



LOUISIAN SAMACHAR

Bulletin of St. Louis Church, Dahisar (West), Mumbai - 400 068.

January to March 2009

For Private Circulation Only

CALLED TO EXPERIENCE NEW LIFE AT EASTER

To what newness are we called to in our parish this Easter? To what must we die in order to rise transformed? What old yeast must we cast off in order that we might be fresh dough? Ours is a world of violence, of prejudice, of indifference. Too often we harbor feelings of anger and resentment, of selfishness and disdain. Easter proclaims that Christ has died and has risen; with him we die to all the evil and wickedness in our lives and in our world, to set our hearts on higher things in sincerity and truth.

Though we know well the Easter story, we never fully grasp its meaning. Like the first believers, we continue to live with our dashed hopes and our misunderstanding of God's mysterious power. Like the first believers we come to the tomb and expect to find death, but instead we find signs of a new life we cannot even begin to comprehend. Like the first believers, we do not realize that history has been broken open and is now filled with the resurrected presence of Christ. The one who was maliciously singled out and shamefully hung on a tree was really the one set apart by God to judge the living and the dead. Who can comprehend such a paradox?

This same resurrected power works in our lives today. Christianity is a resurrection religion. It believes that the risen Christ has turned all our sunsets into dawns. It means that the silver thread of resurrection runs through believers of our own time, freeing them to a new relationship with God and to a new bond of love with others, empowering them to realize their own human potential in a new way and sustaining them through the struggles and trials, hardships and pains of human life until they triumph. Every time we experience new life in Christ, we are also rising again.

We experience the new life of the risen Lord when we are forgiven by God of our sins and reconciled with him. "Every one who believes in Jesus has forgiveness of sins through his name" (Acts 10:43). We experience the new life of the risen Jesus when we

ourselves forgive those who have offended us. The burden of a grudge is a heavy load; our grudges limit only our own freedom. But when the grace of Christ's resurrection heals our memories, the load of unforgiveness is lifted and we experience great joy and freedom. Our memories will not be erased, but they will no longer cause us pain.

We experience the new life of Easter, when we are able to pull through our personal calvaries such as severe depression because we trusted in the Lord. You and I know what depression is. It is to feel oneself sinking lower and lower. Yet, even if one were to reach the lowest depths, if only one places all trust in Jesus Christ, one will experience an inward peace. Upon the surface a rough tempest may still be raging, but still one will experience a blessed quietness in the deep caverns of one's soul. That is the rising of Jesus again. We experience the new life of the risen Jesus when through sheer persistent endeavour we are able to overcome even permanent physical handicaps and live our life to the full.

We experience the new life of the risen Lord not only as individuals but also as a community. Where there is communal brokenness there is possibility of communal resurrection. The violence of some of our cities, the inequality of wealth, opportunity and its consequent sense of injustice, the prevailing prejudices, the discrimination against classes and color are among the many examples of our broken world. But there have been men and women in the world anointed by the Holy Spirit with God's power as Jesus was who put up peaceful fights to deliver the oppressed people from their communal calvaries leading them to a new life. Therefore Jesus is rising again and again. We don't need to wait until we die to share in the power of Christ's resurrection.

We can have our personal and communal resurrection here and now as our fears turn into joy, doubts into

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पुनरुत्थानाच्या रविवारी नवीन जीवनाचा अनुभव घेण्यासाठी बोलाविलेले

या पास्काच्या सणाच्या दिवशी आपल्या धर्मग्रामात आपल्याला कोणत्या नाविन्यासाठी आपण आपल्यातील काय मारले पाहिजे? चांगली ताजी भाकरी बनविण्यासाठी कोणते खमीर वापरले पाहिजे? आपले जग हे हिसेचे द्वेषाचे आणि मतभेदाचे जग आहे. अनेकदा रागाने आपल्या भावनांचा उद्रेक होता. राग, स्वार्थ आणि तिरस्कार उफाळून येतो. पुनरुत्थानाचा सण घोषण करतो येशूख्रिस्त मेला आणि पुनरुत्थित झाला आहे त्या बरोबर आपल्या जीवनातील सर्व दुष्टपणा आणि वाईटपणा आपण सोडला पाहिजे आणि आपल्या जगात आपण आपले लक्ष सत्य आणि प्रमाणिकपणावर केंद्रित केले पाहिजे.

पुनरुत्थानाची गोष्ट आपण सर्वांना माहित असली तरी आपण पूर्णपणे त्याचा अर्थ ग्रहण केला नाही. आदि ख्रिस्ती लोकां प्रमाणे आपण आशाभंग अवस्थेत आणि देवाच्या रहस्यमय शक्तीच्या गैर समजात जगत असतो. आदि ख्रिस्ती लोकां प्रमाणे आपण कबरे जवळ येतो मरण शोधायचा प्रयत्न करतो, परंतु आपल्याला नवीन जीवनाची चिन्हे दिसतात जी आपल्या आकलन शक्तीच्या पलीकडे असतात. आदि ख्रिस्ती लोकां प्रमाणे, इतिहासची पुर्न: रचना होऊन इतिहास आता पुनरुत्थित ख्रिस्ताचा असतीत्वाने भरला आहे, हे आपणही ओळखत नाही. ज्याला द्वेषाने दोषी ठरवून, लज्जास्पदपणे क्रुसावर खिळले, त्याला खरोखरच देवाने जिवंत आणि मेलेल्यांचा, न्याय करण्यासाठी वेगळे ठेवले होते. हा विरोधाभास कोण समजू शकतो?

पुनरुत्थित झालेली ही शक्ती आज आपल्या जीवनात कार्य करीत आहे. ख्रिस्ती धर्म हा पुनरुत्थानाचा धर्म आहे. येशू ख्रिस्ताने सर्व अंधांच्या रात्रींचे सूर्योदयात रूपांतर केले आहे, अशी आपली श्रद्धा आहे याचा अर्थ पुनरुत्थानाची चंदेरी लहेर आपल्या वेळच्या सर्व विश्वासू लोकांत वाहील देवा बरोबरच्या एका वेगळ्या नाते संबंधात आपण मुक्त केले जातो इतरांशी एका नवीन प्रेमाच्या बंधनात बांधले जातो त्यांना त्यांची मानवी संभवनिय सक्ती नवीन प्रकारे ओळखायला समर्थ करते. अंतीम विजय मिळे पर्यंत त्यांना संघर्ष, कसोटीचे प्रसंग, कष्ट, दुःख सहन करण्यास चिकाटी देते. जेव्हा आपण येशूख्रिस्तात नवीन जीवन अनुभवतो तेव्हा आपणही परत उठतो.

जेव्हा देव आपल्याला आपल्या पापांची क्षमा करून आपला त्याच्याशी समेट घडवितो तेव्हा आपण पुनरुत्थित ख्रिस्ताचे नव जीवन अनुभवतो.

आपल्याला ज्यांनी दुखविले आहे त्यांना आपण क्षमा करतो, तेव्हा आपण पुनरुत्थित ख्रिस्ताच्या नवीन जीवनाचा अनुभव घेतो. मनाता अढी ठेवणे हे मोठे ओझे सहन करण्या सारखे आहे. आपली ही अदी किंवा कडूता आपल्या स्वतंत्र्याला मर्यादा घालते. परंतु जेव्हा पुनरुत्थित ख्रिस्ताची कृपा आपल्या आठवणीना उाळा देतो, तेव्हा क्षमा न करण्याचे ओझे कमी होते आणि आपण महान आनंद आणि स्वतंत्र्याचा अनुभव घेतो. आपल्या आठवणी पुसल्या जाणार नाहीत, परंतु त्या अधिक काळ आपल्याला सतावणार नाहीत.

आपण पुनरुत्थानाचे नव जीवन अनुभवतो, तेव्हा आपण आपली वैयक्तीक कालवरीची वाटचाल करतो, कारण आपण देवावर विश्वास ठेवतो. तुम्हाला आणि मला खिन्नता काय आहे हे माहित आहे. एखाद्याला मी अगदी रवोल, रवोल जातोय असे वाटते तरीही एखाद्याला खालच्या पातळी वर जायचे असेल, आणि जर एखादा संपूर्णपणे येशूख्रिस्तावर श्रद्धा ठेवीत असेल, तर त्याला आंतरीक शांतिचा अनुभव येईल. पृष्ठभागावरती एखादे वाढक घोंघावत असेल तरीही अंतःकरणातील खोल कप्प्यात शांतता असेल. येशूख्रिस्ताच्या पुन्हा उठण्याची ही प्रक्रिय असेल. जेव्हा आपण कायम स्वरूपी अपंगत्वातून पूर्ण बरे होतो आणि आपले संपूर्ण जीवन जागतो तेव्हा आपण पुनरुत्थित ख्रिस्ताच्या नवीन जीवनाचा अनुभव घेतो.

पुनरुत्थित येशूख्रिस्ताच्या नवीन जीवनाचा अनुभव आपण फक्त वैयक्तीकपणे घेत नाही तर एक समाज म्हणून ही घेतो. जेथे कुठे जातीय दरी असते तेथे जातीय पुनरुत्थानाची शक्यता असते. आपल्या काही शारांतील हिंसा, आर्थिक विषमता, संधी आणि परिणाम सदृश्य अन्यायाची संवेदना, पक्षपात, वर्णभेद, जातभेद, अशा सारख्या गोष्टीमुळे आजचे जग एकमेका पासून दुरावतेय परंतु या जगात असे स्त्री, पुरुष आहेत ज्यांना पवित्र आत्म्याने दैवी शक्तीने अभिषेक केला आहे, आणि येशूख्रिस्ता सारखे शांतीपूर्ण लदा देऊन दुष्टाईचा नाश करण्यास समर्थ केले आहे. म्हणूनच येशूख्रिस्त पुन्हा पुन्हा उठत आहे. ख्रिस्ताच्या पुनरुत्थानाच्या शक्तीत वाटेकरी होण्यासाठी आपल्याला आपल्या वैयक्तीक आणि सामाजिक पुनरुत्थान पाहू शकतो. आपले भय आनंदात, संशय, विश्वासात आणि निराशा, आशेत बदलू शकते.

पुनरुत्थित येशूख्रिस्त फक्त त्याच्यावर श्रद्धा ठेवणाऱ्यां समोरच प्रकटला, परुशी आणि जमावा समोर नाही. सर्व सामान्य लोका समोर काही सिद्ध करायची त्याची इच्छा नव्हती. त्याला फक्त अनुयायांचा समाज बांधावयाचा होता आणि जागातील वादळवाऱ्यांशी सामना करायला त्यांना समर्थ करावयाचे होते. पुनरुत्थित ख्रिस्ताने हे पवित्र आत्म्या द्वारे साध्य केले.

येशूख्रिस्ताचे पुनरुत्थान ही फक्त एक भूतकाळातील घटन नाही ते वर्तमानातील आणि भविष्यातील सत्यता आहे. पवित्र आत्म्यात पुनरुत्थित ख्रिस्त आज सगळीकडे जिवंत आहे. तो शिकवतो बरे करतो आणि प्रेरणा देतो तो लोकांच्या हृदयांवर प्रभावीपणे परिणाम करतो. येशूख्रिस्ताचे पुनरुत्थानाचे आपल्या धर्मग्रामातील लोकांच्या जीवनात चिन्ह झाले पाहिजे त्याला क्रुसावर खिळल्या नंतर आपण बंद केलेल्या गुहेत पुनरुत्थित ख्रिस्ताने प्रवेश केला पाहिजे.

अंधाराची गुहा संशय, निराशा, भय आणि वैफल्य यांची गुहा या गुहेत पुनरुत्थित ख्रिस्ताच्या आत्म्याने नवीन जीवन, शांती आणि आनंद भरला पाहिजे.

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belief and disappointments into hope.

It is significant that the Risen Christ appeared only to those who believed in him, not to the Pharisees, the Scribes, the crowds. He was not interested in proving anything to the general public. He wanted only to rebuild his community of disciples, and to make their love for him powerful enough to take the world by storm. The Risen Christ accomplishes this through his Spirit.

The Resurrection of Jesus is not just an event of the past. It is a reality of the present and the future. The Risen Lord is alive today in the spirit everywhere. He teaches, heals and inspires. He exerts a powerful influence over the hearts of all people. The resurrection of Jesus then has to be symbolically reflected in the lives of all the members of our parish. The Risen Lord should be made to enter the cave which we have retreated into after his crucifixion: the cave of darkness, doubt, despair, fear and frustration. It is into this cave that the Spirit of the Risen Lord has to infuse new Life, Peace and Joy.

Easter in the final analysis is the victory of the Good against the Bad, of Life over Death. God who came to participate in our History, taught us the Road, transmits to us Life, and helps us to find Truth. Can this Easter mean recovering our sight and learning to see the needs of the poor as more important than our individual needs? For this to happen we would have to re-envision the priorities of our individual and communal life at St. Louis Church, Dahisar.

— Fr. Leo D'Souza, c.s.c

Contd from Page 2..... (पुनरुत्थानाच्या रविवारी नवीन जीवनाचा अनुभव घेण्यासाठी बोलाविलेल)

अंतीमतः पुनरुत्थान म्हणजे चांगल्याचा वाईटावर विजय जीवनाचा मृत्युवर विजय. देव जो आपल्या इतिहासात सहभागी होण्यासाठी आला. आपल्याला मार्ग दाखविला, आपल्याला जीवन दिले आणि आपल्याला सत्य शोधायला मदत करतो. आपल्या वैयक्तिक गरजा विसरून गरीबांच्या गरजांसाठी संवेदनशील होणे म्हणजे हे पुनरुत्थान आहे का? हे होण्यासाठी आपण आत्मकेंद्रितपणा सोडून लोकांच्या गरजांना प्राधान्य द्यायला पाहिजे.

---फादर लिओ डिसोजा C.S.C.

FAITH CELEBRATION

1st February has left a lasting impact on our lives. The children of Std VII & VIII went for faith formation on this day to St. Anne's School. We were given the topic "LEADERSHIP". We had to prepare chat shows, charts, and skits to give information to the other parishes.

This quest for knowledge of leadership started in the 4th week of December. This hard work continued till end of January. There were tasks given to Std VII and VIII. Std VIII was given the responsibility of preparing charts.

The charts were as follows:-

Freedom fighters / Good and Bad leaders /
Leaders in crisis / Leadership /
Solitary leader – Jesus Christ / Charismatic leader

Std VIII interviewed a few leaders:-

Diago Tuscano (Principal) / Brazil Colaco /
Sheetal Mhatre (Municipal Corporator) /
Edwin Britto / Fr. Leo (Parish Priest)

A chat show was prepared on the topic of Leadership. No child hesitated to take part. Everybody was enthusiastic. Few children of our parish communicated with the other parishes by enacting different leaders like:

***Mahatma Gandhi / Subhash Chandra Bose /
Mother Teresa / Jesus***

We took videos of the different persons who were interviewed to show to the other parish leaders. There were about 7 parishes who were given different topics. Each one's preparation was unique and beautiful. The topics emphasized during this faith formation were:-

***Housing / Bonded labour / Poverty / Pollution /
Inequalities / Leadership***

We thank our teachers Mrs. Paskin, Ms. Perpetual and Ms. Deelen for giving us this opportunity to witness such a beautiful faith formation. It would not have been possible without the help of the teachers and the students.

— Nia Carnelio, Rachel Ferrao

BOX INTENTIONS - THINKING OUT OF THE BOX

- a few stray thoughts -

Some years ago, I had approached Fr. Bombacha, (when he was with us at St. Louis), to offer a Mass for the souls of my departed parents. He took down their names. We talked for a while, and while leaving I left some cash with him, as a token. He looked a bit puzzled and said, "I don't have change." I asked "Why?" He replied, "I need to give you some money back." (I knew that the Diocese has fixed an amount for each Mass) I told him that I did not subscribe to the view that the Mass is a saleable commodity nor would I give him any money if I didn't have any. What I gave was only a token and had nothing to do with the fees for the Mass. Fr. Bombacha was impressed with this new way of looking at things and agreed that this is how it should be done.

Coming back to the present, I am thankful, that Fr. Leo has obliged us with a BOX where anyone, who wants to offer a Mass, can write the intention and drop it in that box. A sort of - BOX INTENTION. The idea being, that even if someone cannot afford to pay, one can still offer Masses for the near and dear ones, or in praise and thanksgiving to God. A noble deed, just as it should be. The Eucharist, the supreme sacrifice, the memorial of the Lord's supper, passion, death and resurrection - is the ONLY perfect form of worship, sacrifice or prayer - it is INVALUABLE, one cannot and should not put an MRP on it.

So, why should we pay? Or for that matter, why should anyone pay? There are reasons aplenty. The priests are mortal too, and as such, they cannot survive on prayer and fresh air alone. The church building requires maintenance; there are numerous overheads, fixed and variable costs. Hence there is a need to contribute generously and regularly.

The question is: How much? The Bible is one book where one finds no ambiguity, no beating around the bush (burning or otherwise!). It says, "You MUST pay the tithe i.e. 10 percent of all your earnings." - perks, fringe benefits included although one can safely assume that the taxes are exempt!

I have many Christian friends, who religiously issue a cheque for 10% of their bank balance on the 1st of

every month to their church or for society dues, insurance premium or electricity charges etc. I have some more Muslim friends, who during the month of Ramadan, evaluate their property - gold ornaments and bank balance included - and give 10% zakat.

The Catholic Church is more humane. We are asked a nominal fee for the Masses, only 1% for community welfare fund. Even this, many of us either forget or find difficult to pay. The interesting aspect is offertory. We sing about what gifts we can offer, but some of us, discretely avoid dipping our hands into our pockets and purses. It is a simple voluntary gesture that could give so much meaning to our prayer /sacrifice.

Coming back to the BOX INTENTIONS, I personally feel, and it is a viable option to many of us, to be generous, without being obtrusive, so that only our Father, who sees in secret knows. And believe me he gives a hundred fold and more, in return. Want to check it out?

— S. Saldanha.

PS: You are welcome to send your comments, reaction on this issue to the Editor or mail it to saldanha_sal@rediffmail.com



KAIROS 2008

It was the most wonderful experience the youth, could ever have as Kairos the All India Youth Convention held on December 27th to 29th at Vidyavihar seemingly changed their lives forever. The programme lasted 3 days with praise, worship and the Word of God. Kairos is held once in every four years and we were indeed fortunate that it was held in our own city. Youth from all parts of India gathered together to worship the Lord. Br. Mark Nino was the preacher on the first day and he made a deep impact on the youth. From our parish 15 youth participated in the programme. Every state had something different to offer and we benefitted tremendously from what we learnt.

FATHER FORGIVE THEM

Graham Staines wife was asked, "Could you forgive Dara Singh who poured fuel on a jeep and burnt to death your husband with your two innocent sons." Despite the agony of what she must have gone through each night hearing the screams of her two dead children and her husband who were mercilessly reduced to a blackened mass of roasting flesh, she uttered seven words of Christ, "Father forgive them for they know not what they do!" Any other widow would have probably been broken, and shattered with such a cruel death. But with such a powerful spirit of forgiveness she was able to forgive and to hold her head high again.

The late Pope John Paul II who met and forgave his would be assassin, the Turkish - Mercenary, Mehmet Aliagca. The dignity with which Priyanka Gandhi went to forgive her father's assassin is appreciable. Mahatma Gandhi forgave his assassins even as he was dying. Hemant Karkare's daughter said 'don't punish my father's assassin, Kasab, but try to make him realize the wrong teaching of "Jihaad" and rehabilitate him to be a good man and to lead a good life'. Forgiveness is the balm that heals the wounds of hatred, anger, egoism, hypocrisy, greed and jealousy. An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth is beastly conduct, where as forgiveness for an offence is divine. We need profound and deep love to forgive but need more humility to ask forgiveness. It is the prime virtue and this very virtue of forgiveness can bring us closer to others.

At times we say, I can only forgive but I can't forget. This is another way of saying, I will not forgive. Forgiveness ought to be like a cancelled note-torn in two and burned up. When we forgive, we stop feeling resentful; there is no more indignation or anger against another for a perceived offence, difference or mistake; there is no clamour for punishment. It means the end of violence. Anger begets more anger but forgiveness and love beget more forgiveness and love. Forgiveness is a way to a life of love, friendship, peace and harmony which protect us from harmful emotions which cause havoc with one's mental well-being.

Forgiving others we ourselves are forgiven. The parable of the "Unforgiving Servant" reminds us that God's gracious forgiveness cannot be only accepted and hoarded for oneself. It has to be passed on to others as well. "If you are offering your gift at the altar and there

remember that your brother has something against you leave there your gift before the altar and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother and then come and offer your gift. (Mt 23:28)".

"If you don't forgive others neither will your father forgive your trespassers" (Mt 6:14-15). Once forgiven we seek to foster genuine and deep feelings of communion not only with God but also with all human kind and all creation as well. When we genuinely accept God's gift of forgiveness, we remove all blocks that hinder our communication with God and others.

Forgiveness is absolutely crucial if there is to be peace of mind or harmony in this world. If we cannot forgive, then there is no possibility of any relationships surviving at any level. By holding on to the burning fire, we are in fact torturing ourselves. If we keep that burning coal in our heart, it will burn to ashes all our virtues and spiritual qualities and will make us miserable. If we withhold the free choice to forgive someone, we remain a victim of whoever has hurt or abused us. As we give the gift of forgiveness we are healed. Forgiveness actually means to be a well wisher of our persecutors and think in terms of their welfare. Unforgiveness means breaking the bridge which we must cross in order to be forgiven for all the improper things that we have done.

Our Lord's prayer, "Forgive me as I forgive others who have trespassed against me. When Jesus was on the crucifix beaten, tortured and blasphemed his last prayer was "Father forgive them for they know not what they do". It is said that forgiveness is the fragrance of a sweet smelling flower on the heel that has just crushed it. Jesus died to save us from every stain of sin, every pain of sin and every shame of sin.

We may be too hurt to forgive but we know that by forgiving we will be relieved of the poison of this hatred or resentment or guilt. We will be forgiven if we forgive.

— Mr. Diago Tuscanno



क्षमा

१. तुम्ही तुमच्या विरुद्ध अपराध करणाऱ्यांना सात वेळा नाही तर साताच्या सत्तर वेळा क्षमा करा. तुम्ही क्षमा केली नाही तर तुम्हांला क्षमा होणार नाही. प्रभू ख्रिस्त क्रुसावर प्राण सोडण्याअगोदर आपल्या मारेकऱ्यांना क्षमा करत म्हणतो, "हे बापा, त्यांना क्षमा कर कारण ते काय करताहेत हे त्यांना समजत नाही". अपराध करणं मानवी आहे पण क्षमा करणं दैवी आहे. क्षमा मनापासून करून अपराध विसरून जायचा असतो. आपले एक बोट दुसऱ्यांच्या अपराधाकडे वळलेले असते तेव्हा इतर चार बोटे आपल्याकडे वळलेली असतात. तुमच्या मार्गात काटे पसरविणाऱ्यांच्या मार्गात तुम्ही गुलाब फुले पसरा. ही येशूची क्षमादानाची उत्तम शिकवण आहे.

२. येशूने आपल्या अनुयायांना सांगितले, "आपले दान अर्पण करण्यासाठी वेदीजवळ आणीत असताना आपल्या भावाच्या मनात आपल्याविरुद्ध काही आहे, असे तुला स्मरण झाले, तर ते दान तसेच वेदीजवळ ठेव; व तेथून निघून जा. प्रथम आपल्या भावाबरोबर समेट कर आणि मग येऊन आपले दान अर्पण कर(मत्तय ५:२५).

३. दुसऱ्यांनी केलेली टिका, निंदा, नालस्ती, अपराध या सर्व गोष्टींमुळे मनावर खोलवर उमटलेले ओरखडे, जखमा, घाव मात्र वर्मी बसलेले असतात. ज्या प्रमाणे घाव सुकला तरी त्याचा व्रण जात नाही. त्याप्रमाणे अपराधाची क्षमा केली तरीपण आपण मनापासून ते विसरत नसतो.

४. जरी साधकाचे मन स्वच्छ असले, त्याचे काहीही चुकलेले नसले, आगळीक दुसऱ्याने केलेली असली, तरी समेटासाठी पहिला हात त्यानेच पुढे करावा आणि संबंध सुधारण्याचा प्रयत्न करावा. अशी अपेक्षा ख्रिस्ताने केली आहे. कारण जसे बोलावे तसे करावे. येशू जसे बोलला तसे त्याने केले. "बोले तैसा चाले, त्याची वंदावी पावले." कारण देवाच्या मंदिरात जाणारी वाट शेजाऱ्या मधून जात असते. नजरेसमोर असलेल्या माणसावर जो प्रेम करू शकत नाही तो ईश्वराची भक्ती, करण्याचा दावा करूच शकत नाही.

५. संत जॉन आपल्या वडिलांची हत्या करणाऱ्या काकांचा सूड घेण्याकरता पेटलेला असताना एक अडगळीत सापडलेला काका म्हणाला, "आज गुडफ्रायडे आहे. येशूने मारेकऱ्यांना क्रुसावरून माफी केली, तशी तू येशू करता आपल्या काकांना माफ कर." लागलीच संत जॉनने शस्त्र दूर फेकून, अश्रू ढाळीत काकांना माफी करून आलिंगन दिले. त्याने मनापासून क्षमा करून समेट घडवून आणला.

६. स्वर्गवासी पोप जॉन पॉल दुसरे यांनी त्यांना ठार मारणाऱ्याला कैदेत जाऊन त्यांची भेट घेतली व त्याला मनापासून क्षमा केली.

७. गांधीजींचा खून झाल्यावर त्यांच्या कुटुंबियांपैकी काहींनी नथुराम गोडसेंना फाशी देऊ नका सुधारायची संधी द्या अशी मागणी केली.

राजीव गांधींच्या खुन्यांपैकी नलिनीची मुलगी लहान असल्याने तिच्या शिक्षेत काही सूट द्यावी यासाठी व तिच्याशी संवाद साधण्याकरिता स्वतः सोनिया गांधी व प्रियंका तुरुंगात तिला जाऊन भेटल्या होत्या.

८. श्रीमती स्टेन्सची दोन मुलं व नवरा ह्यांना दारासिंगने जीपमध्ये तंदुरीसारखे भाजून त्यांची राख केली हे पाहून तिचे डोळे भरून आले आणि मन गलबलून गेले. स्वतःवर एवढी मोठी आपत्ती यांसारख्या संस्था तसेच, महारोग्यांची सेवा या कार्यालाच आपले उरलेले आयुष्य वाहून घेतलं. तिने मोठ्या दैवी शक्तीने आपल्या पतीस व दोन मुलांस जीवंत जाळणाऱ्यांना मनापासून क्षमा केली.

९. हेमंत करकरे या पती-पत्नीने आपल्या मुलांवर किती उत्तम प्रतीचे संस्कार केले आहेत. ते त्यांच्या इंग्लंडमध्ये शिकणाऱ्या मुलीच्या विचारांवरून समजते. आपल्या वडिलांना मारणाऱ्या कसाबाला फाशि देऊ नका, शिक्षा करू नका, त्याला क्षमा करा, त्याला चुकीच्या मार्गावर नेण्यात आलंय. धर्माचा - जिहादचा चुकीचा अर्थ त्याच्या डोक्यात भरवला गेलाय. तो काढून टाकायचा प्रयत्न करा. त्याला चांगला माणूस बनवून जागण्याची संधी द्या.

१०. वरील सर्व उदाहरणांवरून असं दिसतं की डोक्यास डोळ, ठोशास ठोसा असणाऱ्या अशा हिशोबी जगात अशी क्षमाशीलतेने वागणारी माणस सुद्धा ह्या जगात होऊन गेली व आहेत. अशा सर्वांनी आपल्या धर्माची शिकवण त्यांनी आपल्या कृतीतून आचरणात आणली आहे. आपण सामान्य माणसंही आपापल्या परीनं ती आचरणात आणू शकतो. निदान एकमेकांशी सलोख्यानं, प्रेमानं व बंधुभावानं राहायच्या क्षमाशील प्रसंगातून आपण काही घेऊ शकतो, शिकू शकतो व आचरणात आणू शकतो.

तथास्तू

INTER - RELIGIOUS MEETING ON RELIGIOUS TOLERANCE

Mr. Diago the key coordinator along with Fr. Leo, Fr. Johny and the members of the committee arranged this meeting on 18th March Wednesday at 7:00p.m.

There were 8 speakers from different religious faiths. All the speakers spoke from their different religious scriptures on the need to foster more religious tolerance in India and to promote religious freedom and harmony in our country. Fr. Leo D'Souza, c.s.c. was one of the speakers to give a Christian perspective on the theme of religious tolerance. Mr. Charlie proposed the vote of thanks.

गायन स्पर्धा स्नेहमेळावा

मराठी गायन विकास संघटना व मुक्तीसागर प्रबोधन केंद्र (उत्तन) ह्यांच्या संयुक्त विद्यमाने १४ वी मराठी गायन स्पर्धा व स्नेहमेळाव्याचा कार्यक्रम रविवार १५ मार्च ह्या दिवशी आपल्या संत लुईस देवळात साजरा झाला. तसेच समत लुईस चर्चच्या नविन प्रांगणात हा कार्यक्रम संपन्न झाला ही आम्हा दहिसर वासियांसाठी आनंदाची व अभिमानाची गोष्ट होती.

हा कार्यक्रम सकाळी ११ वाजता सर्व मान्यवरांच्या हस्ते दीप प्रज्वलनाने सुरु झाला.

त्यनंतर माननिय फादर मायकल डिकौस्टा ह्यांनी सुंदर प्रास्ताविक सादर केले. त्याचप्रमाणे मुक्ती सागर प्रबोधन केंद्र चे संचालक माननिय फादर हिलरी फर्नांडिस ह्यांची प्रकृति ठीक नसल्यामुळे ते ह्या कार्यक्रमाला येऊ शकले नाही. परंतु त्यांनी त्यांच्या संदेश सिस्टर शालीनी ह्यांच्या मार्फत पाठविला होता. तो त्यांनी सुंदर प्रकारे वाचून दाखविला. त्यानंतर माननिय फादर मायकल रोझारियो ह्यांनी सर्व गायन मंडळाला गायना विषयी थोडक्यात प्रबोधन केले. त्यानंतर स्पर्धेचा ड्रॉ काढण्यात आला ह्या स्पर्धेमध्ये ११ गायन मंडळांनी भाग घेतला होता. प्रत्येक गायन मंडळाने सुंदर गायन करून सर्वांना भक्तिरसात न्हाऊन काढलं. त्यानंतर दुपारी प्रीती भोजनाच्या कार्यक्रमावेळी करमणुकीचे कार्यक्रम सुद्धा झाले. त्यानंतर स्पर्धेचा निकाल लागला. ह्या स्पर्धेचे परिक्षक माननिय फादर मायकल रोझारियो, श्री. मैथ्यु डिमेले व श्री. डायगो तुस्कानो होते. ह्या स्पर्धे मध्ये काही गायन मंडळाना उत्तेजनार्थ व सुपर सिक्स् अशी बक्षिस देण्यात आली. शेवटी सर्व मान्यवरांचे पुष्प गुच्छ देऊन आभार मानले. असा हा कार्यक्रम आनंदाने व उत्साहाने पार पाडला त्याबद्दल देवाला धन्यवाद

---सौ. अँनेस सिरिल डिसिल्वा
दहिसर गाव

FIRST WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATION IN ST. LOUIS PARISH

A group of the women of St. Louis parish came together to celebrate the first Women's Day celebrations in the Parish on 11th March at 7.00 p.m. in the stilt area. Around 300 women of our parish were present. There was a short talk by Fr. Leo D'Souza, c.s.c. our Parish Priest, who extolled the role of Women in society and the key role they play at the negotiating table due to their first hand experience of the lived reality at the grass root level. Women he said have fashioned human beings and kept civilizations alive. The love and sacrifice of women in all fields of live especially in the context of the family was commended upon by Fr. Leo. As a parish community at St. Louis he focused on the need to promote a culture that recognizes the dignity and rights of women and promote gender equality in all spheres of life. Fr. Leo furthermore, emphasized that nobody can empower a woman except herself by building here inner strength and stamina others can only assist women in reaching this goal of empowerment of women. Though the Indian women are worshipped as goddesses there are still atrocities committed against women. Every third minute a case of violence is registered against women. Every day, 50 cases of dowry related violence are reported and every 29 minutes, a woman is raped. These statistics cast a shame on our attitude towards women. Mr. Willie Sirsat of the Civic and Political Cell of I.C. Parish also praised the women of the parish for coming together for the first time in organizing a special program to celebrate Women's Day. There were games, a cultural program especially the ramp show of couples from different regions of India enacted by the women of our parish and a meal sponsored by Brazil Caterers and Ice cream sponsored by the Women's Association of I. C. Colony.

RECOLLECTION IN MARATHI AND ENGLISH

On Sunday 22nd March we had a recollection for the Marathi speaking parishioners. The recollection was well attended by the Marathi speaking parishioners as the Church was packed to capacity. Fr. Paul was the main preacher and all the parishioners who attended the recollection were prepared very well for confession. God was present in our midst through his mercy and forgiveness and all the participants went home being reconciled with God and their neighbour. One could notice the peace and serenity on the faces of all the participants of this recollection.

On Sunday 29th March we had a recollection for the English speaking parishioners of our parish. It was organized by the St. Louis Prayer Group with speakers from the charismatic movement. The personal testimonies of the speakers who broke the word of God created a deep impact on all those who attended the recollection. Once again the Church was packed to capacity. We had four priests for confession who sat for confession from 12.00 noon to 4.00 p.m. The response from the participants was very positive and they said that they were looking forward to more recollections in the near future.

THE LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINARS

The prayer group planned the Life in the Spirit Seminar for five Mondays and more than 300 people attended each Monday.

The topics were as follows:-

- (1) God's love by Victor Pereira
- (2) Sin and Repentance by Ruby Cerejo
- (3) Salvation by Francis D'Souza
- (4) New Life and Lordship of Jesus by Luz Maria Engineer
- (5) Baptism of the Holy Spirit – gifts and fruits by Leela Moreas

Each topic was well shared and Jesus Christ as our personal Lord and Saviour was well brought out.

The praise and worship was led by the respective prayer groups of Don Bosco youth / St. Louis Church, Dahisar / Lily of the Valley, Mira Road / I.C. Church, Borivali / Living Waters, Orlem, Malad.

BORIVLI DEANERY UTSAV

“Borivli Deanery Utsav” was hosted by the Immaculate Conception Church (I. C. Church), Borivali West on 22nd Feb, 2009 to commemorate the 25th year of the Small Christian Community (S.C.C.) movement in Mumbai. The utsav was held on the St. Francis D'assisi grounds between 8.00a.m. and 3.00p.m.

Fr. Franklyn Mathias, the Parish Priest of I. C. Church, along with Fr. Benher, an active organizer, welcomed the teams and inaugurated the utsav.

All members from S.C.C. and various cells and associations shared their experiences and provided information about the happenings in their parishes.



St. Louis Church, Dahisar (W) was the winning team in Women's Throw Ball.

&

5th STD student from St. Louis Church won the 3rd prize in Drawing competition.



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