



FAMILY LIGHT

Newsletter of Holy Cross Family Ministries, South India

Message from the President

"If enough families pray, they can save the world."

- Venerable Patrick Peyton

2025 is a very special year, a holy year of forgiveness, conversion, and joyous celebration in the Church known as a jubilee year! This dates back to the time of the Israelites when God told Moses that every fifth year will be sacred in order that each person refreshes their relationship with God and with one another. We continue this tradition in the Church every 25 years, this one, as Pope Francis has proclaimed, is themed "Pilgrims of Hope" and titled "Hope does not disappoint," taken from Romans 5:5.

"Often we come across people who are discouraged, pessimistic and cynical about the future, as if nothing could possibly bring them happiness. For all of us, may the Jubilee be an opportunity to be renewed in hope. God's word helps us find reasons for that hope."

- Pope Francis

We are excited to walk with you during this year of hope and partake in a refreshed prayer life, renewed spirit, and revived relationship with Christ and neighbor. And we hope this issue of the Family eLink brings you helpful resources to start this year off in the right direction.

We invite you to establish a habit of daily prayer as a part of your New Year resolution.

Join us in making the Prayer Pledge!

Together in Christ,
Father Fred Jenga, C.S.C.
President
Holy Cross Family Ministries



Provincial's Message

As we step into this Jubilee Year, we are invited to celebrate the abundant graces and blessings that God has poured into our lives and communities. A Jubilee is a sacred time, a call to renewal, gratitude, and deeper communion with the Lord and one another. It is a moment to pause and reflect on the mysteries of our faith, drawing inspiration and strength to live as witnesses of joy and hope.

In this light, the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary offer us profound lessons and examples to guide our spiritual journey. Through the Annunciation, we witness Mary's unwavering faith and her humble "yes" to God's plan—a call for each of us to respond to God's will with trust, even when the path is uncertain. The Visitation reminds us that true joy is found in selfless service and reaching out to others in their need.

The Nativity, the heart of our faith, invites us to marvel at the gift of Emmanuel—God with us—born in simplicity and humility to bring salvation to all. In the Presentation in the Temple, we are called to dedicate our lives to God with faith and commitment, trusting in His promises. And the Finding of Jesus in the Temple teaches us the importance of seeking and treasuring God's presence, especially in the midst of life's challenges and distractions.

This Jubilee Year and its connection to the Joyful Mysteries encourage us to be bearers of light and love in our families, parishes, and communities. Let us draw strength from Mary and the Holy Family as we strive to cultivate gratitude, deepen our relationships, and embrace the mission of spreading the Gospel with joy and courage.

May this year be a time of spiritual growth, healing, and renewal for us all. With Mary as our guide and Jesus as our center, may we rediscover the beauty of walking together in faith, hope, and love.



Lawrence D'Almeida CSC
Provincial Superior
Province of South India

**“The Rosary has saved the world in the past.
It will save the world now, by saving the family.”**

EDITORIAL

On Christmas eve, Dec 24, 2024, Pope Francis opened the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica in Rome to mark the beginning of the 2025 Jubilee Year of Hope. We stepped into a Special Year as Pilgrims of Hope. Pope invited all the faithful to pray, to prepare ourselves throughout this year, so that this Jubilee may "strengthen us in our faith, helping us to recognize the Risen Christ in the midst of our lives, transforming us into pilgrims of Christian hope."

Therefore, it is a time to reflect on the mysteries of salvation leading to conversion and transformation. Hence, we begin a journey of hope reflecting on the Joyful Mysteries of the Holy Rosary, that reminds us of the joy that was brought to us by the child at Bethlehem. We enter the joy radiating from the most unexpected event in the history of the world: God becoming man. We first see this Joy in Angel Gabriel's greeting of Mary in the Annunciation. In the Visitation John the Baptist leaps for joy before the presence of Christ in the womb of Mary. In Nativity the angels proclaim the good news of great joy to the Shepherds who encounter the newborn Savior at Bethlehem. In the Presentation Simeon rejoices in holding the Messiah in his arms. The last joyful mystery presents the twelve-year-old Jesus going to Jerusalem for Passover and being lost for three days. Mary and Joseph were overwhelmed with joy in finding Jesus in the Jerusalem Temple. As a child, Venerable Patrick Peyton joined the family prayer of the Rosary with complete joy and enthusiasm. He says, 'My family's Rosary each evening – through all of the ups and downs of the entire young life- had been our rock, our anchor.' Hence, his house was a home of prayer.

Let us meditate upon the Joyful Mysteries and enter into the ultimate causes and the deepest meaning of Christian Joy as we read this edition of Family Light. We were privileged to welcome Rev. Fr. Fred Jenga C.S.C., the President, Holy Cross Family Ministries, USA, during his visit to India. He, along with Fr. Pinto Paul the Director, Holy Cross Family Ministries, International, gave us new directions and guidance during our short interaction to take forward the mission of Ven. Patrick Peyton to reach out to the faithful during this year of Jubilee.



Fr. Johny Thekkemaly CSC
Director, HCFM

WARM WELCOME TO REV. FRED JENGA CSC.



JOURNEY WITH MARY, THROUGH THE JOYFUL MYSTERIES OF THE ROSARY

The rosary is a powerful prayer, a journey through the life of Christ in union with His Blessed Mother, Mary. Each joyful mystery offers profound insights into a priestly vocation and the heart of family life. Families, like priests, are called to service, sacrifice, and joyful giving. As I reflect on these mysteries, I find them deeply relevant to my journey as a priest and the sacred mission of families to build a home rooted in love and faith. I remember my good childhood when our family gathered to pray the Rosary. Now, I find that it's not just a prayer but a journey. Let us walk together through the joyful mysteries of the rosary, discovering their connection to family life and the call to embody Christ's joy and generosity.

The Annunciation: A Call to Love and Faith

This mystery reminds us to say "yes" daily to the call of nurturing life, fostering love, and creating a home where Christ is welcome. For children, this mystery inspires openness to God's voice, whether through parents, teachers, or the quiet promptings of the Holy Spirit. Together, the family grows in faith, learning to embrace God's will with joyful hearts. That reminds me as a priest of a call to build one human family.



The Visitation: Bringing Joy to Others

In family life, this mystery symbolizes the call to bring Christ's love and joy to others, starting with one another. Just as Mary did for Elizabeth, this extends to acts of kindness within the community, such as helping a neighbor, visiting the sick, or comforting the lonely. The Visitation reminds families that their joy multiplies when shared, and their home becomes a beacon of Christ's presence to all who enter.



The Nativity: Welcoming Christ into Family Life

The birth of Jesus in a humble manger reminds us that love, not material wealth, is the foundation of a joyful home. Families are called to gather in prayer, share meals, and celebrate life's blessings, big and small. The joy of the Nativity inspires families to approach life with gratitude, generosity, and hope.



JOURNEY WITH MARY, THROUGH THE JOYFUL MYSTERIES OF THE ROSARY

The Presentation: Offering the Family to God

Parents like Mary and Joseph recognize that their children are God's gifts and guide them in faith, teaching them to love and serve the Lord. This mystery reminds families that their sacrifices—whether of time, resources, or personal desires—are offerings to God, transforming their home into a living temple of His presence.



The Finding of Jesus in the Temple: Seeking Christ Together

Families discover Christ's presence through shared moments of prayer, attending Mass, or serving others. As families journey together in faith, they find strength, unity, and joy in Christ.

Mary's journey through the joyful mysteries teaches us that true joy is giving oneself entirely to God and others. For families, this means cultivating a spirit of generosity, forgiveness, and love within the home. Children learn to be cheerful givers by witnessing their parents' example of selfless love. In Mary's Magnificat, we find a song for every family: "My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my Savior" (Luke 1:46-47). May this be the anthem of every family as they journey with Christ and bring His light to the world. As Ven. Patrick Peyton often said, "Family that prays together stays together."

Fr. Joyson Barboza CSC



PILGRIMAGE WITH MAMA MARY IS A DELIGHT

In commemoration of the Month of the Rosary, October saw the 13 sectors of St. Louis Church, Dahisar West, coming together to pray and venerate Mother Mary. HCFM Mumbai unit led by Fr. Ronald Fernandis and team initiated and encouraged the faithful to continue the devotion to our Blessed Mother in their homes daily. The faithful were reminded of the words of Ven. Patrick Peyton, 'The Family that prays together, stays together.'

On 30th September, the parish community held the customary prayer service "an hour with Mother Mary to send our Blessed Mother on her annual pilgrimage to the catholic homes of the parish. The statues were arranged on decorated tables in the church stilt area and the rosary was conducted in Marathi, Konkani and English during an hour's prayer session.

Our parish priest, Fr. Ronald Fernandis, blessed the statues and handed them over to the respective counsellors, who then took them in a procession to their sectors.

Keeping in mind the words of Saint Louis de Montfort – 'Never will anyone who says the Rosary every day become a formal heretic to be led astray by the devil – families seized the opportunity to host Mother Mary by decorating their homes with flowers, lights and 'Mama Mary' paintings by their kids.

Every evening the families, put aside all their chores, beat the October heat, walked through the narrow lanes, climbed up building stairways and prayed fervently. Hymns, sung melodiously in Marathi, Konkani and English, only added to the Solemnity of the devotion.

The gathering, which ended with light refreshments and all exchanging pleasantries, not only fostered spiritual growth but also promoted the importance of family and community prayer. We prayed for each family, parish and for world peace. We were reminded of the words of Ven. Patrick Peyton that a world at prayer is a world at peace.



Deline Rodrigues,
St. Louis Dahisar.



A JOYFUL DAY WITH MOTHER MARY

The students and staff of Holy Cross School and P.U. College, Whitefield, Bangalore were thrilled to spend the day with Mama Mary. In observance of Rosary Month, a special rosary service was held in the auditorium on October 28, 2024. Approximately 30 staff members and 150 students participated in the rosary service. The theme for the day was Rosary: Path to Holiness. The words of Ven. Patrick Peyton were written in the background that is 'the family that prays together stays together' and 'a world at prayer is a world at peace.' These were explained along with the importance of the rosary. The rosaries were blessed and distributed among them.

The rosary was recited with the following intentions:

- * For the Priests, Brothers and Sisters of Holy Cross
- * For the staff, students and their families.
- * For students preparing for their board examinations.
- * For the departed souls of Holy Cross family.
- * For the healing and well-being of the sick.

The service concluded with the celebration of the Holy Mass, providing a spiritually uplifting experience for all attendees. We all were happy to attend the service. We understood the need for prayer especially the Rosary in our life. We are confident that Mother Mary is there with us to support and guide us.



Mrs. Jessie David & Mrs. Lynet D'Souza



JOYFULLY NURTURE FAITH AND DEVOTION TO MARY OUR MOTHER

On November 9th, 2024, Holy Cross Family Ministries organized a special Rosary Rally at St. Anthony's Church, New Guddadahalli, Mysore Road, Bengaluru. The event was led by Frs. Johny Thekkemaly, Joyson Barboza, Joel Mendonca, Santhosh Fernandes and Cheliyan, who played key roles in the event's organization. The day's activities included two Eucharistic celebrations, a Rosary Rally and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.



The central theme of the day focused on the importance of daily prayer in Christian families. It addressed the distractions of modern life, such as media and busy schedules, that often prevent families from coming together in prayer. The liturgy emphasized that "the family that prays together, stays together," urging families to make prayer a regular part of their lives, with special attention to the Holy Rosary.



A cherished tradition of St. Anthony's Church is the procession of the Blessed Virgin Mary around the church held every first Saturday of the month. A large number of devotees gathered for this procession, reciting the Holy Rosary as they walked in devotion. In a thoughtful gesture, the Fathers of the Holy Cross Congregation distributed Holy Rosaries to all participants, encouraging them to hold the Rosary in their hands while praying—a practice that has become rare in recent times.

The faithful were deeply moved by this experience, and the event reinforced their commitment to praying the Rosary daily. The congregation left the rally with a renewed sense of devotion, inspired to keep the practice of the Rosary alive in their families. The faithful expressed gratitude to the Holy Cross Fathers for their leadership and participation in the Mass and Rosary procession, making the day spiritually enriching for all involved.



Mr. Vincent Paul
St. Anthony's Church,
New Guddadahalli, Bengaluru

CHEERFUL YOUTH AT ROSARY DAY

Family Day for the Hosanna Youth was initiated by Holy Cross Family Ministries, South India. The theme for the day was 'Ignite the youth through the Holy Rosary'. It was held on December 7th 2024. All the members of our group along with a few family members actively participated in this spiritual event. We started at 3:30 PM with praise and worship led by the youth. Fr. Joyson led the first session explaining about youth and the challenges and problems faced by them in the current world, and the ways we can overcome them. In the second session, Fr. Leo spoke of Love, importance of family and the involvement of parents in shaping the Children and their future with prayer and guidance. In the Final Session, Fr. Johny gave a talk on Holy Cross Family Ministries, about its founder Ven. Patrick Peyton and how he developed this ministry. There were some videos about the life of Ven. Patrick Peyton and the ministry. Following the sessions we had blessing and distribution of Holy Rosary to all people present. We had the Rosary Rally with lighted candles around the campus. And the day was enriched by the Holy Eucharist. We concluded the day with a fellowship meal.

In this world of today, as we hardly find any time for prayer and family, we have understood the importance of coming together and praying together as a family. Ven. Patrick Peyton said, the Family that prays together stays together. We also understood the importance of Rosary that can unite our families and establish peace and tranquility as we are able to reflect and pray the mysteries of the life, passion and death of our Lord Jesus. Now we are confident that Mary our Mother is there to support and uphold us in all our difficulties and problems. She is our refuge and shelter.



Ms. Avita



MY ROSARY FRIEND

A few months ago, a young man visited the Catholic Enquiry Center located at Infant Jesus Church, Viveknagar, Bangalore. He is an engineer working for a multinational company in Bangalore. During our conversation, I learned that he was baptized into the Catholic Church but did not practice his faith. He occasionally visited the Infant Jesus Shrine to seek favors and was grateful when his prayers were answered.

I felt inspired to introduce this young man to Mother Mary. I explained to him the significance of the rosary, a spiritual tool that offers help whenever we need it. I taught him how to pray the rosary, gave him a rosary and a rosary book.

On January 9, 2025, he returned to the Catholic Enquiry Center to share the positive changes in his life. He attended Mass on Christmas Day after many years. He had also helped two poor students with their school fees. He felt more happiness and peace in his professional life.

He requested more rosaries for himself and his family to pray together.

I gave him a few rosaries given by Holy Cross Family Ministries for distribution.

Thank you, Mother Mary, for interceding in this young man's life.



Mrs. V.P. Magy

POPE'S INTENTION

FEBRUARY

For vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

Let us pray that the ecclesial community might welcome the desires and doubts of those young people who feel a call to serve Christ's mission in the priesthood and religious life.

MARCH

For families in crisis. Let us pray that broken families might discover the cure for their wounds through forgiveness, rediscovering each other's gifts, even in their differences.

APRIL

For the use of the new technologies. Let us pray that the use of the new technologies will not replace human relationships, will respect the dignity of the person, and will help us face the crises of our times.



Colour the Sheet : The Birth of Our Lord





HOLY CROSS
FAMILY MINISTRIES
INDIA

Try Prayer, It works

Flourishing Family International Video Contest

Theme:

My Ideal Christian Family

Participants:

High School and College Students

Timeline for the Contest.

Regional contest – Before 20 th April 2025

Province level submission – Before 30 th April 2025

International submission – 31 st May 2025

Contest Procedures

The contest works in the following way:

The video must be original, prepared by the registrant, and not previously presented at any other competition.

Usage by HCFM – no copyrighted material.

Please note: A panel of judges will determine the final winners of the international entries.



Contest Procedures

Videos should be live action recording, and 10 to 20 minutes in length.



First place: \$3000.00,
Second place: \$2000.00
Third place: \$1000.00



For Registration:



Call Our Number
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Email us:
hcfmin@gmail.com

GLOBAL TRY PRAYER! IT WORKS! CONTEST 2025

THEME - “PRAYER: MY PATHWAY TO PEACE!”

ARTWORK – POETRY – PROSE – VIDEO



Participants

Children enrolled in a Catholic school, religious education program, parish, or other organization, including home school, are eligible to enter.

Participants may choose from any of the four categories, but may only submit one entry

Categories

Grade-group 1: LKG-3 (Select one each of best artwork, poetry, prose, and video)

Grade-group 2: 4-6 (Select one each of best artwork, poetry, prose, and video)

Grade-group 3: 7-9 (Select one each of best artwork, poetry, prose, and video)

Grade-group 4:10-12 (Select one each of best artwork, poetry, prose, and video)

Contest Procedures

PROSE – Submit an essay of 50 to 100 words on A4 size paper.

POETRY – On A4 size paper submit a poem minimum of 10 lines and a maximum of 30 lines.

ARTWORK – (painting, drawing, scrapbooking, or collage) Any of these can be submitted on no larger than A4 size paper. Also, include a brief description of the work.

VIDEO – Videos can be no longer than two minutes. Ensure the file is saved and uploaded in MP4, MOV or MPEG format and in Standard Definition.

The roles of family members

As a family, we encourage you to complete the Family Activity. Go through each of the steps, contemplate the prompts, and finish in prayer together. If they need it, assist your child with their Try Prayer! It Works! Contest entry. Guide them in brainstorming ideas and help in safely executing their submission.

TIMELINE FOR THE CONTEST.
REGIONAL CONTEST – 15TH MARCH 2025



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UPCOMING ACTIVITIES AT PEYTON INSTITUTE FOR FAMILIES



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Leadership of Family Ministry

Ministerial Leadership
Basic Counseling Skills and Pastoral Counseling
Family In Indian Context
Family Visits, Family Cells
Data-based decision making
Marriage Preparation,

Parenting: Challenges and Opportunities
Synodal Perspective and Pastoral Plan
Networking for Effectiveness
Financing the programs
Program planning and evaluation
Post- marriage accompaniment



PRAYER FOR THE BEATIFICATION OF VEN. PATRICK PEYTON

Dear Jesus, Father Peyton devoted his priestly life to strengthening the families of the world by calling them to pray together every day, especially the Rosary. His message is as important for us now as it was during his life on earth.

We beg you, therefore, to hasten the day of his Beatification, so that your faithful people everywhere will remember his message that the family that prays together stays together, will imitate him in his devotion to your Mother and ours, and will be inspired by his holy life to draw ever closer to you with childlike confidence and love. Amen.

PRAYER FOR A FAVOR THROUGH VENERABLE PATRICK PEYTON, C.S.C.



God, Our Father, your wisdom is displayed in all creation and the power of your grace is revealed in the lives of holy people, who inspire us to trust you more fully and to serve others more generously.

In a unique way, you blessed the life and work of your servant, Father Patrick Peyton, C.S.C., and made him a fervent apostle of Mary, Queen of the Holy Rosary and Mother of us all.

Through his intercession, we ask for this favor....

Please grant it, if it is for your honor and glory, through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

ROSARY RALLY @ VARIOUS PLACES

Bidar, Karnataka



St. Sebastian Church, Loliem, Goa



Holy Family Church, Kadavendi Parish, Telangana



Distribution of Rosary and praying among the tribals of Odisha



Rosary at Viveknagar, Bangalore

