



THE PATRICIAN

Speaking the Truth in Love (Eph 4:15)

January 2015

MESSAGE FROM PARISH PRIEST

Dear Parishioners,

On behalf of the clergy of St. Patrick's Church, I take this opportunity to wish each one of you and your families a Happy New Year, 2015. May the Lord Jesus richly bless all of you in this year.

The New Year brings about many new things, one of them being 'The Patrician', which we are proud to reintroduce in this parish after a few years of its absence. We hope that this newsletter will foster a greater unity in the parish and will contribute to its spiritual growth and welfare.

The objective of the newsletter is to provide our parishioners with relevant parish news, announcements, information on various programs as well as certain articles on the Catholic faith.

St. Patrick's Church recently mourned the sad demise of Mr. Anthony Rajesh, who worked in the church office, and will be sorely missed by all of us. Rajesh was a dedicated worker who spent most of his waking hours for the welfare of the parish. He was resourceful, committed and did anything that was assigned to him with a sense of responsibility that was commendable. Besides his mother, he leaves behind a widowed wife and a son who is not yet a year old and who suffers from a heart ailment.

FAREWELL, ANTHONY RAJESH

ANTHONY RAJESH, the familiar face around our Parish is no more! Cruelly snatched by the jaws of death, in the prime of his life, leaving behind a young wife, a 6 month old infant with a heart problem and an aged mother—it is a great loss to all who knew him. Death shows mercy to no one.

Rajesh served in the parish office for over 7 years, till his death on 28th Dec. 2014. Always a cheerful, accommodating and willing worker, he spent most of his day at St. Patrick's, never saying 'no' to any service that was requested of him. A young lad of 19 years when he was first appointed, immature and with no sense of direction, he allowed himself to be taught and moulded by those whom he worked under. He grew in maturity and responsibility over the years and developed a good rapport with all who interacted with him. Any advice given to him was always appreciated and accepted in the right spirit and he never hesitated

The Parish Council has supported me in my desire to have a Trust Fund to support his immediate loved ones. Details about how to contribute are available in this issue. I exhort you to contribute generously.

Marriage is a living sign that truly communicates the love of Christ for the Church. We hope you will appreciate the testimony of Mr. Bansy and Mrs. Arathi Kalappa on how the Marriage Encounter programme enriched their marriage. In addition, this issue of the Patrician contains updates on the parish, articles on Apologetics and on the Year of the Consecrated Life.

We hope that henceforth, the Patrician will benefit the parish in a truly remarkable manner. We ask for the blessings of Almighty God, as well as the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary and our patron, St. Patrick, over the Patrician, that it may truly enrich all the faithful of this parish.

May God bless you all

Fr. A. Sagayanathan
Parish Priest

to ask for it when he felt he needed it. Service with a smile, and serving the Parish all 7 days of the week, he rarely took a day off. On many occasions he was expected to be at several places at the same time, but took everything in his stride with the refrain "do not fear when I am here!" A vital link for all that happened at St. Patrick's, he was the experienced 'trouble shooter' when the situation demanded it. Many a time he enlisted my help, to convince and appease his wife that his presence at the church, beyond working hours, was a pressing need of the moment. A pity that death snatched him when he was on a short vacation!

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ENRICH YOUR MARRIAGE - THE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER PROGRAMME

The Marriage Encounter (ME) is a 44-hour programme conducted over a weekend, where couples get away from the distractions of everyday life and focus on each other. Instead of simply listening to lectures, they actually focus on improving their marriage. Couples discover their vocation and their calling to be a sign of God's love in this world. They learn intimate ways of communication, which renews and rekindles their love for each other and their matrimonial sacrament comes alive. In a strong endorsement of the programme, St. Pope John Paul II said "I place much of my hope for the future in Worldwide Marriage Encounter."

Let's hear what Arathi and Bansy, a couple with 2 children, who are now resource persons at the Family Welfare Centre of the Bangalore Archdiocese, have to say about how the Marriage Encounter programme made their 'normal' marriage great.

Arathi: Both Bansy and I come from Hindu backgrounds. We both had our personal experience of Jesus and accepted Him as our Lord and saviour separately, four years apart from each other.

Bansy: We were married in 1999 - but both got baptized together in the year 2002. Thereafter the Lord blessed us with two beautiful children.

Arathi: In the beginning, life seemed beautiful and rosy and a bright future lay ahead. But as the responsibilities of bringing up children and work took its toll, our relationship went into a downward spiral. Day-by-day our fights increased.

Bansy: Arathi having lived in a hostel from her early childhood, and I having been brought up in a close-knit family, were very different personalities. I did not understand marriage was a Sacrament and my objective was to lord it over my wife. I had seen my father being the 'Boss' and the head of the family and thought it the right thing to do. He never helped in the household chores and with the children. My mother not only did all the chores, but patiently waited on him. When my wife failed to be like my mother, it led to strife and even bitterness.

Arathi: Having grown up in a hostel, I was fiercely independent and believed in equality in all matters.

Due to this difference in our upbringing and background, there was a lot of confusion in our roles as a couple. Looking after the children alone, I would invariably be tired and worn out by the time Bansy got back home from work, which was almost always after 9.00 pm. I would be irritable and vent all my frustration on him. As the children grew up, the differences in our disciplining styles came to the fore. I, being a strict parent, wouldn't hesitate to scold or beat the children. Bansy would hate that and object to my style of disciplining - even in the presence of the children. That would upset me even more. Due to the baggage we carried we were not in a position to help ourselves.

Bansy: When we first attended the ME weekend, we both knew we could do with some help. Arathi's main complaint was my late hours of work which barely gave us time to talk and listen to each other. ME has enabled us to share and communicate our feelings to each other in the form of dialogue. After we did ME, I understood that matrimony is a continuous call to love my spouse.

Arathi: Though we had our differences we always thought we had a good marriage. We always apologized and prayed together. We used to give our marriage a 7/10 but now ME has given us the opportunity to look deeply into our relationship and now we give full marks to our marriage. Now as I feel the understanding from his side, I don't feel rejected and as a result the bouts of anger have decreased in intensity and frequency.

Arathi and Bansy: So we do hope some of you have identified with us as we have shared our own experience. Now there is an opportunity for you to deepen your own marriage. Come and Experience it!!!

The next Marriage Encounter weekend is planned from 6pm on 13 February to 5 pm on 15 February, 2015.

Venue: Montfort Spirituality Centre, Old Madras Road

Please contact Bansy at +91 9980914196 or Arathi at +91 9980589350 to enroll for the programme.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter
website: www.wwme.org

Bansy and Arathi Kalappa

Fellowship Brunch - *Cherian Ramapuram*

The Parish Pastoral Council organized a Fellowship Brunch on Sunday, 14th December, the third of its kind in 2014. The brunch was planned as a celebration of the spirit of Christmas for the parishioners. The day saw an array of food stalls selling a wide variety of delicious dishes to cater to different tastes. A large number of parishioners attended the event, which was open from 8.30 AM to 1.00 PM. A spirit of fellowship and good cheer prevailed. Most attendees agreed that the brunch was indeed an enjoyable way to fellowship and it was well appreciated. A big "Thank You" to all those who worked hard to organize the same and also to all those who prepared the many delicious food items.

THIS IS OUR FAITH: SOLA SCRIPTURA - IS THE BIBLE ENOUGH?

Daniel & Theo are two friends who are God-fearing Catholics; but Daniel has been having few doubts with regards to some catholic teachings. This Sunday, Daniel was particularly vexed about the homily of the parish priest and as they bumped into each other after Mass, Theo being a good old friend of Daniel, knew straight away that Daniel was being troubled by something and began by having a go at Daniel. Let's see how their conversation went.

Theo: Hi Danny, what's up? You look like a man filled with the joy of the Holy Spirit this morning. I can say for sure, it's the effect of the Mass. *(Theo was beaming).*

Daniel: Come on Theo, don't bug me. You know very well that I don't like it when priests start reading from the Bishop's letters, important as they may be, on any subject during the Mass. Why can't they just read the Bible and interpret as the Lord leads them?

Theo: Danny, do you know that the New Testament was written by pretty much the first Bishops? This should give you an idea of how important the role of the Bishop is in the church. But before I delve deeper into the importance and role of the Bishop, let me tell you something about Sacred Scriptures, aka The Bible; just like a round stool must have at least 3 legs to stand firm, the Catholic Church too stands on the triple foundation of the Scripture, Sacred Tradition and the Magisterium.

Daniel *(a bit more irritated now):* What? Why not the Bible alone? That's The Word of God.

Theo: Can you tell me where is it written in the Bible that you can find answers to all faith and church related issues in the Bible alone?

Daniel: Hmmm, I don't think I can recollect.

Theo: You can't recollect because it isn't written anywhere in the Bible. In fact, at the end of the Gospel of John it is expressly written, ***"But there are also many other things which Jesus did; were every one of them to be written, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be***

written" which implies that there existed matters even during the times of the apostles, which though not written about anywhere, we still need to know. We surely need the Bible as it is, but we also need the Tradition, as passed on by the apostles - the unwritten deposit of faith, carefully handed down the generations till today. Let me remind you of the verse from 2Thes 2:15. ***"So then, brethren, stand firm and hold to the traditions which you were taught by us, either by word of mouth or by letter"*** and also 1Cor 11:2 where Paul writes ***"I commend you because you remember me in everything and maintain the traditions even as I have delivered them to you."***

Daniel: But, shouldn't we believe in the Bible alone? After all, it is the Word of God!

Theo: But the Bible itself says that there is more to the Christian faith than what it contains. There is another aspect to it. Do you know that the Bible as we see, know and read today, did not even exist in the same form for the first few centuries after the resurrection? You see, in the first few centuries, there was no such thing as the 27 books of the New Testament, including the four Gospels, all neatly bound and called "The Bible". All these 27 books, along with many other good as well as unauthentic books/epistles, were being read from in various churches in the first 2-3 centuries separately (i.e. not bound together). So if Christians have to believe in the Bible alone, then does that make all believers of the first three to four centuries non-Christians? Definitely not!

Daniel: Now you've got me thinking, bro. But, who got these 27 books and the Old Testament together?

Theo: Aah... that's where the Magisterium comes into the picture. That's another story, perhaps for another day. It will give you an even better idea of why the Bishop is so important for the church. It's a bit late in the morning already and I have to buy some groceries before I get back home, else my wife will not let me in. Bye Daniel.

Daniel: Thanks Theo, seems like the Catholic Church is a lot deeper than I thought. Looking forward to next time. Bye.

Anil Thomas
ICPE Mission

New Projector System installed in St. Patrick's Church

St. Patrick's Church has taken another step towards modernization with the installation of 4 projectors & screens to project the words of the hymns, and also the responses to the Readings and the Prayers. The projectors currently cover the left and right transepts; and the left and right aisles of the nave. The projector system was first used for the Christmas midnight Mass and greatly aided the participation of all the faithful in the celebration of the Mass.

FAREWELL, ANTHONY RAJESH (Contd. from page 1)

A person of humble means, always feeling empathy for the other, he did everything in his capacity to reach out. His deep involvement and camaraderie with the boys of St. Patrick's Home endeared him to them and they affectionately addressed him as "Rajesh-anna". They will indeed feel his absence immensely.

RAJESH will be greatly missed around the Parish. We offer our deepest condolences to the bereaved family. May his Soul Rest in Peace.

Rosaline Farias
Secretary, St. Patrick's Parish Council

In appreciation of his services to the Parish, a trust fund has been set up to ensure the welfare of his son, both in terms of health and education. We request you to be generous and contribute towards this fund. You can make your contributions in cash or cheque at the Parish Office. Please write your cheques to Anthony Rajesh Memorial Trust.

2015 - YEAR OF THE CONSECRATED LIFE

The consecrated life is at the very heart of the Church as a decisive element for her mission, since it "manifests the inner nature of the Christian calling and the striving of the whole Church, as Bride, towards union with her one Spouse." (Pope John Paul II, Vita Consecrata, n.3) The Church has just recently opened the Year of the Consecrated Life on 30th November, 2014 and it is scheduled to close on 2nd February, 2016, the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord and the World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life.

The objectives of the Year will be firstly, 'a grateful remembrance of the past', secondly 'embracing the future with hope' and thirdly, 'living the present with passion'. In a letter to the religious titled 'Rejoice!' Pope Francis wrote, "I want to say one word to you and this word is joy. Wherever consecrated people are, there is always joy!" May the year of the religious lead us to appreciate the gift of the Consecrated Life and let us pray for an abundance of vocations to the consecrated life.

Nigel Furtado

RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES WITHIN OUR PARISH

- a) **Daily Mass:** 6am, 6.30am (Tamil), 7am, 1.15pm, 5.30pm. Saturday evening Mass at 6pm (Sunday Liturgy)
- b) **Sunday Mass:** 6am (Kannada), 7.15am (Tamil), 8.30am (Children's Mass), 9.45am, 11am, 6pm
- c) **Eucharistic Adoration:** Every Friday 6pm to 6.45pm
- d) **Adoration Chapel:** Exposition everyday from 6am to 7pm. On Tuesdays, exposition up to 10.30pm.
- e) **Confessions:** Every Saturday 5pm to 6pm at the Adoration Chapel
- f) **Altar Servers Meeting:** Every Saturday immediately after 1.15pm Mass (Contact Fr. Arun Santosh +91-9964729728)
- g) **Faith Formation for children:** Every Sunday after 8.30am Mass - upto 10.30am.
- h) **Legion of Mary:** Meetings every Monday at 4.15pm (Contact Ms. M. Menezes + 91-9845426746)
- i) **Legion of Mary (Tamil):** Meetings every Sunday from 8.30am to 9.30am (Contact Mr. John Leonard +91-9916896446)
- j) **St Vincent de Paul:** Meetings every Tuesday at 6pm (Contact Mr. Moses +91-9844178155)
- k) **Ladies of Charity:** Meetings every first Thursday of the month at 4.30pm (Contact Ms. Stella Monga +918147971118)
- l) **Counseling Centre:** Open every Tuesday from 3pm to 5pm and Friday between 4.30pm to 6.30pm. (Contact +91-80-25587213)

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Please contact us at patricianblr@gmail.com for any feedback/suggestions.

Office Timings:

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

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