



# LOUISIAN SAMACHAR

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

October to December 2009

For Private Circulation Only

Dear Parishioners,

*This issue will bring you a kaleidoscopic view of the activities at our parish.*

*Furthermore, as the Assembly Elections are around the corner on 13th October 2009, His Eminence Oswald Cardinal Gracias our shepherd has urged us all to pray daily for a good government. Secondly, he has reminded all parishioners to exercise their franchise as a right and duty. And thirdly, to vote for candidates who are clean and have a record of working selflessly for the people; and who work to alleviate the sufferings of the poor and underprivileged in our society.*

*To all our parishioners who will be taking a short break from the daily routine of work or studies we wish you all a relaxing and invigorating holiday.*

*Fr. Leo D'Souza, c.s.c.*

## Sarvajanik Ekta Voice Association (SEVA)

The Civic and Political Cell of St. Louis Church came into being on 14th January 2009 and later named 'Sarvajanik Ekta Voice Association (SEVA)'. The cell immediately set its eyes on politics as the Lok Sabha elections was the flavor of the season. SEVA approached the Election Registration Office (ERO) at Dahisar to learn election related work and received permission to conduct exercises at St. Louis. Action for good Governance and Networking in India (AGNI) and SEVA have worked hand-in-hand and count on each other for election related projects throughout the city. Armed with laptops and data provided by AGNI, a drive was conducted for three weeks in a row wherein parishioners were helped to register as new voters, get I cards and errors rectified. Many people benefited from the drive including people of other faiths. Members attended several training sessions and meetings to prepare for the elections. SEVA also played an important role in the 'Meet Your Candidate' program along with the cell from IC Church. Volunteers appealed to parishioners to vote on polling day verbally and with posters and banners. On the day of elections SEVA volunteers were present throughout the day to guide people in the voting processes.

After a summer break, SEVA began preparing for another election, this time the Assembly. Voter registration drive was conducted again on three consecutive Sundays for about 3 hours. In the midst of election work, SEVA and Fr. Johnny helped Holy Spirit Hospital, Andheri to conduct a blood donation drive at St. Louis. More than 50 persons donated blood making the drive a huge success. The Cell has supported the election officials conduct voter I-Card drive in and around Dahisar. The cell is gearing up for the upcoming elections scheduled on October 13, 2009 and expects a repeat performance of the previous election. SEVA wishes to see the community as informed and involved in the day-to-day working of the city. Austin Nazareth of AGNI wrote a letter to "The Examiner" outlining SEVA's contribution to the community. Without a doubt, the co-operation of our Priests and parishioners has enabled SEVA to become a cell that has achieved so much in so little time.

**Cleston D'Costa**  
Jt. Secretary

## The Rosary A wonderful Gift from our Mother



The month of October is specially dedicated to our Lady. Let us recite the rosary meaningfully. We often do not get the time to pray the rosary. The statue of our Lady comes to

her image, we feel her presence amongst us. We worship only God. We honour her and so every decade that is said, we offer our intentions to her. She is a strong interceder and close to Jesus. She is our mother and through her prayers our intentions will surely be answered.

every home. On this occasion, we welcome and honour her with flowers and lighting candles and singing the hymns. We join as one united family and recite the powerful rosary. There is joy and oneness amongst us.

The rosary is nothing but a treasure of graces. It is a powerful weapon against every power stopping our prayer from being heard. The Rosary brings blessings and protection to our home. It is really a wonderful and powerful gift from a mother to her children.

Mother Mary was chosen by God. She was a simple and humble woman by nature. When we recite the rosary, we are not worshipping the statue. But through

**Cluster Group- Navagaon Sector II**

## वेलंकनी मातेचा मिरवणूक सोहळा

मुंबई हे केवढे मोठे शहर आहे. ह्याच शहरामध्ये वसलेले दहिसर मध्ये एक कांदरपाडा गाव आहे. इथे जास्त ख्रिस्ती लोकांची वस्ती नाही. मांजून ४० ते ५० लोकांची घरे आहेत. ह्या गावामध्ये प्रवेश करताना एक मोठे तळ आहे व वेलंकनी मातेचं चॅपल आहे. ह्या वेलंकनी मातेचं एक छोटसं मंदिर व बाजूला एक क्रॉस होता. आता त्या छोट्या रोपट्याच मोठ्या वृक्षामध्ये रूपांतर झालं आहे. आणि ह्याचं क्षेत्र गावातील लोकांना व श्री. लुईस वैती ह्यांना जातं त्यांनी व गावातील लोकांनी हे चॅपल उभारण्यासाठी खूप मेहनत घेतली. ह्या चॅपलमध्ये जी वेलंकनी मातेची इमाज आहे ती खास जयपूरवरून मार्बलची बनवून आणली आहे.

दरवर्षी इथे २९ ऑगस्टला वेलंकनी माऊलीच्या नावाने संध्या. ६ वाजता वावटा उडवला जातो व ३० तारखेपासून नोव्हेंनाला सुरुवात होते. नोव्हेंनाचा एक - एक दिवस लिक - पर्सन व त्यांना जी पाच कुटूंब दिली जातात ती कुटूंब हा सण साजरा करतात. जेव्हा सणाचा दिवस म्हणजे ८ सप्टेंबर रोजी ह्या दिवशी गावामध्ये खूप आनंदाचं वातावरण असते. चॅपलमध्ये जी वेलंकनी मातेची लहान इमाज आहे. त्या मातेची इमेज पालखीमध्ये ठेवून मिरवणूक काढली जाते. ह्या दिवशी गावातील सर्व स्त्रिया एक थाटाच्या साड्या नेसतात. वेलंकनी मातेची पालखी संध्याकाळी ७ वाजता चॅपलमधून निघते. ही मिरवणूक कांदरपाडा तलावापासून ते नदीवरून व गावातून फिरवली जाते. ह्या मिरवणुकीमध्ये १००० ते १५०० लोकं सहभागी होतात. सोबत मिरवणुकीची शान वाढविण्यासाठी बँड असतो ही मिरवणूक फिरून यायला चॅपलमध्ये ९ वाजतात. दरवर्षी संत लुईस चर्चचे फा. लिओ व सि. जिना ह्या येऊन ह्या सोहळ्याला अजूनच शोभा आणतात. ह्या वर्षीसुद्धा सि. जीना ह्यांनी मरिया मातेविषयी सुंदर सांगून आजच्या युगात मुलींची कशी स्थिती होते. त्यांच्यावर कसे अत्याचार होतात. आणि आईच्या गर्भामध्ये असताना कशी मुलींची हत्या केली जाते. ह्यावर चांगल्या प्रकारे आपले विचार मांडून लोकांना चांगला बोध दिला. शेवटी फा. लिओ ह्यांनी आशिर्वाद देऊन कार्यक्रमाचा शेवट केला. सर्वांना स्नॅक्स देऊन बँडच्या तालावर व डि.जे. म्युझिकवर सगळ्यांनी नाचून आपला आनंद व्यक्त केला.

ह्या चॅपलमध्ये दर शनिवारी संध्या. ७ वाजता वेलंकनी मातेच्या नोव्हेंनाची प्रार्थना व रोझरी होते. आपल्या इच्छा - आकांक्षा घेऊन तुम्हा सर्वांना ख्रिश्चन कोळी समाज कांदरपाडा ह्यांच्यातर्फे हार्दिक निमंत्रण.

प्रिति डॅनी वैती  
कांदरपाडा.

## News from Velankanni Mass Centre



The Feast of the Nativity of our Mother Mary was celebrated today with great devotion, fun, joy and ultimately culminated with the family meal.

It was truly a family affair with Velankanni Mass Centre. It was felt that each and every member was a part of the family and a spirit of unity was visible on everyone's face. The main attraction of the

Centre was a statue of our Mother Mary, which was draped with bright peacock blue coloured sari. In preparation of the feast, nine days of Novenas started on 30/08/09. Each sector, under the leadership of the link persons and co-ordinators, conducted the novenas meaningfully based on themes from the life of Mary. The Youth Members took the responsibility of conducting the services with a beautiful choir, gram chocolates, and cakes. Each day's Novena highlighted the spirit of sharing. Every member of the community was overjoyed with the experience. Nonperishable items were offered during the offertory symbolizing the spirit of joy of giving. These items were distributed among the needy in the Centre.

Fr. Vito our sector priest took special interest in guiding and overseeing the preparation for the Eucharist and novena preparations. Fr. Leo inspired us all with thought-provoking homilies.

Glimpses of old traditions were noticed, when members distributed home made sweets, laddus, payasam and kher at the end of the meal; thus sweetening the Birthday of our Mother Mary. Keep up Velankanni Centre - Dahisar (East).

Francis D'Souza

## Womens Cell

The women's cell set up a stall in the church for St. Louis feast and the feast of Nativity to raise funds for the school building. The stalls were set up from the 10th of August to the 8th of September. Many people donated home made food for the stall. Some made financial donations. We collected Rs.20,000 and gave it to Fr. Leo our Parish Priest.

Elen

# THE BIBLE IS A LIBRARY OF BOOKS:

## OLD TESTAMENT

<b>History and Law :</b>	<b>The Pentateuch (Torah in Hebrew)</b>			
	Genesis	Leviticus	Deuteronomy	
	Exodus	Numbers		
<b>History:</b>	Joshua	1 & 2 Samuel	Ezra	
	Judges	1 & 2 Kings	Nehemiah	
	Ruth	1 & 2 Chronicles	Esther	
<b>Drama, Poetry, Proverbs</b>	Job	Proverbs	Song of Solomon	
	Psalms	Ecclesiastes		
<b>Prophecy, Poetry History : The Prophets</b>	Isaiah	Hosea	Jonah	Zephaniah
	Jeremiah	Joel	Micah	Haggai
	Ezekiel	Amos	Nahum	Zachariah
	Daniel	Obandiah	Habakkuk	Malachi
<b>Apocrypha or Deuterocanonical Books:</b>	Tobit	1 & 2 Maccabees	Ecclesiasticus (Sirach)	
	Jodith	Wisdom	Baruch	

## NEW TESTAMENT

<b>Biography, History :</b>	<b>Jesus and the Early Church</b>			
	The Gospel According to Mathew			
	The Gospel According to Mark			
	The Gospel According to Luke			
	The Gospel According to John			
	Acts of the Apostles by Luke			
<b>Letters</b>	<b>Romans</b>	<b>Philippians</b>	<b>Titus</b>	<b>1 &amp; 2 Peter</b>
	<b>1 &amp; 2 Corinthians</b>	<b>Colossians</b>	<b>Philemon</b>	<b>1, 2 &amp; 3 John</b>
	<b>Galatians</b>	<b>1 &amp; 2 Thessalonians</b>	<b>Hebrews</b>	<b>Jude</b>
	<b>Ephesians</b>	<b>1 &amp; 2 Timothy</b>	<b>James</b>	
<b>Letters, Prophecy :</b>	<b>Revelation.</b>			



## Novena in honour of the Nativity of Our Lady

The Novena in honour of the Nativity of our Blessed Mother took place from 30th August to 7 September 2009. The children of the Sunday school together with their animators conducted the English novena at the 7.15 pm Mass. It would be worth mentioning the themes chosen for the novena, which were thought-provoking and spiritually enriching, not only for the children but for the adults as well.

- ◆ Mary lived in God's presence and experienced His Blessings.
- ◆ Mary always stayed awake / alert for God
- ◆ Mary like Jesus carried on doing God's work with zeal
- ◆ Mary's trust in God deepened her faith
- ◆ Mary lived her life with perfection.
- ◆ Mary followed the law of love
- ◆ Mary believed and listened to the Messiah
- ◆ Mary experienced God's absolute, infinite and eternal love
- ◆ Mary Mother and Nurturer of the Church.

The children brought to life the themes by an enactment of a 2 minute skit on each day. One could see the joyful overflow of enthusiasm and zeal. It was touching to hear the Word of God proclaimed from the lips of little children. I am convinced that the prayers of our children have already brought down abundant blessing on our Parish Community. Well done children! The Marathi novena was also attended in full strength by our parishioners at the 6:30 pm Mass. Soul stirring homilies were preached by guest priests. The Marathi choir, which was in full attendance, made the celebration of the Eucharist a pure joy. The devotion we have for Mary our Mother was very evident in the way the novenas were conducted. May we continue to honour Mary, Mother of the Church and our Mother by living in the way Mary lived ?

*Patricia Bhat*

## मराठी कॅरीजमॅटीक प्रार्थना

जन्मा येणे देवा हाती, करणी जग हासवी. अशी एक व्यक्ती हिंदू ब्राम्हण कुटुंबात जन्माला आली. ३३ कोटी देवांना मानणारी, मूर्तीपूजा करणारी दगडाची पूजा करणारी ती व्यक्ती दुसरी तिसरी कोणी नसून २२ सप्टेंबर २००९ रोजी 'सेंट लुईस चर्च' येथे मराठी कॅरीजमॅटीक प्रार्थना करणारे ब्रदर हेमंत दाता आहेत. ब्रदरांच्या वडिलांकडून त्यांना चांगुलपणाची शिकवण मिळाली, ते नेहमी म्हणत 'मुला तू ब्राम्हण आहेस, पुरोहित आहेस. तू देवाचा आर्शिवाद लोकापर्यंत पोहचव, लोकांचे गा-हाणे देवाकडे ने. तू देव आणि मानव ह्यामधला दुवा आहेस. तू वाईट काम करू नकोस, खोटं वोलू नकोस. व्यसनाधीन जाऊ नकोस कारण तू देवासमोर उभा आहेस. 'वायवल' मधील एक वाक्य ब्रदर हेमंतांना, आठवले. 'देवाचा' शब्द सर्वासाठी आहे. हा शब्द त्यांना हृदय स्पर्श झाला. त्यांचे परिवर्तन झाले. ते ख्रिस्ती झाले.

सेंट लुईस चर्चमध्ये देवाच्या शब्दाविषयी व प्रेमाविषयी वोलताना काळजाला भिडणारे, झोंवणारे, डोळ्यांतून अश्रूधारा वाहणारे, अंगावर शहारे उभे राहणारे असे प्रार्थनामय वातावरण निर्माण केले. देव प्रेम आहे. प्रेम हाच येशूच्या धर्माचा मूलाधार आहे. आपण ज्यांच्यावर प्रेम करतो. त्यांचे व आपले आध्यात्मिक भाव बंधन जुळत असतात, त्यामुळे त्यांचा द्वेष करण्याचा किंवा त्यांच्यावर सूड उगविण्याचा प्रश्नच उरत नाही. म्हणून देवासारखे वागा. 'देवाच्या घरी जाणारी स्वर्गाची पाऊलवाट शेजा-याच्या आणि शत्रूच्या घरातून जात असते. येशूने मानवी मनाच्या क्षितिजाची सीमा विस्तृत केली आणि माणसाच्या हृदयाचा आकारही व्यापक केला.

ब्रदर हेमंतांचे हे प्रार्थनामय वातावरण व जिवंतपणा वास्वाणण्यासारखा होता. त्यांचे कॅरीजमॅटीक प्रार्थनेच्यावेळी वायवलमधील वापरलेले शब्द ऐकून मी थक्कच झालो. स्वरोस्वरच ख्रिस्ताच्या प्रेमाचा अनुभव आलेला आहे. त्यांचे अंतःकरण ईश्वरी प्रेमाने ओतप्रेत भरलेले आहे म्हणून ते प्रभावीपणे देवराज्याची घोषणा करतात. मानवी डोळ्यातील आसवे पुसून चेह-यावर हसू फुलवितात. भंगलेली हृदये ते जुळवतात, तुटलेले संसार जोडतात. उध्वस्त झालेल्या वैफल्यग्रस्तांचं जीवन उभारण्यासाठी हातभार लावतात. वाट चुकलेल्यांना आशेचा दीप दाखवतात, नवजीवनाचा मार्ग दाखवतात. ही जादू त्यांच्या वायवल मधील शब्दांत अन् त्यांच्या मृदू स्वभावात, कर्तृत्वातच आहे.

जसे ईश्वराने मोशेला, शमुवेलला, यशयाला आणि वारा शिष्यांना सेवाकार्यासाठी पाचारण केले तसेच ब्रदर हेमंतांनासुद्धा ईश्वराने देवाच्या कार्यासाठी पाचारण केले आहे. चौदा वर्षे ते पोटा 'डिव्हाइन रिट्रीट सेन्टर' केरळ येथे देवाचा शब्द सांगत होते. त्यांना कळून चुकले आहे की पवित्र असणे म्हणजे ईश्वराची मुल्ये अवलंबणे. ईश्वराच्या अधिन असणे, ख्रिस्तासारखे असणे व वागणे, त्यांचं एक ठाम मत आहे की, 'प्रार्थना' व 'कृती' या दोन मानवी आध्यात्मिक जीवनाच्या वाज आहेत. केवळ प्रार्थना नाही. केवळ कृती नाही. प्रार्थनेनं आपल्याला सत्कृत्याद्वारे नेलं पाहिजे आणि सत्कृत्यातून आपण पुन्हा प्रार्थनेकडे वळणे म्हणजे स्वरी आध्यात्मिकता.

आपल्या सर्वांविषयी ईश्वराच्या योजना आहेत त्या ब्रदर हेमंतांनी जाणून घेतल्या आहेत. आणि त्या पार पाडण्यासाठी ते ईश्वराकडून मार्गदर्शन घेतात. त्यांच्या प्रार्थनामय कृतीमुळे 'देवाच्या शब्दाची' आणि देवाच्या निरक्षेप प्रेमाची जाणीव त्यांना झाली आहे, म्हणूनच येशूचा 'शब्द' व त्याचे 'प्रेम' इतरापर्यंत पोहविण्याचे कार्य ते करीत आहेत. हा कृती आणि भक्ती यांचा अनोखा संगम त्यांच्यात दिसत आहे. त्यामुळे त्यांनी हा अवघड रस्ता अंगीकारला आहे. त्यांची प्रचिती आम्हा सर्व उपस्थित भाविकांना सेंट लुईस चर्चमध्ये आली.

ब्रदर हेमंतसारखी एखादी अख्रिस्ती व्यक्ती ख्रिस्ती बनते आणि देवाचे कार्य करण्यासाठी स्वतःचे संपूर्ण जीवन वाहून घेते. अशा व्यक्तीकडून आपणाला काही शिकता येईल का ?

डायगो

## A Trip Top To Bandra Fair

19th September 2009 has left a lasting impact on the lives of students of Std. VII and VIII. Nowadays feast goes beyond bread and food.

The legend that goes from centuries is that the statue of Mother Mary was found floating by a fisherman in the Arabian Sea. The fisherman had dreamt of a Mother Mary floating in the Sea and it happened after two days. According to the legend, the devotion towards Mother Mary was renewed in the 18th century when countries were hit by an epidemic : plague.

The students of VII and VIII went on a pilgrimage as a part of topic of our Faith Formation 'Pilgrimage'

We left at 10.45 from the Church premises and reached within a period of one hour. The Children had a lot of enthusiasm to go about with the mission. We had to interview some people as a part of our practical pilgrimage project. The people we interviewed are as follows.

### Br. Karunakar :

He said his name meant lovable, merciful and compassionate. He was inspired by the life of St. Francis of Assisi. The most touching thing he said when we asked him what sacrifices he made for priesthood life was that he did not make any sacrifice. It was Jesus who made the sacrifice and he was just the one who took part in it. It was his own will to become a priest but his parents opposed his decision and wanted him to get married.

### A Couple : Mr. and Mr's D'mello :

Mr. D'mello told us about the legend that is mentioned above. He has been a parishioner of the Mount Mary Church Since his childhood he always eagerly waited for the fair. He has been coming to Bandra from the past 40 years and he still continues it though he stays at Dahisar. He said that devotion to Mother Mary has not changed. He has many favours granted to him from Mother Mary.

### Shopkeeper :

He told us that devotion of Mother Mary has been started from the 18th century but it still continues and there is a lot of change in every person who comes here. His shop is present there from 16 years. He said that he had much profit in the earlier times compared to today. He also specified that there are more Hindus than Christians coming here and that hurts a little.

Sr. Arokia : They didn't have any aim or didn't even think of becoming a sister. But her life changed. Her parents always thought her to be devoted to God from childhood. By her own will and by the support of her parents she became a sister. Sr. Arokia said that people came to worship our lady and Mother Mary has touched many lives.

### Mrs. Fatima Menezes :

She thought of becoming a nun when she was 15 years old. She lives in Bandra from her childhood. She was born in Goa. She told us that people came here to visit Mother Mary and attend Novenas. Everybody who comes here comes with a belief in Mother Mary that She will grant them their wishes. The most touching thing she told us when we asked her about a miracle which took place in her life ? She told us that every new day is a biggest miracle for everyone's life.

The question we asked were :

- 1) What is the legend ?
- 2) About the Experience
- 3) Miracles that changed their life.

After visiting Mount Mary, Bandra we have been touched by Mother's spirituality and humility and have felt Her presence in our lives. We sincerely thank the Fathers and Catechism teachers for motivating us to go on this pilgrimage and helping us to be spiritually touched by Mother Mary.

Rachel Ferrao and Nia Carneiro

