THE KEY

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From the Editor's Desk



THE LIBERATION OF SOUL & BODY

On August 15 we celebrate two important feasts namely 'The Assumption of Our Blessed Lady into heaven' and our 'Independence Day'. Both the events signify one common aspect – 'the liberation'. The first event refers to the liberation of Our Blessed Lady from this world and was assumed into heaven body and soul. The second event refers to the liberation of India from the British imperialism. The first one is transcendental and the second phenomenal.

The fact of the assumption of the BVM was declared by Pope Pius XII as dogma in 1950. Since then the Mother Church has been celebrating this feast as a major Marian feast.

The feast of Assumption is a divine gift granted to the Blessed Virgin Mary by God for her three acts of holiness: namely: 1. Total life of holiness 2. Accomplishing the Will of God 3. Bearing the Word Eternal in her womb.

In the words of Pope Pius XII, "Being the most glorious Mother of Christ the Saviour, our God, who bestows life and immortality, she is restored to life by him and in her body shares for evermore bodily incorruptibility with him who raised her from the grave and assumed her to himself in a manner known only to himself" (From the Apostolic Constitution of Pope Pius XII on the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary)

What does her assumption do with our salvation? We need to be holy in order to be saved, liberated. Our mortal body will not be freed from its corruptibility because of our sins and mortal life. But our soul can become immortal only by our free and holy life. Our holiness consists in living according to the Will of God, "I am the handmaid of the Lord, be it done to me according to Your Word (Will)"Lk.1:38. God did not allow her body to be corrupted here on earth when she was born immaculate.

In today's context, God's Will is rejected by people as a thing of the old. It is outdated to speak in terms of 'God's will...'Living as per one's carnal desires and whims and fancy has become the norms of life for man. God's Will is sought only when man becomes weak and sinful. Until then, he seeks to fulfil his cravings and wishes. Thus he falls into sin and gets cuffed by his own evil deeds.

The invention of cell phone, TV, cinematography, and many more electronic and electric goods has led man to become super communicative being and towards super deluxe-luxurious life. At the same time these commodities have become symbols of break-up of marital fidelity, selfishness, immoral relationship, materialism and so on. In other word, the attachment with these goods has led man to sin. His own creation has become cause of 'no-peace of mind' situation. Hence man needs liberation. Certainly Mother Mary will help man to reject sin and mortality. Cling on to her virtues and you will become holy and be saved one day.

The second event on August 15 is the declaration of independence of our beloved India.. It refers to another liberation i.e., man's liberation from man, political liberation from British imperialism. In 1947 August 14th midnight, our late first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru said, "When the whole world is sleeping, our nation India has woken up to its freedom"

We are proud of our own freedom or liberation from the foreign rule. Let us celebrate unstinted our own freedom. We have achieved great lot in every sphere and field. Very soon we will reach the target of becoming a power bloc both in terms of defence and production of goods and service. This is because of our realization of our need to grow.

However, our independence has to be achieved more in terms of our respect and honour for our own fellow citizens, equal opportunities of life, undulated justice for the innocents and the poor.

Eradication of poverty, terrorism, conflicts based on caste, religion and language is the need of the hour. No one Indian should go hungry. Our great Tamil poet Bharathiyar declares, "even if a single man is denied food, let the whole world be destroyed". Let us not allow any one go hungry.

No single Indian should be denied education and justice, no one Indian should become victim of terrorism, no one Indian should be dishonoured by another individual person or by organization. All Indians should lead an amicable and happy life. For all this, we need to work together in full cooperation to the govt. As our famous Noble Laureate Rabindranath Tagore states, 'Let my country awake.... let us awake to real freedom'. Let us try to become immortal and moral in every aspect of being true Indian, being proud of our own India.

We shall overcome, we shall overcome some day, O deep in our heart, we do believe , we shall overcome someday! Jai India!

Fr.J.A.Nathan Chief-Editor

WORD OF GOD (THE BIBLE)

The Holy Bible is the best book in the world. But the sad part is that most of the Christians have not understood the importance of this precious Book. Through prayers we speak to God, but when we read the Bible, God speaks to us. It is not an ordinary book as many a people think, but each and every word is inspired by God (II Tim. 3:16). Prophecies in the Old Testament are being fulfilled by Jesus in the New Testament. 40 Authors took about 1600 years to complete the Bible. Though different authors have written the various books in the Bible there is perfect harmony in it.

John Gutton Burg was specially praying that the Word of God should reach the hands of all the people throughout the world. Those were the days when the printing machine was not yet invented. As he was praying one day with much burden in his heart for this cause, the Lord gave him the wisdom to invent the printing machine. And when the printing machine was invented, the first book printed was the Bible. William Carey was one of the Evangelists who came to India

even before independence. He was the person who was responsible to import a printing machine to India. When it arrived in India, the first Book printed over here again was the Bible. O how excited we should be! Praise God for the same!

Bible- the highest selling book throughout the world; the highest among the freely distributed books; the highest profit making book; translated in most number of languages; *Obviously it should be so, because the Word of God is living, loving and life saving.*

<u>U S E S:</u>

- 1. Word of God is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction and for training in righteousness. (II Tim.3:16)
- 2. Word of God helps to yield fruit in its season and to prosper in life. (Psalm 1:1-3).
- 3. Word of God is living and is able to judge the thoughts and intensions of the Heart. (Hebrews 4:12).

BLESSINGS:

When we read, meditate, believe and live our lives according to the word of God, we are blessed in a mighty way. In Deut.28:1,2 the Lord says "If you will only obey the Lord your God, by diligently observing all his commandments, the following blessings are yours. Let us read and claim all the blessings in Deut. 28:3-14.

WHAT IS THE WORD OF GOD TO MY LIFE ?

- Word of God is a Mirror where we can see the dirt deep down in our hearts and remove it. (James 1:23, 24)
- Word of God is sweeter than honey. So let us read every day and make our lives sweet. (Psalm 119:103)
- Word of God as light, which makes us to walk in the right path. (Psalm 119:105)
- Word of God as water, which cleanses us and makes us holy. (Eph. 5:26,27).
- Word of God as the seed, which would grow in our hearts and bear much fruit. (Luke 8:4-15)
- Word of God as fire, which can destroy all the evils in our lives. (Jer.23:29)
- Word of God as hammer, which can break our stony hearts. (Jer.23:29)

- Word of God as pure spiritual milk to be consumed and become strong in the Lord. (I Peter 2:2)
- Word of God as a treasure to be kept safe in our bosoms. (Job 23:12)
- Word of God as a sword of the spirit to destroy the evil forces. (Eph.6:17)

GREAT PEOPLE WHO READ THE BIBLE:

- Saints had love for the Word of God. They were on fire when they preached the Word. Because of this, we see such a lot of people have accepted Christ throughout the world.
- It is said Mother Mary could sing all the 150 psalms in the Bible by heart.
- Mahatma Gandhiji read and meditated the Bible words, this inspired him to practice Ahimsa.
- Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru read the Bible and practiced it by loving the little children.
- It is said Smt.Indira Gandhi the mid-night before she was killed was inspired to read the Bible.
- Even today so many non-Christians in high positions have developed a habit to read the Bible often.

What about us? Let us decide today and not to wait for tomorrow.

A shabby Bible book user (made use always) is a clean heart. A clean Bible (not used at all) seldom user is a dirty heart. Let us make it a practice to read and meditate the Bible every day.

- A verse a day keeps Satan away.
- Read it to be wise.
- Practice it to be holy.
- Believe it to be saved.

Jochime A.Peter, Cell: 9449890475 Founder, Little Stars for Christ.

Why Inferiority Complex?

Today man is torn apart by many complexes. The modern science and technology clubbed with media influence with a taste of consumerism, has aggravated his many psychological complexes. According to a Narmadha Disctionary, the term complex is defined as composite, not simple, difficult to comprehend. This is a human development psychological term. It refers to a composite state of mind that reflects in external behaviour. One cannot comprehend a person's complex he has or he is controlled by. One such complex is inferiority complex (IFC). It refers to a condition of being inferior (in relation to oneself and others).

Mani is a good boy. But he grew up without much love from his parents, brothers and sisters. He is the last of 6 children to his parents. But he is not paid attention by his family inmates. Though he is grown up he agitates and grumbles at home. But others have no time for him. Why? Mani was born at a time when his family rolled up in great poverty and the whole family put the blame on this last child. Also he was born very weak. Today he craves for love and attention from others. He doesn't remember if any one of his siblings pampered him with love in his childhood. His mother too had suffered great humiliation from her drunkard husband (Mani's father) not only after Mani's birth but even before his birth when she was carrying Mani in her womb. His father used to fight with his mother and beat her severely at the sight of this weak unfortunate child Mani. Anyway, all this led him to challenge his brothers and sisters. He drew up a line of conduct for himself. He could not bother for anybody but for himself.

One day Mani was invited to speak in the assembly in his school. But it was the moment he felt nervous and inferior first time in his life. He discovered his fear in him. On the one hand he wanted to challenge the world and get recognition and attention from others and on the other hand, he knew he lacked mental stamina to get through the world.

Another day, he could not face his classmates in one of his school programmes as he was despised by the others for the reason he opposed them in many events of the school including their friendship. This led him to be lonely and frustrating.

However Mani never gave up his internal fight to get recognition.

Well, what do you think about Mani? Is he undergoing a trauma in his life? Yes. He is undergoing a complex called inferiority complex.

What is this inferiority complex?

IFC is an internal disorder. It is a psychological disorder. It is a 'Feeling of unworthiness, lowliness', this is not a disease. It is a behavioural disorder. It starts from one's mind. It has its revelation in his external behaviour stimulated from within. It is a sort of mental imbalance that could be overcome. Nearly 80% of the world population undergo this IFC. It has its root in one's childhood. Some psychologists say the IFC has its origin in his parents' psychological built up. Say if the mother has such a complex or affected by the socio-economical condition of the family, the child naturally gets such an emotional setback. A person with IFC behaves abnormally or artificially. He puts up a show that he is equal to others or he is greater than others

Causes for IFC

- 1. Lack of love and attention from parents/siblings/friends. In one word, family background or spoilt childhood is the first cause of IFC. When parents/siblings fail to pay attention to the child, the latter grows up with IFC.
- 2. suppression by authorities, dominance over vulnerable or soft (timid) individuals
- 3. Thinking too much about one's shortcoming or limitation
- 4. Feeling 'we belong to low caste, we are not from higher community,
- 5. Too much of egoistic feeling or pride
- 6. After enjoying good lot of love from parents and friends and one fine day when they reject the child/person, such person develops IFC
- 7. Lack of self image and self dignity OR low personal profile (feeling of 'I am not beautiful/handsome, I am not clever, I am not worthy to live and so on
- 8. Inability to have friends or inability to maintain relatives/friends
- 9. Lack of literacy or education.... lack of good employment, unmarried status for long time or not being unmarried or being without companion or spouse in life.
- 10. Even sociologically rural people develop more IFC than the city populace
- 11. Inability to earn or possess modern comforts and facilities like others
- 12. Often girl child feels more inferior to boy child as parents love boys more than girls. Such girls develop IFC
- 13. When parents are not faithful each other or when dad or mom or drink/s Or when both parents drink and when they quarrel and fight always, the children feel IFC

Effects of IFC

- 1. Anyone with IFC develops fear to face the world/persons. Fear and IFC are twin brothers. One cannot exist without the other. When a student does not stand up to ask question though he knows, he has got IFC;
- 2. IFC leads to superiority complex (SPC). When an adolescent feel IFC, genetically, he develops a false complex in order to compensate for his IFC. Thus IFC leads to compensation. When Mani could not face his friends' world, in order to show to them that he is greater than others, he tries to put up a mask by exhibiting his superiority complex.
- 3. IFC person becomes often aggressive, agitated or unable to speak normally
- 4. IFC leads to fear psychosis. Though Mani wanted to shine among his friends/others, he could not achieve things that he desired because he was affected by grave IFC. He

becomes nervous, fast beat of heart, sweating, hand and limbs shivering(in extreme case)

- 5. A person with IFC avoids crowd or individuals who look better than himself in physical appearance or knowledge or material possession
- 6. Too much thinking about one's external personality is resulted by IFC. Thus IFC leads to personality problem. Real personality is hidden in persons with IFC
- 7. IFC results in 'Feeling of inadequacy in matters such as colour, sex, height(I am not fair but I am black, I am not tall enough I am only a short person, I am not smart enough in front of others, my star is not a good star, my physical appearance is not so attractive, God has not blessed me/us, God has shown partiality and so on.
- 8. When not controlled or overcome, IFC will lead to Neurasthenia. It is a sort of nervous disorder/breakdown. People affected by IFC are one way or the other are led to this nervous sickness- Neurasthenia
- 9. IFC puts off a person away from life achievements and it takes away one's happiness and peace. He is discouraged quickly and sinks low.
- 10. IFC shuns person's normal behaviour and growth. Often he is sad, gloomy, over thinking. He may even curse his birth/family/community
- 11. IFC leads to withdrawal. That is, people with physical infirmities will hesitate to smile or laugh, or they will withdraw from activities, others. They won't face challenges but they will withdraw from normal argument or quarrel. They will be timid to speak up in public or to fight for justice or for their own rights.
- 12. IFC will lead to depression which will lead a person to unhappiness, boredom, loss of appetite and sleep or loss of enthusiasm and even to end one's life
- 13. IFC person will be jealous of others and will be angry on others more than normal behaving humans

Remedy

- 1. Have positive approach to life
- 2. Know that all have shortcoming/limitation in physical look, mental strength and life over all.
- 3. Feel 'great and good' about yourself
- 4. Be good, be cheerful and be normal
- 5. Do not give in to 'low self image and esteem' but have high esteem and image about yourself. You are precious before the Lord.Is.49:15,16

- 6. Life is not easy as one thinks, but life gives joy to everyone. Once a man asked God to give him everything to enjoy life. God answered him 'I have given you LIFE to enjoy everything'.
- 7. Auto suggest 'I am fine, ICM(I Can Manage), I can achieve this/that, I am also equally beautiful/handsome/clever
- 8. Stand before mirror and say to yourself ' you are less to no one, you are merciful/kind/worth more than anything on this earth
- 9. Deepen your faith in the Lord and trust in others.Mt.8:9-34, 11:28, Jn.14:1, Ps.27,
- 10. Try to take part in social/religious/cultural events and activities.
- 11. Avoid feeling/ being lonely. If you are to be alone, read something interesting, listen to music, watch good programs (comics, news, National Geography, Discovery channel),write some thoughts of your experience, talk to someone with jokes, laugh more, be funny, make jokes not of persons but of events
- 12. 'Know yourself'- your weakness, limitations, strength, talents, charism, family background
- 13. Forgive your parents/brothers and sisters/others
- 14. Be kind and gentle to people and friends
- 15. Try to mingle with people and friends and share good and interesting things
- 16. Develop good friendship
- 17. Do not indulge in 'buttering' people for post/promotion/possession but be sincere and true to yourself
- 18. Be courageous and cheerful

Tamilmaravan

KGF

CHILD LABOUR IN INDIA

(COVER PAGE Report)

INDIA : Over 60 million child labourers in India!

Child labour is a dagger through India's soul. The country has the dubious distinction of being home to the largest child labour force in the world, with an estimated 30 per cent of the world's working kids living here.

Today millions of children work as labourers in various businesses in India. You find children being exploited in restaurants, silk industry, carpet weaving, firecracker units, et cetera.

These kids are forced to work to help their poor families, but this robs them of their right to childhood and all its associated joys. Child labour also crushes their right to normal physical and mental development, to education and thus to a healthy, prosperous life.

Seven days a week, these children toil as hard as their tender bodies can allow them to, working in inhuman conditions in cramped, dim rooms, breathing toxic fumes, and every now and then being subjected to verbal and physical violence by their employers. These young children work for hours on end, suffering from constant fatigue. Most of these kids work for as less as Rs 300 to Rs 500 a month; sometimes for no money at all as they are given food to survive.

Government statistics say that there are 2 crore (20 million) child labourers in India, a country that has ambitions of becoming a global superpower in a few years. Non-governmental agencies assert that the figure is more than 6 crore (60 million) including agricultural workers; some claim that the number could be 100 million, if one were to define all children out of school as child labourers. The International Labour Organisation estimates that 218 million children ages 5-17 are engaged in child labour the world over.

- An estimated 14 per cent of children in India between the ages of 5 and 14 are engaged in child labour activities, including carpet production.
- It would cost \$760 billion over a 20-year period to end child labour. The estimated benefit in terms of better education and health is about six times that -- over \$4 trillion in economies where child labourers are found.
- Some children are forced to work up to 18 hours a day, often never leaving the confines of the factory or loom shed.
- Children trafficked into one form of labour may be later sold into another, as with girls from rural Nepal, who are recruited to work in carpet factories but are then trafficked into the sex industry over the border in India.

A recent report, produced by the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, says there are as many as 60 million children working in India's agricultural, industrial and commercial sectors. The report argues that India's booming economy takes advantage of children workers to aid its growth and to bring wealth to a minority.

Even though the urban centres see many child labourers, estimates say that about 80 per cent of child labourers reside in rural India, where they are forced to work in agricultural activities such as fanning, livestock rearing, forestry and fisheries..

Nearly 85 per cent are engaged in traditional agricultural activities. Less than 9 per cent work in manufacturing, services and repairs. About 0.8 per cent work in factories. What is child labour/bonded child labour ? - Child labour is done by any working child who is under the age specified by law. The word 'work' means full time commercial work to sustain self or add to the family income. Any child who is employed in activities to feed himself and his family is being subjected to 'child labour'.

Children, who are rag-pickers, beggars, street sellers, street entertainers, child prostitutes, mostly without natural guardians, are exploited by gangsters and racketeers. These kids are mostly illegal migrants. Illiterate and ignorant parents do not understand the need for proper physical, cognitive and emotional development of their children. They are themselves uneducated, so they don't realise the importance of education for their children. Adult unemployment and urbanisation also cause child labour.

Child labourers suffer horrific abuse - Non-governmental organisations working towards eradicating child labour in India say that:

- Two out of every three working children are physically abused.
- Out of 69% children physically abused 54.68% were boys.
- Over 50% children were being subjected to one or the other form of physical abuse.
- Out of those children physically abused in family situations, 88.6% were physically abused by parents.
- The states of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar and Delhi have almost consistently reported higher rates of abuse in all forms as compared to other states.
- 50.2% children worked seven days a week.
- 53.22% children reported having faced one or more forms of sexual abuse.
- Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar and Delhi reported the highest percentage of sexual abuse among both boys and girls.
- 21.90% child respondents reported facing severe forms of sexual abuse and 50.76% other forms of sexual abuse.
- 50% abusers are persons known to the child or in a position of trust and responsibility.
- Every second child reported facing emotional abuse.

• Equal percentage of both girls and boys reported facing emotional abuse. Child labour laws in India - India's policy on child labour has evolved over time. Laws relating to child labour in India are consistent with the International Labour Conference resolution of 1979.

Plan to eliminate child labour - June 12 was observed as World Day against Child Labour. On Monday, June 21, a group of eminent people gave a petition to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh seeking a ban on all forms of employment of children under the age of 14 and sought urgent amendments to the child labour law.

'Save the Children', an NGO, which started a 45-day campaign against child labour, asked 45 prominent people from various walks of life to endorse a petition at the end of its campaign.

The petition sought for urgent amendments to the existing child labour law in the wake of the Right to Education Act, which provides for free and compulsory elementary education to all children of the age of 6-14 years.

By signing the petition, they all have agreed that the Child Labour Prohibition and Regulation Act should be amended as soon as possible to ban employment of children under 14, the NGO said. The International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour - The International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour is a global programme launched by the International Labour Organization in December 1991.

India was the first country to join it in 1992 when it signed a memorandum of understanding with the ILO. The long-term objective of IPEC is to contribute to the effective abolition of child labour. Its immediate objectives are:

Elimination of the capability of ILO constituents and non-government organisations to design, implement and evaluate programmes for child labour elimination;

To identity interventions at community and national levels which could serve as models for replication; and Creation of awareness and social mobilization for securing elimination of child labour.

As responsible people, we need to do our bit too to help the government achieve its goal.

How do you think can child labour be eliminated in India? What should the government do about it?

Do you think education holds the key to the eradication of child labour in India? Should punishment for those violating child labour laws be increased and made tougher?

What can we do to bring a smile back to these kids' faces? **Source : Data compiles from rediffmail website** Share your views e mail : catholic.asia@gmail.com

Let the little children come to me, for theirs is the kingdom of God.... Mt.19:14 Even in the Church you will find child labour... Even the Church fails to implement the teachings of our Lord... Let us change first and tell others to do so....The Independent India should henceforth journey towards the true liberation of the children from the child labour.

Are you held back?

On a windy afternoon, some boys were flying kites on a beach. One of the kites soared over all others. Higher and higher it went. It had a special design and was in the hands of deft skilful player. Some eagles in the sky were so impressed that joined the kite in flight.

Are you a kite or a bird? What is the secret of your ability?

The kite looked down. By now the boy holding the string was so far below that he seemed to be a mere dot. The kite meditated and replied:

The fact is that I happen to be super kite. I have the strength to go further up. Do you know that I have come up despite very strong winds? I am tied to this string, held at the other end by a boy with whom I cannot even communicate. If only I could break free of this fetters, I could have reached the stars.

So saying the kite started a violent effort to disengage from the thread which held it down. After a while it succeeded. You can imagine the rest of the sequence.

At times we too feel the same way. Does truthfulness, honesty, the faith handed over to us by our fathers and mother Church, the unseen hands of God hold us back for attaining greater heights? Do we curse our adversities without appreciating that we gain our strength from the apparently adverse winds? Devoid of these elements, we too could nosedive.

Francis Antony

E-MAIL BOX

Rev.Fr.Francis Xavier, St.Sebastian's Church, KGF: Dear Father Nathan, your KEY is excellent. Month after month, it is getting better and better. The article(Editorial) on Depression for Priests and People of God is really helpful for everyone. Particularly every priest should read this article. Your psychological knowledge is commendable. Keep it. Your journalistic ministry does great good to the society. God bless you

KEY: Thank you dear Father. I am sure if all those priests who receive our journal read the bulletin, they would be drawn to write to me and encourage my ministry. I am afraid how many really go through the pages of the journal. I put my heart and mind to bring this journal well in midst of high prices of paper and printing charge. Yet I am still to receive encouragement from our archdiocesan authorities and religious.

JOCHIME A.PETER, Founder, Little Stars for Christ. Dear Rev.Father, Thank you for the beautiful magazine THE KEY. Wonderful articles - especially Depression & About the Priests. Holy Father Pope 's message regarding KNEELING & RECEIVING COMMUNION ON THE TONGUE, is very good. Good that it is coming into effect in the near future. Let the Satan's Kingdom be destroyed, Satan worship churches also be destroyed in the name of JESUS. For this to happen all of us should work hand in hand.

Herein I am sending an article for your Magazine. It is my prayer, through this article let ourCatholic brethren in a special way have the longing and love towards reading & meditating theBiblewhichistheWORDOFGOD.

KEY: Thank you Joachim for your contribution of articles. Satan worshipping centres are not addressed as 'churches'. They are only assembly of Satan worshippers. Please continue to spread the Word of God through your writing ministry. KEY appreciates your effort.

SNEHA FERNANDES, MURUGHESHPALYA: Am very glad to read you article of the monthly magazine (June month). Today awareness is very important & this is the need of the hour. Most of the people are suffering in depression, but there not aware about it.

It was really good to publish this article so that all of us understand about upcoming problems in life, so that we can help people who are undergoing this problem.

So wonderful you have presented father, Like Why depression, what, causes, Effects, Remedy and only Jesus is the way & answer for all.

KEY: Good of you Sneha for your views. Depression is mostly caused by others. If people are good Samaritans, then depression never makes its lead in our life. Even priests and people of God become victim to it because human elements take upper hand than the spiritual elements in their life. Instead, God should be the centre of our life.

Dear Very.Rev.Fr.Jerome Rego, The Principal, St.Germain's Boys High School/Pre-University College, Near Coles Park, Fraser Town, Bangalore – 560 005

A million thanks to you

For your generous contribution towards THE KEY. You have helped us open many hearts towards Christ.

God Bless you with good health of body and mind.

Fr.J.A.Nathan,Editor

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7 TIPS TO BE HAPPY IN LIFE

- a. Never be late
- b. Don't cheat
- c. Live simple
- d. Expect little
- e. Work more
- f. Always smile
- g. Never break good relation

WHAT IS TRUE FREEDOM?

Best 5 answers will get Rs.500 gift

You may write to us briefly. First comes first selected...THE KEY

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VATICAN NEWS

Petition Launched Against Pakistani Blasphemy Law

4,600 Signatures Gathered in First Week

PARIS, JUNE 14, 2010 (Zenit.org).- The French section of Aid to the Church in Need is urging people worldwide to sign a petition denouncing a "blasphemy law" that allows for grave injustices in Pakistan. The aid agency explained on its Web site that 1,000 Pakistanis have been condemned because of their faith due to this law, such as a 5-year-old child who was burned alive for being a Christian, and is calling for support and worldwide prayer for the victims of this law as well as their families. The petition, which was launched June 7, gathered more than 4,600 signatures in the first week. Supporters can add their signatures to the appeal against the blasphemy law and send messages of support, prayers and donations to the Catholic Church in Pakistan through the <u>Web site</u>. The petition states: "We appeal to the government of Pakistan to repeal immediately the law on blasphemy, in particular paragraph 295 C of the criminal code, which establishes the death penalty for the offenders; we appeal to the government to guarantee the rights of all religious of the country." minorities

Protect

the

sacred

Bishop Joseph Coutts of Faisalabad, Pakistan, said that "this law, which should serve to protect

the sacred, has been used for some time to oppress and persecute the religious minorities in Pakistan, including Christians," who represent 1.6% of the population. The prelate, president of the Pakistani bishops' conference Justice and Peace Commission, is calling for the withdrawal of the anti-blasphemy law. According to the bishop, the problem of the law against blasphemy worsened dramatically in 2001, when anti-Western feeling increased in Pakistan, reaching its peak with recent American interventions in Iraq and Afghanistan. Bishop Coutts, who works for the rights of the Christian minority of Pakistan as well as interreligious dialogue, has received death

However, he said that "we will not let ourselves be terrified by intimidation; we are going to continue our interfaith activities, for harmony and peace in the country." The law on blasphemy, which is included in Pakistan's criminal code, allows for imprisonment and even capital punishment for those who are seen as insulting or profaning the name of the prophet Muhammad or the Qur'an. In 1927, paragraph 295 was added to the criminal code to address "deliberate and malicious acts with the intention to offend the religious sentiments of any group by insulting their religion or their religious belief."

However, General Muhammad Zia-ul-Haq, Pakistani president from 1977 to 1988, introduced several amendments to the code, including life imprisonment for anyone who profanes the Qur'an and the death penalty for anyone who insults the prophet.Arrests, murders and massacres have increased since the promulgation of these laws, Fromager said, and hundreds of places of worship have been destroyed.

The bishops' conference Justice and Peace Commission estimated that there have been 993 innocent victims of this law between 1986 and 2010, 120 of whom were Christians.

Vatican's 2009 Financial Statement

Published by Economic Council of Cardinals

VATICAN CITY, JULY 11, 2010 (Zenit.org).- Here is a translation of the statement published Saturday by the Council of Cardinals for the Study of Organizational and Economic Matters of the Holy See on the 2009 financial statement of the Holy See and the Vatican City State Governorate. Wednesday the 7th, Thursday the 8th and Friday the 9th of July there took place at the Vatican the 45th meeting of the Council of Cardinals for the Study of Organizational and Economic Matters of the Holy See, presided over by His Holiness' secretary of state, the Most

Eminent	Cardinal	Tarcisio	Bertone,	S.D.B.
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The following cardinals participated in the meeting: Roger Mahony, archbishop of Los Angeles (USA); Antonio Maria Rouco Varela, archbishop of Madrid (Spain); Dionigi Tettamanzi, archbishop of Milan (Italy); Wilfrid Fox Napier, archbishop of Durban (South Africa); Anthony Olubunmi Okogie, archbishop of Lagos (Nigeria); Juan Luis Cipriani Thorne, archbishop of Lima (Peru); George Pell, archbishop of Sydney (Australia); Marc Ouellet, P.S.S., archbishop of Quebec (Canada); Agostino Vallini, His Holiness' Vicar of the Diocese of Rome; Jorge Liberato Urosa Savino, archbishop of Caracas (Venezuela); Nicholas Cheong Jinsuk, archbishop of Seoul (Korea); Odilo Pedro Scherer, archbishop of São Paulo (Brazil).The Prefecture of the Economic Affairs of the Holy See was represented by its president, His Excellency the Most Reverend Archbishop Velasio De Paolis, C.S., by His Excellency Bishop Vincenzo Di Mauro and by the accountant general Dr. Stefano Fralleoni.

The Vatican City State Governorate and the Administration of the Patrimony of the Apostolic See were represented by: His Eminence Cardinal Giovanni Lajolo and His Excellency Monsignor Carlo Maria Viganò, who are respectively president of the Commission of Cardinals for the V.C.S. and secretary general of the V.C.S. Governorate, His Eminence Cardinal Attilio Nicora and His Excellency Monsignor Domenico Calcagno, who are respectively president and secretary of the A.P.S.A.

At the invitation of the cardinal secretary of state the following spoke on matters in which they are competent: the general director of Vatican Radio, Father Federico Lombardi, S.J., and Dr. Alberto Gasbarri, administrative director. The following were topics that were addressed: --The financial statement of the Holy See for 2009; The financial statement of the Vatican City State Governorate for --2009; -- Peter's Pence and the contributions with respect to canon 1271 of the C.I.C., received in 2009.For the third year in a row, the economic crisis has left the Holy See and the Vatican City State in the red.

This was revealed Saturday in a statement published by the Council of Cardinals for the Study ofOrganizational and Economic Matters of the Holy See on the 2009 financial statement of theHolySeeandtheVaticanCityStateGovernorate.

The council met for its 45th meeting last week in the Vatican, presided over by Benedict XVI's

secretary	of	state,	Cardinal	Tarcisio	Bertone.

The president of the Prefecture of the Economic Affairs of the Holy See, Archbishop Velasio De Paolis, presented the 2009 financial statement of the Holy See, in which it records income of 250,182,364 euro [US\$ 316,317,777] and expenditures of 254,284,520 euro [US\$ 321,504,333], with a deficit of 4,102,156 euro [US\$ 5,186,556]. The Holy See is composed of all the organisms of the Roman Curia and of the pontifical representations around the world, as well as its media network: Vatican Radio, L'Osservatore Romano and Vatican Television Center. It is financed by the donations of dioceses, religious congregations and the generosity of the faithful. The Holy See employs 2,762 persons, 766 ecclesiastics, 344 religious (261 men and 83 women), 1,652 lay people (1,201 men and 451 women).

City

Vatican

Archbishop De Paolis also presented the 2009 economic statement of Vatican City, which the archbishop noted that "similar to other states, this year too the Vatican felt the effects of the international economic-financial crisis."The city-state ended with a deficit of 7,815,183 euro [US\$ 9,881,117], with a positive difference comparison to the preceding year of nearly 7.5 million euro [US\$ 9.4]. Vatican City employs 1,891 persons, of which 38 are men religious, 27 women religious, 1,543 are laymen and 283 are laywomen.The financial statements did not take into account annual Peter's Pence collection, which is used exclusively to aid the poorest local Churches. The collection in 2009 totaled \$82,529,417. The largest contributions of 2009 came from the Catholics of the United States, Italy and France, with significant contributions from Korea and Japan

Fr. Jim Borst Served Quit India Notice - A Missionary for Almost 50 years in J &K It is a shocking surprise that Father Jim Borst, the only Mill Hill Missionary serving in the Kashmir Valley been served a notice by the Foreigners Registration Officer, Kashmir to quit India by July 2010—the State of Jammu and Kashmir, to be precise, where he has been living since September 1963. It is not only disturbing but consternating too, that the Government which is tooth and nail opposed to the Hindutava and other fundamentalist elements has succumbed to the pressure of some fundamentalist and fanatic groups to show the venerable and highly adored Catholic Missionary the way out, lending support to the theories built by those in the opposition that there is a yawning gap between the theory and the practice of the government run by the coalition of the Indian National Congress party and the Regional National Conference party supported by certain independents.

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If you are pregnant and your morning sickness is driving you up the wall, then simply add curry patta to lemon juice and a little organic jaggery.

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mix some curry leaves into your butter milk and this is a sure shot home remedy to an upset stomach.

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