

# THE KEY OF THE KINGDOM (KOK)

JULY-AUG 2013

## Editor's Desk



### Can we have ONE COMMON system of Education?

Hi Readers, what do you think about today's world of education, particularly in India? Are you happy with our education system?

Do you agree that the existence of multiple systems of education SSLC (SECONDARY SCHOOL LEAVING CERTIFICATE) a Karnataka State Board Education system, CBSE (CENTRAL BOARD OF SECONDARY EDUCATION) and ICSE (INDIAN COUNCIL OF SECONDARY EDUCATION) in our country have caused social disparity in our society?

Let us take an eagle eye view at this issue.



Every system has its own syllabi. The quantum and quality of syllabi differ from system to system. Accordingly the external status and attitudes of students too differ. One looks down upon the other.

Citing my own experience as an example, I completed SSLC in 1977. I studied in Thamizh medium up to 7<sup>th</sup> standard and when I came to 8<sup>th</sup> standard, there were students from higher English medium who looked down upon us the students of Thamizh medium. They were able to speak English better than us. Their syllabi up to 7<sup>th</sup> standard were different from ours and their standard of study was considered high.

They were called 'higher English students'. Hence I had to give good fight in competing with these higher English medium students and came out with flying colours.

This is just one example as how students in our country struggle with variety of disparities and hence run through inferiority complex.

Today there is no uniformity in the lessons in schools on account of education pattern in our country. We speak about Govt schools, Corporation schools, Private schools, Convent schools, Military schools and so on.

63% students in India are from rural areas. For the benefit only 37% of the urban students, the educational system in India has been conveniently framed. Out of 1,34,896,670 students who attended the 10<sup>th</sup> standard exam in India few years ago, it is reported 76 lakh students were from rural India. You can imagine a major part of the benefit of quality education that comes out from disparity of educational system in India goes to rich community. Most of the job oriented opportunities are enjoyed by the urban population.



Today there is a wide gap among children high quality school children and ordinary school children which leads to thinking of superior and inferior among them. Parents think differently and so also students. Fee structures differ. Quantity and quality of books vary. Even buildings vary in their grandeur. 'I am in ICSE' says a student and he expects special treatment from others. 'I am in CBSE' says another and his parents too feel superior. Students, as a result feel comparatively inferior or superior to others. Job opportunities are created according to the multiple education system in our country. This is totally different from what exists in America or Europe. There, children from any corner of their country have ONE COMMON educational system and common syllabi.

Well, this sort of unequal system of education in our country must be altered or modified, because it causes social disparity creating social stratification in the society. While social thinkers propose ONE COMMON system of education, political thinkers

(politicians) and the elected members of our nation, unfortunately, think differently. They think of sustaining disparities and differences in view of vote banks and retaining the poor as poorer. So what do you think, should we not change this disparity? '*See Judge Act*'

I have heard people telling me that students studying in the State board, comparatively, have less IQ than those of students studying either in ICSE or CBSE. While it may be or may not be, many parents feel that ICSE and CBSE bring quick and better jobs to their children. It doesn't have to be so. Poor parents who wish to educate their children in CBSE or ICSE are not able to afford to pay high fee as these institutions' management levy heavy fees.

Hence, to have a healthy and egalitarian society, we should have ONE COMMON system of education. Every student either from rural area or from urban area, all should have equal opportunity to have best education. Govt should provide the best and common education to all students. Though some Indian states are trying to enact bills to have one COMMON system of education, the present Thamizh Naadu govt, long ago proposed by the former CM Honourable M.Karunanithi, has succeeded in implementing this proposal of creating equal and one COMMON system of education till 10<sup>th</sup> standard. Also the TN High Court has ruled that henceforth the word 'Matriculation' be removed from the school boards. This is a right attempt in establishing one educational system for students at least up to 12<sup>th</sup> standard.

Whether one studies in mother tongue or English tongue, children from Kashmir to Kanniyakumari must study same lessons, of course, with a special reference to local language, culture and history. This will widen the horizon and scope of children's future. SEE, JUDGE & ACT.

Tolerance of any injustice and inequality is tantamount to encouraging unjust society.

Fr.J.A.Nathan, Editor

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The **Assumption of the Virgin Mary** into Heaven, informally known as **The Assumption**, according to the beliefs of the Roman Catholic Church, Eastern Orthodoxy, Oriental Orthodoxy, and parts of Anglicanism, was the bodily taking up of the Virgin Mary into Heaven at the end of her earthly life.

The Roman Catholic Church teaches as dogma that the Virgin Mary "having completed the course of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul into heavenly glory." This doctrine was dogmatically defined by Pope Pius XII on November 1, 1950, in the Apostolic Constitution *Munificentissimus Deus* by exercising papal infallibility. While the Catholic Church and Eastern Orthodox Church believe in the Dormition of the Theotokos, which is the same as the Assumption, the death of Mary has not been dogmatically defined.

In *Munificentissimus Deus* (item 39) Pope Pius XII pointed to the Book of Genesis (3:15) as scriptural support for the dogma in terms of Mary's victory over sin and death as also reflected in 1 Corinthians 15:54: "then shall come to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory".

In the churches which observe it, the Assumption is a major feast day, commonly celebrated on August 15. In many Catholic countries, the feast is also marked as a Holy Day of Obligation.

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## **PRAYER FOR INDIA**

Let Us Pray: Mother Mary You Have Been Assumed Into Heaven. We Thank The Lord For This Marvellous To You. This Guarantees Our Assumption Too Into Heaven With Our Saved Souls.

Mother Mary On This Day We Celebrate Our 55<sup>th</sup> Indian Independence Day.

We Thank The Lord For This Marvellous Nation India.

Blessed And Holy Mother, Please Pray For Our Countrymen Specially The Poor Living Below The Poverty Line, Socially Oppressed, Women Raped, Children Kidnapped, Molested And Killed, Corrupt Indians, Selfish Politicians...Unholy And Power Thirsty And Fanatic Priests..

Yes Mother, Our India Is In Need Of Liberation. You Are The Mother Liberated From This World. Please Intercede For The Salvation Of Our Enslaved India.

Pray For All Those Who Despise And Hate You, Especially The Protestants Who Teach Malignant Things Against You To Others

Break The Bondage Of Sins And Pray That Every One Lives Peacefully And Fraternally. Pray To Your Beloved Son Jesus Who Lives And Reigns For Ever And Ever. Amen

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## **HERE IS A JOKE ABOUT INDIA'S CORRUPTION**

Three old men went to see God.

The first old man, an American, asked God

"When will his country come out of recession?".

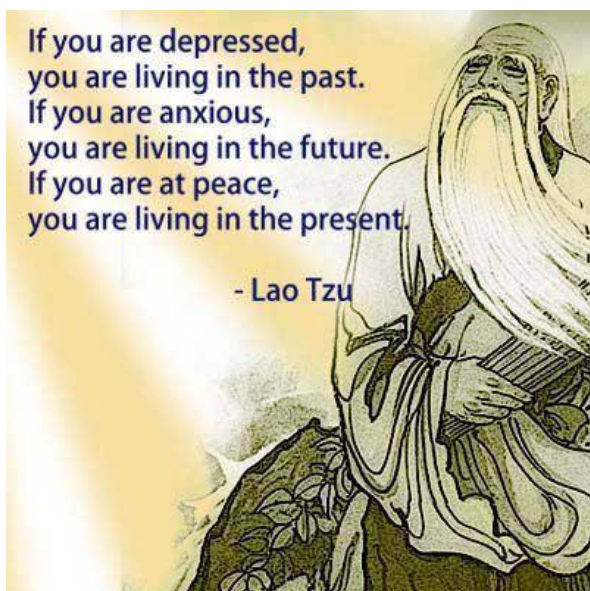
"100years," God said.

The American started weeping profusely.

"I will not live to see that day"

Second man, a Russian asked God  
"When will my country become prosperous?"  
"Fifty years," came the reply.  
The Russian too started weeping profusely.  
"I will not live to see that day"  
Finally the Indian asked God,  
"When will my country be free from corruption?"  
God started weeping.  
"I will not live to see that day"

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“TRY TO LEARN SOMETHIING ABOUT EVERYTHING AND EVERYTHING ABOUT SOMETHING” says Thomas Huxley

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## **PRIEST IS LIKE SHEPHERD TO THE FLOCK- A PASTORAL PERSPECTIVE IN THE LIGHT OF ST.JOHN MARY VIANNY -AUGUST 4TH**



**By: André Gomes, Mumbai**

St.John Mary Vianny(Jean Baptist Marie Vianny) hailed as the patron of parish priests is remembered on August 4. He was a popular pastor for his flock. He was born on 8 May 1786 in France and was ordained a priest in 1815 although he was considered not eligible to be ordained by his seminary rector. But God elevated him to the priesthood for his simplicity and humility. Here we go with few insights for our reflection as how to look at a priest.

### **Church - The Mystical Body of Christ:**

The Church is the mystical body of Christ. She walks in the foot-steps of Christ and found vibrancy and character with the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. The unity of the Mystical Body triumphs over all divisions” (CCC #791, pg.161). This implies that we have a great responsibility to stay united in the Lord.

### **Parish Priest as the shepherd:**

A priest is a shepherd guiding and nurturing his people in the faith. A parish priest, the overall keeper of the flock has a great responsibility of ensuring that people under his care are ministered to, are spiritually nourished and are governed by the same framework.

A parish priest as shepherd is not some visiting faculty member, who comes once a week to offer sacrifice. He is one who takes up residence in or within close proximity of the church, available to his people as and when they require his spiritual assistance. He knows his sheep and they understand his voice. His voice may be disciplinary, his

actions may be admonishing and the rules unwavering, but the priest as shepherd is our guide as we walk our spiritual journey.

### **Trapeze artists:**

If one has visited a circus, one would know what a trapeze artist is? She or he swings from one bar to another committing to an entertaining acrobatic act. Like that it is fascinating at times to watch some of our Catholics doing the trapeze act, swinging from one Church to another – this Sunday, this Church and the next Sunday another and the third Sunday yet another. Why is it that Catholics people find solace in attending services elsewhere, rather than in their own home parish? A home parish is a single unit of the larger body of Christ.

### **United in Love:**

If all the members of parish are not presented in the Church together, whom does the parish priest then offer sacrifices for? For whom does he have to give account to God for? The parish priest is responsible for “each” of the people in his parish. But how can he do so, if we shy away from our participation. We cannot use the church we belong to as a magistrate’s office, visiting it only to get our certificates; be it baptism, confirmation, marriage or burial.

If we come to our parish just to receive these sacramental certificates, then let us not forget that the Eucharist is the highest sacrament. It is the source and summit of our existence.

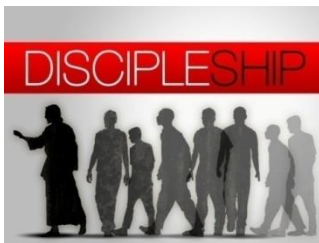
If one chooses to constantly shy away from attending Holy Mass at one’s own Church for reasons that are unbecoming of our calling, then that person must commit to an examination of conscience. In the sacrifice of the Holy Mass, we experience the love of Christ that is destined to transform us into a deeper communion with him. *But how can we experience a communion with what we cannot see, if we cannot relate to what we can see?*

We must allow ourselves to be led by the shepherd in our parish, our priest, into a deeper union with Christ. We must be true to God and to ourselves, in admitting to the fact that we have strayed away from the flock and ensure that we are bound as one body of Christ to the parish we belong to. Vatican Council II document *Lumen Gentium* states;



“By divine institution the Holy Church is ordered and governed with a wonderful diversity. For just as in one body we have many members, yet all the members have not the same function, so we the many, are one body in Christ, but severally members one of another” (VC II, Lumen Gentium #32, pg 354). In the eyes of God, a church is not beautified by stained glass windows, or marble arches, or even biblically inspired paintings and murals, but by the presence of God’s people, the entire flock, singing and praising HIM together. AMEN!

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### **What is true discipleship?**

True discipleship means to be with the Lord and to be with others in service.

True discipleship means to die with the Lord and to rise with Him.

True discipleship means believing in the existence of God without any stint and accepting the manifestation of God’s absolute love in Christ with all your mind and with all your soul and with all your body

True discipleship means walking behind the Lord and entering into heavenly bliss with the Lord

True discipleship means not to run away to another denomination when things do not go well in your own parish/diocese.

True discipleship means to stay committed in the activities of the particular church in which you are a member.

True discipleship means to extend fullest cooperation with your church pastor for the glory of God and for the welfare of your parish community.

True discipleship means to stay away from indulging in fraudulent means of earning money, name and reputation.

True discipleship means to give up unlawful means of pleasure.

True discipleship means to deny oneself for Christ and for others.

True discipleship means following 10 Commandments and Precepts of the Church.

True discipleship is to participate regularly in Sunday Mass and parish activities.

True discipleship means to pay to God (Church) what is God's (subscription to your parish- one if possible tenth (Tithe) of your monthly payment) and pay to Caesar (taxes to the nation) what is Caesar's.

True discipleship means to conduct family prayer daily without fail.

True discipleship means not to involve in superstitious activities that are against God and the Church.

True discipleship means being faithful and grateful to God and to the Church like a faithful servant to its master.

True disciple of Christ is always happy and helps others to be happy.

True disciple of Christ is ever courageous to be truthful and sincere.

True discipleship demands altruistic love for everyone.

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Justice Sathasivam to become CJI



President Pranab Mukherjee appointed Justice P. Sathasivam, senior most judge of the Supreme Court, the 40th Chief Justice of India.

He succeeds Altamas Kabir, who retires on July 18, and will have a brief tenure of about nine months.

Justice Sathasivam, 64, is the second judge from Tamil Nadu to become the CJI. Justice M. Patanjali Sastri, who served as CJI from November 1951 to January 1954, hailed from the undivided Madras Presidency.

Justice Sathasivam never served as Chief Justice of a High Court as he was elevated directly to the Supreme Court on August 21, 2007, when he was serving as a judge of the Punjab and Haryana High Court.

Hailing from Kadappanallur village, Bhavani taluk in Erode district of Tamil Nadu, Justice Sathasivam belonged to an agricultural family. He was the first graduate in his family and the first law graduate in his village. He was appointed a permanent judge of the Madras High Court on January 8, 1996. As a High Court judge, though he handled all types of cases, he disposed of more cases in service, labour and accident claim matters. On April 20, 2007, he was transferred to the Punjab and Haryana High Court.

He was sworn in as CJI on July 19, 2013. He is due to retire on April 26, 2014.

In a Kalaignar TV interview he said, ***parents should be the first persons to adore in one's life. My father is no more, my mother is alive. Even now before I go to court, I inform my mother and take blessing from her***

THE KEY OF THE KINGDOM WISHES HIM THE BEST FOR HIS SERVICE AS CJI

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INDIA 'S INDEPENDENCE MEANS PEOPLE OF VARIOUS ETHNIC AND CULTURAL COMMUNITIES SHOULD RESPECT ONE'S FREEDOM TO LIVE DECENTLY AND PEACEFULLY FOLLOWING EVERY LAW OF THE NATION

INDIA SHOULD DESIST FROM JOINING HANDS WITH HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATING NATIONS LIKE SRI LANKA

HAPPY INDEPENDENCE TO ALL

## **ALCOHOL MENACE – A feature everyone should read including priests**

**I am very much concerned about human persons. I love humanity. I don't dare to see them suffering. I want them to be liberated from the chain of alcohol. I don't want the children of drinking fathers – mothers suffer from want of love and hunger. If you and I try to emancipate the humanity from the menace of alcohol drinking, the whole world of humans will be happy. Keeping this in mind, I bring to you this lengthy feature. Believe me everyone will benefit by reading.**

*An imagination: When travelling in a bus or train, say someone sits next to you and if he is drunk how do you react? You shrink your face and close your nose? Say someone in your family is a drunkard and if he creates a hell lot of problems to the family, how do you look at him? Say your husband drinks daily but to a limit and your child observes him taking a glass openly in front of him at home, how do you take this? Your mother takes you to a dinner party and she drinks wine or whisky and gives you a cup, how do you respond? Your son, say, he was arrested by police because he picked up a quarrel in a bar, as a father what will you do?*

*Well, families are broken, individuals are ruined, marriages are put asunder, human society becomes immoral and has become sickly and socially unhealthy... every section of our human society is terribly affected.... due to one major problem namely '**alcoholism**'.*

*Let us take a deep look into this issue and help our people take a strong and right decision for their life. The following feature will give you elaborate analysis on the problem of drinking alcohol.*



## WHAT IS ALCOHOL?

### **Alcohol is a drug.**

It is classed as a depressant, meaning that it slows down vital functions—resulting in slurred speech, unsteady movement, disturbed perceptions and an inability to react quickly.

As for how it affects the mind, it is best understood as a drug that reduces a person's ability to think rationally and distorts his or her judgment.

Although classified as a depressant, the amount of alcohol consumed determines the type of effect. Most people drink for the *stimulant* effect, such as a beer or glass of wine taken to “loosen up.” But if a people consume more than the body can handle, they then experience alcohol's depressant effect. They start to feel “stupid” or lose coordination and control.

Alcohol overdose causes even more severe depressant effects (inability to feel pain, toxicity where the body vomits the poison, and finally unconsciousness or, worse, coma or death from severe toxic overdose). These reactions depend on how much is consumed and how quickly.

There are different kinds of alcohol. Ethyl alcohol (ethanol), the only alcohol used in beverages, is produced by the fermentation of grains and fruits. Fermenting is a chemical process whereby yeast acts upon certain ingredients in the food, creating alcohol.

### **Alcohol content**

Fermented drinks, such as beer and wine, contain from 2% alcohol to 20% alcohol. Distilled drinks, or liquor, contain from 40% to 50% or more alcohol. The usual alcohol content for each is:

Beer		2–6%		alcohol
Cider		4–8%		alcohol
Wine		8–20%		alcohol
Tequila		40%		alcohol
Rum	40%	or	more	alcohol
Brandy	40%	or	more	alcohol
Gin		40–47%		alcohol
Whiskey		40–50%		alcohol
Vodka		40–50%		alcohol
Liqueurs	15–60% alcohol			

## **DRINKING AND DRIVING**

The risk of a driver under the influence of alcohol being killed in a vehicle accident is at least eleven times that of drivers without alcohol in their system.

For most people, these are only statistics—shocking, perhaps, but only statistics. But for the families and friends of those who die as a result of teenage drinking and driving, each number represents a tragic loss.

Alcohol distorts a person’s perceptions and judgment. People under the influence of alcohol readily admit their reaction time is slower than when not drinking, and they take many chances they would never take when sober. Too often those chances are fatal.

### **Understanding how alcohol affects the body**

Alcohol is absorbed into the bloodstream via small blood vessels in the walls of the stomach and small intestine. Within minutes of drinking alcohol, it travels from the stomach to the brain, where it quickly produces its effects, slowing the action of nerve cells.

Approximately 20% of alcohol is absorbed through the stomach. Most of the remaining 80% is absorbed through the small intestine.

Alcohol is also carried by the bloodstream to the liver, which eliminates the alcohol from the blood through a process called “metabolizing,” where it is converted to a nontoxic substance. The liver can only metabolize a certain amount at a time, leaving the excess circulating throughout the body. Thus the intensity of the effect on the body is directly related to the amount consumed.

When the amount of alcohol in the blood exceeds a certain level, the respiratory (breathing) system slows down markedly, and can cause a coma or death, because oxygen no longer reaches the brain.

### **ROAD TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS IN INDIAN PRESENT SCENERIO**

- In 2010, India recorded 1, 34,000 road accident deaths highest in the world. The World Bank trends put this figure at 2,00,000 annually
- About 5,20,000 road accident injuries and 4,90,000 road accidents occurred in 2010.
- About 56 accidents per hour (one accident per minute).
- If a person meets with a road accident in India, there is an over 30 per cent chance of death.
- Around 53 per cent of the people who die in India are males in the most productive age group of 20 to 50 years.
- The number of people killed has increased four times from 1970 to 2009.
- A major contributor to traffic deaths in India is drunk driving, which is responsible for 70 percent of road fatalities.
- India accounts for about 10 percent of road accident fatalities worldwide.
- An estimated 12,75,000 persons are grievously injured on the road every year.
- Professionalism in driver training is absent, proportion of untrained drivers is continually on the rise and a positive driving culture is lacking.

**DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE**

**IV.ROAD TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS AND  
DRUNKEN DRIVING-SOME STUDIES  
AND RESEARCH**

Drunken driving has been recognized as a world menace, based on the stats which reveal that road accidents cause 12 lakh deaths and 500 lakh injuries around the world each year. Some 4,80,000 of these deaths and 200 lakh of people get injured by drunken driving.

In a report for WHO, a multi-centre collaborative study – ‘Injury and Alcohol’ at National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS) Bangalore it was found that the proportion of injuries ‘linked’ to alcohol use was 58.9% of all injuries with 24% due to own drinking and 35% due to others drinking. It was found that on the types of injuries amongst alcohol users, 46% was due to road accidents.

A study from Kerala State conducted by the Alcohol & Drug Information centre revealed around 40% of the road accidents have occurred because the driver was under the Influence of alcohol. In the case of accidents on National Highways, more than 72% were linked to drunk driving. In a survey done at Delhi by the Directorate of Prohibition, it was found that 45% of vehicles are driven by drivers who had consumed alcoholic drinks. Car owners who attend dinners / parties tend to get drunk, indulge in rash driving and are unable to control the vehicle and meet with accidents. About 60% to 65% of accidents are being caused by drunken drivers of cars and two wheelers during the night and early hours of the morning.



YOUNG PEOPLE VERSUS ADULTS. WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

A young person's body cannot cope with alcohol the same way an adult's can.



Drinking is more harmful to teens than adults because their brains are still developing throughout adolescence and well into young adulthood. Drinking during this critical growth period can lead to lifelong damage in brain function, particularly as it relates to memory, motor skills (ability to move) and coordination.

According to research, young people who begin drinking before age 15 are four times more likely to develop alcohol dependence than those who begin drinking at age 21.

For some teens, like Samantha, drinking seems to be a solution to problems they don't want to face.

*"When I was 13, friends would make fun of me if I didn't have a drink. I just gave in because it was easier to join the crowd. I was really unhappy and just drank to escape my life.*

*"I went out less and less so started losing friends and the more lonely I became the more I drank.*

*"I was violent and out of control. I never knew what I was doing. I was ripping my family apart."*

Kicked out of her home at age 16, she was homeless and started begging for money to buy drinks. After years of abuse, doctors told her there was irreparable harm to her health.

*"...I was only 16 but my liver was badly damaged and I was close to killing myself from everything I was drinking." —Samantha*

## **WHAT IS BINGE DRINKING?**

Binge drinking is the practice of consuming large quantities of alcohol in a single session, usually defined as five or more drinks at one time for a man, or four or more drinks at one time for a woman.

About 90% of the alcohol consumed by youth under the age of 21 in the United States is in the form of binge drinks.

*“I binge drink every chance I get and to be honest I am disgusted with myself, but I cannot control my desire to do it... If I drink too much or drink certain drinks, I get breathless and go blotchy all over my body, but I continue to drink until I am so exhausted I fall asleep.... I am not sure that I am strong enough to quit my stupidity.” —Allen*

*“By the time I was in my mid-20s I was locked in to drinking.”*

*“A lot of my first concerns were about drinking, and everything else came second.*

*“I started to realize that when I didn’t have a drink I had a sense of panic and I would start shaking.*

*“If I had to go without a drink, I would go through shakes and sweats. I couldn’t go for more than a few hours without a drink.” —Paul*

*“This past year I have gone to work drunk, blacked out in clubs and bars and can’t remember getting home. Ashamedly I slept with someone and couldn’t even remember the person coming home with me until we bumped into each other the next day.”*

*“I’ve destroyed two relationships because I hurt them so much through my drinking, but I put drinking first.*

*“My family are so hurt that their daughter is killing herself for apparently no reason.”  
—Jamie*

## WHAT IS ALCOHOLISM OR ALCOHOL DEPENDENCE?

Alcohol dependence (alcoholism) consists of four symptoms:

- Craving: a strong need, or compulsion, to drink.
- Loss of control: the inability to limit one’s drinking on any given occasion.
- Physical dependence: withdrawal symptoms, such as nausea, sweating, shakiness and anxiety, occur when alcohol use is stopped after a period of heavy drinking.

Serious dependence can lead to life-threatening withdrawal symptoms including convulsions, starting eight to twelve hours after the last drink. The delirium tremens

(D.T.'s) begins three to four days later where the person becomes extremely agitated, shakes, hallucinates and loses touch with reality.

- Tolerance: the need to drink greater amounts of alcohol in order to get high.

An increasingly heavy drinker often says he could stop whenever he chooses—he just never “chooses” to do so. Alcoholism is not a *destination*, but a *progression*, a long road of deterioration in which life continuously worsens.

*“When I went to quit drinking, I realized that alcohol had taken to my body in such a way that I couldn’t stop. I would shake like I was going to break, I would start to sweat, I couldn’t think until I had another drink. I couldn’t function without it.*

*“I spent the next 8 years in and out of detox and hospitals, trying to figure out what happened to me, how was it possible I couldn’t quit. It was the worst and longest nightmare.”* —Jan

## **INTERNATIONAL STATISTICS**

Alcohol kills more teenagers than all other drugs combined. It is a factor in the three leading causes of death among 15- to 24-year-olds: accidents, homicides and suicides.

- Youth who drink are 7.5 times more likely to use other illegal drugs and fifty times more likely to use cocaine than young people who never drink. One survey found that 32% of the heavy drinkers over 12 were also illegal drug users.
- In 2005, 6.6% of the US population aged 12 or older, or 16 million people, reported heavy drinking (binge drinking on at least five days of the past thirty days).
- Of the 3.9 million Americans who received treatment for a substance abuse problem in 2005, 2.5 million of them were treated for alcohol use.
- Alcohol-related traffic deaths in the US were 12,998 in 2007. This is more than three times as many American soldiers who died in combat in the first six years of the Iraq war.
- There are 1.4 million drunk driving arrests in the US every year.

- A US Department of Justice study found that as many as 40% of violent crimes occur under the influence of alcohol.
- In 2005–2006, there were 187,640 National Health System alcohol-related hospital admissions in England.
- There were 6,570 deaths in England in 2005 from causes directly linked to alcohol use. In 2006, alcohol-related deaths in England rose to 8,758. This amounts to an annual increase of 7% from the previous year.
- According to one study, of the 490 million people in the European Union, more than 23 million are dependent on alcohol.
- In Europe, alcohol contributes to nearly one in ten of all cases of illness and premature deaths each year.
- 39% of all traffic deaths involved alcohol in 2005.
- 40% of violent crimes occur under the influence of alcohol.

#### SHORT-TERM EFFECTS OF ALCOHOL

Depending on how much is taken and the physical condition of the individual, alcohol can cause:

- Slurred speech
- Drowsiness
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Upset stomach
- Headaches
- Breathing difficulties
- Distorted vision and hearing
- Impaired judgment
- Decreased perception and coordination
- Unconsciousness
- Anemia (loss of red blood cells)
- Coma
- Blackouts (memory lapses, where the drinker cannot remember events that occurred while under the influence)

## Long-term effects of alcohol

Binge drinking and continued alcohol use in large amounts are associated with many health problems, including:

- Unintentional injuries such as car crash, falls, burns, drowning
- Intentional injuries such as firearm injuries, sexual assault, domestic violence
- Increased on-the-job injuries and loss of productivity
- Increased family problems, broken relationships
- Alcohol poisoning
- High blood pressure, stroke, and other heart-related diseases
- Liver disease
- Nerve damage
- Sexual problems
- Permanent damage to the brain
- Vitamin B<sub>1</sub> deficiency, which can lead to a disorder characterized by amnesia, apathy and disorientation
- Ulcers
- Gastritis (inflammation of stomach walls)
- Malnutrition
- Cancer of the mouth and throat

*“My addiction built steadily and, before I realized it, I had become a morning as well as an afternoon drinker.*

*“I decided to stop drinking. I lay awake most of that night, and by noon the next day every bone in my body ached. In a blind panic, I nervously poured a glass full of gin, my hands shaking so violently that I spilled half the bottle. As I gulped it down, I could feel the agony gradually lessening. Then I finally knew the terrible truth: I was hooked. I couldn’t quit.”*

—Faye

## **THE YOUNGEST VICTIMS**

When consumed by pregnant mothers, alcohol enters the bloodstream, passes through the placenta and enters the foetus (unborn child).

Alcohol can damage a fetus at any stage of pregnancy, but is most serious in the first few months. There is a risk of alcohol-related birth defects including growth deficiencies, facial abnormalities, and damage to the brain and nervous system.

### **A trail of tragedy**

Alcohol has claimed the lives of many gifted artists, musicians and writers over the past decades. These are just a few:

John Bonham (1948–1980): Excessive alcohol led to the tragic death of Led Zeppelin drummer John “Bonzo” Bonham, best known for his drum solo on the song “Moby Dick.” He was found dead of asphyxiation from vomit after a night of heavy drinking, on his way to rehearsals for an upcoming tour.

Steve Clark (1960–1991): Guitarist for Def Leppard. A heavy drinker, he died in his London home of a lethal combination of alcohol and drugs.

Michael Clarke (1946–1993): American musician, drummer for The Byrds. He died of liver failure after three decades of heavy alcohol consumption.

Brian Connolly (1945–1997): Scottish rock vocalist and lead singer for Sweet. His drinking problem caused him to leave the band in 1978; he reunited years later but his drinking had damaged his health and he died of liver failure in 1997.

Oliver Reed (1938–1999): British actor known for his roles in *Oliver!*, *Women in Love*, *The Three Musketeers* and *Gladiator*. He died from a sudden heart attack during a break from filming *Gladiator*. He was heavily intoxicated after 3 bottles of rum, 8 bottles of beer and numerous doubles of whiskey.

### **ALCOHOL: A SHORT HISTORY**

Fermented beverages in early Egyptian civilization.

Fermented grain, fruit juice and honey have been used to make alcohol (ethyl alcohol or ethanol) for thousands of years.

Fermented beverages existed in early Egyptian civilization, and there is evidence of an early alcoholic drink in China around 7000 B.C. In India, an alcoholic beverage called sura, distilled from rice, was in use between 3000 and 2000 B.C.

The Babylonians worshiped a wine goddess as early as 2700 B.C. In Greece, one of the first alcoholic beverages to gain popularity was mead, a fermented drink made from honey and water. Greek literature is full of warnings against excessive drinking.

Several Native American civilizations developed alcoholic beverages in pre-Columbian times. A variety of fermented beverages from the Andes region of South America were created from corn, grapes or apples, called "chicha."

In the sixteenth century, alcohol (called "spirits") was used largely for medicinal purposes. At the beginning of the eighteenth century, the British parliament passed a law encouraging the use of grain for distilling spirits. Cheap spirits flooded the market and reached a peak in the mid-eighteenth century. In Britain, gin consumption reached 18 million gallons and alcoholism became widespread.

The nineteenth century brought a change in attitudes and the temperance movement began promoting the moderate use of alcohol—which ultimately became a push for total prohibition.

In 1920 the US passed a law prohibiting the manufacture, sale, import and export of intoxicating liquors. The illegal alcohol trade boomed and by 1933, the prohibition of alcohol was cancelled.

Today, an estimated 15 million Americans suffer from alcoholism and 40% of all car accident deaths in the US involve alcohol.

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## **Can Christians drink?**

*Why not? Many answer so in defence. Once I asked the people in a preaching: Is drinking a sin?...No.. was the answer from many in the audience. 'Keep your (Christian) values high so that the world might know that you are my disciples' says*

*Jesus. 75% of Christian families around the world do have drinking family members. Most of the drinking Christian families lack individual faith, family conflicts are dormant, siblings fight disrupting the family peace, family economy is affected, prayer life is almost nil. Such family is led to the increase of widows, children's education is precariously affected, God's presence is almost not felt....This is most common phenomenon among Catholics who are mostly not bothered about the integrity of the church and evangelization. Is your family affected by someone's drinking alcohol at home? So what should you do best? Consult with your family doctor or spiritual leader*

## **Can priests/Pastors drink?**

This is a million dollar question. In every church there are priests who are black sheep to the church organization they work for, fallen prey to drinking alcohol.

Read below about an incidence that will tell you what kind of priests we have in our Catholic Church.

A certain catholic priest in a diocese was not allowed to celebrate Mass because he always came to the altar drunk. So many times the people of his parish advised him to give up drinking but all in vain. So they staged a dharna before his bishop to remove him from the parish ministry.

**News SOURCE: SUN TV NEWS RUNNING CAPTION - 23.6.2013**

## **Habit of alcohol among shepherds**

Many pastors and priests have lost their lives not by natural death, but by over drinking at the cost of their health and ministry

He drinks, she drinks, so what if pastors and priests drink?

Here is an **interview** conducted with the following individuals. Their opinion and suggestions are unique:

**Mr.Versline Victoria, Social worker:**



Q: Mr. Versline, what is your opinion about priests drinking?

V: In my opinion, priests can drink. There is nothing wrong. But they must maintain a discipline. Even in the Bible we see St.Paul admonishing pastors to drink wine to a limit.

Q: You know, these days we hear many priests drink too much and become inefficient to exercise their priestly ministry; On 13.3.2013 the SUN TV telecast a news that the parishioner of Peria Nayagi Maadha Church in Thamizh Naadu organized a fast over an issue that their parish priest booze heavily and that he celebrates Mass in drunken status and that he should be transferred.... what do you say?

V: Yes I too watched this news. Certainly this is wrong. This is scandalising. But we should analyze why does he drink..

Perhaps he was tired and frustrated in life. We have got to look at priests drinking with empathy. We must ask ourselves why do priests drink and it is perhaps due to bodily tiredness. They could drink wine to a limit so as to overcome the physical and mental tiredness. Priests meet people of different kind and they may get upset with many problems during the day and in order to sleep well, they could drink; not alcohol like whiskey, rum or gin. Drinking wine is a healthy one.

Q: Do you not think that drinking wine too affect their body mind and soul?

V: Yes, only when it is taken beyond the control.

Q: If so how about priests' ministry causing a scandal to the people?

V: There is no scandal in this.

Q: If drinking wine or alcohol to a limit is healthy and priests too need pleasure, why can't seek sexual pleasure?

V: No. Bible forbids adultery but not drinking. Sexual pleasure is the highest among pleasures and it is sinful for priests to indulge in sexual pleasure.

Q: There are priests who long to go for parties or look for feasts where drink is served... or they join friends who patronize drinking..

V: There is nothing wrong in attending scotch parties but they should be in limit.

Q: You easily justify priests drinking, but what about women or women religious. Can they also drink?

V: No. Women or women religious should not drink because they are soft in nature. They may not be able to withstand drinking alcohol. In our society women are not allowed to drink as men would do. So it is better that women do not drink for the sake of the family or religious ministry.

### **Mr.V.J.Antony**

Q: Is drinking alcohol bad?

V.J.A: It is not wrong if is within the limit, but in our society people drink even without food, if it is for health it is ok, but not for pleasure only.

Q: Can priests drink alcohol? Do they not scandalize?

V.J.A: They also can but for health. At the same time, many priests preach to the people not to drink but they themselves do, then they set a scandal. Therefore they should not drink.

### **William Stevens: a Business man:**

Q: Can priests drink alcohol?

W: No. because, priests are representatives of Christ. They should set an example to people. If they drink, what is the difference between the laity and priests? Priests are called to be holy. Drinking pollutes the minds of priests and they can not render holy service to the people. These days many priests are very bad. They are rude, unkind, divisive, unholy. Taking drink in parties, feasts is really bad. Why priests drink secretly, why can't they drink openly along with people? In front of the people they pretend to be holy and behind many are devilish. Drinking leads priests too satanic. So I want our diocesan priests to be model and modest to us. They should not take to drink even a peg, but let them hold the sacred chalice and not cups and bottles.

Govt must clamp prohibition of drink. It is the duty of every welfare state to ban drinking if any state needs to be healthy.

## **Why Christian Youths Must Stay Away from Alcohol**

It is known by the world that regular and limitless consumption of alcohol leads to a whole lot of health problems and even death. Alcoholism or an unmanageable drinking problem is among the three main reasons for the death of people in the age group of 15-24 years owing to car crashes, committing of suicide and murders. About 80% of rapes occur when either of the party is drunk or under the influence of alcohol.

### **Alcohol - a forbidden drink?**

When your friends at college or your colleagues in your office are drinking and making fun of you because you do not drink, what do you do? Succumb to the peer pressure and force yourself to gulp a peg or two down or do you have the courage to say a NO?

Does the Bible discourage you from drinking? According to some faiths, alcohol takes a man away from God and so the use of it is banned. However, the Bible mentions that Jesus turned water into wine at Cana, so we Christians cannot say that alcohol's use is banned for us. Though not banned, excessive consumption of alcohol is sinful; when you drink a lot, you lose control over your mind, body and your actions and do things that do not make God proud of you. God wants to help us in making the best decisions for ourselves and heavy drinking curbs that ability for us.

According to Ephesians 5:18, "*Do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Holy Spirit.*" Yes, that's right. All of us Christians should let the Holy Spirit control our lives in everything we do. It is right for us to be peaceful, kind, good, joyous and loving, and at the same time we must stay away from anything that stops us from being so.

According to Proverbs 20:1, "*Wine is a mocker, strong drink a brawler, and whoever is led astray by them is not wise.*"

Remember Noah? He was a wonderful man and that is why God chose to save him from the flood. However, when Noah got too much wine into him, he ended up lying in his tent fully naked and embarrassing his sons (Genesis 9:21).

Christian youths - the CHOSEN ONES for being the right examples

If a Christian boy is 22 and he is drinking before a guy who is 17, will he not tempt that guy into drinking? God wants us Christians to be good examples and wants us to lead others to the path of goodness and not of sin. So, be responsible; do not drink even a sip of alcohol before someone who could be led astray. Do not let our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ to fall in their walk towards Him. According to 1Corinthians 10:13, "*No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.*"

**Drunkenness is a work of the flesh and of the Spirit (Gal.5:21) - opposite to the Spirit**

**Drunkenness leads to lust, filth, murder, theft, death of body, mind and soul**

Parents of Christian teens must prepare them for facing the peer pressures to get drunk. They must help their children understand what God wants from us and how we can keep ourselves away from temptations of such kind. Make them courageous enough by saying a NO on the face of temptation; this will only happen when they are spiritually strong and have solemn faith in Christ.

There goes a story that a Christian priest was invited to a wedding and he was handed a glass of wine. The priest calmly put the glass down without even taking a sip. When the people around started asking him why he wouldn't even take a sip, the priest answered that there were many teens around at the wedding party who came to him with their drinking problems every Sunday after the mass service, and that he did not want to set a bad example for them by even taking a sip of alcohol before them. That is the kind of commitment God wants from us. At the same time, priests who are called to preach about the evils of drinking, smoking and so on, must abstain from such evils.

We Christians must prove to be good examples by living a good and pure life, only then we can call ourselves the *Followers of Christ*.

If there is a smile on your face while reading this article, it means you are reading this with an open heart. If there is a frown on your face, you need to pray more and ask God's blessings to strengthen you to say no to alcohol.

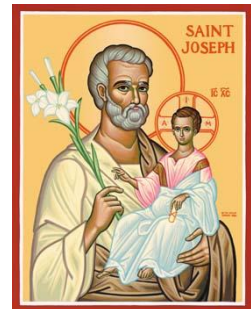
**--Jacqueline Gomes**

**Conclusion:** Reading through this long feature about alcoholism, let us take the right decision to abstain from alcohol, drinking even to a limit. Inordinate desire for WWW is sinful. W=Wealth, W=Wine and W=Women. It is better avoid the company of drunkards (including priests) who become scorners, evil doers, gossipers. These days, many priests have become drunkards. These have lost the sense of their call. It is better a mill stone be tied up their necks and thrown into the sea as they lead people blindly. IINDIA IS ALSO IN NEED OF DRUNKARDS!

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**Pope adds name of St. Joseph to Eucharistic prayers**

(Vatican Radio) In the first decree of a liturgical nature of this pontificate, Pope Francis



has decided that name of St. Joseph should be added to the Eucharistic Prayers II, III and IV, as they appear in the third typical edition of the Roman Missal, after the name of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

From the offices of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, 1 May 2013, on the Memorial of Saint Joseph the Worker.(Antonio Card. Cañizares Llovera, *Prefect*). The Congregation has provided English language translations for the additions to the Mass prayers.

In Eucharistic Prayer II:

***that with the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God,***

*with blessed Joseph, her Spouse,  
with the blessed Apostles*

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## **Vatican City and Holy See**

Frugal Pope Francis says no flashy car for me as he turns to second hand Fiat during visit

Pope Francis will use an old, borrowed Fiat as a pope mobile on his first papal visit on Monday, two days after telling trainee priests to avoid driving flashy cars.



The Fiat the Pope is using for his Lampedusa trip

By Tom Kington, Rome

The Argentinian pope will visit the Italian Mediterranean island of Lampedusa to drop a wreath into waters where thousands of migrants have drowned in recent years as they attempted to reach Europe from Africa, often on rickety, unseaworthy boats.

Seven migrants drowned in June while they tried to cling to a tuna net being used by a Tunisian fishing boat near Malta.

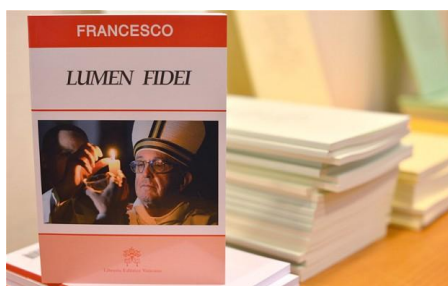
Befitting his parsimonious style, Francis has planned a no-frills trip to the island, taking a small entourage and borrowing a drop-top Fiat Campagnola to get to a mass he will hold in a sports field.

"The pope said he wanted nothing wasted on this trip," said a spokesman for the local mayor. "Since everyone knows everyone here, the town hall contacted a man who owns a villa and asked to borrow his car, which is over 20 years old," he added.

Popes used an open Fiat Campagnola during masses at St Peter's Square until Pope John Paul II was shot and wounded there in 1981. Francis' predecessor, Pope Benedict, instead used a bomb proof Mercedes with a glass booth on the back where he sat on a white leather chair with gold trim.

## **Pope Francis's first encyclical reaffirms importance of sex between husband and wife**

Pope Francis used his first encyclical on Friday to reaffirm the importance of sex between husband and wife and emphasise the central role of the family in society.



An edition of Pope Francis' first encyclical entitled "Lumen Fidei"

By Josephine McKenna in Rome

There was no sign of any change in the Catholic Church's hard line on homosexual unions or any other controversial issues in the encyclical entitled 'Light of Faith'.

The encyclical is the most authoritative teaching issued by a pontiff and was produced from a draft begun by The Pope's predecessor Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI who shocked Catholics around the world when he resigned in February.

It is the first encyclical produced by Pope Francis and the first to have effectively been drafted by two popes who are living at the Vatican at the same time.

"The first setting in which faith enlightens the human city is the family," Pope Francis says. "I think first and foremost of the stable union of man and woman in marriage.

"This union is born of their love, as a sign and presence of God's own love, and of the acknowledgement and acceptance of the goodness of sexual differentiation, whereby spouses can become one flesh."

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**Faith is.....**

1. Faith is the ability to not panic.
2. If you worry, you didn't pray. If you pray, don't worry.
3. As a child of God, Prayer is like calling home every day.
4. Blessed are the flexible, for they shall not be bent out of shape.
5. When we get tangled up in our problems, be still.
6. God wants us to be still, So He can untangle the knot.
7. Do the math. Count your blessings.
8. Silence is often misinterpreted but never misquoted.
9. Laugh every day; it's like inner jogging.
10. The most important things in your home are the people.
11. Growing old is inevitable; growing up is optional.
12. There is no key to happiness. The door is always open.
13. A grudge is a heavy thing to carry.
14. We do not remember days but moments. Life moves too fast, so enjoy your precious moments.
15. Nothing is real to you until you experience it, otherwise it's just hearsay

**By Lona**

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**Pope's clear stand about Gays of the world**



ROME (Reuters) - Pope Francis has said gay people should not be marginalized but integrated into society, in some of the most conciliatory remarks by a pontiff on the issue of homosexuality.

In a broad-ranging 80-minute conversation with journalists on the plane bringing him back from a week-long visit to Brazil on Sunday (28 July) night, he also said he could not judge gay priests, an emotive topic that divides Catholic opinion.

But the 76-year-old Argentine did reaffirm Church teaching that homosexual acts are a sin.

Francis stressed the Roman Catholic Church's ban on women priests was definitive, although he would like them to have more leadership roles in administration and pastoral activities.

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"WHO AM I TO JUDGE?"


In response to a question about reports of a "gay lobby" in the Vatican, after it suffered a string of scandals over paedophile priests and corruption in the administration of the Holy See, Francis said: **"If a person is gay and seeks God and has good will, who am I to judge him?"** "The problem is not having this orientation. We must be brothers. The problem is lobbying by this orientation, or lobbies of greedy people, political lobbies, Masonic lobbies, so many lobbies. This is the worst problem," he said.

"You see a lot written about the gay lobby. I still have not seen anyone in the Vatican with an identity card saying they are gay," he joked.

Francis defended all gays from discrimination but also referred to the Catholic Church's universal Catechism, which says that while homosexual orientation is not sinful, homosexual acts are.

'No to gay priest is definitive' should have been another word of the Pope... but this he has not said.

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COMPLIMENTS &  THANKSGIVING TO OUR LADY OF VAILANKANNI  FROM  MRS.SANDRA CHARLIE MA  KODIHALLI, BANGALORE	

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**News from St.Peter's Church, Rustambagh**

*The Spirit of Excellence*



**The** Leadership Series Workshop (LSW) exclusively for Women of St Peter's Church was launched on 28<sup>th</sup> of July 2013 by Father j.Arokianathan.

An external certified Trainer from globally renowned training institutes with 25+ years of experience in Leadership training was invited to conduct the session.



The Leadership Series began with a Self -Exploratory and Thought Provoking Activity on 'Realising One's Potential' and 'Purpose of Life'.

The expected outcome of the first phase of the workshop was to enable every participant to carve a clear and compelling vision for the future and to facilitate participants to achieve their vision through specific activity based interventions.

**Priya Francis**

**For Women's Commission**

**FREE BLOOD CHECK UP CAMP**



FREE BLOOD CHECK UP for DIABETES WAS HELD AT RUSTAMBAGH ST.PETER'S CHURCH ON 21.7.2013. Out of 150 people 142 people were found healthy.

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## **PARISH PRIEST DAY AT RUSTAMBAGH**

*PARISH PRIEST'S DAY was celebrated on AUGUST 4<sup>TH</sup>- ST.JOHN MARIA VIANNY (PATRON OF PARISH PRIESTS). Archbishop Emeritus of Bangalore Archdiocese Most Rev.Ignatius Pinto was the chief guest of the evening show here at St.Peter's church. Fr.J.Arokianathan the parish priest of the church was felicitated by the parishioners and priests. The role and ministry of Fr.J.A.Nathan was well appreciated by the former archbishop. Members from various pious groups gave a rich tribute to the energetic and spirit filled parish priest Fr.J.A.Nathan*



**Parish Priest Day - August 4 2013**

**Appreciation Note for our Parish Priest Rev.Fr.J.Arokia Nathan**



**Read By Parish Pastoral Council Secretary Mr. Joshua Francis**

Our Dear Fr. Arokianathan had spent more than 5 years with us now. During this tenure he had brought in transformational changes to our Parish, both structurally and pastorally.

The amount of impact he as a Parish Priest had with our Parishioners is very huge. He always looks at an opportunity for improving our Parish, even if there are no opportunities he would create opportunities. He was instrumental in building this new Church for us. I have worked with him closely in that last two years. There were many hindrances and challenges, but He had never taken his eyes from the vision of creating a Church without compromising on the comfort, aesthetics and utility aspects. He had even gone to the extent of getting our Parish Council members to evaluate the vendors for the Church benches, we have evaluated 9 vendors based on 9 different parameters, one of the important parameter is comfort, this is one such instance I am highlighting that he was always inclusive in terms of getting the inputs from all of us before he takes any major decisions.

**Structurally to highlight** few things that all of us are aware but I am indebted to mention it explicitly here is The Grotto for our Lady, we might not even have dreamt of having a Grotto, but our Parish Priest had dreamt and made it a reality for us. How much you can achieve by what you have? For this question Our Parish Priest would be an ideal example of converting this very small area into a multi-faceted Parish wherein we have Huge Church which can seat about 700 people, a Cultural Hall which can seat 400 people with amenities like a professional stage, projector and all the facilities required for a hall, special room for Pious Association, a Conference Room which can be rented and with a refurbished rest rooms.

The Dedication of our Church was so well organized; we had almost 25 plus Priests and our Archbishop Most Rev. Bernard Moras dedicated the Church and also released the Souvenir of our Church, our Church website. This is one of the remarkable achievements by our Parish Priest. While doing this we have also created our own Church Logo which is unique to our Parish.

**Pastoral activities**, there were many initiatives started by our Parish Priest to highlight a few

Seminars on Liturgy, seminar on the parish and the parishioners' role held 3 years ago  
Legion of Mary reinitiated with a new vigor for both English and Tamil, members are very active and regular. Every first Friday, adoration and special prayer for the sick followed by Mass. Every first Saturday is dedicated to our Mother Mary.

Father had also initiated in forming various Commissions and each Commission Secretary is given a specific vision, objectives and goals to achieve.

We have inaugurated "Year of Faith" with 3 weekends dedicated for Faith Mission Preaching Blessed Crucifix: Area wise volunteers identified and Blessed Crucifix was given so that every house the family keeps the Blessed Crucifix and say special prayers and passed on to the next family. We have covered 90% of the family in our Parish.

Family census taken with enrolling the parishioners' names in Family record. The number of Parishioners ever started growing now we are strong 350 plus registered family in our Parish.

Father had diligently done house visits covered almost 100 percent of the homes in our Parish.

Bible relay initiated by Vincent de Paul and animated by parish priest at homes and it will be continued as an activity of the parish marking the year of faith celebration in our parish.

Preaching and devoted celebration of Holy Mass on week days and Sundays.

**Administrative aspects,** Father had shown tremendous capability in regularizing most of the activities, councils and groups, such as Parish Council, Youth Members, Choir, proper training for Altar Children, Catechism classes with registration and attendance and motivating the Catechetical animators. Father is very keen in maintaining punctuality and discipline; this had ensured many of the Parishioners coming on time for the mass.

**Fellowship aspects,** during his tenure Father had encouraged fellowship through providing snacks and meals at different occasions, which is very vital for any Parish to grow, it gave an opportunity to many of the parishioners to know each other.

Coming to Social aspects, Father is helping many poor children for their education, in his own capacity.

Meticulous editing and publishing of the journal The Key that was approved by the Nation Registrar of India as The Key of the Kingdom are other more exhibition of our parish priest

personal caliber in his priestly ministry.

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**WHO IS A PARISH PRIEST?**

1. A man of God
2. Born & chosen for your service
3. Follows you from your baptism till your burial
4. Looks for your family's spiritual welfare by sacrificing his family life
5. Celebrates sacraments for your happiness and salvation
6. Forgives your sins and leads you to Christ
7. Educates you and corrects you
8. Demolishes the old and builds the new.....
9. Preaches the Word of God
10. Loves you and bears your limitation by carrying his and your cross as well

What SHOULD YOU DO to your parish priest?

Listen to him, obey him and grow with him in the Lord

Love him, guide him and correct him

Stand with him and cooperate with him in building up of the parish community

Forgive him and spend time with him

Suggest what is good for others & parish

Plan and execute with him for your parish

Celebrate liturgy actively with him

Contribute for his life and the parish

Invite & accept him as a part of your family

Assist him in his caring for his parish flock

Love him as your father, mother, brother and sister and friend

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**SECOND MIRACLE TO DECLARE JOHN PAUL II A SAINT**



SAN JOSE (Reuters) - Suffering a potentially fatal swelling in the brain, Costa Rican grandmother Floribeth Mora says a voice spoke to her through a photograph of the late Pope John Paul II, miraculously curing her and sealing the late pontiff's sainthood.

The Vatican said Pope Francis had approved Mora's cure as the requisite second miracle for the sainthood of John Paul II, who led the Roman Catholic Church from 1978 to 2005.



Mora says she was diagnosed with an aneurysm in a cerebral artery on April 14, 2011 and sent home from the hospital with the warning she could be dead within a month, although the surgeon who made the diagnosis denies he gave such a warning.

According to Mora, she drifted off to sleep in the early hours of May 1, 2011 after watching a mass on television to mark the beatification of John Paul II, who died in 2005.

She says she prayed to the late pope to heal her, and when she awoke, her eyes fell on a picture of him she had on top of the television.

"I woke up when I heard a voice that said 'get up,'" Mora, now 50, said on Friday at the Roman Catholic Church's administrative offices in San Jose, showing the clipping. "I was alone in my room I only had this clipping that was published around those dates to commemorate John Paul II's papacy."

"I had it in front of me and I heard a voice again that said 'get up' and I looked at his photo and saw his open arms and I heard a voice that said 'be not afraid' and I said 'Yes Lord,'" she added between tears, a golden rosary hanging around her neck.



"I went to my husband and he asked me what I was doing and I just said 'I feel fine, I feel fine, I feel fine.'"

In a written statement distributed by the Church, Mora said she had been warned that she likely only had a short time to live.

"I was even warned that it would not be more than a month," she said.

The neurosurgeon who admitted and diagnosed Mora, however, denies he gave her a month to live. Alejandro Vargas says he forecast only a 2 percent chance Mora could bleed into her brain again within a year of her diagnosis, possibly killing her.

"She was sent home with medication that would reduce her blood pressure and was advised to improve her diet so as not to raise her cholesterol levels and thus decrease the chance of her having a second bleeding episode. She was sedated because the headaches were too sharp," he told Reuters. "We didn't send her home to be sedated and wait until she died in her sleep."

## **NO EXPLANATION**

However, Vargas cannot explain how Mora's aneurysm disappeared.

"What we found remarkable, unbelievable really, was that by November there was absolutely no trace in her brain that she ever had an aneurysm," he said. "I had never seen this in my career."

Before he was beatified, the late John Paul had already been credited with asking God to cure a French nun of Parkinson's disease, the same malady he himself had suffered from.

Mora lives in a small house in the eastern province of Cartago, around 14 miles (23 km) southeast of the capital, San Jose, with her husband, Carlos Arce, and their youngest child.

On the doorstep of their small, tidy house, she has erected a shrine to John Paul II.

A large printed image of the first Polish pope is decorated with colourful plastic flowers and Christmas lights. Resting on the pope's portrait is a piece of paper confirming the diagnosis of her aneurysm.

"We've faced a lot of non-believers these last two years," he said.

A few days ago, their youngest son showed his mother some posts on Facebook from people who didn't believe that what happened to her was an act of God.

"It's been very hard on her, those messages did nothing but make her cry," Arce said.

(Reporting by Isabella Cota; Writing by Simon Gardner; Editing by David Brunnstrom)

## Cardinal Gracias lauds pope's encyclical



Cardinal Oswald Gracias has lauded Pope Francis' encyclical "Lumen Fidei" as notable for exploring the "valuable richness" of faith and for being an "answer to the present challenges to faith."

"Lumen Fidei is a challenge to us not to take our faith for granted, but to understand our faith, to live it ethically, and proclaim it confidently," the cardinal told the Catholic New Agency.

Cardinal Gracias appreciated Pope Francis' "down to earth, direct approach," as shown in his statement that the encyclical was "written by four hands."

The encyclical has the "theological depth" and insights of Benedict XVI as well as the "direct approach" of Pope Francis, making concrete examples to form direct appeals to people of God.

"I think the combination has been excellent (in) the depth, clarity and appeal" of the document.

While the encyclical is addressed to all the faithful, Cardinal Gracias examined it in the light of his Asian context, linking it to Blessed John Paul II's 1999 apostolic exhortation

“Ecclesia in Asia,” which promoted a “great harvest of faith” on that continent.

“Lumen Fidei” is addressed to the “universal” Church, Cardinal Gracias said, and each diocese is called to pastorally “apply” the teaching of the Bishop of Rome to its “particular” situation.

The cardinal indicated that the years between Blessed John Paul II's apostolic exhortation to Asian Catholics and the present Holy Father's encyclical letter have been the occasion of a “re-awakening,” a call to rediscover the richness of the faith in Asian cultures.

“I think everything links up beautifully with 'Ecclesia in Asia,' which speaks of the richness of faith in the Asian context and the challenges to us to make an Asian response,” he said.

There is a “cry against corruption,” a cry for “good governance” and an “attitude of servant leadership” all over the world, Cardinal Gracias reflected.

“This is evangelization,” he said, “understanding the faith, living the faith, and proclaiming the faith.”

Source: Catholic News Agency

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### **Rajya Sabha seat – Rs.100 Crore, Ecclesiastical post, how much?....**

**a sensational news: (DH 29.7.2013)**

ROHTAK: Chaudhary Birender Singh, a Congress leader from Rohtak in Haryana and a member of the Rajya Sabha, made a sensational claim stating that seats to the Rajya Sabha can be bought for a sum of Rs 100 crore.

He said many Rajya Sabha membership seekers are ready to pay Rs 100 crore per seat. He claimed that a current Rajya Sabha member had once told him that his budget for a

Rajya Sabha seat was Rs 100 crore but that he was able to settle the issue for Rs 80 crore only. However, the Congress MP soon backtracked, saying that he meant that “only millionaires should not become Rajya Sabha members, otherwise there would be nobody to look after the poor. (DH 29.7.2013)

There is a big gossip going on also about ecclesiastical posts being sold to priests for money in many dioceses and religious Orders. Even under our own nose things of this sort are happening. The more money one gives to the authorities, the big and plum posts are at his feet! You can question the civil world scams, but which is the media to question and probe the ecclesiastical scams and scandals? Neither God nor true conscience! Diocesan policies can easily be compromised in favour of suitcases or bootlickers! He who has ears let him hear!

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New Grotto of O L.of Lourdes was blessed at St.Peter's Church on 26.6.2013

