

## From the Editor's Desk

### Dear Brothers and sisters

*There is no one greater than Jesus Christ on this earth. There is no one holier than Jesus Christ. There is no one more truthful than Jesus Christ. There is no one higher than Jesus Christ. There is no one more merciful than Jesus Christ. There is no one more 100% genuine and authentic than Jesus Christ. There is no one more historical than Jesus Christ.*

These statements would rather sound imaginative and comparative to us if we read them from mental level.

One should rise more to transcendental level in order to grasp the true meaning of these statements. Only personal experience can explain the facts behind these statements.

Well, if Jesus Christ must supersede other personalities in the world, then his personal profile must be more authentic and life giving.

The four Gospels of the NT reveal enough data providing facts and proofs about the moral and spiritual integrity of Jesus.

Is this sufficient to tell the world that Jesus is greater than any personality on the globe? Of course not!

So, what is the fact that can overtake all facts and truths advocated by so many personalities in the world? his resurrection from the dead.

The Resurrection of Jesus Christ on the third day of his death on the cross, brought authenticity to His Divine Sonship. 'If Christ has not been raised, our preaching is empty and your faith comes to nothing.... But Christ has been truly raised from the dead, the first fruit of those who fallen asleep' says St.Paul. Read I Cor 15:14,20 .

The resurrection of Jesus has been his prediction and not merely a concept built on the faith of the early Christians. 'But three days later he will rise again' Mk.10:34; Lk.18:33

The Resurrection of Jesus is a guarantee of our resurrection. Our faith in the reality assures us of the resurrection of our bodies I Cor.15:43 '*When buried, it is a natural body, but it will be raised as a spiritual body*'.

When we proclaim during the Holy Mass, 'Christ has died, Christ has risen and Christ will come again', we do this proclamation with deep faith in the resurrection of Jesus Christ and in his second coming.

But it is all fine that we proclaim Christ is risen. But what this kerygma tells us? This Good News calls us to live as people of his resurrection. In other words, we often live as if Christ has not risen and we are just bluffing ourselves by leading a false life. We are fooling ourselves in the name of Christ, because if we are the people of faith in the resurrection of Jesus, then obviously we should lead a life of true fraternity and genuine faith. But we are not. The resurrection of Jesus must take us to the realization of our faith in our day to day life.

I often wonder how God interacts with people in their terrible crisis. For example, the horrible tsunami that occurred in Japan due to earthquake with 9 point ratio on Richter scale on 11/2/2011 has brought great disaster in this 3<sup>rd</sup> developed nation in the world.

Remember the Israelites in the wilderness after their liberation from Egypt during their long journey to the Promised Land. They murmured against Moses their leader when they suffered to their death from want of water, 'have you brought us up out of Egypt that we may die in the wilderness? Is there God among us or not' Ex.17:7.. Of course, God rescued them giving them water from the rock of Horeb..... commanding Moses to strike at the rock. Ex.17:6

A similar situation was encountered by the people of Japan. Those who were sinking in the tsunami would have asked 'O God if you are there save me, where are you?.... those who died, must have died pathetically with no hope... Well, still Japan is tormented by subsequent earthquakes...what is Jesus' resurrection for them? Have you ever met with similar crisis? What is Jesus' resurrection for you? Is it only a matter for faith or a Biblical information or a Christian myth? It is better to look at the resurrection of Jesus with great conviction and faith. Then only this historical truth would bring meaning to your life.

Therefore, let us firmly believe in the resurrection of Jesus from the dead and in the resurrection of our bodies and in the life everlasting.

**My warm wishes to all of you for the feast of Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ. Alleluia!**

**Fr. J. A. Nathan**



**JESUS IS RISEN ALLELUIA! HE IS A LIVE ALLELUIA!**

### **Easter**

Easter is the annual festival commemorating the resurrection of Jesus Christ, and the principal feast of the Christian year. It is celebrated on a Sunday on varying dates between March 22 and April 25 and is therefore called the movable feast. The date of several ecclesiastical festivals extending over a period between Septuagesima Sunday (the 9th Sunday before Easter) and the 1st Sunday of Advent, are fixed in relation to the date of Easter.

Connected with the observance of Easter is the 40-day penitential season of Lent, beginning on Ash Wednesday and concluding at midnight of Holy Saturday, the day before Easter Sunday; Holy week, commencing on Palm Sunday, including Good Friday, the day of the crucifixion of Jesus Christ, and terminating with Holy Saturday; and the Octave of Easter, extending from the Easter Sunday through the following Sunday. During the Octave of Easter in early Christian era, the newly baptized wore white garments, the liturgical colour of Easter and signifying light, purity, and joy.

Pre-Christian Tradition Easter was a Christian festival, embodying many pre-Christian traditions. The origin of its name is unknown. Scholars, however, accepting a derivation proposed by the 8th-century English scholar St. Bede, believe it probably comes from Eastre, the Anglo-Saxon name of a Teutonic goddess of spring and fertility, to whom was dedicated a month corresponding to April. Her festival was celebrated on the day of the Vernal equinox; traditions associated with the festival survive in the Easter rabbit, a symbol of fertility, and in coloured Easter eggs, originally painted with bright colours to represent the sunlight of spring, and used in Easter-egg rolling contests or given as gifts. Such festivals, and the stories and legends that explain their origin, were common in ancient Religious sects. The Christian festival of Easter probably embodies a number of converging traditions; most scholars emphasize the original relation of Easter to the Jewish festival of

Passover, or Pesach, from which is derived Pasch, another name for Easter. The early Christians, many of whom were of Jewish origin, were brought up in the Hebrew tradition and regarded Easter as a new feature of the Passover festival, a commemoration of the advent of the Messiah as foretold by the prophets.

**The Dating of Easter:** According to the New Testament, Christ was crucified on the eve of Passover and shortly afterward rose from the dead. In consequence, the Easter festival commemorated Christ's resurrection. In time, a serious difference over the date of the Easter festival arose among Christians. Those of Jewish origin celebrated the resurrection immediately following the Passover festival, which, according to their Babylonian lunar calendar, fell on the evening of the full moon (the 14th day in the month of Nisan, the first month of the year); by their reckoning, Easter, from year to year, fell on different days of the week.

Christians of Gentile origin, however, wished to commemorate the resurrection on the first day of the week, Sunday; by their method, Easter occurred on the same day of the week, but from year to year it fell on different dates. An important historical result of the difference in reckoning the date of Easter was that the Christian Churches in the East, which were closer to the birthplace of the new religion and in which old traditions were strong, observed Easter according to the date of the Passover festival. The churches of the West, descendants of Greek-Roman civilization, celebrated

### **Easter on a Sunday.**

Constantine I, Roman emperor, convoked the Council of Nicaea in 325, which unanimously ruled that Easter should be celebrated throughout the Christian world on the first Sunday after the full moon following the vernal equinox; and that if the full moon should occur on a Sunday and thereby coincide with the Passover festival, Easter should be commemorated on

the Sunday following. Coincidence of the feast of Easter and Passover was thus avoided.

This Council also decided that the calendar date of Easter was to be calculated at Alexandria, then the principal astronomical center of the world. The accurate determination of the date, however, proved an impossible task in view of the limited knowledge of the 4th-century world. The principal astronomical problem involved was the discrepancy, called the *epact*, between the solar year and the lunar year. The chief calendric problem was a gradually increasing discrepancy between the true astronomical year and the Julian calendar then in use.



Later Dating Methods Ways of fixing the date of the feast tried by the church proved unsatisfactory, and Easter was celebrated on different dates in different parts of the world. In 387, for example, the dates of Easter in France and Egypt were 35 days apart. About 465, the church adopted a system of calculation proposed by the astronomer Victorinus (fl. 5th cent.), who had been commissioned by Pope Eilarius (r. 461-68) to reform the calendar and fix the date of Easter. Elements of his method are still in use. Refusal of the British and Celtic Christian churches to adopt the proposed changes led to a bitter dispute between them and Rome in the 7th century.

Reform of the Julian calendar in 1582 by Pope Gregory XIII, through adoption of the Gregorian calendar, eliminated much of the difficulty in fixing the date of Easter and in arranging the ecclesiastical year. Since 1752, when the Gregorian calendar was also adopted in Great Britain and Ireland, Easter has been celebrated on the same day in the Western part of the Christian world. The Eastern churches, however, which did not adopt the Gregorian calendar, commemorate Easter on a Sunday either preceding or following the date observed in the West. Occasionally the dates coincide; the most recent times were in 1865 and 1963. Because the Easter holiday affects a varied number of secular affairs in many countries, it has long been urged as a matter of convenience that the movable dates of the festival be either narrowed in range or replaced by a fixed date in the manner of Christmas. In 1923 the problem was referred to the Holy See, which found no canonical objections to the

proposed reform. In 1928 the British Parliament enacted a measure allowing the Church of England to commemorate Easter on the first Sunday after the second Saturday in April. Despite these steps toward reform, Easter continues to be a movable feast.

## **LENTEN SERVICE TIME TABLE AT ST.PETER'S, RUSTAMBAGH**

WAY OF THE CROSS: EVERY FRIDAY: 5.00 PM: KANNADA & TAMIL

6.00 PM: MASS FOLLOWED BY WOC IN  
ENGLISH

### ***HOLY WEEK PROGRAMMES:***

**PASSION SUNDAY:** 7.30 AM: KANNADA & TAMIL  
9.30 AM: ENGLISH

**HOLY THURSDAY:** 6.30 PM MASS OF THE LAST SUPPER FOLLOWED BY ADORATION AT THE  
ALTAR OF REPOSE

**GOOD FRIDAY:** WOC : 8.00 AM in Konkani  
9.00 AM in English  
10.00 AM in Kannada  
11.00 AM in Tamil  
12.00 Noon in Malayalam  
6.00 PM :LITURGY OF THE LORD'S PASSION

**HOLY SATURDAY:** 10.00 PM: EASTER VIGIL  
(Please bring a candle for the Service)

**EASTER DAY:** 7.30 AM MASS IN KANNADA & TAMIL  
9.30 AM MASS IN

## **HEAVEN**

It is the chime of bells that wakes me up sometimes. But more often than not I am awake to hear them ring. Bells mean more than a waking morn to me. Somehow it is something more divine.

The thought of bells makes me think of angel voices and how chirping birds fall short at their constant attempt to equal their songs of praise. Angels and bells, surrounded by light, a bright, white light resting on luminous clouds and skies; that

is heaven to me. A place of peace and sanctity; a place for tired souls to rest before they once again begin their journey, heaven is peace.

My mother often says, "I'll do anything to keep the peace in this house and in this family." I don't know if she even realizes what "doing anything" might really entail. At that point, neither can I. but as I ponder over the promising beauty of that wonderful place, I ask myself, "may be it can all be worth it?"

In this seemingly endless struggle towards racing goals, we lose sight of it all. We hardly remember the desires we work so hard to fulfill. A big, flat screen T.V., a digital surround sound system, a day at the spa, an evening with friends, that new shiny laptop are, just like chirps of birds, attempts to recreate heaven, or the unimaginable feeling of fulfillment it could give.

It's the beginning of the Lenten season again. Again at this time of the year, I feel closer to my Lord. I feel the desire to see heaven in all its glory and not be condemned to eternal hell. I want to pray again. I want Him to find me.

I am one of the billions of people in the world who are stuck and lost; who still want what our forefathers did, who still wonder about that picture that we can't completely imagine.

I want Heaven. I want to be with Him.

**Courtesy: Unknown from Murugheshpalya**

## **Two Birds and the Blood of a man**

### **(Beautiful Story)**

There once was a man named George Thomas, a pastor in a small New England town. One Easter Sunday morning he came to Church carrying a rusty, bent, old bird cage, and set it by the pulpit. Every brow was raised, as if in response, Pastor Thomas began to speak..... "I was walking through town yesterday when I saw a young boy coming towards me swinging this bird cage. On the bottom of the cage were three little wild birds, shivering with cold and fright. I stopped the lad and asked, "What do you have there, son?" "Just some old birds," came the reply. "What are you going to do with them?" I asked.

"Take them home and have fun with 'em," he answered. "I'm gonna tease 'em and pull their feathers to make 'em fight. I'm gonna have a real good time."

"But you'll get tired of those birds sooner or later. What will you do then?"

"Oh, I got some cats," said the little boy, "They like birds. I'll take 'em to them."

The pastor was silent for a moment. "How much do you want for those birds, son?"

"Huh??? !!!! Why, you don't want them birds, mister. They're just plain old field birds. They don't sing. They ain't even pretty!"

"How much?" the pastor asked again. The boy sized up the pastor as if he were crazy and said, "\$10?"

The pastor reached in his pocket and took out a ten dollar bill. He placed it in the boy's hand. In a flash, the boy was gone. The pastor picked up the cage and gently carried it to the end of the alley where there was a tree and a grassy spot. Setting the cage down, he opened the door, and by softly tapping the bars persuaded the birds out, setting them free. Well, that explained the empty bird cage on the pulpit, and **then the pastor began to tell this story:**

**One day** Satan and Jesus were having a conversation. Satan had just come from the Garden of Eden, and he was gloating and boasting. "Yes, sir, I just caught a world full of people down there. Set me a trap, used bait I knew they couldn't resist. Got 'em all!"

"What are you going to do with them?" Jesus asked. Satan replied, "Oh, I'm gonna have fun! I'm gonna teach them how to marry and divorce each other, how to hate and abuse each other, how to drink and smoke and curse. I'm gonna teach them how to invent guns and bombs and kill each other. I'm really gonna have fun!"

"And what will you do when you are done with them?" Jesus asked. "Oh, I'll kill 'em," Satan glared proudly. "How much do you want for them?" Jesus asked. "Oh, you don't want those people. They ain't no good. Why, you'll take them and they'll just hate you. They'll spit on you, curse you and kill you. You don't want those people!!"

"How much?" He asked again. Satan looked at Jesus and sneered "All your blood, tears and your life." Jesus said, "DONE!" Then HE paid the price. The pastor picked up the cage and walked from the pulpit....

#### WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?

I thank God everyday for my blessed life. I'm not rich, don't live in a mansion and don't have the nicest of material things, but, I'm healthy, have a roof over my head, clothes on my back, food on my table, a family that loves me and lifelong friends to get me through. I'd say I have a lot

PREPARE YOURSELVES THE LORD IS COMING; STAY AWAY FROM MAKING MOCERY OF PEOPLE, FALSE PROMISES, WORSHIPING FALSE GODS, BACKSTABBING, ARROGANCE, HYPOCRISY ETC.

This is truly interesting and very much eye opening.

Earthquakes - Read Haggai **2:6**

Coincidence? Or merely picking the "right" natural catastrophes, even if they were the largest and most disastrous in the last few centuries? Or is God really trying to remind us of what has been foretold in the scriptures?

Haggai 2:6 goes on to say:

"I will shake all nations, and the desired of all nations will come, and I will fill this house with glory. Coincidences? Interesting!

The Hebraic numerical value of the Hebrew letters of God's Holy name: YHVH is 26! Something to think about! This matches your Haggai 2:6 reference perfectly! He is shaking the nations especially the nations where pagan worship or worship of false gods is prevalent! In His mercy and grace He'll shake some to save many! Blessed be His Name! Shalom Aleichem!

[Take a look at this list too.](#)

Gujarat India earthquake	26 Jan 2001
The Rhodes earthquake	26 June 1926
Taiwan earthquake	26 April 2010
Japan earthquake	26 Feb 2010
NE Japan earthquake	26 May 2003
NE Japan earthquake	26 July 2003
North America earthquake	26 Jan 1700
Yugoslav earthquake	26 July 1963

Just got the following from Indonesia and I have translated it for you all:

Aceh Tsunami	26 Dec 2004
Jogjakarta earthquake	26 May 2006
Tasik earthquake	26 June 2010
Mentawai Tsunami	26 Oct 2010
Merapi volcanic eruption	26 Oct 2010

OTHER HISTORICAL disasters:

Krakatau volcanic eruption	26 Aug 1883	( 36,000 dead )
China earthquake	26 July 1976	( 255,000 dead )
Portugal earthquake	26 Jan 1951	( 30,000 dead )
Kansu , China earthquake	26 Dec 1932	( 70,000 dead )
Turkey earthquake	26 Dec 1939	( 41,000 dead )
Sabah Tidal waves	26 Dec 1996	( 1,000 dead )
Bam , Iran earthquake	26 Dec 2003	( 60,000 dead )

**Why is it always “26 “? Read Haggai 2:6 --- For thus says the Lord of hosts: "Once more (it is a little while) I will shake heaven and earth, the sea and dry land"**

AND NOW DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU ABOUT 26/11 (Mumbai Terrorist attacks on Taj Mahal Hotel in 2008 AND 26/7 Mumbai Floods in 2005

EVERY 26 MAKES ME THINK AND PRAY,

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO, THE LORD IS WATCHING

**Courtesy: Lona Lobo**

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## **Orissa – a bed of Christian persecution**

**Bhubaneswar (AsiaNews)** – In Orissa, Christians continue to suffer from persecution. On 10 March, Angad Digal, a Catholic man from Mondasoro (Kandhamal), went missing. Local sources say he was killed in Tilakapanga, where he travelled in the company of a couple of Hindu acquaintances. For days, family, volunteers, and human rights activists in Cuttack diocese have been searching for his body, without success.

One of the men suspected in Digal's murder has been arrested, Fr Laxmikant Pradhan, a local priest, said. "The authorities' inertia is making matters worse for the family and Christians in Kandhamal," he added.

People are in shock and afraid. "We must find Digal's body and stop this culture of impunity," the priest noted.

Since the 2008 anti-Christian pogroms, Hindu extremists continue to threaten and kill Catholics and Tribals. The authorities have not intervened to stop the violence.

Among the population, fear is strong and few dare file complaints. Many murders go unsolved, ignored by law enforcement.

Br Markose, a Monfort missionary and lawyer for pogrom victim families, told AsiaNews that police on Sunday announced the death of Mathew Sunamajhi and his son, both murdered on 25 August 2008.

The two were captured by Hindu radicals who tortured and then killed them. The incident was but one among many that took part during the wave of violence that swept across Kandhamal in 2008.

Fearing retaliations, no one reported the double murder until now.

According to Br Markose, it is impossible to count all the cases of murder, disappearance and violence that have taken place in the last few years.

"Many are coming to light just now and the Church will not tire from following such cases and demand justice for the victims."

## **Persecution in China**

**CHINA : Yangdang: 180 police agents beat and arrest a group of official Christians** Beijing (AsiaNews) Police in Yangdang, Hubei province, raided a Christian legal centre, causing havoc for members who were studying



the regulations of the Religious Affairs Bureau. A group of 180 police agents, led by the chiefs of the local police and Religious Affairs Bureau, stormed the site. They used tear gas, beat up those present, including two women, one elderly, and smashed the centre's equipment. China Aid, an organisation that monitors religious freedom in China, made public the incident, which occurred on 23 February. Christians in Yangdang, Zaoyang Municipality, issued a statement slamming the attack. In it, they said, "We are a group of kind-hearted Christians from Yangdang Town (hometown of aerospace hero Nie Haisheng), Zaoyang City, Hubei Province, and we are legal and law-abiding citizens of the People's Republic of China." "In our ordinary life, we sincerely abide by the laws and regulations of the state. We conduct ourselves with the teachings from the Bible and live by observing the rules." For this reason, "we did not expect that at about 6 p.m. on February 23, 2011, we would personally see and experience the law enforcement officers of the state—the so-called people's police—arrest, beat and severely punish ordinary people. Even now, fear still lingers in us." They noted that over 20 of their friends and relatives were studying the relevant documents concerning the "Regulations on Religions Affairs" promulgated by the State Council, when "suddenly in burst Fu Dewu, head of Xiangyang Municipal Bureau for Ethnic and Religious Affairs and Li Guiming, director of Zaoyang Municipal Bureau of Religion, leading over 100 riot police officers and over 80 plainclothes 'hired roughnecks' with towels on their wrists as an identification mark headed by Chai Pujun, director of Zaoyang Municipal Public Security Bureau". They "smashed the door open and broke into the house of our brother without presenting any legal documents or going through any legally required procedures." The agents fired tear gas at the unarmed Christians, beating up a number of them, including two women, one of whom was elderly. Despite the pleas, no one was "taken to hospital to have their injuries treated." A number of Christians were handcuffed by force, and beaten. The officials then proceeded to destroy the equipment, including video recorders taping the incident. China does not allow religious activity outside of state-controlled organisations. The Yangdang incident illustrates how anti-Christian repression is increasing, even when Christians respect the law. - <http://www.asianews.it>

**PAKISTAN : Churches mourn assassinated Christian minister** by Anto Akkara Bangalore, India (ENInews). Christian schools and colleges across Pakistan on 3 March began shutting down for three days to protest the 2 March assassination in Islamabad of Shahbaz Bhatti, a Roman Catholic who was Minister for Religious Minorities.

The call for the action came at an emergency ecumenical meeting chaired by Archbishop Lawrence Saldana, president of the Catholic Bishops Conference of Pakistan. In a press statement from the meeting, church leaders said that if Pakistan "becomes a killing field" of people "who exercise their freedom of conscience and expression," then "criminals trying to take charge of the country" will be emboldened.

In addition, churches decided to observe Sunday, 6 March as a day of prayer and fasting. On 3 March, Christians and secular groups marched in the cities of Lahore, Karachi, Hyderabad and Faisalabad to protest Bhatti's killing.

Bhatti, 42, was ambushed and shot dead as he was being driven to his office. His funeral is set for 4 March in his native village of Kushpur. A critic of Pakistan's blasphemy law, which makes criticism of the Prophet Muhammad a capital crime in the Muslim-majority nation, Bhatti last November initiated a clemency petition for Asia Bibi, a Christian woman currently in prison on blasphemy charges. "My life is under threat. I am getting threat calls regularly," Bhatti had told ENInews at the end of a telephone interview on 22 November. On 4 January, another high-ranking government figure, Punjab Governor Salman Taseer, was killed after he criticized the blasphemy law. Saldana told ENInews, "we salute the courage of Shahbaz who knowingly put his life in danger by speaking up boldly against the blasphemy law. We decided to close all the institutions to honour his sacrifice."

Victor Azariah, general secretary of the National Council of Churches in Pakistan (NCCP), told ENInews from his office at Lahore that "words cannot describe our feelings" at the news of Bhatti's killing. "We are stunned," he said. "This is a big loss to the Christian community. We have a lost a fearless leader," Joseph Francis, founder director of CLAAS (Centre for Legal Aid Assistance and Settlement), told ENInews. "We are stunned by the failure of the government to provide proper security to Bhatti. When his car was ambushed, there were no security men around," said Francis, who knew Bhatti from his student days. CLAAS has been defending Christians and others charged under the blasphemy law.

World leaders, including U.S. President Barack Obama, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon, British Prime Minister David Cameron and Pope Benedict XVI, paid tribute to Bhatti. In New York, the Islamic Society of North America said it was "outraged" by the killing. In a letter to the prime minister of Pakistan, the general secretary of the Geneva-based World Council of Churches, the Rev. Olav Fykse Tveit called the crime "heinous and outrageous." He added that "extremists will stop at nothing in their desperate attempt to force religious extremism and violence on Pakistani society" and called for the protection of religious minorities.

Bhatti launched the Christian Liberation Front in his student days and later founded in 2001 the All Pakistan Minority Alliance. He joined the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) in 2002. When the PPP assumed power in early 2008 under president Asif Ali Zardari, Bhatti was nominated to Pakistan's National Assembly under the reserved quota for Christians and was made the federal minister for minority affairs. - <http://www.eni.ch>

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**INDIA : `The HAND of Don Bosco` Film Planned By C.M. Paul** AGARTALA (C.M. Paul) - The Salesians of northeast India provinces (Guwahati and Dimapur) have come up with an ambitious film project to mark Don Bosco Relics Pilgrimage (DBRP) India scheduled for May-November 2011. Besides, the SDB provinces of Dimapur and Guwahati, two other major institutions of Guwahati (DB Institute of Management Studies & Bosco Reach-Out) have joined as co-producers of the docufilm entitled The Hand of Don Bosco (The Hand). The 28 minute film is scheduled to be released on 1st May 2011, the first day of DB Relics Pilgrimage in India, at Imphal, capital of Manipur. Commenting on the relic of Don Bosco's right hand encased in the casket going around the world, Guwahati province priest film director of award winning Kokborok feature films Mathia and Yarwng, Fr Joseph Pulinthanath asks, ``Why not mark this occasion with a film on the HAND of DB! - What it did during his lifetime and what the hand of DB through the hands of his Salesians continue to do in the world, particularly in this part of India... Blessing, praying, caring, healing, working, building, comforting, supporting etc.`` It is the town that perhaps best signifies today the Turin of yore-like youth situation of Northeast India,`` ruminates the 2010 national film award winner and film director Fr Pulinthanath. His earlier film entitled Mist & Magic released on the occasion of Catholic Bishops Conference of India General Assembly in Guwahati last year, depicted the cultural extravaganza of the seven northeastern states.

The Hand`` technical crew from different parts of India is expected to reach Northeast on 26th March and the shoot is scheduled for 26 March to 6th April. The crew includes another award winning director and chief cameraman, Fr Jiji Kalavanal from the southern Indian state of Kerala. Director of Don Bosco Youth Centre, Itanagar, Fr. Cyriac Pulinthanthumalayil, is the production logistics coordinator of `The Hand`. The post production works of `The Hand` will begin soon after the shoot in the northeast, at Don Bosco IMAGE, a media production and training centre at Kochi. For info on ``The Hand`` project contact Fr Joseph Pulinthanath: [jpulinsdb@gmail.com](mailto:jpulinsdb@gmail.com) - <http://www.donboscoindia.com>

## VATICAN NEWS



**Vatican's Ecumenism Leader Meets With Russian Patriarch**

MOSCOW, Russia, MARCH 17, 2011 ([Zenit.org](http://www.zenit.org)):- On his first official trip to Russia, the president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity met Wednesday with Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Russia.

A note from the Moscow Patriarchate described Cardinal Kurt Koch's meeting at the patriarch's working residence as focused on "major areas of cooperation" between the two Churches.

The statement added that despite theological difference, "both Churches can already now come into close cooperation in areas where their positions coincide, namely, defense of traditional Christian values in Europe, advocacy of the Christian position in the socio-economic sphere and in the ethics of scientific research and bioethics."

On this basis, it is "possible to develop cooperation in international organizations, such as the U.N., OSCE, and the E.U. structures," the note continued.

It added that the patriarch and cardinal also spoke of the problem of Christianophobia, "which has affected not only the regions where Christians are subjects to open persecution but also the European countries with their age-old Christian tradition."

"Cardinal Koch expressed satisfaction at the fact that Pope Benedict and Patriarch Kirill have a shared position on this problem and underscored that these shared views help to further inter-Church cooperation," the statement added. "Patriarch Kirill said he respected the position taken by Pope Benedict who defends the Christian tradition in spite of sometime sharp criticism from liberal circles."

Cardinal Koch has also visited the Sts. Cyril and Methodius Postgraduate and Doctoral School, as well as the Laura of the Holy Trinity and St. Sergius and the Moscow Theological Academy.

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#### **Polish Bishops: We Have a Friend of God in Heaven**

WARSAW, Poland, MARCH 17, 2011 ([Zenit.org](http://www.zenit.org)).- The Polish bishops are looking to Pope John Paul II, who will be beatified May 1, as a friend of God in heaven.

In a letter written on the topic of the upcoming beatification, the Polish Episcopal Conference affirmed, "Pope John Paul II guided the universal Church and strengthened us in the faith for more than 26 years."

It noted that "the gift of the life and ministry of Pope John Paul II enriched the life of the contemporary Church and of the world."

"From the beginning of his pontificate, the Holy Father put in focus the person of Christ, Redeemer of the human race," the bishops stated.

They added, "He made an appeal to admit Christ and to open to Christ 'the confines of the states, economic as well as political systems, the vast fields of culture, of civilization, of development.'"

The letter stated, "John Paul II defended the dignity of man created in the image and likeness of God" and he was "a defender of life in every phase of its development."

It continued: "In his social encyclicals, he requested that social and national life be guided always by principles of justice and solidarity."

"He asked that consideration be given to the particular case of the poor, of the marginalized."

The bishops reminded the faithful that John Paul II was a witness of mercy: "The Servant of God John Paul II, inasmuch as [he was] direct witness of the inhuman totalitarian regimes of the 20th century, preached the truth of Divine Mercy."

This truth is "gives aspirations and hopes," they added.

According to the prelates, the preparation for John Paul II's beatification "cannot stop at questions of personal and family life."

They affirmed, "We share the concern for the quality and the style of the political life of our country," in which "are manifested the scandalous divisions between persons of different factions."

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#### **World Youth Day Will Have a "Very Spanish" Flavor**

VATICAN CITY, MARCH 17, 2011 ([Zenit.org](http://www.zenit.org)).- The upcoming World Youth Day in Madrid will be marked by Spanish joy, with the character of a fiesta, says the executive director of the event.

Yago de la Cierva made this comment during a briefing in the Vatican press office. He predicted that more than 1 million young people will participate in the event, which has the support of the government, region and municipality of Madrid.

The organizational team for the youth day also spoke at the meeting with journalists, reporting on various initiatives that are being carried out in preparation for this world meeting of young people with the Pope.

The technology and social networks already have a role in this event, and on Facebook there are already more than 250,000 registered at the World Youth Day page, De la Cierva noted. He explained that these youth are able to share their opinions and their preferences on certain matters, and link to the social networks of other countries and regions.

"Hence," the executive director said, "it will be an event marked by the suggestions that young people are making through the Web page [www.madrid11.com](http://www.madrid11.com) in 11 languages and with more than 1 million visits a month."

He noted that 25,000 volunteers are needed, 20,000 of whom have already expressed their intention to participate. Of these, almost 8,000 are from countries other than Spain.

Volunteers are given a 75% discount on their registration. They will be given food and housing for 10 days prior to the event, a period in which they will receive training, get to know the city, learn first aid and other practical issues.

#### **Bishops Worldwide Affirm Solidarity With Japan**

OSAKA, Japan, MARCH 17, 2011 ([Zenit.org](http://www.zenit.org)).- The disastrous March 11 earthquake and resulting tsunami in Japan has elicited a major show of solidarity from bishops worldwide.

The president of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Archbishop Timothy Dolan of New York, sent a letter to the president of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Japan, Archbishop Leo Jun Ikenaga of Osaka, to express support in the wake of the disaster.

Archbishop Dolan stated, "The first news reports of the preliminary estimates of suffering, loss of life and physical damage challenge our ability to grasp the reality of such a massive event."

The death count is currently over 5,300, with 2,400 people injured and almost 10,000 still missing.

The prelate assured the Japanese archbishop "of the prayers and solidarity of the bishops and faithful in the United States at this difficult moment."

He noted that Catholic Relief Services, the humanitarian agency of the U.S. bishops, has already been in touch with Caritas in Japan.

The president of the Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference, Archbishop Philip Wilson of Adelaide, sent a similar letter to Archbishop Ikenaga offering "deepest condolences following the devastating earthquake and tsunami."

The Bishops' Conference of England and Wales is likewise encouraging the faithful to pray for the victims of the earthquake with the publication of a prayer that can be said for the people of Japan.

In Ireland, the bishops' conference also distributed a prayer for the people of Japan, encouraging people to use it in parishes, schools and at home.

At the shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes in France, a continuous prayer campaign is taking place to "offer moral and spiritual support to the courageous Japanese nation," a communiqué reported.

It added, "Given the horror of the nuclear tragedy that the Japanese archipelago is facing, after the earthquake and the tsunami, all Masses celebrated in Lourdes from March 16 to March 20 are being dedicated to the intentions of the inhabitants of Japan."

## A Short story - GOOD ONE

**"In a day, when you don't come across any problems, you can be sure that you are travelling in a wrong path  
"...Swami Vivekananda**

Bob Richards, the former pole-vault champion, shares a moving story about a skinny young boy who loved football with all his heart.

Practice after practice, he eagerly gave everything he had. But being half the size of the other boys, he got absolutely nowhere. At all the games,

All through high school he neither missed a practice nor a game, but remained a bench warmer all four years. His faithful father was always in the stands, always with words of encouragement for him. When the young man went to college, he decided to try out for the football team as a "walk-on." Everyone was sure he could never make the cut, but he did.

It was the end of his senior football season, and as he trotted onto the practice field shortly before the big play off game, the coach met him with a telegram. The young man read the telegram and he became silent. Swallowing hard, he mumbled to the coach, "My father died this morning. Is it all right if I miss practice today?" The coach put his arm gently around his shoulder and said, "Take the rest of the week off, son. And don't even plan to come back to the game on Saturday." Saturday arrived, and the Game was not going well. In the third quarter, when the team was ten points behind, a silent young man quietly slipped into the empty locker room and put on his football gear. As he ran onto the sidelines, the coach and his players were astounded to see their faithful teammate back so soon.



"Coach, please let me play. I've just got to play today" said the young man. The coach pretended not to hear him. There was no way he wanted his worst player in this close playoff game. But the young man persisted, and finally feeling sorry for the kid, the coach gave in.

"All right," he said. "You can go in." Before long, the coach, the players and everyone in the stands could not believe their eyes. This little unknown, who had never played before was doing everything right. The opposing team could not stop him. He ran, he passed, blocked and tackled like a star. His team began to triumph. The score was soon tied. In

The closing seconds of the game, this kid intercepted a pass and ran all the way for the winning touchdown. The fans broke loose. His teammates hoisted him onto their shoulders. Such cheering you never heard!

Finally the coach came to him and said, "Kid, I can't believe it. You were fantastic! Tell me what got into you? How did you do it?" He looked at the coach, with tears in his eyes, and said, "Well, you knew my dad died, but did you know that my dad was blind?" The young man swallowed hard and forced a smile, "Dad came to all my games, but today was the first time he could see me play, and I wanted to show him I could do it!"

Like the athlete's father, God is always there cheering us. He's always reminding us to go on. He's even offering us His hand for He knows what is best and is willing to give us what we need and not simply what we want.

God has never missed a single game. What a joy to know that life is meaningful if lived for the Highest. Live for HIM for He's watching us in the game of life.

*Courtesy: Arun Prasad, Rustambagh*

**jkpo;g; gf;fk;**

**mtd; mts;.... (njhlu;fij)...3**

**Kd;fij RUf;fk;**

*(fdpnkhop jd; kfis ahNuh jj;J vLf;f tUfpwhu;fs; vd;W mwpe;J mJ Fwpj;Jj; jd; fztd;  
ypNkhtplk; tk;Gr; nra;jhs;. mtSila Kiwg;Gk; fLfLg;Gk; epiwe;j elj;ijf;Ff;  
fhuzk;.....mg;NghJ fdpnkhopf;F MW tajpUf;Fk;....mts; jha; uPl;lhtpd; jk;gp ikf;fy; Fb  
gof;fk; cilatd;. xUehs; msTf;F kPwp Fbj;Jtpl;L NkYk; Fbf;fg; gzk; Nfl;lhd;. ,jdhy; mf;fh  
jk;gp ,UtupilNa tha; jfuhW Vw;gl;IJ. tPL jpUk;gpa uPl;lhtpd; fztd; mw;Gjuh[; jiyapl;Lr;  
rkhjhdk; nra;Jitf;f Kaw;rpj;jhd;. mk;Kaw;rpapy; mw;Gjuh[pf;Fk; ikf;fYf;Fk; iffyg;G  
Vw;gl;IJ. ,g;NghJ kPz;Lk; fij njhlu;fpwJ)...*

uPl;lh> jd; fztidf; fhg;ghw;w Xbdhs;. ikf;fYk; mw;Gjuh[pAk; xUtiunahUtu;  
fl;bg;Guz;ldu;. ikf;fypd; MNtrk; mw;Gjuh[papd; kPJ gha;e;jJ. mtDf;F vd;d nra;fpNwhk;  
vd;gJ njupahky; jd; khkidNa rukhupahf mbj;jhd;. tapw;wpy; jdJ tyJ fuj;jpdhy; gjk;  
ghu;j;jhd;. jiyapy; jpkpwpf;nfhz;Lk; jd;idf; fhg;ghw;wpf; nfhs;sTk; Kaw;rpj;Jf;nfhz;bUe;j  
mw;Gjuh[; vt;tsNth Kad;W ghu;j;jhd; Mdhy; ntwp gpbj;j eha;Nghy; gz;ghL kwe;jtdhf  
ed;wp kwe;jtdhf ikf;fy;> jd; mf;fhtpd; fztd;> jdf;F gyKiw ghrKk; gupTk; fhI;batd; vd;gij  
vs;ssTk; kdjpy; nfhs;shky; nfhiyntwpNahL jhf;fpdhd;. mw;Gjuh[papd; jiyapYk; ,uj;jk;  
gPwpl;L te;jJ. typ jhq;fKbahky; jd; kidtpiaAk; Foe;ij fdpnkhopiaAk; ghu;j;jhd;.

fztd; ,g;gb mbgl;Lf;nfhz;bUf;fpd;whNu vd;W ve;j kidtpahy; jhd; ntWkNd Ntbf;ifg;  
ghu;f;fKbAk;? gf;j;jpy; ,Ue;j tpwFf; fl;ilia vLj;J ikf;fypd; Njhy;gl;ilapy; xd;Wtpl;lhs;.   
mt;tsTjhd;. mbgl;l Ntq;ifg;Nghy mf;fhthapw;Nw> xNu jha; tapw;wpy; gpwe;J jd;id  
guhkwpi;J md;G fhI;batshapw;Nw vd;w vz;zk;\$l mwNtapy;yhjtdha; mNj tpwFf; fl;ilia

vLj;J uPl;lhtpd; jiyapy; gykhf mbj;jhd;. mt;tsTjhd; uPl;lh mywpdhs;> Jbj;jhs;. ,jw;fpilNa capUf;Fg;Nghuhbf;nfhz;bUe;j mw;Gjuh[; kidtpia Nehf;fp elf;f Kad;whd;. Mdhy; Kbatpy;iy. uPl;lh jd; md;G fztd; ,we;JtpLthNdh vd;w mr;rj;jpYk; kdNtjidapYk;> jk;gp ikf;fy; ,f;nfhbar; nraiynra;Jtpl;lhNd vd;w mjpur;rpapypUe;J kPsKbahky; khuilg;ghy; kaq;fpg;Nghdhs;. ,ijg; ghu;j;Jf;nfhz;bUe;j mw;Gjuh[; mywpdhd;. uPl;lhtpd; Kfj;jpy; jz;zPu; njspj;jhd;. mts; fz;fisj; jpwe;J ghu;j;jhs;. ,jw;Fs; ikf;fy; jd; NghijapypUe;J nfhQ;rNk njspe;jtdha; nra;jJ kfh ghtk; Fw;wk; vd;gij mwpe;J gae;J Xl;l;gpbj;jhd;. fdpnkhop jd; jhAk; je;ijAk; jha; khkdpd; nfhLikapdhy; Jbj;Jf;nfhz;bUg;gijf; fz;L gPwpl;L mOjhs;> Njk;gpdhs;. jhia Nehf;fp Xbte;J mizj;Jf; nfhz;lhs;. “fdp> mohNj nry;yk;> xUNTis ehd; ,we;JNghapl;Nld;dh> eP mof;\$lhJ> ftiyg;glhNj> cd; mg;gh vg;gbahtJ cd;idf; fhg;ghj;JthU fdpnkhop.. fdp... mg;ghitg; ghUlh me;j ghtpg; igad;> ed;wpapy;yhj eha;> ,g;gb nra;thd;D ehd; nfhQ;rk;\$l epidf;fNtapy;iy> mtid ehd; jk;gp jk;gpd;D mf;fiw fhl;b tsu;j;jJ vt;tsNth jg;ghNghapLr;Nr.... ek;k Njhl;l;jpNy ey;yh Ntiy nra;awhNd> clk;G Kbakh NghFNk> Fbf;ff; fhR Nfl;fpwhNdd;D ehd; jhd; mtDf;F mg;gg;Ngh fhR nfhLj;J nfhLj;Jl;Nlk;kh.. nfhLj;Jl;Nld;...‘xNu jk;gp> ,tid ey;ygbah ghu;j;Jf;Nf’ d;D vd;Dila mk;kh rhfpwJf;F Kd;dhb nrhy;yp nrj;jhq;f> Mdh ,g;Ngh ,td; ek;k FLk;gj;Jf;Nf vkdh tUthd;D epidf;fpypak;kh> fdp... mg;ghit ghUlh vg;gb ciwQ;R Nghapl;lhU... vd;dq;f... vd;dq;f> vd;dg; ghUq;f... vd;ida vd;dNkh gz;ZJq;f... ehd; capUld; ,Uf;fkhl;Nlq;f.. kfis cq;ffpl;l xg;gilf;fpNwq;f... ,NaRNt.. ,NaRNt... khjhNt.... fz;nzy;yhk; xNu ,Ul;lh ,Uf;FJq;f... xd;DNk njupayPq;f...mk;kh.. mk;kh...” uPl;lhtpd; fz;fs; kq;fyhfpg;Nghf Ngr;Rk; epd;Wg;Nghf nrayw;Wg;Nghdhs;. ,t;tsT ele;Jk; vijAk; mwpahjtu;fs;Nghy;> vJTk; Nfl;fhjJNghy; ,Ue;j mf;fk; gf;fj;jhu;> ikf;fy; Ntfkha; ntspNawpaijAk; mw;Gjuh[; mywpaijAk; Foe;ij Xykpl;l;jAk; mwpe;J XNIhb te;jdu;.

fztd; kidtp ,UtiuAk; muR kUj;Jtkidapy; Nru;j;jdu;. Mdhy; vd;d gad;? uPl;lh Vw;fdNt ,we;JNghapUe;jhs;. mw;Gjuh[; jd;idNa Rjhupj;Jf;nfhz;L mtis jPtpu rpfpr;irf;fhf mtru gpuptpy; Nru;j;jhd;. ,e;j mjpur;rp Nrjpawpe;j uPl;lhtpd; jq;if gupksh jd; fztNdL muR kUj;Jtkidf;F te;jpUe;jhs;. xt;nthU Qhapw;Wf;fpoikAk; jtwHj jpUg;gypapy; gq;nfhLj;J kupahapd; Nridapy; cWg;gpdsha; gzpahw;wpa uPl;lhtpd; kuzr;nra;jpawpe;j gq;Fj;je;ij rhKNty; kpfTk; tUe;jpdhu;. jd;Dila gq;F kf;fs; ,g;gbnay;yhk; Jd;gg; gLfpwhu;fNs vd;W fz;zPu; tbj;jhu;. clNd jdJ ,Urf;fu tz;bapy; kUj;Jtkid Nehf;fp tpiue;jhu;. mtSila clYf;F kUj;Jtkidapy; nrgpj;J kupahijr; nra;aNtz;Lnkd;W tpUk;gpdhu;. kupahapd; Nrid mq;fj;jpdu; rpyiu mioj;Jf;nfhz;L kUj;Jtkidf;F te;jhu;. uPl;lhtpd; gpNujg; gupNrhjidr; nra;ahky; mtiu cs;Ns mDkjp;ftpy;iy kUj;Jtkid rpg;ge;jpfs;. rup te;Jtpl;Nlhk;> capUf;Fg; Nghuhbf;nfhz;bUf;fpw mw;Gjuh[pia Mrpu;tjpf;fyhk; vd;W rpwg;G mDkjpNahL mtru rpfpr;irg; gpuptpy; Eioe;jhu;. jiyapy; fl;L Nghlg;gl;bUe;j epiyapy; mw;Gjuh[; gLj;Jf;fple;jijg; ghu;j;J mtUila fz;fs; Fskhapd. vd;d MWjy; nrhy;tnjd;W njupahky; mtidNa ghu;j;jhu;. mq;fpUe;jtu;fis mioj;jhu;. vy;yhUk; jq;fs; ifis cau;jjr; nrhy;yp je;ij rhKNty; cUf;fkhl;nrgpj;jhu;... “mg;gh gpjhNt ViofSf;fhfTk; ghtpfSf;fhfTk; ck; jpUkfid mDg;gpdPNu> ed;wp je;ijNa! kj;. 11:28,y; ,NaR> “Rik Rke;J Nrhu;e;jpUg;gtu;fNs> vy;yhUk; vd;dplk; thUq;fs;> cq;fSf;F ehd; ,isg;ghWjy; jUNtd; vd;W MWjy; nrhd;dhu;. ,Njh> ,e;j mg;yf; FLk;gj;ij MrPu;tjpAk;> ey;y cs;skhfpa mw;Gjuh[papd; Gz;fis Mw;wpaUSk;. uPl;lhtpd; Md;khtpw;F epiytho;Tj; je;jUSk;. MrPu;tjpAk;> my;NyY}ah my;NyY}ah.. ,NaRNt.. ,NaRNt mw;Gjuh[pia FzgLj;Jk;.... FzgLj;Jk;....,NaR fpwp];Jtpd;

jpUg;ngauhy; nrgpf;fpNwd; ey;y je;ijNa MnkD;” ,t;thW nrgpj;j gq;Fj; je;ij rhKNty;  
mw;Gjuh[papd; kPJ Gdpjj; jz;zPiu; njspj;jhu;. mq;fpUe;j mj;jidg;NgUk;  
gutrkile;jdu;..... **(fij njhUK;).**

**je;ij ehjd;**