



THE PATRICIAN

Speaking the Truth in Love (Eph 4:15)

May 2015

MESSAGE FROM PARISH PRIEST

Dear parishioners,

The month of May each year reminds us in a special way of Mary, the Holy Virgin Mother of God. Pope Paul VI, in his encyclical 'Mense Maio' (29.04.1965) says that "We are delighted and consoled by this pious custom associated with the month of May, which pays honor to the Blessed Virgin and brings such rich benefits to the Christian people. Since Mary is rightly to be regarded as the way by which we are led to Christ, the person who encounters Mary cannot help but encounter Christ likewise. For what other reason do we continually turn to Mary except to seek the Christ in her arms, to seek our Savior in her, through her, and with her?" One of the most frequent false allegation against Catholics is their so-called 'worship' of Mary. Mr. Anil Thomas of the ICPE Mission addresses this issue very creatively through this month's issue of 'This is our Faith'. In this month of May, I urge all of you to take recourse to Mary for all your temporal and spiritual needs, especially through the recitation of her Holy Rosary.

This issue also features the testimony of Ms. Maria Isabel, whose spiritual life was transformed by the Yeshua Adonai youth group, which meets in our Church premises. We are also blessed to have our own parish youth group called 'St. Patrick's Youth' (SPY), which organized a wonderful night vigil in the month of March. I invite all the youth of the parish to join a youth group and grow in their spiritual life and

YESHUA ADONAI

The Mass had just ended. The priest had given the final blessing. A downpour was expected. I made haste to avoid this downpour. This habit of 'making haste' had become a part of my DNA. Belonging to this techno-savvy, push-of-a-button generation, made me forget the meaning of 'waiting'. I made haste to invest time and energy in what I felt were the priorities of my life - a good career, a group of friends who adored me, a seat of honour in my family - this was my bucket list when I hit 20 (the year I had just moved to Bangalore, to work as an Engineer for Nokia).

The Lord often walks in silently when we least expect Him. That particular evening, the good Lord decided to cut through my darkness and throw me a lifeline. A young British boy named Tom Dowle spoke to me as we were waiting for the rains to stop, at the doorstep of St. Patrick's Church (yes! our beloved parish). He invited me to attend the meeting of a youth group named 'Yeshua Adonai Youth' (The youth wing of the ICPE Mission, India). Now, when I look back at this event five years later, I thank the Lord for bringing a

relationship with God.

Jesus tells his disciples, "I am among you as one who serves." (Lk 22:27) Jesus taught by word and example what he wanted his disciples to follow - the path of service. In this light, service has a special significance to the life of a Christian. We thank Ms. Cynthia Fernandes for her article on 'The Significance of Christian Service'. Let us pray in the words of St. Ignatius of Loyola, "Lord teach me to serve you as you deserve...to labour and not ask for any reward, save the knowledge that I am doing your most holy will."

May is also the month in which the Church celebrates important feasts such as the Ascension and Pentecost. The Solemnity of the Ascension reminds us that Christ "ascended, not to distance himself from our lowly state, but that we, his members might be confident of following where he, our Head and Founder, has gone before." (Roman Missal - Preface I of Ascension). As we celebrate the descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, we pray that the same Holy Spirit "will guide us into all truth" (Jn 6:13).

In this month, when we are in a special way united in prayer together with Mary, the Mother of Jesus, we pray that the Holy Spirit descend mightily upon us and transform us daily into the image and likeness of the Risen Christ. Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of thy faithful and enkindle in us the fire of Thy love!

Fr. A. Sagayanathan
Parish Priest

person half way across the globe, to show me what was right there at my doorstep! Thanks to my 'hasty' lifestyle, I had no clue that a youth group met frequently at the building across the road from where I lived and I now shudder as I write this. The Yeshua Adonai Youth Group meetings spent time in worship with music and song, a short teaching or a video by a prominent speaker who expounded the beauty of the catholic faith, and who suggested ways to integrate it tangibly in our day to day lives, a cell group meeting followed where they touched upon everyday struggles and blessings and then concluded with a time of fellowship. Monthly Eucharistic Adoration was also organized and a yearly Residential Retreat, and strangely I felt drawn to these quiet times of refreshing with the Lord. Week after week we met,

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EDITORIAL BOARD

Fr. A Sagayanathan

Ms. Rosaline Farias

Mr. Larry Furtado

YESHUA ADONAI (CONTD. FROM PAGE 1)

we bonded and we shared. The girls and boys in this group had a joy that was infectious. They made me feel wanted. They loved me with a love that did not change with the seasons of life. They rejoiced when I rejoiced and wept when I wept. Week after week they followed up and made sure I came for the fellowship, when I sometimes chose to play the 'lost sheep'.

I did not see an overnight change in me, but in due course, the Lord thawed my frozen heart. Through these people it was Jesus who came as my friend, as my brother, as my sister, as my home away from home, shining His light in all the dark areas of my soul...challenging me...expanding my capacity to love...lavishing his graces on me...slowly and steadily drawing me and others through me, to Himself. The Church suddenly came to life. Jesus became a surer reality than the air that I breathed. A year later, I felt inspired to do a 3 month residential course called the School of Mission, conducted by the ICPE Mission. Here, I was challenged to discover Jesus in a deeper way. I was challenged to taste and see that the Lord is goodness itself.

Soon after the School of Mission, we did the Alpha Course and a study on the YouCat, which further strengthened my roots and challenged me, to walk in the fullness of the redemption which Jesus strived so hard to win for us. I got the chance to serve in the Core Team during these events. The dynamics of journeying together as a spiritual family was simply out of this world and I have so many fond memories

LENTEN MISSION

The St. Patrick's Youth (SPY), under the guidance of its President, Ms. Sushmita and the direction of Fr. Mac Fernandis, organized a Lenten Night Vigil at St. Patrick's Church on 21st March, 2015. The main theme of the Vigil, which was preached by Fr. Adolf Washington of the Archdiocese of Bangalore, was 'Finding True Love in God'. Mr. Victor Satish of the ICPE Mission also spoke on the topic.

The youth also shared a video of Nick Vujicic, a man born without arms or legs, but who through his faith in Jesus Christ, found the strength to not just surmount the impossible challenges in his own life, but to also inspire many others to lead a full life. An

Our parish priests, Fr. Sagayanathan, Fr. Mac Fernandis and Fr. Arun Santosh celebrate their sacerdotal ordination anniversaries this month. They were ordained on 19.5.87, 2.5.13 and 6.5.14 respectively. The Patrician wishes them a very happy anniversary and thank them for their selfless service. Ad multos annos!

and testimonies of those three years that we spent together!! (For those of you, who think Prayer Groups are boring, we dare you to walk in; at Yeshua Adonai Youth, we have games and spiritual exercises which will test your endurance).

Five years later, I am a person who does not make 'haste' any more. I cannot say that life is a bed of roses now, but one thing I know, nothing is lost as long as you walk with Jesus. Discovering this Jesus in a deep, personal manner is the biggest adventure and the best gift you can give anyone. Remember, the early church existed for 400 years before the Bible was compiled and it grew in large numbers, thanks to that infectious 'joy' that the early Christian community had. St. John Paul II describes such small well-knit groups as the 'new springtime' and the hope of the Catholic Church. I firmly adjure you, who are reading this right now, to do everything you can to give this lifeline to a young adult you know. The problems we young people face are numerous and Jesus is the answer to the cry of every young heart that wishes to belong.

"The happiness you seek, the happiness you have a right to enjoy, has a name and a face - Jesus of Nazareth" - St. John Paul II

P.S: The Yeshua Adonai Youth meet every Saturday at the Utility Hall in St. Patrick's Church from 4-6pm.

*Maria Isabel
Yeshua Adonai Youth*

outdoor Way of the Cross within the church campus was also conducted. The program concluded with Eucharistic Adoration followed by Holy Mass. The program was enlivened by glorious praise and worship led by the band 'dioxsys'.

The entire program was a wonderful reminder of God's love for us, to the extent that He gave His only Son for us. We only need to return to the Father and seek his forgiveness to experience this love. Around 250 people attended the vigil, and all who attended, felt truly comforted and blessed by the message and theme of the vigil.

IMPORTANT DAYS IN May

May 01 - St. Joseph the Worker (Worker's Day)

May 10 - Mother's Day

May 17 - Ascension of the Lord

May 24 - Pentecost

May 31 - Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

OBITUARY (16TH MAR TO 15TH APR 2015)

1. Francis Menezes - 23/3/2015 - St. Paul's Zone

THIS IS OUR FAITH: WHY DO CATHOLICS WORSHIP MARY?!!!

The question as to why do we worship Mary, was such a shock to Theo that he fell unconscious in mid-step. Now, after a brief but successful rescue mission, he has regained consciousness. Though still a bit jaded, he was able to recognize who was sitting in front of him near his bed.

"Daniel!!!" Theo yelled at him so loud that Daniel almost fell off his chair.

Daniel: (scared, and clueless about Theo's reaction) Dear brother, what happened to you? You know, you had fainted, while we were walking in the park and I saved your life.

Theo: Daniel!!! Get this one thing clear and as soon as possible... **CATHOLICS DO NOT WORSHIP MARY!**

Daniel: They...err...I mean, we don't?

Theo: (feeling a bit relieved after that release) No. We don't WORSHIP her. She is not our Goddess. Yes, she is greatly venerated by us. She is pure and Holy and most truly the mother of our God, the one who herself is the Immaculate Conception. But no, we do not worship her.

Daniel: Oh, I am sorry, if I offended you with my question.

Theo: (By now regaining his trademark composure). I am sorry for my reaction too. It's not that I was offended personally, Danny. I just couldn't bear to take that question, when it came from you like that. You see, I was shocked because this matter has been answered comprehensively a long time ago by the Church. But still, the same question is thrown back at us by our separated brethren and also by some misguided Catholics and many Catholics still find it difficult to answer the question. I am not sure what else we must do to close this issue once and for all.

Daniel: So what is the official stand of the Church regarding Mary, Theo?

Theo: CCC 963-975 elucidates Mary's position, role and her great significance in the Church. The magnificent role she plays in our salvation is laid out in CCC 488-493. To send forth His Son, God the Father wanted the 'free co-operation of a creature'. From all eternity He chose Mary to become the mother of His Son. For this reason, He cleansed her from her original sin even while she was still in her mother's womb, so that she could become sinless and thus prepared her to bear the sinless one, Christ himself in her womb. The Church believes that Mary is the new Eve, because just

as the first Eve brought Sin into the world by her disobedience, Mary the new Eve, through her 'yes' to His Word, her unconditional obedience, brought forth the Saviour of the world who would have victory over Sin forever. While our devotion to her is essentially different from our adoration of the Triune God i.e. the Father, Son, Holy Spirit, it greatly fosters this adoration of the triune God. In simple words, Mary leads us to Jesus, without assuming any powers or glory upon herself. All that she had was from the Lord himself. She is the model disciple, who never aspired to equal her Master, and yet she received such deep respect from Him, that He could not refuse her at the wedding at Cana. Mary is truly the Mother of the Church and thus our mother too.

Daniel: But Theo, what then are we doing when we pray the Rosary?

Theo: Let's get the basics right. The key purpose of the rosary should be and is like all devotions, to draw closer to our Lord Jesus. While praying the rosary, the central idea is to meditate upon that part of the life of Christ which is explained in the decade. For example, while praying the sorrowful mysteries, at the 2nd decade, we are called to reflect upon the scene of scourging of our Lord at the pillar. We then pray to Jesus, through mother Mary, for the graces which we need to go through our daily suffering.

Daniel: What about Dogmas? What are those? I think we also have some Marian Dogmas, right?

Theo: Aah!...you want me to just spoon feed you with everything. I want you to find the answer to that yourself and come back to me later. Now, let me take some rest. I need to recover fully from that fall... rather, from that question of yours.

Anil Thomas

Institute for World Evangelisation, ICPE Mission

(Do you know what the Marian Dogmas are? If you do, please write to patricianblr@gmail.com. Theo and Daniel will be back next time)

Holy Father's Prayer Intentions - May

Universal: CARE FOR THE SUFFERING

That, rejecting the culture of indifference, we may care for our neighbors who suffer, especially the sick and the poor.

Evangelization: OPENNESS TO MISSION

That Mary's intercession may help Christians in secularized cultures be open to proclaiming Jesus.

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF CHRISTIAN SERVICE

"I have glorified thee on earth, having accomplished the work which thou gavest me to do." (Jn 17:4 - words of Jesus to His Father after His Mission on earth was complete).

Jesus came to serve and to give. Likewise, each one of us is born into this world for a specific purpose in the larger plan of God. We are meant to make a difference in the course of our lives. God's words to Jeremiah (Jer 1:5) are also true for each one of us... "Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations." The Bible also says in 2Tim 1:9 "[it is God] who saved us and called us with a holy calling, not in virtue of our works but in virtue of his own purpose..." We must, therefore, serve God not out of guilt or fear, not even out of a sense of duty, but out of joy and gratitude for what He has done for us.

God wants us to make a difference in this world. He wants to work through us, to make the world a better place. What matters is not the duration of our life, but how we live it. God has uniquely shaped us to do certain things. He has planned exactly how we should serve Him, because we belong to Him. He gives us

abilities, interests, talents, personality and life experiences to use them for His plan and for His Glory. Every time we use our God given abilities to help or to serve others, we are fulfilling God's calling.

When Peter's mother-in-law was healed by Jesus, she instantly got up and began to serve Him. Mother Teresa once said "Holy living consists in doing God's work with a smile." We need to remember that the most important light in a home is not the grand chandelier in the sitting room, but the little night lamp that keeps us from stubbing our toe, when we get up at night. Every little act of service, however small, counts a great deal!

We sometimes say "I am looking for a Church that meets my needs and blesses me" instead of saying "I want to serve and be a blessing to the Church." Today, many churches suffer because Christians are unwilling to serve. Let us not sit on the side lines as spectators, but come forward to serve. When we begin to serve, we automatically begin to feel we belong. So let's not wait to be asked! Make the move now !

Ms. Cynthia Fernandes
St. Thomas Zone

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) **Shrine Mass:** Every Tuesday at 10am in Kannada and at 6pm in Tamil
- d) **Eucharistic Adoration:** Every Friday 6pm to 6.45pm
- e) **Adoration Chapel:** Exposition every day from 6am to 7pm. On Tuesdays, exposition up to 9.45pm.
- f) **Confessions:** Every Saturday 5pm to 6pm at the Adoration Chapel
- g) **Altar Servers Meeting:** Every Saturday immediately after 1.15pm Mass (Contact Fr. Arun Santosh +91-9964729728)
- h) **Faith Formation for children:** Classes will resume in

June 2015. However, **Preparatory classes for those intending to receive First Holy Communion in June this year will begin on 1st May 2015 from 9am to 11am and will go on for the whole month of May.**

- i) **Legion of Mary:** Meetings every Monday at 4.15pm (Contact Ms. M. Menezes +91-9845426746)
- j) **Legion of Mary (Tamil):** Meetings every Sunday from 8.30am to 9.30am (Contact Mr. John Leonard +91-9916896446)
- k) **St Vincent de Paul:** Meetings every Tuesday at 6pm (Contact Mr. Moses +91-9844178155)
- l) **Ladies of Charity:** Meetings every first Thursday of the month at 4.30pm (Contact Ms. Stella Monga +91 8147971118)
- m) **Counseling Centre:** Open every Tuesday and Friday between 4.30pm to 6.30pm. (Contact +91-80-25587213)

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Sunday: 9am to 12.15pm

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