everything else I realise his faithfulness during my weaknesses, sinful situations and while facing temptations.

It is in my weakness that I really see the presence of God more than

anywhere else. Even with the thorn in his flesh, St Paul could boldly confess, "Your grace is sufficient for me". Sometimes I try to run away from the challenges of life by procrastinating or hiding it in the corner of my mind – simply wanting to do nothing about it. Somehow though, God always manages to give me an impulse, which helps me to flush away all negative thoughts, emotions and lack of enthusiasm in the Spiritual restroom and strive to overcome the challenge with His help.

There used to be a time when I was always late for mass. And when one day I missed receiving Holy Communion, with a deep sense of agony in my heart, I went



Roby Joshua is a business analyst by profession and is currently the regional coordinator of Jesus Youth. He lives with his wife Jerlin in Canberra, Australia.

FAMILY IN FOCUS

Everything Else Followed

Raifiel Cyril talks to Rajesh and Silgia about juggling family, ministry, work, and everything in between



It's been 15 years since Rajesh and Silgia made Australia their home. Moving from Kerala in 2003, little did they know about the miraculous journey that awaited them. Rajesh encountered Christ while he was in 10th grade and, Silgia in her sixth grade. This family was instrumental in sowing the first seeds of Jesus Youth in Australia. They are blessed with six kids. Here's a peek into their lives.

Rajesh, tell us more about your teenage years and your involvement with Jesus Youth.

Rajesh: I was a troubled teenager and did not like how my family treated me. I always wanted to be with friends. While preparing for medical entrance exam, I decided to go for a retreat. During the retreat, I experienced a transformation and accepted Jesus as the Lord of my life and also as my friend.

Soon, I became very active in Jesus Youth leading the campus ministry and starting prayer groups. It was through the movement, especially with the support of elders, that I developed a personal relationship with Christ.

What brought you to Australia?

In 1998, my dad passed away in an accident. I had just finished my Lab technology course and my brother had already moved to Australia. I had to move back to be with my mother and grandfather. I was a little upset as my career was sidelined. For almost four years, I was jobless. I was forced to take care of our family farm. Through those difficult times, JY leaders helped me to stay positive and I kept praying for God's will to be revealed in my life.

After my grandfather passed away, I decided to join my brother in Australia but didn't get a visa until 2003. During those years of waiting, God gave me the understanding that my migration to Australia was for a mission, not a career. After reaching Australia, in two weeks, I got a full-time job as a Medical scientist. In the same year, I married Silgia.

Silgia tell us what was happening in your life at this time?

Growing up, our family had a lot of financial issues and I just wanted to go abroad and make money and provide for my family. But, I knew that God was the only solution to every problem. Phil 4:19 says 'My God will supply all my needs'. It was then this



Being able to experience God at a young age is awesome. It led me into a life of freedom which I still enjoy

marriage happened. I was 24 and had just finished my nursing course. In those early years with God, my character developed and I was able to surrender everything in God's hand.

How was life in Australia for you?

Rajesh: I was always working and had to be on call even on Sundays. But, the Lord kept reminding me that I was here for mission, and not for a career. I worked for two years. We were in Leongatha, a town which was two-and-a-half hours from Melbourne. We got in touch with a few JYs who moved from India and started gathering on a monthly basis in Melbourne. All members had to be picked up and dropped so gathering was pretty much a full day affair.

In 2005, we had our first child and we had a sense that we must move to Melbourne and pursue the ministry we started. Soon, we moved to Melbourne. Initially, we didn't have any work. Then we both took up part time jobs so that we could spend time for the Kingdom. After that I never returned to full time work.

Silgia: For Rajesh Ministry was the first priority. I always went according to what he chose. I was worried about our move to Melbourne because there was no assurance of work. But soon, God blessed us with work.

Tell us about your beautiful family.

Rajesh: Over the years God has blessed us with six children. We are a busy household with work, ministry, and family needs. We are able to do this by keeping things flexible in our life instead of having set-in-stone plans. We trust God to guide our paths. My primary duty is to be available for His work.

That must involve a lot of sacrifices?

Rajesh: Well, there are only 24 hours in a day. So it is difficult. Sometimes I am not there for a few days and Silgia and the kids don't see me. I also never worked full time and that means we don't earn much. In 2004, I could have got in to a full-time career. However, after many days of prayer and discernment, I moved to a job where I could be more available for ministry.

Silgia: God always looks at our heart and when we give Him the first priority, He takes care of all our needs. I remember my fifth pregnancy. Rajesh had already booked tickets for Thailand, when we did not know that I was pregnant. I had terrible nausea and was bedridden and wasn't sure how things will work out. However, after he left it was difficult but manageable. God gave me the strength.

What gives you the greatest joy?

Rajesh: Being able to experience God at a young age is awesome. It led me into a life of freedom which I still enjoy.



God always looks at our heart and when we give Him the first priority, He takes care of all our needs

You both grew up in nuclear families and yet you have a large family.

Silgia: During our honeymoon, Rajesh said that we will have many children and I thought he was joking. Though it wasn't planned, God blessed us with children every two years. We have found that it is harder with the second and third child, but after which it becomes easier, as you depend more on God.

How did you cope financially and otherwise?

Silgia: We go with the flow and don't take anything too seriously. At the face of struggles, I ask God to take care of the needs. We don't have any expectations of our children in terms of career or life. Our only prayer is that they have God's grace.

I took a part-time job so that I can take care of our kids. A lot of my friends did higher studies and are now in top positions with enviable salaries. But we decided to seek first the kingdom of God and trust everything else to follow. God gave us wisdom to spend our money wisely. Interestingly, we seemed to have more than what families with higher incomes and less children had. That is God's grace.

How do you discipline your children and instil faith in them?

Rajesh and Silgia: We make sure we talk a lot to the children. They will have ups and downs but we give them time and space to grow. We do not offer too much correction and protection. We don't want them to live in a cocoon; we want them to experience life. Our earnest prayer is that they will know Jesus as their personal saviour. However, we don't force faith down their throat which could lead to rebellion. We don't force them to make long prayers.

We keep a variety in our prayer times together. We try to have meals together but that doesn't always happen. We have vacation every year and go for mass and JY gatherings together. We are more focused on their final victory rather than the time they spend in prayer right now.

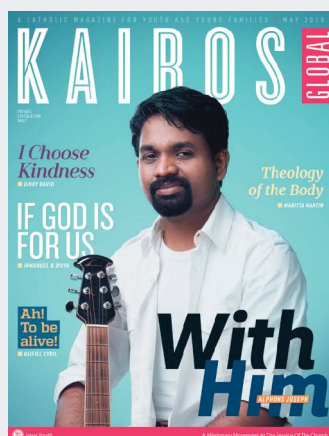
Awesome. Do you want to make any concluding remarks?

Rajesh and Silgia: God has blessed us in many ways and helped us to grow in every way, financially, talents, gifts. We have an underlying conviction that our gifts are for God's glory. So, we don't allow those gifts like work and children to become hindrances to serving God. We don't struggle much because we place God first. Everything else follows. ■■



Raifiel Cyril is a writer, counsellor, national council member of JY Australia and part of the Kairos Global Editorial Council. She lives with her husband, Cyril Abraham in Canberra, Australia.

FEEDBACK



I really love Kairos Global magazine. Every article in it - The article that I love the most is about the TOB. I read the last month's TOB series, and I was eagerly waiting for the next issue. The writer has explained it in such a simplified manner. Also, the write-up about Sapna Tracy is beautiful.

Rini Varghese - JY Mumbai.

Kairos global is a beautiful initiative by people behind this, for bringing out inspiring testimonials from Jesus youth across the globe, I really liked the concept of bringing out the experiences of diverse people in various life situations, in one magazine! Praying for the team and it's initiative

Lince Mathew - Delhi

Praise God! I am not a person who is fond of reading. But Kairos Global attracts me with its colorful presentation, easy language and real life stories, and I make sure I read it completely. The most interesting part is the quiz which makes us go through the Bible automatically at least for the prize which in turn helps us learn more about Christ.

Sneha Merin Philip - Hyderabad, India

Kairos Global - Wonderful gift to new Priest or a new congregation... always need to keep 2 or three copies in travel bag.

Subin Paul, Cochin - India

I read the may edition of Kairos Global was for the first time. I usually don't read much but the attractive pictures and topics made me start. I loved all the articles. The simple language made it easy to understand, the experiences shared in it touched me and made me feel like being a better person. The may edition focused on kindness and I realized how much it is needed and how powerful our small deeds of kindness can be. It inspired me to be kind to others and to be kind at home itself. The Theology of the Body was quite deep in meaning and in simple language. The testimonies shared made my faith stronger. It was so awesome to read about people living their lives for Jesus.

To summarize Kairos Global is a beautiful magazine that has touched me and has inspired me not just to be a better person but also to read more about my faith and love Jesus more and to serve him in every small deed I do.

Abigail Pinto - Mumbai, India

Very well connecting to heart!! Valuable and priceless gift for me as a YOUTH

Prem Bonaventure - Kerala, India

Kairos Magazine is an excellent tool for spreading the Gospel among youngsters, and it is an essential reading material for today's Teens, Youth and Families. It can serve as a guideline for everyone. Reading Kairos is like attending a retreat. Kairos knows the pulse of youth and discusses topics that are relevant for them. Thanks to all the people working behind Kairos.

Bejoy Mathew - National Coordinator, JY UK

I appreciate the quality of your magazine! It's a great resource for all the Christians around the world. It's fresh and Christ centered. Great job with content!

Adlin Linda - Chennai, India

Kairos global has been improved tremendously in content and appearance. 5th issue is very impressive. God's grace and peace be with you all.

Rani George - Cochin, India

FAMILIA

THE BEAUTY OF THE KNOT



Mary Jacob
shares a few
anecdotes from
her 14-year-old
matrimonial
journey

It was a special day. As I walked into the church in my wedding dress, with little understanding on the beauty of marriage, but very mindful of my appearance, I didn't know what I was getting into. Now, it's been 14 years.

When I look back, there are a few things that kept me going on this journey. "You did not choose me, I chose you." John 15:16 "See I have inscribed you on the palms of my hands." Isaiah 49:16

The knowledge and awareness that I am a child of God, and I have been loved by Him before I loved Him, helped me fundamentally. Whenever I feel neglected, not heard, not loved, and when I sat with the deep feelings of hurt, I threw myself into His presence. That's where I could experience the unconditional love of my Father.

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11

When faced with challenges, I easily stumbled. It was my husband's faith that helped us to move forward. He kept saying, "It's His plan" or "He will provide." Faith helped us to find comfort in our daily life. This verse (Jer 29:11) was our shortcut to peace. But, it was not easy; to remember the verse, to meditate upon it or even to think about this promise. But when we came together, with just sighs and no words, we learned to put our trust in Him. He was alive even in our silence. I realized that if He has called us by name and chose us according to His plans, then He has also provided the grace through the sacrament of marriage; because marriage itself is a three way covenant - between God man and woman. "Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit." John 15 :2

The pain which the trials brought were unbearable for me. Very often I experienced a spiritual numbness. Though I knew He was carrying me, His silence was deafening. When my younger daughter throw tantrums, I always keep an eye on her without her noticing. Though it might look like I am ignoring her, all I want is

I realized that if He has called us by name and chose us according to His plans, then He has also provided the grace through the sacrament of marriage; because marriage itself is a three way covenant - between God man and woman





her to understand that her behaviour is unacceptable. Every time a crisis is over, I always think of the journey of Israelites. If they had reached Canaan in three days, they might not experience the providence of our God.

“Wives, be subject to your husbands as you are to the Lord.” Ephesians 5:22

It was hard for me to bring into practice the above Word of God because we live in a culture of equality and feminism. I have argued and heard arguments regarding the above Word. But, I have learned that when we submit ourselves to the will of our husbands over a matter, even though in our minds their decisions doesn't make any sense, God can and will intervene either to bless or to change the decision. Obedience always brings blessings and we could be good role models to our children.

“Because the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband who believes.” 1 Corinthians 7:14

Some of my personal challenges stays like the thorn St. Paul mentioned

Our pain is important in His eyes and it helps in sanctifying ourselves and our loved ones around

in 2 Cor 12:7 where I prayed to see a change, but remains unchanged. When I happened to read the above Word one day, I got the answer for my prayer, “My grace is enough for you, for my power is manifested fully in weakness” (2 Cor 12:9). At the face of challenges, when I trust in Him and submit myself to His plans, in His time, I have seen changes happening. He wanted me to trust Him more and while I waited for this to pass, He

was sanctifying me. Our pain is important in His eyes and it helps in sanctifying ourselves and our loved ones around. I was amazed by my grandmother's faith. When I noticed her struggles and asked how she responded to the situation calmly, this was her response. “Suffering quietly without any complaints has big rewards in heaven and the road to heaven is not easy.”

When a man and woman come together in marriage, it's not only their bodies, but their personalities, culture, faith, family, everything has to find a place and should be in perfect harmony. This is where we need the help of the Holy Spirit to discern what to do in particular situations. We are two unique individuals; our food habits are varied, our music is different, he is very organised, where I am not; he eats fast, I eat slow; he likes to work hard in the vegetable patch, I only like to pick the fruits; I am a good sleeper, but he is not, and the list goes on. God's love is not based on any of the differences, our achievements or tolerance levels; but it is unconditional and His mercy is never ending. ■



Mary Jacob is a social worker and the animator for Jesus Youth Canberra. She lives with her husband and three kids in Canberra, Australia.

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NewsWatch

CHALO MADHYA PRADESH Teens Team India

The 13th edition of Chalo - Jesus Youth Teens Ministry's Annual Exposure Program, was held at Madhya Pradesh from May 7 – 19, 2018. The first phase was a three-day retreat followed by four days mission training, which took place in Sacchidanand ashram at Narshingpur, Madhya Pradesh. There were 16 vibrant teenagers of 8th - 10th grade from diverse cultures and states like Chhattisgarh, Kerala, Karnataka, Telangana, and Maharashtra. After the first phase, the teenagers were split up in smaller groups and sent forth for a taste of mission experience into three villages. The uniqueness about this year's Chalo Mission was that teenagers were able to share Christ to non-Christians. They were eager to learn creative ways of sharing the love of God through their actions, words and prayers. Also, in this give and take opportunity they felt how blessed they are to have received and known Christ. They were also able to experience a village life, so different from their own, in the absence of all the comfort and with bare minimum necessities, yet learning how to be happy in those circumstances, being grateful and glorifying God. They went back with this missionary zeal to share the love of Christ in their daily mission areas like family, school, friend, society and took some small spiritual and social commitments on an individual level. This was definitely a life changing experience for all of us who were a part of Chalo Madhya Pradesh.



Summer Camp 2018 TEENS TEAM INDIA

ALAN JACOB TOM - INDIA

Summer Camp 2018, an initiative of Jesus Youth Teens Ministry was held at Pune from May 10 -14 with 32 participants (12th graders) from 12 states of India. The theme of the camp was "Anything you do, do for the glory of the God." The five days camp helped the teenagers to grow closer to God even when he or she enjoys their life to the fullest.



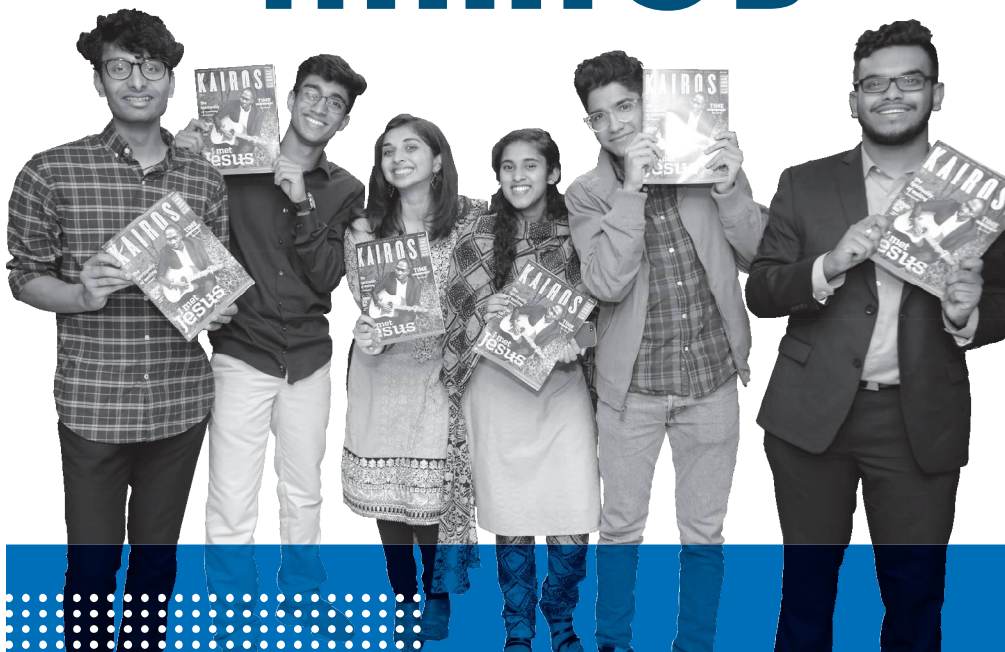
African Mission Training UGANDA

BEJESH SOLOMON - UAE



The JY GCC team organized an African Mission training from April 28 to May 3, 2018 at the Daniel Comboni center in Kampala, Uganda. We had 23 leaders from Qatar, UAE, Oman, SD, Kuwait, and Bahrain in addition to the 15 leaders from Uganda attending the training. Subin Jacob, Reji Karot, and Fr Francis (Nagaland) also joined us from India. On the first day, the local team in Uganda gave us a detailed overview on how the African Mission was initiated and matured till its present stage. Next two days, Kibii Maiyo from Kenya shared effective and practical ways to witness our faith to people from other religions. There were outreaches to a few villages on the last two days. We had some heart-warming experiences as we met with parishioners at a parish, engaged with children at a primary school and prayed with a few families below the poverty line at their homes. We found the people very receptive to the Gospel and got a glimpse of the immense opportunity to do mission there. Overall, this was a very refreshing and eye-opening experience for all the participants.

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Chandeliers

MODERN SAINTS

* St Rita of Cascia

By Bernadette Avinash



Born: 1381 in Cascia

Died: May 22, 1457

In the small village of Roccaporena, near Cascia in Italy, Rita Lotti was born to her aging parents Antonio and Amata Lotti, who considered her birth as a miracle from God. Her parents were well respected as peacemakers in the village. Rita grew up very closely associated with the Augustinian nuns, and yet was obedient to her parents' decision to get married to Paolo Mancini at the age of twelve. She had two sons Giovanni Antonio and Paulo

Maria with Paolo.

Due to the then prevailing political tension, during those times often there was constant rivalry between noble families. Paolo had a bad reputation as a man of violent temper and in his anger he often mistreated Rita. In all these difficult situations, Rita always only pursued peace and prayer. Her constant love towards her spouse despite his behaviour, slowly influenced Paolo to become a better man, even to renouncing a family feud between the Mancinis and Chiquis. However, he was unfortunately betrayed and killed by one of his allies.

Following her husband's death, Rita publicly forgave his murderers. But her teenage sons were slowly getting influenced by the society to exact revenge. Nevertheless, Rita prayed for

peace and eventually convinced her sons also to do the same. But within a year, both her sons succumbed to a deadly disease, leaving Rita not only a widow, but childless. In such deep sorrow Rita continued to find consolation in the love of god. She felt the call to enter religious life at the Augustinian convent.

But the sisters there refused her request as there were members of her rival family at the convent, and because this would be detrimental to community harmony. So, inspired by her 3 patron saints – St. Augustine, St. Nicholas and John the Baptist, Rita set out to bring peace between the families. Her earnest approach of genuine peace and love towards the families brought about a huge change in Cascia. The families soon exchanged the embrace of peace. At 36, Rita entered the Augustinian convent. She spent most of her time in the convent in deep contemplation, prayer, spiritual reading and works of charity.

Around 15 years before her death, while she was in deep prayer before the crucified Christ on a Good Friday, Rita was united with Jesus in his suffering through a wound caused by a thorn from his crown. The wound remained open till the day of her death. On her death bed one of her relatives visited her and asked her if she had any special wish. Rita requested for a rose from the family garden. It was January's tough winter, and there was hardly any hope of finding a flower. But when the relative returned home, she found a rose at the same place described by Rita. She plucked and presented the miraculous rose to Rita.

Rita died peacefully on May 22, 1457. Her body is uncorrupted at the Basilica of Cascia.

Her life is a challenge to every man and woman, to never give up, even in the toughest of situations. And in everything to find peace and to pursue peace. She is known as Patroness of Impossible Causes

Her life is a challenge
to every man and
woman, to never
give up, even in the
toughest of situations

Quick Facts:

1381

*Born: 1381 in
Cascia*

1457

Died: May 22, 1457

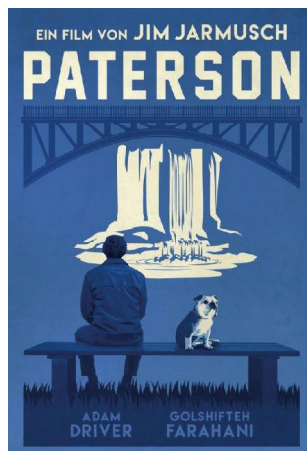
1626

Beatified: 1626

1900

*Canonized:
May 24, 1900*

SOUNDREPLY



MOVIE

PATERSON (RECOMMENDED FOR AGE 15 AND ABOVE)

One of the great temptations for humanity has always been the desire to find happiness in something, or by being 'someone else'. In the garden

of Eden, we read how the serpent played on Adam and Eve's desire to "be like God". And when God gave Israelites the law through Moses, he reserved a few of them to address this innate nature of humanity – "Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant ... nor any thing that is thy neighbour's" (Ex 20:17).

Paterson is a simple movie which deals with a bus driver, who is plainly content with who he is, and what he has. It is a 2016 award winning drama, directed by Jim Jarmusch. The story shows a week (beginning from Monday) in the life of Paterson (played skilfully and subtly by Adam Driver), a bus driver in the city of Paterson, New Jersey. Besides driving the bus, Paterson also keeps a secret notebook in which he writes his poems. His poems are about the daily simple mundane things he comes across in his day; yet through those poems we get a glimpse of the rich inner life of this man – who though one might be quick to consider stuck in a seemingly un-rewarding job, yet somehow transcends his circumstances. He loves his job as a bus driver, he loves his poems and he loves his city, Paterson.

Love – love is what makes Paterson different from most

other people. Above everything else Paterson loves his wife, Laura. Laura and Paterson are diametrically opposite personalities, there is hardly anything in common between the two, other than their genuine mutual love for each other. The way in which each expresses this love is also extremely different, yet we see how each, and in particular Paterson, makes that extra effort to enter into the world of the other, truly making the effort to love the other where he/she is most comfortable.

One might assume that it is this conjugal love that gives Paterson the footing to be comfortable as who he is, where he is. He doesn't aspire for anything or to be anyone other than him – waking up early in the morning at the same time, eating the same breakfast every day and driving the same bus 23 all day through the same city; having his lunch at the same spot overlooking the Great Falls, taking his wife's dog for a walk in the evening and having a beer at the same bar each day. His routines don't change, but rather than making him bored or

Paterson is an ode to a life of pure love, lived daily with its challenges and struggles

frustrated, each new day brings a freshness into him, which overflows as poetry and the warmth of his love towards his surroundings, enabling him to notice things that another might miss. It is this same love that gives Laura the foundation to aspire and dream for greatness, whether it be getting rich through her cupcake business or becoming one day a great country singer. Their mutual love gives each the freedom to fully flourish and be the person each one is. Dreams and aspirations by themselves are neither a virtue nor a vice. What makes Paterson and Laura unique is that they have the gift of 'the present' – they neither live trapped in their past, nor in the hope of a better future – they live 'the present' of now, and with lots of love.

It is a movie of two Paterson's – the city of Paterson, and Paterson, the bus driver, who cherishes the city with its history, landmarks and its people, including William Carlos Williams, Paterson's favourite poet. Underlying everything is the theme of Paterson's poems, which forms the lifeblood of the movie.

This movie is like a poem, and it is in no haste – it proceeds gently, like the natural rhythm of a poem, and of course, there are no great twists or turns in it, for Paterson is an ode to a life of pure love, lived daily with its challenges and struggles.



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.



Blooming KIDS

WANT TO KNOW YOUR SPECIAL POWER?

Jaimi Santhosh explains that we are also superheroes with special powers and our weapon is love

Have you watched the Avengers movies and wanted to be like the Marvel superheroes? Have you dreamt of flying like Superman or being as strong as Thor? We may not be able to fly up in the air or tear down buildings but we can still be superheroes in our own homes and schools. The Marvel superheroes have one thing in common; they use their power to help other people. Ironman uses his intelligence to make the world a safe place. Spider-man uses his ability to save people. The bulky Thor always fights for a cause using his hammer.

We are also superheroes and our weapon is love. In St Paul's Letter to the Corinthians, Jesus reminds us that the weapons we possess are very different from what we see in this world. Unlike other weapons, love can be used in all situations and it is the strongest weapon of all. It does not need to be physically sharpened, it becomes sharper with use.

When we look into the lives of saints, we can see that they all became heroes for

Christ through love. St Theresa of Calcutta once said, "Wash the plate, not because it is dirty, not because you are told but because you love the person who will use it next." St Theresa is asking us to help others not because we have to, but out of love for them. So next time, instead of waiting to be asked by your parents, try washing the dishes out of love for your family.

As a superhero, we should not be afraid to make use of our powers. We do not need to be in disguise like the Marvel superheroes. One of the ways to use our superpower is by showing love to those who might have hurt you, by forgiving them. St Maria Goretti was a superhero just like us all. On her death bed, she was able to forgive the person who caused her death out of her love towards others. She used her weapon of love even while she was suffering. Her life is a perfect example of the best use of love.

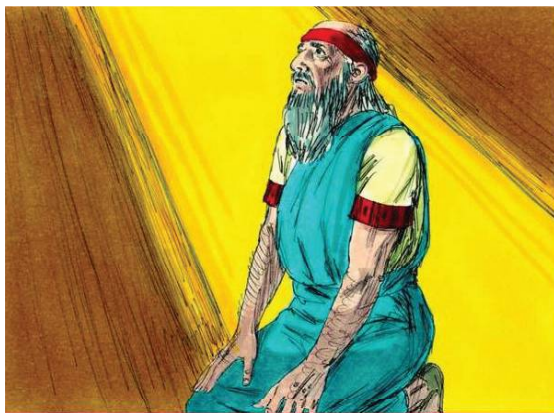
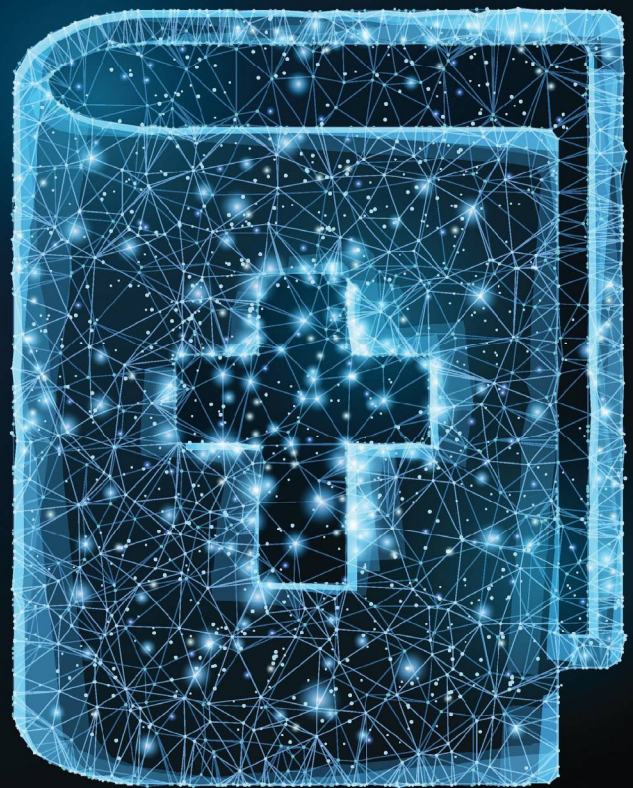
Let us pray together: Jesus, help me to use the weapon of love in my life. **||**



Jaimi Santhosh is a student of Health and Safety, and she lives in Queensland, Australia. She is part of the Youth Team in Jesus Youth Queensland.



IDENTIFY
THE BIBLE
INCIDENT
AND THE
BOOK OF THE
BIBLE THAT
DESCRIBES
THE INCIDENT.



QUIZTIME

Part 1

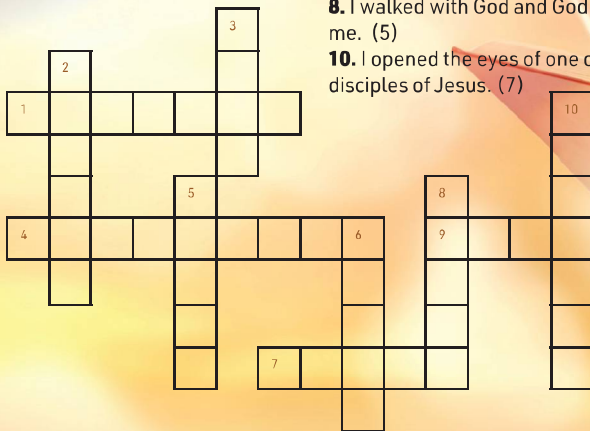
CROSS word

Across

1. A female Judge. (7)
4. Beginning of Wisdom (4, 2, 3)
7. Quality that can move mountains. (5)
9. A place where Jesus performed the miracle of raising from the dead. (4)

Down

2. Wrestling with God. (6)
3. I am a part of the first temple of Jerusalem. (4)
5. My name is mentioned in the old and new testaments. (5)
6. I will not stretch my hand out against Lord's anointed. (5)
8. I walked with God and God took me. (5)
10. I opened the eyes of one of the disciples of Jesus. (7)



Part 2

is based on certain popular verses in the Bible. Identify the related Bible character.

1. "Are you still maintaining your integrity? Curse God and die!"
2. "Who made you ruler and judge over us? Are you thinking of killing me as you killed the Egyptian?"
3. "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord".
4. "What have I to do with thee, O thou man of God? Art thou come unto me to call my sin to remembrance, and to slay my son?"
5. "What then is this child going to be?"
6. "I will pin David to the wall".
7. "Blessed be Abram of God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth; And blessed be God Most High, Who has delivered your enemies into your hand."
8. "The battle is not yours, but God's..."
9. "Surely, you don't mean me, Rabbi?" Jesus answered, "You have said so".
10. "You are a Jew, yet you live like a Gentile and not like a Jew. How is it, then, that you force Gentiles to follow Jewish customs?"

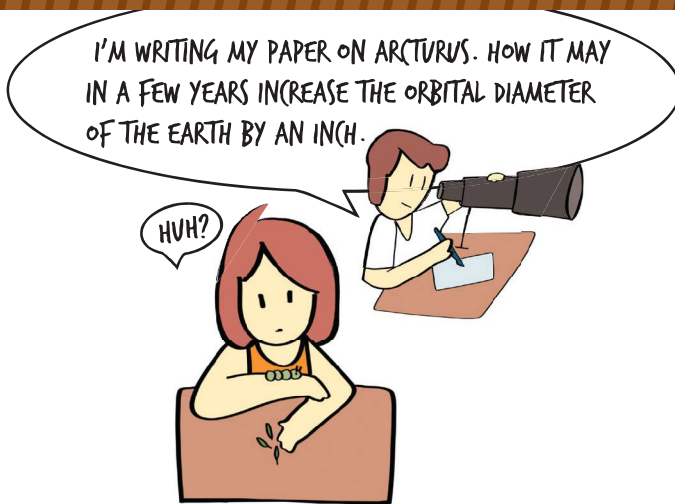
Mail your answers to quiztime@kairos.global before 31st July 2018. The winner will be rewarded with 1 year subscription of **Kairos Global**.

MAY Edition Quiztime Winner is
Jaisy Baby Joy, Auckland, New Zealand



Lukas and Ray

By Steffi Andrat



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

SAINT JOHN PAUL II



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