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Bulletin of St. Louis Church, Dahisar (West), Mumbai 400068 | For Private Circulation Only



Easter Message

Fr. Praveen Raj Bandula
Asst. Parish Priest

Alleluia! He is risen as He said, Alleluia!
Rejoice in the Lord, always! I will say it again: Rejoice!
(Philippians 4:4) Because today He is risen as He said
(Mt 28:6).

My dear friends in the risen Christ. Scripture says, "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." (Jn 3:16). After His wonderful creation of the universe God made human beings so that they could be guardians of it. However, due to personal weakness and selfish desire, they sinned against God and went away from his presence. God though did not give up his love for humanity; he continued to communicate with them through patriarchs, judges, kings and prophets.

"In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe" (Heb 1: 1-2). He sent his only Son thinking that at least now they will return to him with repentance, but people did not recognize him and crucified him. The same Jesus Christ, who was handed over to the men for crucifixion, rose from the dead. "For nothing will be impossible with God." (Luke 1:37)

Easter is God's victory of love, victory over death. Having prepared for 40 days, fasting, praying, almsgiving, going through various spiritual practices with a deep sense of repentance for our sins, we celebrate Easter. The Resurrection of our Lord is life winning over death; salvation winning over sin and light winning over darkness.

The message of the empty tomb promises us no suffering is permanent in our life. As Jesus came out of the dark tomb, we also will come out of the darkness that is within us. Easter gives us the divine hope that one day we all will rise with Jesus. Scripture promises: "Your sorrow shall be turned into joy." (Jn 16: 20.)

As Mary Magdalene was consoled by the angel's words 'he is risen', we too must carry the Easter message to grieving hearts that God loves us all. He is risen for all of us to show that death is no more the end of life but there is life in Jesus after our physical death. Let us look for Jesus no more at wrong places like dark tombs, but search for him in the light of our lives.

Dear parishioners, I wish you all a very happy Easter. May we experience the presence of the risen Lord in our personal and family lives.

प्रभूमध्ये सर्वदा आनंद करा, पुन्हा म्हणेन आनंद करा.
(फिलिप्पैकरांस पत्र ४:४), कारण त्याने सांगितल्याप्रमाणे तो उठला आहे. (मत्तय २८:६)

पुनरुत्थित ख्रिस्ताठायी माझ्या प्रिय मित्रांनो, देवाने जगावर इतकी प्रिती केली की, त्याने आपला एकुलता एक पुत्र दिला, अशासाठी की, जो कएणी त्याच्यावर विश्वास ठवतो त्याचा नाश होऊ नये तर त्याला सार्वकालिक जीवन प्राप्त व्हावे. (योहान ३:१६) विश्वाच्या अद्भुत निर्मितीनंतर देवाने मानवाची निर्मिती केली जेणेकरून तो त्याच्या निर्मितीचे रक्षण करू शकेल. तथापि, मानवने आपल्या दुर्बलतेमुळे व स्वार्थामुळे देवाविरुद्ध पाप केले आणि त्याच्या उपस्थितीपासून दूर गेला. परंतु देवाने मानवावरील त्याचे प्रेम सोडले नाही, तर त्यांच्याशी संदेषे यांच्याद्वारे संवाद साधत राहीला.

देव प्राचीनकाळी अंशाअंशांनी व प्रकारप्रकारांनी संदेष्यांच्या द्वारे आपल्या पुर्वजांशी बोलला. तो ह्या काळाच्या शेवटी पुत्राच्या द्वारे आपल्याशी बोलला आहे, त्याने त्याला सर्व गोष्टींचा वारस करून ठेवले आणि त्याच्याद्वारे त्याने विश्व निर्माण केले. निदान आत्ता तरी मानव पश्चाताप करून त्याच्याकडे परत येईल असा चिवार करून त्याने आपल्या एकुलत्या एक पुत्राला पाठविले, पण लोकांनी त्याला ओळखले नाही आणि त्याला वधस्तंभावर खिळले. तोच येशू ख्रिस्त ज्याला वधस्तंभावर खिळण्यासाठी माणसांच्या स्वाधीन करण्यात आले होते, तो मेलेल्यांतून उठला. कारण देवाला काहीच अशक्य होणार नाही (लुक १:३७)

इस्टर देवाचा मृत्युवर मिळविलेला विजय आहे, देवाच्या प्रेमाचा विजय आहे. ४० दिवस उपवास, प्रार्थना व दानधर्म करून आपण आपली आध्यात्मिक तयारी केली आहे. पापांबद्दल पश्चातापाच्या भावनेने आपण विविध आध्यात्मिक प्रकारातून जात आहोत व इस्टर साजरा करीत आहोत. आपल्या प्रभूचे पुनरुत्थान हे मृत्युवर विजय मिळवणारे जीवन आहे. पापावर विजय मिळवणारे तारण आहे आणि अंधकार नाहीसा करणारा प्रकाश आहे.

रिकामं थडगं आपल्याला वचन देते की, आपल्या जीवनात कोणत्याही प्रकारचे दुःख कायमस्वरूपी नाही. जसा येशू अंधारमय थडग्यातून बाहेर आला तसे आपणही आपल्या अंतकरणातील अंधारातून बाहेर येऊ. इस्टर आपल्याला दैवी आशा देतो की, एके दिवशी आपण सर्वजण येशू बरोबर उठवले जाऊ. पवित्र शास्त्र आपल्याला वचन देते की, तुमचे दुःखच तुमचा आनंद होईल.

जसे मरीया मागदालीनाला देवदुताच्या तो उठला आहे या शब्दांनी सांत्वन मिळाले, तसाच आपणही इस्टरचा संदेश दुःखी अंतकरणापर्यंत पर्यंत पोहोचवला पाहिजे की, देव आपल्या सर्वांवर प्रेम करतो. मृत्यु हा जीवनाचा शेवट नाही, तर आपल्या शारिरिक मृत्युनंतर येशूमध्ये जीवन आहे हे दाखवण्यासाठी तो आपल्या सर्वांसाठी उठला आहे. आपण येशूला अंधाऱ्या थडग्यांसारख्या चुकीच्या ठिकाणी शोधू नये, तर आपल्या जीवनाच्या प्रकाशात त्याला शोधूया.

प्रिय धर्मग्रामस्थांनो, मी आपणा सर्वांना इस्टरच्या अनेक अनेक शुभेच्छा देत आहे. आपण आपल्या वैयक्तिक जीवनात पुनरुत्थित प्रभूच्या उपस्थितीचा अनुभव घेऊया.

अविस्मरणीय रिट्रिट (तपसाधना) ॥प्रभूचा गौरव असो॥

दिनांक ५ मार्च २०२३ रोजी संत लुईस धर्मग्रामासाठी जणू अविस्मरणीय दिवस होता. ह्या दिवशी आमला आश्रम कोल्हापूर येथील प्रख्यात प्रवचनकार रेव्ह. फा. बेन्नी यांची एक दिवसीय उपवासकालीन रिट्रिट धर्मग्रामीन सल्लागार समितीने करण्याचे ठरविले होते व या रिट्रिटचे आयोजन मराठी कॅरिजमेंटीक प्रार्थना संघाला सोपविले होते. ही रिट्रिट फक्त संत लुईसच्या धर्मग्रामस्थांसाठी मर्यादित नव्हती तर इतर ठिकाणाहून अनेक भाविकांनी मोठ्या संख्येने भाग घेतला होता. संत लुईस चर्च अगदी गच्च भरलेले होते.

रिट्रिट सकाळी १०:३० वाजता सुरु झाली. फा. रॉनी ह्यांनी पुष्पगुच्छ देऊन फा. बेन्नी ह्यांचे स्वागत केले. तसेच प्रार्थना कोर कमिटीच्या सभासदांनी आलेल्या धर्मभगिनींचे स्वागत केले. रिट्रिट सुरु करण्याआधी फा. बेन्नी ह्यांनी पवित्र साक्रामेंट वेदीवर ठेवले आणि पवित्र आत्म्याला आमंत्रित केले. त्याच वेळेला संपुर्ण चर्च पवित्र आत्म्याचे उपस्थितीने भरून गेले व पवित्र आत्म्याद्वारे सर्व उपस्थितांना आशिर्वाद मिळू लागले. सिस्टर मॉनिकाने कालवरी टेकडीवर मरीयेचे आणि आपले नाते कसे जुळले आहे ह्यावर प्रबोधन केले. तसेच लुकचे शुभवर्तमान १: २८,४१,४२ ह्या वाचनाद्वारे नमो मरीया ही प्रार्थना देवबापाने व पवित्र आत्म्याने आपणास कशी शिकविली ह्या संदर्भात अगदी व्यवस्थित समजावून सांगितले. फा.बेन्नी यांनी प्रभूकडे परतणे, प्रभू जवळ येणे या विषयांवर प्रबोधन केले.

हजर असलेल्या सर्वांसाठी भोजनाची व्यवस्था करण्यात आली होती. एक्सप्रेस कॅटरर्स चे बेसील कोलासो यांनी मेहनत घेऊन जेवण तयार केले. लेडीज सोडालिटीच्या स्त्रिया व स्थानीक ख्रिस्ती समाजाच्या पुरुषांनी जेवण वाटपासाठी मोलाची मदत केली. भोजनानंतर फा. बेन्नी व फा. प्रविण ह्यांनी पवित्र मिस्सा अर्पण केली. मिस्सा संपल्यानंतर आभाराचा कार्यक्रम पार पडला. कार्यक्रमाच्या शेवटी फा. बेन्नी ह्यांनी सर्वांना वैयक्तिक आशिर्वाद दिला. चहापान घेऊन सर्व लोक आपल्या घरी गेले.

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Easter 2023 Schedule

PALM SUNDAY | 02nd April 2023

- 7.45 AM** Blessing of the Palms
8.00 AM Mass in Marathi followed by singing of Veronica and preaching
9.30 AM Mass in English followed by singing of Veronica and preaching
6.00 PM Mass in English
(No Konkani mass in the morning)
4.00 PM Confession followed by mass for sick/old people. Animators are requested to give the names/inform the councillor well in advance.

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

MAUNDY THURSDAY | 06th April 2023

No Masses in the morning
Service at **7:00 PM**

GOOD FRIDAY | 07th April 2023

- 7:00 AM** Way of the Cross in Konkani
8:00 AM Way of the Cross in Marathi
9:00 AM Way of the Cross in English
6:00 PM Good Friday Service

HOLY SATURDAY | 08th April 2023

8.30 AM Praying with Mother of Sorrows

EASTER VIGIL | 08th April 2023

Service at **9:00 PM**

EASTER SUNDAY | 09th April 2023

- 8:00 AM** Mass in Marathi
9:15 AM Mass in English



Parish Vision

Breaking the Word of God in our Families
and sharing bread with the needy

धर्मग्राम दृष्टीकोन

करुनी घेऊ कुटुंबि स्पष्टीकरण देव शब्दाचे
वाटुनी घेऊ भाकरी गरजवंतांशी

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*The Parish team wishes all parishioners
and well-wishers a Happy Easter.
May the risen Lord Jesus bless you
and your family with love and peace.*

सर्व धर्मगुरु आपणाला व सर्व हितचिंतकांना
ईस्टरच्या शुभेच्छा देत आहेत.
पुनरुत्थित ख्रिस्ताची शांती व प्रेम तुम्हाबरोबर
व तुमच्या कुटुंबियांवर असो हीच प्रार्थना.

St. Louis Church Records

January to March 2023

Baptised in the Lord

Branson Fernandes
Reona Cardoz
Brandon Fernandes
Liam Brown
Aurelio Anthony

Married in the Lord

Joel Aranha & Shiny Fernandes
Sebastian Fernandes & Dolcy Rodricks
Samson Fernandes & Farah Patel
Bhavesh Sharma & Sheryl Fernandes
Horatio Lopes & Nikita Maria Ferrao
William Ghonsalves & Supriya Shinde

Resting in the Lord

Dominic Jasity Fernandes
Dorothy Joseph Sequeira
Urban Benedict Nazareth
Hazel Joseph Pereira
Maria Rosario Nunes

Sector-wise Easter Blessing Masses begin on Monday, 10th April, 2023 at 7.00 PM followed by election/selection of the new Councillor and dinner. Those who wish to serve as a Councillor for the term 2023-26 are requested to give their names/applications in advance in the church office. Get in touch with your animator for the schedule of the Sector-wise Easter Blessing Mass.



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Fr. Herve Morissette: For the love of the Lord and Indian People

How does one capture a life? Especially the life of a great man? A life that was so filled and rich with meaning and purpose. A life which began on 21st March 1936, in a rural area of Val d'Or in Quebec, Canada.

Herve Morissette was the sixth of eight children -- seven boys and a girl -- born to Joseph and Mary. As a young boy, he joined the Boys Scouts Organisation, which helped him develop qualities of resourcefulness and leadership. In his early teens, he got hold of a Holy Cross Vocation Promotion leaflet, but though interested the time had not yet come. Since he and his siblings were finishing their primary schooling, his father, a carpenter by profession, decided to move to Montreal for the sake of their education.

Herve got admission at the Holy Cross Minor Seminary and began his college studies. When he was 16 years old, during the summer vacation he went to work with his father, who was building a house. All of a sudden, his father fell from the scaffolding and died on the spot. It was a terrible shock for young Herve and the whole family. His mother decided then to get back to their home village but Herve continued his studies in Montreal.

In August 1955, he joined the novitiate of the congregation. In one of his earlier communications, he mentioned: "During our year of novitiate -- and on several occasions thereafter -- we had the opportunity to hear the testimonies of priests and Holy Cross brothers who were returning from East Pakistan or South America. Their testimonies touched me deeply and kindled in me the desire to one day go and take over from them. Another event occurred during my novitiate which was decisive in my vocation to the priestly ministry in the Holy Cross. I was reading Hozner's book called *Saint Paul*. This reading fired me with enthusiasm for the proclamation of the gospel. During all my years of preparatory formation for priestly ordination, I therefore dreamed of being sent to "mission countries", as they said then, and of putting myself at the service of the poorest, as the testimonies of Mother Teresa, that I read here and there, invited me to do so. When I had finished my studies in philosophy at the Moreau Seminary, my superiors decided to send me to study theology in Rome. It was at the time of John XXIII and we already felt a wind of renewal blowing over the Church. I particularly remember our frequent meetings with this good "Papa Giovanni" who possessed an exceptional charism of animation and who revealed what he expected from the

Council, each time he went to visit a parish of his great diocese. We could then go there to hear him talk about Vatican II in preparation."

After completing his Theology at the Gregorian University in Rome, Herve was ordained a priest on the 3rd of December 1961. His first assignment was to East Pakistan (current day Bangladesh) in 1962, where he was sent to learn Bengali. But the Central Government refused him a permit to work in Assam and Mizoram and he was sent to serve as a formator at Holy Cross Students' Home, Bangalore for 24 years, as Director of Novices for 8 years and as Rector of Holy Cross Seminary for 1 year.

He specialized and obtained his M.Th. Degree in Pastoral Catechetics from the Institut Catholique de Paris in 1975, after which he got involved in the training of catechists and wrote 9 books for the faith formation of youth. Meanwhile, he was also national chaplain of the Teachers' Teams in India and spiritual animator for the Xavier Board of Higher Education.

Fr. Morissette was firstly and primarily very devoted to his call to religious life in Holy Cross and priesthood. All those who have lived with him, and especially those who have been fortunate to have been his formees, can vouch for his simple spirituality. His spirituality was lived out in the simplicity of his life, the little things he needed for himself, his regularity for religious exercises, and in his sincere commitment to ministry. He could be tough on his formees when he wanted to be, but no one was left in doubt whether he loved his formees. He loved a good meal, preferably with some eggs and bread. He had a sweet tooth and an extraordinary sense of humour. His infectious laughter attracted people to him. He loved playing pranks, some quite elaborate, on his friends. Many of his formees will still remember how he fooled everyone through his hypnotism trick. In reality, he always had a trick up his sleeve.

We, the parishioners of St. Louis Church were indeed specially blessed and fortunate to have been witness to this extraordinary personality during his ministry at the parish at the turn of the century. Most people who have met Fr. Morissette know him as an affectionate, unassuming, and humorous grandfather priest. Despite his scholarship in the Bible and catechetics, he liked to prepare his Sunday homilies well in advance. His homily usually would be ready by Wednesday or Thursday. Until Sunday he would meditate over it and even practice it. Such was his respect for those who came to listen to him.

Fr. Herve Morissette: For the love of the Lord and Indian People

Fr. Morissette interacted with thousands of youngsters during his seminars and workshops. His account of the life of Jesus was always peppered with everyday experiences that ordinary people could relate to. The Indian Catechetical Association on the occasion of their 20th General Body Meeting at Nav Spoorthi Kendra, Bangalore on 3rd February 2016 honoured him for his contribution to catechesis in India. Though he was born and brought up in a developed country, he truly embraced what India stood for. He desired to live as an average Indian lived. In 1995 he wrote to his superiors: "I wish to inform my superiors that, in such eventuality or at the time of retirement, I would prefer to receive medical care in India and not be repatriated to Canada for that purpose. God willing, I shall pass over "to the other shore" from that land which has always been for me a promised land." Towards the second part of his priestly ministry, he entered into ministering to families. What started as a small involvement became his 'obsession' especially when it became possible to devote all his time to it. He never gave up his passion for catechetics. His background in catechetics afforded him a unique perspective on what the families were going through, and soon scores of people began to find him and his approach very endearing. This continued for as long as his health allowed him. But even after he moved to the Senior Priests' home, he continued to write. He continued to work until the day he was taken to the hospital for the last time. Almost as his last contribution he had just finalized a publication commissioned by the CCBI when he became too weak to write. His health had been slowly deteriorating during the last few months, and he was aware of it. Fr. Herve Morissette lived a full life, without regrets till his death on 23rd January this year.

Bro. Paul Bednarczyk, Superior General wrote in his message, "Fr. Herve Morissette's numerous contributions to the life and mission of Holy Cross regarding education and formation are legendary, and his wisdom and presence will be sorely missed by many. As we commemorate our Founder's 150th anniversary of his entrance into eternity, it is a time to reflect on the poignancy of this moment as Fr. Herve now follows Father Moreau and so many other French Canadian and Indian confreres who gave their lives for the mission in India out of their love for the Lord, Holy Cross, and the Indian people. May Fr. Herve's example and the examples of so many more before him continue to inspire us in our own religious lives and ministries."

Most Rev. Peter Machado, the Archbishop of Bangalore, the main celebrant at Fr Herve's funeral Eucharist said, "Today, not only the Holy Cross Congregation but also the Archdiocese of Bangalore as well as the Church in India bids farewell to a stalwart who was very close to the younger generation and who taught us how to make things simple in our preachings, in our teachings and in our instructions."

"The Catholic faith was deep — deep in his bones." Let us all continue to pray for our beloved Fr Herve Morissette with hearts filled with love and gratitude for his paternal presence, humour, and wit. The impression he made, the inspiration he gave and the love and affection he shared with us must live on.

May Fr Herve rest in peace. Amen.

(With inputs from Fr Laurent Landriault csc, Montreal, Canada, Fr Arul csc, Fr Shiju csc & Excerpts from Memorial Eulogy shared by Fr Martin Soosai csc)



प्रायश्चित काळ ते पुनरुत्थान

राखेच्या बुधवार पासून ख्रिस्तसभा प्रायश्चित काळाला सुरुवात करते. या दिवशी प्रत्येक ख्रिस्ती व्यक्तीला आठवण करून दिली जाते की आपण सर्वजण पापी आहोत व आपण आपल्या पापांचे प्रायश्चित केले पाहिजे. हा काळ आपल्या प्रत्येकाला आपल्या जीवनात परिवर्तन करण्यासाठी आव्हान करतो. या काळात आपण अनेक आध्यात्मिक कार्यात भाग घेत असतो, विशेषतः आपण क्रुसाच्या वाटेच्या भक्तीत सहभागी होतो व येशूच्या क्रुसाच्या वाटेवरील प्रत्येक प्रसंगावर चिंतन करतो.

येशूच्या दुःखाच्या वाटेवर चिंतन करीत असताना आपण पाहतो की प्रत्येक प्रसंग आपल्याला परिवर्तीत होण्यास आव्हान करीत आहे. पोन्ती पिलात येशू निरपराध आहे हे माहीत असताना देखील आपले हात धुवून मोकळा होतो. आपण देखील अनेकदा अन्याय होत असताना पाहतो व आपला ह्याच्याशी काय संबंध असे म्हणून दुसऱ्या वाटेला निघून जातो. आपल्याला त्रास होईल म्हणून आपण अन्याय होऊ देतो. येशूला त्याची आई वाटेवर भेटते तेव्हा त्यांचे नजरेने संभाषण होते, त्यांनी एकमेकांचे दुःख समजून घेतले होते. आपल्या कुटुंबात आपली लोकं तणावात आहेत हे आपल्याला दिसते परंतु आपण त्यांचे दुःख समजून घेण्यास तयार नाही आणि अनेकदा त्यांचे वाईट परिणाम आपल्याला दिसतात. सायमन सिरेनीकर मदतीस पुढे येतो, येशू मदत स्विकारतो. आपल्या जीवनात अनेकदा आपल्याला मदतीची गरज असते, कुणीतरी आपल्या वाईट प्रसंगात मदत करण्यास तयार असतो परंतु मी मदत स्विकारली तर समाज माझ्याबद्दल काय चर्चा करील हा विचार करून आपण मदत स्विकारत नाही व ताणतणावात राहतो. वेरोनीका येशूचा घायल चेहरा पुसते. आपण आपल्या मर्यादेबाहेर जाऊन एखाद्या व्यक्तीला कधी मदत केली होती हे आपल्याला आठवते का? शेवटच्या सर्व प्रसंगात येशूची निंदानालसती होते व जनसमुदाय पाहत उभा होता. सामाजिक पातळीवर एखाद्या निरपराध वा निराधार व्यक्तीचा छळ होतो तेव्हा आपण कधी मध्यस्थी केली आहे का? की आपण जमावामध्ये उभे राहून बघ्याची भुमीका घेतली आहे. क्रुसावर खिळलेला असताना येशू पश्चातापी माणसाला स्वर्गराज्याचे अभिवचन देतो. जो पश्चाताप करतो त्याला स्वर्गाचे सुख लाभते.

आपण दर वर्षी उपवास करतो अनेक ठिकाणी जाऊन क्रुसाची वाट करतो परंतु आपल्यामध्ये काही बदल घडला आहे का? आपल्या पापांचा पश्चाताप आपण केला आहे का? जर चाळीस दिवसांचा उपवास करून आपल्या जीवनात परिवर्तन झाले नसेल तर हा उपवासकाळ सार्थक होईल का? लवकरच आपण पवित्र आठवड्यात प्रवेश करणार आहोत. या अठवड्यातील प्रसंग आपल्याला वैन्यावर प्रेम आणि त्यांची सेवा करण्यास शिकवीतात, आपल्या वैन्यांना क्षमा करण्यास शिकवीतात. जर

या प्रायश्चित काळात आपण आपल्या चालण्या वागण्यात बदल केला तर आपण पुनरुत्थानाकडे वाटचाल करत आहोत असे आपण म्हणू शकतो. या प्रायश्चित काळात आपल्यामध्ये बदल घडला नसेल तर खरचं का आल्लेलुया आपले गीत आहे? या प्रायश्चित काळात आपल्या जीवनात बदल घडवुया व इस्टरच्या रात्री आल्लेलुया आमुचे गीत गात पुनरुत्थानाकडे वाटचाल करूया.

रेजीनाल्ड कुलासो
होली फॅमिली विभाग

अनुभव

अॅनिमेटर ते पॅरीश काऊंसिलर हा सुखद अनुभव मी गेली ३ वर्षांमध्ये अनुभवला आहे. जवळ-जवळ ६ वर्ष मी अॅनिमेटर (लिंग पर्सन) म्हणून कार्य केले. आमच्या विभागातील माजी पॅरीश काऊंसिलर सिल्वेस्टर वैती यांच्या कार्यकाळात त्यांच्या मार्गदर्शनाने मी माझ्या सामुदायिक कुटुंबाची सेवा करण्यास सुरुवात केली. त्यांचा कार्यकाळ संपला तेव्हा समाजातील सर्वांनी मला प्रोत्साहन दिले व २०१९ मध्ये मला पॅरीश काऊंसिलर होण्याची संधी मिळाली.

समाज आणि चर्चसाठी कार्य करीत असताना मला माझ्या समाजाची साथ लाभली व त्यामुळे मला यश मिळाले व तितकाच अनुभव देखील मिळाला. कोविडच्या आजारामुळे जवळ-जवळ २ वर्षासाठी चर्च जाण्यावर निर्बंध लागले होते. २ वर्षांच्या लॉकडाऊन मध्ये अनेक लोक आर्थिकदृष्ट्या कमजोर झाले होते व काही लोकांना नोकऱ्या नव्हत्या. अशा वेळेस फा. रॉनी व त्यांच्या सहाय्यक धर्मगुरूंनी लोकांना चर्च मधून मदत मिळवून दिली. हा एक आगळा-वेगळा अनुभव होता.

गेली ४ वर्ष मी काऊंसिलर या पदावर कार्यरत आहे. हे कार्य करत असताना मला अनेकांची साथ लाभली, माझे अॅनिमेटर (लिंग पर्सन), पॅरीश काऊंसिल मध्ये माझे सहकारी आणि सर्व धर्मगुरूंसोबत चर्च व समाजासाठी कार्य करीत असताना मला आनंदाचा अनुभव झाला. मी माझ्या समाजासाठी विश्वासू व पात्र ठरले. मराठी मध्ये म्हण आहे आई बरी असेल तर कुटुंब बरे होते. पॅरीश काऊंसिलरच्या संदर्भात देखील तसेच आहे.

पॅरीश काऊंसिलर असताना मला माझ्या कुटुंबाची, सहकार्यांची व समाजाची साथ मिळाली म्हणून मी त्यांचे आभार मानते. माझ्या समाजाने मला सेवा करण्याची संधी दिली त्याबद्दल मी माझ्या समाजाचे विशेष आभार मानते.

मानव चुकतो, मी देखील मानव आहे, कळत-नकळत माझ्यामुळे कुणाचे मन दुखावले असेल तर मला क्षमा करा. समाजसेवेचा अनुभव घेण्यासाठी आपण मला संधी दिली म्हणून पुन्हा एकदा आपणा सर्वांचे आभार.

प्रिती वैती
विभागीय समन्वयक, वेलंकणी माता विभाग

SMALL CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES THE WAY FORWARD

The Christian Life is a call to community where the trinity is the working model. Persons distinct but equal, bound together in love and fellowship. The church is a communion of communities. A parish is often too large geographically and numerically. Small Christian communities is the most appropriate way to embody the idea that the church is a communion of faith, hope and charity reaching out to the world in mission.

A SCC is composed of people living in the same area or neighbourhood who come together regularly, for Gospel Sharing/Prayer and Action. When the people come together for their weekly/ monthly meetings, they talk about their situations and their sufferings. Then they turn to the Bible for inspiration and then they act. Most often, SCC's begin with the word of God, as they reflect together on a Scripture passage, they are thereby energized to undertake specific social actions for justice and to solve particular problems, which affect their lives negatively as a community. It may be the lack of some basic amenities or infrastructures or some injustice they are suffering. The inspirations from their Gospel Sharing and prayers pull the people into action and they solve their problems corporately. Whereas some of the structures we already have tend to be limited to spiritual exercises, the SCCs go beyond that to include concerted social and political actions for justice and transformation.

Our SCC's at St. Louis church have been vibrant in many ways. In the last 7 years as a Parish SCC Coordinator I have been witness to many ups and downs in the communities but the fact is that all our communities are rooted in faith, hope and Charity. Over the years, I have been witness to various activities taken up by our community coordinators and animators. Especially, during the pandemic where some I know have gone to the extent of adopting families for months together. Many I know have gone out of their way to keep the communities active and alive in many other ways and many who have taken an initiative to help the weaker sections of the society. I was privileged to work with 2 parish priests, 2 vice presidents of the PPC & about 22-25 community coordinators of the SCC's. Every person has

been different in their very own way but the fact is that everyone was united and progressive. I thank each and everyone for their support and cooperation.

During my tenure, I was part of the SCC Evaluation setup in the archdiocese of Bombay. On the findings of the evaluation, clusters were listed as the need of the hour. At the present situation most of the communities in our parish have adapted to the cluster methodology and many are working on adapting to cluster methodology. I can surely say that your support and cooperation has kept our communities and clusters united and progressive.

We still have a long way to go forward.

Rudolph Peter D'Silva

Parish SCC Coordinator

ख्रिस्ती या नात्याने सामुदायीक जीवन जगण्यास ख्रिस्तसभा आपल्याला आमंत्रित करित आहे. आपण भिन्न-भिन्न असलो तरी समाजात आपण समान आहोत, आपण प्रेम आणि सहवासात बांधलेले आहोत. चर्च म्हणजे अनेक समुदायांचे एकत्रीकरण आहे. रहिवासी अनेकदा भौगोलिक आणि संख्यात्मकदृष्ट्या जास्त असतात. चर्च विश्वास, आशा आणि दानधर्मियांना समुदाय आहे हे दर्शविण्यासाठी लहान ख्रिस्ती समुदाय योग्य मार्ग आहे.

लहान ख्रिस्ती समुदाय हा एका विभागात, शेजारी राहणाऱ्या लोकांनी बनलेला असतो, जे सुवार्ता वाचनासाठी, प्रार्थना व कार्य करण्यासाठी एकत्र येत असतात. जेव्हा लोक त्यांच्या साप्ताहिक/मासिक सभांसाठी एकत्र येतात तेव्हा ते त्यांच्या परिस्थितीबद्दल बोलतात. मग प्रेरणा प्राप्त करून घेण्यासाठी ते पवित्र शास्त्राचे वाचन करतात व त्यानुसार कृती करतात. बऱ्याचदा सभांची सुरुवात पवित्र शास्त्राच्या वाचनाने होते, त्या वाचनाच्या परिच्छेदावर ते मनन चिंतन करतात व त्याद्वारे विशिष्ट समस्यांचे निराकरण करतात. लोक प्रार्थनेतून प्रेरणा घेऊन कृती करतात व त्यांच्या समस्या सोडवण्याचा प्रयत्न करतात. आपल्याकडे आधीपासून काही रचना केवळ आध्यात्मिक कार्यापुरत्या मर्यादित आहेत, परंतु लहान ख्रिस्ती समुदाय त्या पलिकडे जाऊन परिवर्तनासाठी सामाजिक कार्य करतात.

संत लुईस चर्च मध्ये आपले लहान ख्रिस्ती समुदाय बऱ्याच प्रकारे भक्कम आहेत. गेली ७ वर्षे संत लुईस पॅरीशचा लहान ख्रिस्ती समुदायाचा समन्वयक या नात्याने समाजातील अनेक चढ-उतारांचा साक्षीदार आहे, परंतु वस्तुस्थिती अशी

आहे की, आपला समाज विश्वास, आशा आणि दानधर्मात रुजलेला आहे. गेली अनेक वर्षे मी आपल्या को-ऑर्डिनेटर्स व अॅनिमेटर्सने हाती घेतलेल्या अनेक उपक्रमांचा साक्षीदार आहे, विशेषतः लॉकडाऊनच्या काळात माझ्या माहितीमध्ये अनेकांनी उत्तम कामगिरी केली आहे. अनेक लोकांनी आपल्या मर्यादे बाहेर जाऊन गरजवंत कुटुंबांची सेवा केली आहे. माझ्या माहिती प्रमाणे अनेक लोकांनी आपला समाज सक्रिय ठेवण्यासाठी खुप मेहनत घेतली आहे, अनेकांनी समाजातील दुर्बल घटकांच्या लोकांना मदत करण्यासाठी पुढाकार घेतला आहे.

माझ्या कार्यकाळात मी मुंबई सहधर्मप्रांताच्या लहान ख्रिस्ती समुदायाच्या मुल्यांकनात भाग घेतला होता. मुल्यमापनाच्या निष्कर्षावर, क्लसटर्सना काळाची गरज म्हणून सुचीबद्ध केले गेले. सध्याच्या परिस्थितीत आपल्या धर्मग्रामात बऱ्याच समाजांनी क्लस्टर पद्धतीशी जुळवून घेतले आहे आणि बरेच समाज क्लस्टर पद्धतीशी जुळवून घेण्यावर काम करत आहेत. मी निश्चितपणे सांगू शकतो की, आपल्या सर्वांच्या सहकार्यामुळे व पाठिंब्याने आपल्या धर्मग्रामातील सर्व समाज व समुह एकसंध आणि प्रगतशील राहिले आहेत.

मी माझ्या कार्यकाळात २ प्रमुख धर्मगुरू, सल्लागार समितीचे २ उपाध्यक्ष आणि जवळपास २२-२५ को-ऑर्डिनेटर्स सोबत कार्य केले आहे हे मी माझे भाग्य समजतो. प्रत्येक व्यक्ती आपापल्या परीने वेगळी होती परंतु सर्वजण एकजुट व पुरोगामी होते. मला मिळालेला पाठिंबा व सहकार्य उत्तम होता व त्याबद्दल मी सर्वांचे आभार मानतो. ह्याच कार्यकाळात कार्य करीत असताना नियमांचे काटेकोरपणे पालन करताना कळत-नकळत आपण दुखावला असाल तर तुम्ही मला समजून घ्याल हीच अपेक्षा बाळगतो.

कार्य येथे संपलेले नाही अजूनही आपल्याला फार दूरचा प्रवास करावयाचा आहे.

रुडॉल्फ पिटर डिसिल्वा

धर्मग्रामीण एस.सी.सी. समन्वयक

पुनरुत्थान - परिवर्तनाची वाट

देवाने आदाम व एवा यांच्या पापानंतर मानव जातीला तारणाचे जे अभिवचन दिले त्याची परिपुर्ती म्हणजे येशूचे पुनरुत्थान होय. मेलेला माणूस जिवंत होत नाही तर त्याची माती होते हा युगानुयुगाचा अनुभव आहे, परंतु येशूचे मरणातून पुन्हा उठणे हा सार्वकालीक अनुभवाला एक जबरदस्त सुखद धक्का आहे. देवाच्या कल्पना, ह्या माणसाच्या कल्पने पलिकडे असतात. येशूचे प्रेम उठले,

पुनरुत्थीत झाले. येशूचे पुनरुत्थान प्रेमाच्या अमरत्वाची साक्ष आहे.

येशूचे पुनरुत्थान हे भावी सार्वकालीक जीवनाची सुरुवात आहे. पालक जसे आपल्या मुलांच्या भवितव्याची व्यवस्था करतात तसा परमेश्वर देखील त्याने निर्मीलेल्या त्याच्या लेकरांची व्यवस्था करतो. स्वर्गराज्यात सर्वांना प्रवेश मिळणार आहे, जर पश्चाताप केला तर, देवराज्यात त्यांचे स्वागत होईल. येशूच्या पुनरुत्थानाने सर्वांसाठी स्वर्गाचे महाद्वार उघडले आहेत. देवासाठी सर्व लोक समान आहेत, पाप करणारा मनुष्य देखील देवाला हवा असतो. येशू पापी लोकांचे तारण करण्यासाठीच आला मग पाप्यांना तो स्वर्गराज्याबाहेर कसा राहू देईल. पापी तर आपण सर्वच आहेत मात्र सर्वांनी योग्य पोशाख घालून स्वर्गीय मेजवानीस हजर राहायला हवे. अर्थात आपली पापे पदरात घेऊन त्याबद्दल खेद व्यक्त करायला हवा. पश्चातापी माणसाचे पाप किती मोठे आहे याकडे परमेश्वर पाहत नाही. त्याचे माणसावरील प्रेम इतके मोठे आहे की, तो माणसाला क्षमा करण्यास नेहमी तयार असतो.

उपवासकाळात आपण उपवास, प्रार्थना व दानधर्म या त्रियुत्री कार्यक्रमावर भर देतो. देऊळमाता देखील आपल्याला हेच करण्यास आवाहन करते. उपवास: आपण अन्नाचा उपवास करतो म्हणजेच आपण शारिरिक भुक् मारून आध्यात्माकडे वाटचाल करतो. हे करणं अगदी सोपे असते. परंतु त्याचबरोबर आपण आपल्या आंतरीक सवयींचा उपवास करायला हवा. राग, द्वेष, मत्सर, हेवा इत्यादि वाईट सवयींचा आपण उपवास करायला हवा. प्रार्थना: या चाळीस दिवसांत आपण विविध प्रकारच्या प्रार्थना अर्चना करत असतो. रोझरी, क्रुसाची वाट, देनंदीन मिस्सा, पवित्र शास्त्राचे वाचन इत्यादि आपण या दिवसांत करत असतो. परंतु प्रार्थनेची ही सवय फक्त चाळीस दिवसच का? या चाळीस दिवसात लावलेली ही आध्यात्मिक सवय कायमस्वरूपी का नाही? ही सवय आपण लावून घ्यावी म्हणजे पुनरुत्थानाचा आनंद दररोज आपल्याला अनुभवता येईल. दानधर्म: या चाळीस दिवसांतच आपल्याला गरजवंत लोक भेटतात का? इतर दिवस ते आपल्याला दिसत नाही का? या दिसांत आपण दानधर्म करतो परंतु ही सवय आपण लावून घेतली पाहीजे व वर्षभर गरजवंतांच्या गरजांकडे लक्ष दिले पाहीजे. जेव्हा आपण उपवास, प्रार्थना व दानधर्माच्या सवयी आपल्या जीवनात उतरवून घेऊ तेव्हा आपल्याला पुनरुत्थानाचा खरा आनंद लुटता येईल.

प्रिती वैती
विभागीय समन्वयक
वेलंकणी माता विभाग

Saint Andre – Miracle Man of Montreal

Rising above a hill in the Canadian city of Montreal known as Mount Royal stands one of the largest cathedrals in the world – the Oratory of Saint Joseph. Its great height of 361 feet is matched by its massive girth, which is large enough to hold within itself many of the world's largest shrines. If one were to ask who built this magnificent house of God, he would be told “Brother André.” Small in stature, unassuming in appearance and manner, Brother André Bessette was great in the Kingdom of God. On October 17, 2010, the Catholic Church canonized this unassuming porter whose miraculous ministry to the sick and needy earned him the title 'the miracle man of Montreal'.

In 1870, Brother André, went to join the Congregation of the Holy Cross, armed with an introductory letter from Father Provancal which said, “**I am sending a saint to your Congregation.**” Despite the chronic health which threatened his continued residence in the community, in 1872, Brother André was received into the novitiate and assigned as the porter of the College.

One day, as the pious porter was scrubbing the floor in the parlour of the college, a lady came to see him, having heard of his reputation. She was so afflicted with rheumatism that she could only walk with the assistance of two men supporting her by holding each arm. Her request to Brother André was simple enough: “**I am suffering from rheumatism. I want you to heal me.**” Not looking up from the floor he was still busily scrubbing, Brother André said to the men assisting her, “Let her walk”. The woman walked out unassisted. Since then, a lot of miracles have taken place through the prayerful support of St Andre. There is a room set aside at St Joseph's Oratory with plenty of walkers as well as crutches people have left behind after being healed by the miraculous power of Br Andre. Even today we have a lot of people receiving favours through the intercession of St Andre.

Our parish of St Louis was privileged to have a first-class relic of St Andre Bessette, the first and only saint from Holy Cross Congregation in our midst due to the support of Fr Jomon Kalladanthiyil, C.S.C., from St Joseph's Oratory, Montreal, who readily agreed to send us the relic upon the request from Mr E L Sebastian. Special thanks to Shalini Coutinho, from Mother Teresa sector, now based in Canada for co-ordinating the movement of the relic from Montreal to Mumbai. We are one of the few churches in India to be blessed with the presence of a saintly relic.

The faithful of our parish was blessed with the holy relic on the occasion of St Andre's feast day on 7th January 2023 . May St Andre continue to bless us and our families.

E L Sebastian, Mother Teresa Community

The Pope's Lenten Message

It would be beautiful, if each of us during this lent reflect on this: how do I behave with people? How is my heart in front of people? I am a hypocrite; I smile at people then I criticize them and destroy them with my tongue. And if we at this lent corrected this a little and are not always criticizing others, I assure you that the resurrection of Jesus will be seem more beautiful and greater among us. It is very difficult, because it is a habit to criticize always.

Some of us say that the devil puts it in us. But there are two medicines which help us a lot. The first remedy is prayer, pray for the one you criticize. Secondly, there's another medicine which is also practical like prayer. When you feel the desire to talk about someone, bite your tongue.



**Shared by: Freddy Miranda, St. Louis Community
Courtesy: Radio Vatican**

Seven Blissful Years as Councillor of Infant Jesus Sector

I express my deep gratitude for the incredible privilege and opportunity to serve as Councillor of Infant Jesus Sector. I took over the leadership of the sector at the end of March 2016. Initially I faced lot of hardships due to lack of enough knowledge of the work entrusted to me, but gradually, with the help of the sector members and animators who always stood by me in all situations, be it sports events, cultural programmes, feasts and festivals, I was able to deliver. With their help we were able to get enough resources to buy a statue of Mother Mary for the sector within a year.

As I reflect on my time as sector councillor, I am filled with a sense of profound gratitude for the many blessings that have come my way. I had the honour of working with Fr. Martin, our sector priest, and Parish Priest Fr. Ronald and was inspired by their faith, dedication and tireless commitment to serve others.

I am particularly grateful to the sector animators, youth, welfare fund representatives and dear sector members who were an important part of my journey. Their love, support and encouragement meant more than words can express. I am truly grateful for the many ways in which they enriched my life.

In one of our councillor training meetings it was said, 'Don't be a ruler; be leader'. During this seven-year journey I learnt leadership skills and collaborative efforts from our new as well as experienced Parish Pastoral Council members and church fathers. I will always cherish the memories and experiences we shared together.

May God bless you all; may our church continue to thrive and bring hope, joy and peace to all.

Gretta D'Sa
Sector councillor, Infant Jesus Sector



Gorai Picnic by Infant Jesus Sector

Eighteen members of the Infant Jesus Sector went on their annual picnic to Rehcruz Resort, Gorai, on January 28, from 10 am to 6 pm. As soon as we reached the resort, we had a sumptuous breakfast that was relished by everyone.

The sector animators prepared various games which were enjoyed by all. Members also had a whale of a time at the swimming pool.

The resort served delicious lunch in the afternoon. After lunch all proceeded to the beach and spent a lot of time watching the beauty of the sea and surrounding areas.

We all returned in the evening carrying with us good and sweet memories of the picnic with numerous pictures and videos of our activities.

Gretta D'Sa
Sector councillor, Infant Jesus Sector



New Life in Christ

“So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!”. (2 Corinthians 5:17)

I was a non-Catholic girl. My mother got separated from my father when I was just two years old and my younger brother was in my mother's womb. My mother, being very less qualified, was never employed. We were looked after by my maternal grandmother and uncles. Our financial condition was very bad and due to constant fights between my mother and grandmother, I attempted suicide at the age of 19 by cutting my wrist. My mother rushed me to the doctor in a profusely bleeding state. The doctor stated that if the cut was a bit deeper I would not have survived. At that time I was giving tuitions to a Gujarati lady's two children. My mother narrated my suicide attempt and our financial problems to this lady, who was a divorcee herself and had faced similar financial problems but was guided by a Catholic gentleman to attend a retreat at Tabor Ashram. The lady suggested I too attend a retreat at Tabor, which I did along with another Sindhi lady. She advised me to pray to Jesus during the retreat and ask him anoint my home and family with his precious blood.

“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness”. (1 John 1:9)
Upon returning from the retreat I sensed deep peace and joy within my heart and saw a miracle before my eyes. My mother, while sweeping the floor, found a drop of blood under the cupboard. We assumed Jesus had washed our home with his precious blood, as requested in my petition.

“But now in Christ Jesus, you who were far off are brought near by the blood of Christ”.
([Ephes 2:13](#))

My 12th std. examinations were due then and I had only a week left to study. I would recite the Rosary before my studies daily. Whatever I studied were the questions asked in the exams. I must say I cleared my 12th std. with just a week of study through divine intervention.

I was a timid person before the retreat, but after it I became a confident. The Gujarati lady who

guided me for the retreat arranged a temporary receptionist's job for me. Thereafter another friend got me a job in a good company. I prayed before the interview and I could visualise the cross of Jesus, indicating that he was with me. I faced the interview boldly and got the job where till this day I am employed.

“Now, therefore, if you desire, look upon me and see if I shall lie in your presence”. ([Job 6:28](#))

At home, I was afraid being alone. However, the Divine Mercy prayer has been very close to me and I do it everyday. One day I was sleeping alone at home and suddenly at 3.00 pm I heard a voice calling me by my name. I heard this voice thrice. It was reminding me that it was my time to pray. I'm sure it was Jesus.

“I cried out to the LORD in the middle of my troubles; I cried out to my God. He listened to my voice from his sanctuary, and my call for help was heard”. (2 Sam: 22:7)

I used to attend retreats twice a year. However, once I wanted to go for a retreat but had no one to accompany me. I left the house not knowing how would I go alone to Kalyan and called up that Catholic gentleman and he dropped me off for a silent retreat. There I happened to speak to the priest and told him I feel inferior and ignored very fast. That priest asked me many questions to get to the root of it. I told him that when I was in my mother's womb my dad tried to abort me without her knowledge. He told me that during the inner healing session I should tell Jesus to take you to when you were in your mother's womb and heal and wash every negativity with his precious blood. I did what he said and during the inner healing session I had a vision which looked like a sonography report and saw JESUS blessing me in my mother's womb. I felt so light and more confident immediately.

The Gujarati lady and Catholic gentleman who had guided her for the retreat would meet once a week for prayers at her house. I started attending the prayer meet. The group was named 'Ashirwad Prarthana Sabha'. The lady had removed all the idols that were in her house. Soon there was a sea change in her fortunes financially. However, when I turned to

New Life in Christ

the Lord, my mother started fasting and worshipping her god more vigorously. I was totally upset and wanted to leave the house. One of the prayer group members, a Maharashtrian who used to converse with Jesus, told me that my prayers would save my family. I started praying for my family and succeeded in sending my mother and grandmother for the retreat.

The Gujarati lady who was hosting the prayer meeting in her house every week then abruptly decided to stop the meetings and conveyed the same to the Catholic man. I told the man to continue the prayer meet in my house. They had two requests:

1. Take the consent of my mother and grandmother... which I received.
2. Remove the idols and objects of other gods from my home. This too was consented.

The weekly prayer meetings were shifted to my house. I would visit the Blessed Sacrament often and attend mass almost every day as a priest had told me that I would receive three blessings through the Holy Eucharist. I decided to convert and asked the Catholic man how to go about it. He told me I would have to meet the Parish Priest, attend RCI classes for a year and after that I would be baptised at Easter. I informed my mother and grandmother that I wanted to convert. They did not raise any objection, though they said they would not. As suggested, I went to the Parish Priest who put me on to the RCI and I completed a year of studies. I asked the Catholic man to conduct the weekly prayer meeting at my house and be my godfather. I received Baptism and Holy Communion on Easter Sunday in the presence of my brother, mother and grandmother. The following year my mother and grandmother too decided to convert and started attending the RCI classes and were baptised at Easter.

I got friendly with a Catholic boy and we planned to get married. However, the boy and his family joined the New Life group. Till then I had no idea of the various denominations in the Catholic church. I told the boy to return to the Catholic church, but he declined. I told him I cannot move away from the main Catholic church for his sake and cut off the relationship. Around the same time one of my seniors at my

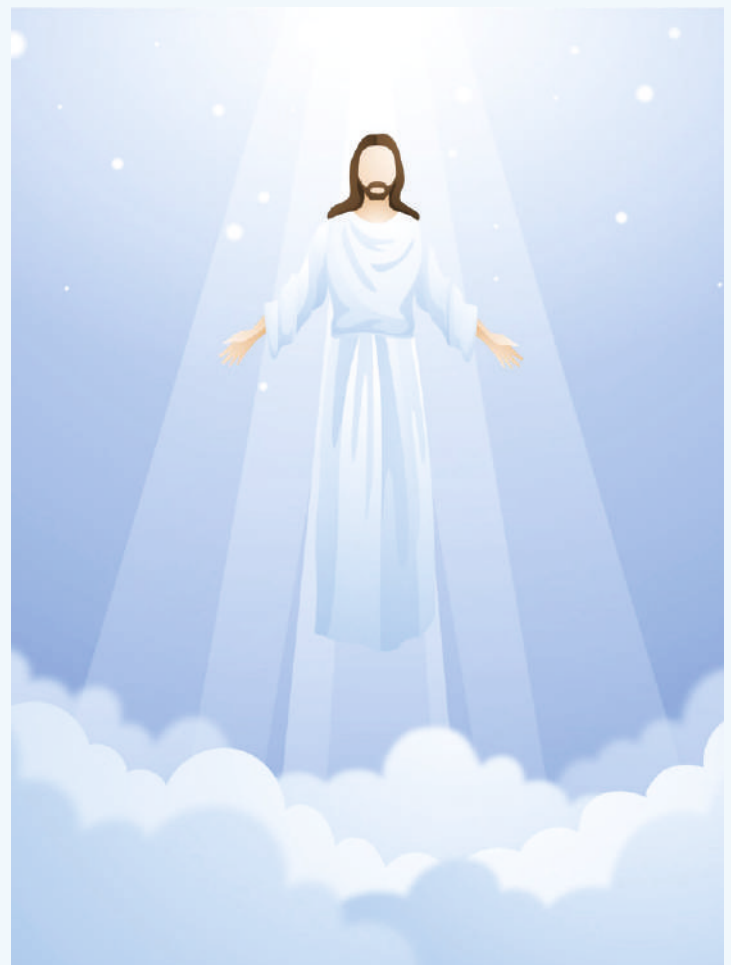
office, who was Catholic, proposed to me. I consulted my godfather, who suggested that we both go for the retreat at Tabor and then decide. We attended the retreat and decided to get married. We attended the 'Engaged Encounter' classes to prepare for the marriage with totally different ceremonies from our Punjabi culture. By then all my relatives accepted the conversion of our family. My mother's brother too attended the one-day service at Tabor on several occasions.

I am now blessed with a baby boy and have left my job to take care of our son. The Lord has helped me to lead a faithful Catholic family life.

I have deep trust in divine providence. Indeed, the Lord has guided me throughout my ups and downs. He has not let me down.

I have written this testimony to show that the Lord has many ways to prove how much he loves us.

Neha Lobo





**"My God, My God, why
have you forsaken me?"**



"It is finished"



**"Father, into thy hands
I commit my spirit"**

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1 PETER 2:24



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