



Heart to Heart

Bulletin of Sacred Heart Parish, Andheri (E)

Volume XX No. 58

December 2014

For Private Circulation Only

A star leading to the
Light of the world



OUR REGULAR PROGRAMME

SUNDAY MASSES

Morning

6:30 am (English Mass)
7:30 am (Konkani Mass)
8:45 am (Parish Mass)
10:00 am (Children's Mass in the Church)
10:00 am (English Mass in the Community Hall)

Evening

4:15 pm (Hindi Mass)
5:30 pm (English Mass)

Weekday Masses:

6:30 am, 7:30 am and 7:00 pm

Wednesday

Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Succour after all Masses

Thursday

Holy Hour: 6:00 pm to 6:45 pm (Except Thursdays before 1st Friday of the month)

First Friday:

Holy Hour 6:00 pm to 6:45 pm

Fourth Friday:

Intercession through the Divine Mercy Chaplet at 7:30 pm in the Church

Catechism for Children:

From 8:45 am to 9:45 am every Sunday

Confessions:

Weekday 6:30 pm and Saturday 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm

Baptism:

2nd and 4th Sundays at 11:00 am

Pre-nuptial Enquiry:

by Appointment

Wedding Mass Timings:

Monday to Saturday

Disparity of Cult and Mixed Marriage: 3:00 pm

Catholic Weddings: 5:00 pm

All Thursdays and First Fridays: 4:30 pm

Sunday: 5:30 pm (Scheduled Mass)

Sick Calls:

At any time

Centre for Community Org., (Tel: 28269326)

Mon, Wed, Fri (10 am to 12 Noon)

Tuesday, Thursday (6 pm to 8 pm), Saturday and Sunday-Closed.

Parish Office hours

9:00 am to 12:30 pm (Mon to Sat)

4:30 pm to 8:00 pm (Mon to Fri)

4:30 pm to 7:00 pm (Sat)

Tel: 28362110, 28202087

e-mail: h2h.bulletin@gmail.com

Website: www.sacredheartandheri.net

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Confession

Thursday, 18th December 2014; Friday, 19th December 2014; Saturday, 20th December 2014

Morning : 7.00 am to 7.30 am and 8.00 am to 9.00 am

Evening : 6.00 pm to 7.00 pm and 7.30 pm to 9.00 pm

Sunday, 21st December 2014 – 4th Sunday of Advent

Sunday School Christmas Party
Christmas Float after evening Mass

Wednesday, 24th December 2014 – Christmas Eve

Carol Singing - 9:15 pm

Vigil Mass - 10.00 pm

Thursday, 25th December 2014 – Christmas

Konkani Mass - 7:30 am,
English Mass – 8:45 am & 10:00 am
No evening Mass

Sunday, 28th December 2014 – Feast of Holy Family

Commissioning of Family Cell (8.45 am Mass)

Wednesday, 31st December 2014 – New Year Eve

Thanksgiving Holy Hour – 9.00 pm

Holy Eucharist - 10 .00 pm

Thursday, 1st January 2015 – New Year

English Mass – 6.30 am, 7.30 am & 7:00 pm

Monday to Wednesday 12th to 14th January 2015

Triduum in honour of St. Arnold Janssen

Tuesday, 15th January 2015 – Feast of St. Arnold Janssen

Sunday, 18th January 2015

Parish Day and Family Meal

Sunday, 8th February 2015 – All Associations Day

THEME

A STAR LEADING TO THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

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From the Pastor's Desk



We have seen His star in the East, and have come to worship Him (Mathew 2:2)

My Dear Parishioners,

Christmas season is the best time to send greetings to our loved ones. This time, I am sending this message to you from Nemi, Rome, although I will be celebrating Christmas in our home parish, with all of you.

Every year we celebrate Christmas, and each time it gives us a new insight into the birth of Jesus. The incarnation of God in the person of Jesus helps us understand God in a human way and relate to Him closely. God loves human beings unconditionally. But, they quite often fail to love Him and be with Him. So finally, He decided to be born as a human, to win us back, being like us, in all things except sin. He thought, at least in that way we would understand Him better and accept Him as our loving God. "Yes, God loved the world so much that He gave us His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him may not be lost but may have eternal life. For God sent His Son into the world not to condemn the world, but that through Him the world might be saved." (John 3: 16-17)

In the year 1945, plane travel was still in its infancy. One day a young family, consisting of father, mother and children were out in the garden. Suddenly a plane passed overhead. The mother shouted out to the children "That is the plane your uncle is on. Let us all wave, may be, he will see us." The children jumped up and down, waved frantically and shouted at the top of their voices.

Seconds later, after the plane had passed, the youngest child turned to her father and asked, "Daddy, how do people climb up the sky to get into the plane?" Her dad explained that the passengers don't need to climb up to the sky to get into the plane, but the plane descends from the sky to take the passengers.

This story beautifully illustrates what Christmas is all about. Christmas celebrates the fact that we don't have to climb up to the sky to get to God. God has come down to earth to us. Yes, my dear brothers and sisters, about 2000 years ago like a great star, Jesus came down from heaven and lit up the darkness of the world. The Book of Isaiah says "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined." (Isaiah 9:2)

One of the important Christmas images of Jesus is that of a light shining in the darkness. This image took on a remarkable meaning for Victor, a Nazi Prisoner during World War II. One morning, Victor and his companions were digging in the cold, hard ground. Everything seemed gray and dull for them and they were struggling to find a reason for their suffering and slow dying. As he struggled in that miserable cold to make sense of his suffering, he suddenly became totally convinced that there was indeed a reason. He saw a light lit in the distance from a house and that light stood in the midst of the miserable gray. The words of the Gospel flashed into the mind of Victor. "The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has never put it out." (John 1:5) Victor said that this experience radically changed his entire prison life. It gave him hope and meaning in the place of despair.

Victor's experience illustrates a second point about Christmas. Christmas celebrates the fact that when Jesus entered our darkened world, He brought in light and hope. Before Jesus entered our world, many people were in a situation much like Victor's. There was a lot of oppression, injustice, hatred and revenge. The leaders and rulers of the chosen people of God were far away from God and made the life of the common people miserable. There was a lot of sinfulness. To many it appeared that there is not much meaning in their lives. But Jesus came into this world as a light in the darkness and brought in hope and meaning for the people of that time. People could experience the joy, peace and happiness from God.

Christmas is an invitation for each one of us to be for our world what Jesus was for the world: A beam of light in the midst of darkness and a ray of hope in the midst of despair, injustice, hatred and revenge. What does this light of Jesus mean for the world and particularly to you and me in this parish as we celebrate Christmas this year? How do we experience this light of Jesus Christ in our lives and radiate it to others?

For this, first of all, we must accept Jesus more and more in our hearts so that we become more and more like Him. Our life like a candle has to be lit by Jesus to make us His light bearers. This light in turn should help others to drive the darkness away from their lives. In Mathew 5:14, Jesus says to each one of us, "You are the Light of the World."

"Every time a hand reaches out to help another....that is Christmas. Every time someone puts anger aside and strives for understanding.....that is Christmas. Every time people forget their differences and realize their love for each other that is Christmas. May this Christmas bring us closer to the spirit of human understanding, closer to the blessing of peace". (*Anonymous*)

My dear parishioners, let this Christmas be for each one of us an occasion to experience the joy, peace and hope of Jesus Christ. Let it bring understanding, forgiveness and healing among us so that we experience Jesus in our hearts and in the hearts of all. Let it strengthen our parish as a family and keep us all united in Jesus Christ.

I wish each one of you a very happy Christmas!

- Fr. Lawrence Correa SVD
(Parish Priest)

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Bulletin Design: Rohit D'Almeida

Printer: Richard's Printing Establishment **e-mail:** h2h.bulletin@gmail.com

A STAR LEADING TO THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

The whole of the Holy Bible depicts how the face of God appears to us, humans. There are countless ways of representing or manifesting the face and attitude of God to us. They can be said to have arrived out of the manifold experiences of God through out the history of human kind. However, all the manifestations, especially in the Old Testament, seemed to have highly dissatisfied the heart of God due to His gross misrepresentation.

Unfortunately, God's chosen ambassadors to spread the word/ works of God did not match with the real face of God. This situation forced God to send down His only son, Jesus, as a STAR, to truthfully present God to humans. Christmas is an opportune time given to each one of us to grapple with the presentation of the Lord in our lives. It calls for a three fold understanding among every Christian in the history of salvation.

1. God manifests

The God of the Bible is the God of manifestation to His people from time immemorial, for all those who ardently aspire Him. History proves that this revelation has been very selective. The God of abundance has been very frugal in making the revelation readily available. He has chosen people like prophets, kings and a few inspired people who lived their lives very authentically as per God's plans, in that era of history. All these revelations of God possibly did not bring about the desired face of God as many things got corrupted in the process of transfer. So Christmas is the most passionate, remedial and authentic time for the real revelation of God, in His own son Jesus. This event portrays a very different picture of God. This is the only truly authenticated revelation and can clash with the many existing presentations of God. However, we are called to value highly

the revelation of God in Jesus that has to be held above all other systems and understanding.

2. Human Understanding and Acceptance

God, making Himself known to human kind, through the event of Christmas is a free gift of the divine. If the gift is valued, it will be accepted by anyone who is spiritually awakened. One needs to seek deeply within oneself, in order to feel the spiritual connection that will help the person to understand and accept the generous gift of God. Though it may not be a very appealing and magnificent need in the initial stage, the unfurling of the gift will take place in the context of how one's life is juxtaposed at that given point of time; considering any change is not an overnight change but takes its own time to manifest. Acceptance will pave the way for a different understanding of one's life and its context. Here the person will experience the wisdom and the Spirit of God beginning to flow through the various events of life making it a very *spiritual* and *personal* growth by its very nature. Our God is a God of miracles and not the God of magic. Miracles strictly happen in accordance with God's will and plan. There is a process of operation and a gradual unfolding. This is the lesson for all who humble themselves enough to learn the meaning of life, through the birth of Jesus.

3. Human presentation

As the risen Lord has ascended into heaven, we are entrusted with the duty of presenting the Lord to others, as Jesus has commanded us to make disciples in His name. This can only be achieved if we ourselves are convinced and rooted in the message of God. Otherwise, human values will be projected as those satisfying the inner ego, according to each one's personal

“This day shall light shine upon us; for the Lord is born to us.” This is the great announcement which moves Christians today. Through them it is addressed to all mankind. God is here. This truth should fill our lives, and every Christmas should be for us a new and special meeting with God, when we allow His light and grace to enter deep into our soul.”

– St. Josemaría Escrivá

desires and plans; promoting only oneself. The primary presentation that Jesus asked us to carry out is to validate His Father as the God of love. All other presentations and all that one does should be emanating from this premise, if one has to be a true and genuine presenter of God. One has to measure success in terms of love rather than anything that is achieved by use of violence and triumph of ego. Finally, one is called to be a person after the heart of God, like the great King David whose presentation was greatly acknowledged by God Himself.

In the course of the presentation, one has to examine oneself as per the teachings of Jesus, the dearly beloved Son of the Father, as authenticated at His baptism and transfiguration. In the modern world of telecommunication, the basic principles have not changed much, as people look and value the messenger rather than the message. The presentation of the message is carried forward primarily through one's behavior, thought process, beliefs, relationships and points of reference in our communication. Do we dare to speak the name of God in our daily interactions? God is not a person who enjoys our proclamations of defeats and triumphs. Jesus does not rejoice in the littleness of anyone and for Him all are children of His beloved Father. His chief concern is how the message of goodness and good news is spread to all the corners of the world.

Jesus, the 'star' of the world ascended into heaven leaving the onus on us to spread His message. If we try to corrupt/derail the message to suit our conveniences, the messenger's authenticity is devalued, making us all accountable. The truth of the Gospel holds true even in today's day and time despite all the advancements science has made. People are known to appreciate and follow anything that has a mass following and that which has representation.

Christmas is the time to look up to the bright light of the 'star' that has come for each one of us, so that our lives will be enlightened despite the myriad situations our lives are caught up in. Our faces can be the best ever sky from where the 'star' will come shining through making it visible to the people whom we come in contact with. Let the Christmas radiance on our faces lift and reflect the glory of God on all the earth.

May the love of God bloom in each one of us during this Season of Christmas!

- Fr. Mathew Ezhuparayil SVD



CCO ON THE MOVE...

He Makes All Things New...



When God puts a dream into your heart, when He puts a promise on the inside, He deposits within you, everything that you could possibly need to accomplish that dream!

The CCO initiated the 'Government Scholarship Schemes for Minorities'. Forms from 30 students were accepted and sent to the Government for action. We also managed to get two Jr. Colleges registered by the Government for this Scheme. We are extremely grateful to Ms. Anella Quadros, Mr. Edward Fernandes, Mr. Anthony Chettiar and Mr. Raymond D'Souza for their unstinted dedication, help, time and support in wrapping up this process successfully. We hope and pray that with the timely implementation of this scheme, many more students of our Parish would seize the opportunity to benefit from it in the near future.

The unbridled joy and delight in successfully placing unemployed people with gainful employment is priceless! We also have people of other faiths approaching CCO for jobs. We are happy that we are able to place many of them in different positions, namely; office staff in companies, as house-helpers, cooks, drivers, day/night caretakers for patients etc.

Every week, we reach out to the needy of our Parish through the Community Welfare Fund by filling in the forms for their Medical, Education and Housing needs. The Community Welfare Team makes the necessary checks and authenticates

the requests/claims received through the respective PPC members and then finalizes the amount to be given to the applicant. The SVP too renders help to the needy parishioners and also needy people belonging to other faiths by giving rations, medicines and clothing.

Ever since we began the 'Matrimonials', we have had many singles visiting us with their portfolios. Till date we have had 142 singles registered.

All the Cells and Associations of our Parish are functioning smoothly with their various activities. The Dental and Homeopathy Clinics are also functioning well. We wish to see more people availing of the low cost and safe treatments offered by these clinics.

We take this opportunity to officially welcome our new team member Ms. Ida Quinny. We thank her for her voluntary services and pray that our good Lord showers His blessings on her and her family.

As 2014 comes to an end, we can say that we have achieved much and much more is left to be achieved. We pray that this Christmas season and the New Year gives us at the CCO and all our parishioners much Love, Joy and Peace that the birth of our Baby Jesus brings!

**- Sandra Cranston,
CCO**

"Today Christmas has become a commercial celebration, whose bright lights hide the mystery of God's humility, which in turn calls us to humility and simplicity. Let us ask the Lord to help us see through the superficial glitter of this season, and to discover behind it the child in the stable in Bethlehem, so as to find true joy and true light."

- Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI



BIBLE QUIZ NO. 33 THE GOSPEL OF LUKE (CHAPTERS 1-3)



I) Fill in the blanks choosing appropriate word from the bracket

- _____ served as a priest in the days of Herod the king of Judea.
- _____ was the governor of Syria when the 1st census took place.
- _____ was the man in Jerusalem waiting for Israel to be saved.
- Every year the parents of Jesus went to _____ for the Passover festival.
- _____ and _____ were the high priests when word of God came to John.

II) Answer the following

- With what did the angel tell Zechariah, that his son would be filled with from his mother's womb?
- After how many days did Jesus's parents find Him in the temple?
- What did the people perceive had happened to Zechariah?
- How long did Elizabeth not leave her house?
- In what form did the Holy Spirit descend upon Jesus?
- Where did John stay until the day of his manifestation?
- In what did Mary wrap her son?
- After how many days was Jesus circumcised?
- What did Joseph and Mary offer as sacrifice in the Temple?
- To what city did Joseph and his family return after they had performed all the rituals?

III) Match the columns

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| 16. Anna | Son of the Most High |
| 17. Gabriel | King of Judea |
| 18. Pontius Pilate | Prophetess from tribe of Asher called as |
| 19. Jesus | Governor of Judea in the 15 th year |
| 20. Herod | Angel who visited Mary |



Full Name _____ Class _____

School _____ Telephone/Mobile No _____

Family Card No. _____ Address: _____

Please Note:

- The Quiz is only for children of our Parish who are studying in Std. 10th and below.
- Only one entry per child will be accepted. The answers are to be written clearly, on this sheet only.
- Elders refrain from providing answers to children.
- Write your name, class, school, Telephone number, Family number and home address clearly
- Drop the answers in the letter box in front of the Parish sacristy latest by 5th January 2015.
- There are three attractive prizes. If there are many right answers the prizes will be determined by casting lots.
- Editorial board's decision will be final and binding.

Answers of Quiz No. 32: I) FILL IN THE BLANKS 01.Terah (Gen 11:27) 02. Melchizedek (Gen 14:18) 03. Hagar (Gen 16:1) 04. 12 (Gen 17:20) 05. Moriah (Gen 22:2) II) ANSWER THE FOLLOWING 06. flocks of sheep and goats, cattle, donkeys, slaves & camels (Gen 12:16) 07. quarrels broke out between the men who took care of Abram's & Lot's animals (Gen 13:6-7) 08. Abraham & Abimelech took a vow (Gen21: 30-31) 09. Because his hands were hairy like Esau's (Gen 27:23) 10.The well of the Living one who sees me (Gen16:14) III)TRUE OR FALSE 11. False(Gen 25:25-26) 12.True(Gen 17:24-25) 13. False (Gen 19:26) 14.True (Gen 21:14) 15. False (Gen 11:27) IV) NAME THE FOLLOWING 16. Circumcision of every male (Gen 17:10) 17. Ancestor of multitude of nations (Gen 17:5) 18. Sodom & Gomorrah (Gen 19:24) 19.Jacob (Gen 25:33) 20.Sodom (Gen 19:1)

Winners of Quiz No 32 : 1st prize : Ethan Fernandes (Std V Holy Family) 2nd prize : Tahirah Fernandes (Std VIII Canossa) 3rd prize : Elida Dsouza (Std. VII Canossa)

HEARTY LAUGHTER!

OVERHEARD

Customer: Excuse me, but I saw your thumb in my soup when you were carrying it.

Waitress: Oh, that's okay. The soup isn't hot.

Little Johnny: Teacher, can I go to the bathroom?

Teacher corrects: Little Johnny, MAY I go to the bathroom?

Little Johnny: But Ma'am, I asked first!

A teacher asked a student to write 55.

Student asked: How?

Teacher: Write 5 and beside it another 5!

The student wrote 5 and stopped.

Teacher: What are you waiting for?

Student: I don't know which side to write the other 5?

Teacher: "Nick, what is the past participle of the verb to ring?"

Nick: "What do you think it is, Sir?"

Teacher: "I don't think, I KNOW!"

Nick: "I don't think I know either, Sir!"

At a wedding reception, a man was asked to make the farewell toast to the newlyweds. When his eleven year old daughter heard, she said, "Oh, don't let him - he always burns it."

Two sailors were adrift on a raft in the ocean. They had just about given up hope of rescue. One began to pray, "O Lord, I've led a worthless life. I've been unkind to my wife, and I've neglected my children, but if you'll save us, I promise ..."

Suddenly, the other sailor yelled "Hold it! I think I see land!"

A little child in Church watched as the ushers passed the offering plate. When they neared the pew where he sat, the youngster piped up so that everyone could hear. 'Don't pay for me Daddy. I'm under five.'

Son: "Today is Father's Day. We should do something nice for him. Do you have any ideas?"

Daughter: "Well ... we might let him have his car for a change."

A little girl, watching the baptism of her newborn brother, commented during the pouring of the water, "Be sure to wash behind his ears too!"

Little Mary, the daughter of a local radio announcer, was invited to a friend's house for dinner. The hostess asked if Mary would honour them by saying grace. Delighted, the little girl cleared her throat, looked at her wrist watch, and said, "This food, friends, is coming to you through the courtesy of Almighty God!"

Billy watched his new baby sister in the crib as she screamed and kicked. He finally asked where she came from. "Heaven" was his mother's reply. "No wonder, they let her go," Billy responded

LEARNING ENGLISH?

21 Reasons Why The English Language Is Hard To Learn:

- 1) The bandage was wound around the wound.
- 2) The farm was used to produce produce.
- 3) The dump was so full that it had to refuse more refuse.
- 4) We must polish the Polish furniture.
- 5) He could lead if he would get the lead out.
- 6) The soldier decided to desert his dessert in the desert.
- 7) Since there is no time like the present, he thought it was time to present the present.
- 8) A bass was painted on the head of the bass drum.
- 9) When shot at, the dove dove into the bushes.
- 10) I did not object to the object.
- 11) The insurance was invalid for the invalid.
- 12) There was a row among the oarsmen about how to row.
- 13) They were too close to the door to close it.
- 14) The buck does funny things when the does are present.
- 15) A seamstress and a sewer fell down into a sewer line.
- 16) To help with planting, the farmer taught his sow to sow.
- 17) The wind was too strong to wind the sail.
- 18) After a number of injections my jaw got number.
- 19) Upon seeing the tear in the painting I shed a tear.
- 20) I had to subject the subject to a series of tests.
- 21) How can I intimate this to my most intimate friend?

PARISH ACTIVITIES

VISIT TO GREET HINDU BRETHERN FOR DIWALI

TO BE RELIGIOUS IS TO BE INTER- RELIGIOUS.

The aims and objectives of our Parish's Inter-Religious Dialogue Cell are not only to organize inter-religious activities but also to interact and build relationships with people of other faiths.

Keeping this in mind, the members of the Cell, under the guidance of Fr. Innocent Fernandes SVD, met on the evening of Tuesday, October 21, and decided to visit some Hindu families on the occasion of Diwali - the festival of lights. Since it was decided to visit families from community No. 22, IRD Cell member Luke Lawrence, who belongs to this community, took up the responsibility to organize the proposed visit by informing some of the Hindu families about the visit, in advance.

The visit began shortly after 6 pm on Thursday, October 23. Six members of the IRD Cell met near Ambika Towers. The group members were accompanied by Gwen Lawrence, who clicked photographs of the IRD Cell members with each of these families. Walking through the by-lanes of the area, the group passed many homes decorated with colourful lights and with beautiful rangoli designs on the doorsteps. Children were seen lighting sparklers and other fireworks.

Six Hindu families were visited, of which two were prominent personalities. One family was of Ms. Harsha Badkar, Professor who taught Hinduism in the BIRD (Basics of Inter-Religious Dialogue) course - and the other was of Ms. Sunita Ilwadekar - present Municipal Councilor of Ward No.72. We introduced ourselves as members of the IRD Cell of Sacred Heart Church, Andheri East. All the families welcomed us by serving us homemade sweets; they were very happy and joyful to receive us at their homes. Some expressed that this visit was a good gesture and suggested that we visit them again. Diwali greeting cards were also given to Prof. Harsha and Councilor Ms. Sunita. Except for the meeting at Prof. Harsha Badkar's residence, where we spoke in English, our conversations were mainly in Marathi, which contributed to the feeling of oneness with our Hindu brethren. It was a wonderful experience to spread joy, happiness and be known to a few Hindu families within our Parish area limits.

We request our parishioners, having the charisma for Inter-Religious activities, to join the Inter-Religious Dialogue Cell, and carry this initiative further.

*- Gwen Lawrence,
Community No. 22 - Preamsagar*

HEALTH CELL HAPPENINGS

The Health Cell organized various health related programmes during the monsoon season, keeping in mind, the need of the hour for immediate health issues concerning our parishioners.

Our first awareness talk, "How to deal with FEVER during the monsoon season" by eminent Intensivist, Nephrologist and Professor at Nair hospital, Dr. Bhurke was held on 24th August. He spoke about the immediate causes of fever in the monsoons viz. Malaria, Dengue, Leptospirosis, Typhoid, Jaundice, various viral influenzas and urinary tract infections. He advised parishioners not to take it easy but investigate the cause of fever immediately if the fever does not come under control, within 48 hrs. Care must be taken, to have boiled water...(boiled for 10 minutes) during monsoon season and to avoid outside eatables from unhygienic places. This talk was well appreciated by parishioners who attended this programme and Dr. Bhurke, made the talk lively and interesting by a colourful presentation and witty humour.

Our 2nd health related talk was on the most important sense organ, the HUMAN EYE. The Health Cell conducted a free Eye check-up camp on 7th Sept. between 9 am to 11 am. More than 90 parishioners benefited through the free eye camp which was conducted by eminent ophthalmic surgeons Dr. Nitin Balkrisnan and Dr. Aniruddha Mahindrakar, a vitreo-retinal surgeon. Later they both conducted a talk on "Towards better eyesight - vision 2020", where common conditions of the eye such as Cataract, Glaucoma, conjunctivitis, use of spectacles, was explained in detail. The participants went home, getting a clear understanding of how to take good care of their eyes and prevent eye diseases.

The 3rd talk conducted on 28th Sept. was on Dentistry. There was a free Dental check-up with distribution of free toothpaste by Dr. Ashish Nair (Endodontist) and Dr. Mrs. Surbhi Nair (Orthodontist). More than 50 parishioners took advantage of this camp. The Free camp was followed by a talk on "Your smile ...what it says about your oral health", where questions related to different issues relating to teeth, gums and cosmetic dentistry were clarified.

Next on the 19th Oct, the Health Cell organized a BLOOD DONATION DRIVE in collaboration with the Blood Bank of Holy Spirit Hospital. 48 parishioners donated blood, thereby doing a noble deed of saving precious human lives. We would like to thank all the DONORS, on behalf of our Spiritual Director, Fr. Innocent Fernandes SVD, Health Cell members and the Blood

Bank of Holy Spirit Hospital. May God bless you all for this noble deed.

All in all, it was a fruitful quarter, wherein our parishioners benefited immensely through the programmes conducted by the Health Cell. We urge parishioners to participate in these health programmes in large numbers and avail maximum benefit from them as the Health Cell arranges for Doctors who are well renowned in their respective field of speciality to conduct them.

We welcome suggestions from parishioners on topics/health issues that need to be addressed. Kindly inform the same to the Health Cell members or to the CCO office.

*- Milagrine Fernandes,
Health Cell*

THERESIAN VAADO FEST 2014

Come October and it was time to celebrate the feast of our patron saint, St. Therese of the Child Jesus and our Annual Day. Thus, evolved our Goan cultural "Theresian Vaado Fest 2014", which was centered around the theme, "**Living the Eucharist in our Family**".

The Mass was celebrated by our new Spiritual Director, Fr. Mathew Ezhuparayil SVD, who enlightened us on the healing power of the Eucharist, which strengthens our family bonds and encourages us to be sensitive to our families and others in our actions. Fr. Mathew emphasized, on the need to offer and consecrate our families because we love our families the most, and that the Eucharist offers us an opportunity to ask for forgiveness and a call to forgive.

Our heartfelt gratitude to Fr. Mathew, the First Holy Communicants (who will surely be fine Lectors in the future), choir, youth and all who assisted in this enriching Eucharistic Celebration!

Now, the surprise feature of the Theresian Vaado Fest 2014, was hosted by none other than the YOUTH of our zone! They took us through a unique icebreaker game 'Know Your Family', which introduced new entrants in our community; an eligible bachelor, new infants, new couple, to name a few. It was now time to form the Goa Professional League, involving 4 teams captained by, again, 4 lovely youth. The captains were instructed to form their respective teams, while capitalizing

on scores against some quirky Goan requirements. To notch the tempo a bit, each team was aptly named 'Paramparik Panjikar (Panjim), Karbari Madgaonkar (Margao), Khuxalkar Pondekar (Ponda) and Viswaxi Vascokar (Vasco). Amidst all this fun and laughter, there were hilarious team games such as accessorizing a male team member as a lady, which saw surprising participation from the male participants. Innovative accessorizing of a child using paper rolls highlighted the quirkiness of our children who modeled as snowmen and chefs! Then followed another a stimulating logo game, 'Know Your Vaado' and a Visual Quiz.

And of course, continuous flow of tantalizing sausage pavs, doce, pinag and Goan cuisine, kept our spirits high! Sincere thanks to those who arranged for the mouth-watering sausage-pavs, doce and penag. Special blessed tokens were also gifted to the First Holy Communicants and Confirmation Candidate from our community.

We thank Fr. Innocent, Fr. Mathew and Fr. Wilson, who assisted us in every way possible, right from using the sound system, the projector and other requirements and especially, Fr. Mathew who interacted with us right from the beginning of our Eucharistic celebration till the end of our Fest. Last, but not the least, sincere thanks to our youth, who sportingly agreed and did a wonderful job of hosting the show and leading their respective teams. With their participation, our Theresian Vaado Fest 2014 was a bonanza to the last core. Thank you, St. Therese and dear families and do encourage us in the future events, as well!

*- Althea Trinidad,
Animator, Community No. 10 - St. Theresa of the Child Jesus*

THE SENIOR CITIZEN'S CELL ACTIVITIES

1st October is celebrated as "Elder's Day" the world over. The Senior Citizens of the Sacred Heart Parish celebrated this event at the Community Center with Rev. Fr. Robin Selwyn SJ, celebrating Mass in a special way by singing and strumming his guitar, thus animating the liturgy with his inimitable style.

After Mass, there was a fellowship with tea, snacks and a game of housie, which is a 'must' for all our seniors as they thoroughly enjoy this game. Most of our functions are sponsored by our parishioners and others; hence, before we could go home, a take away biryani was given to all the 100 participants who attended the event.

Our next event was our annual visit to Mount Mary, Bandra on 6th October, where we accommodated our Senior Citizens in two busloads which our Spiritual Director, Fr. Innocent Fernandes SVD graciously sponsored making it easier for our Cell to subsidize events. Mass was beautifully celebrated by Fr. Innocent, with an inspiring homily. After Mass, we had our usual tea, snacks and a game of housie after which, we returned to the Parish.

13th October being our 'Association Day' and although we had organized two events, it did not stop the core group from celebrating this event by animating the 7 pm Mass and going out for dinner which was sponsored by one of our regular well-wisher and sponsor.

At our usual activity day on 3rd November, one of our Senior Citizens celebrated her 75th birthday and treated us to a piece of cake and Pattie also the housie prizes were sponsored by her. We played a memory game, which proved that our seniors aged 60 – 90 who were present, still used their memory power just like or even better than those younger than them!

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Monday 1st December 2014 - Christmas Party for all our Senior Citizens of Our Parish. (Announcements and Registrations to follow)

*- Ludolf D'souza,
Senior Citizen's Cell - Core Group Member*

CELEBRATION OF THE FEAST OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

We, the SVP members along with our adopted and aided families, benefactors and well-wishers celebrated the feast of St. Vincent De Paul on Saturday, 27th Sept. 2014.

The celebration began with the Holy Eucharist at 5.45 pm in the Community Hall. Our Spiritual Director, Fr. Innocent Fernandes SVD, was the celebrant. The Homily was meaningful and inspiring. He stressed upon the life of St. Vincent De Paul, the patron of all works of charity. Fr. Innocent appreciated the good work of our members in serving the poor and needy families of our parish. Casian's music and singing, during the Mass was uplifting.

After Mass, refreshments were served. Our President, Ms. Maria Nanal, extended a warm welcome to all those who had gathered for the celebrations. The highlight of the event was the awarding of scholarships to the students from the adopted and aided families who excelled during the academic year 2013-2014. In all, 14 students from Std. I to X, were felicitated. Our Spiritual Director, encouraged the students to work hard and excel in their studies, every year. Thereafter, the comperes made all the children and elders mingle. There were games, dancing and fun. Spot prizes were in plenty.

In the vote of thanks our founder, Mr. Ben Lewis, thanked our Spiritual Director and the parish team for their support, the benefactors for their generosity, which enables our Conference to carry out the activities of providing rations, school fees, medical assistance and tuitions to the needy families.

Fr. Mathew Ezhuparayil SVD led the Grace before dinner. 44 families attended the function and in all, there were 115 people including guests. Every family was happy with the sumptuous meal served and were thrilled to receive a take-away gift as they left for home.

*- Rose Almeida
Secretary – SVP*

CALLED TO BE WITNESSES

In a first time ever, a Deanery Confirmands Rally was held on 3rd October, to commemorate the golden jubilee of the 38th International Eucharistic Congress. We assembled at the Church grounds and left in two buses to Vimala Dermatological Centre, Versova; where each one of us was given our name tags and a red balloon. After registration and distribution of light snacks, the exposition of the Blessed Sacrament took place along with opening prayers which was followed by Gospel reading. All the candidates of the 10 parishes with their unique colour coded balloons then proceeded to the School Grounds, led by a vehicle carrying 'Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament' to the accompaniment of band and music. It gave us a chance to witness to the others as we walked to the venue. The procession ended at the grounds near St. Anthony's School. Here too, we were seated parish wise after the Benediction after which the program began. The theme of the program was 'Go Be My Witness To L.I.F.E.' After a brief introduction, all of

For once you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord; walk as children of light.

- Ephesians 5 : 8

us were silently led to take the oath to be witnesses to Christ and then on cue, we released the balloons into the air. Soon the colourful balloons rose up in the air and filled the sky, declaring our promise to the world.

The program continued further with a Prayer Dance by few children of our Parish who led us into prayer. They were trained by Ms. Glory Arockiam. The Chief Guests were then felicitated. His eminence, Bishop Bosco Pehna and Bishop John Rodrigues who were in attendance also spoke a few encouraging words. The next event was a role play conducted by St Blaise Parish, Amboli, which was a modern day representation of the 'Good Samaritan' parable with a heartfelt message! Everyone was left in giggles at the humor enacted in the play. Snacks were distributed while the band coordinated by Fr. Alban played Gospel songs. With the band playing, enthusiastic children started dancing and the whole atmosphere turned into a lively one.

After all the dancing was over, it was time to kick start the talk. Fr. Nigel Barrett and Fr. Melroy gave talks which centered on 'How to be e-witnesses' or 'Witnesses of Christ' through the internet. Father explained to us how Gospel messages could be spread through popular social networking sites like Facebook, Twitter, WhatsApp etc., which is a common attraction for youth in today's generation. Soon after the talk, the band took over with more Gospel songs making the children leave their seats and do the jig one more time. Dance performances from two other parishes followed the vote of thanks.

Each parish meticulously carried out the tasks entrusted to them which made the Rally an unforgettable event. This Rally was fruitful as it helped us to learn how we could use social media to spread the Good News easily and thus come closer to Christ, in our everyday lives. We had all learnt something that day while also thoroughly enjoying ourselves.

- Rhea D'souza,
Confirmand - Batch of 2014

KONKANI BHASHA MANDAL'S TALENT COMPETITION IN MUMBAI

Konkani Bhasha Mandal, Maharashtra (KBMM) had organized a talent competition on 20th July, at Nihar Hall, Orlem, Malad (W), Mumbai.

The response received was tremendous, as groups from various areas across Mumbai took part in this event. Sacred Heart Church, Mahakali, our parish unit bagged the trophy with 16 winners! Mira Road, Malvani, Bandra and Vasai too put up a strong fight to challenge us. This is the 5th time in a row, that our parish has won the Trophy!

Competitions were held in singing, dancing and elocution. All events had three categories that of Sub-Junior, Junior and Senior. The top three in each category were declared winners.

Sincere thanks to Fr. Innocent Fernandes SVD, for granting us permission to participate in this program. Special thanks to Mr. Cassian Pereira for his music, Mr. Victor Concessao and Mrs. Irene Menezes for their time and skills, in preparing us well, well enough to beat competition and bring the trophy home!

- Irene Mathias,
Community No. 32 - Sacred Heart

MISSION SUNDAY

The third week of October (13 to 19 October, 2014) was a remarkable week for our parishioners. In the spirit of togetherness, as one big Christian family, the Mission Week in our parish was celebrated under the guidance of Fr. Joaquim Fernandes SVD, the Mission Secretary of India Mumbai province (INM). The theme for the weeklong celebration was, "**will send you as a light to the nations**" - Is 49:6, focusing on the SVD mission in Africa.

The celebration began with a presentation on the '**Tala**' Mission at Mangoan in Maharashtra. Fr. Cosmos Ekka SVD, was the main celebrant at this Mass. Fr. Cosmos who works enthusiastically for the upliftment of *Kathkari tribals* due to his association with the '**Tala**' mission, shared his experiences and explained the challenges encountered while working with the tribals. At the end of the Mass, a short documentary film showcasing the '**Tala**' Mission was screened.

Every day of the mission week, the evening Mass was celebrated by the newly ordained SVD missionaries, who have chosen to work at mission stations in different parts of the world. Following every Mass was a short video presentation prepared by missionaries on field about the areas focussed namely; Angola, Togo-Benin, Kenya-Tanzania, Mozambique and Zimbabwe.

These video presentations were excellent and well appreciated by the parishioners. Many were deeply touched by the work done by the Divine Word Missionaries. On Mission Sunday, there was a special celebration. After each Mass a documentary film was screened depicting SVD mission work in all the four SVD zones. An exhibition of hand crafted articles from different mission stations including the **Tala** mission was held on the parish grounds which was patronised by our parishioners in large numbers. A special mention must be made of our Sunday school children who made cards which were put up for sale at the exhibition, thus adding their mite to the **Tala** mission cause. Our children experienced the joy of sharing in the mission of the Lord, albeit in a small way.

The Celebrants at the Holy Eucharist each day of the Mission week, emphasized on the importance of Christ's mission in today's modern world, the role played by the laity in spreading the Word of God and facing the myriad challenges that one is likely to encounter living God's values. Finally, our heartfelt appreciation to all the Divine Word Missionaries, especially those working in Africa, who toil tirelessly in challenging conditions to establish God's Kingdom. Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI said on World Mission Sunday, 2006, **"The Church's mission is to spread hope 'contagiously' among all peoples... It is only in this mission that the true journey of humanity is understood and attested."**

We hope that God's grace prevails on us all and that this special week of Mission Celebration has brought about the right awareness in our parishioners. Mission Sunday is a call to all of us to play our individual roles in the evangelising mission of our Lord Jesus Christ.

A big thanks to all!

- Dn. I. Joseph Sabayaraj SVD

RECOLLECTION - TWO DAYS OF AMAZING GRACE

On October 25th and 26th, two days of recollection were held for us, the 2014 batch of Confirmation candidates. Before the program unfolded, it really did sound like something very boring and totally uninteresting. At the beginning of our first session on the 25th, we were introduced to 'Jesus the Real Vine' Team who conducted the sessions for us.

God's Love, Sin and Sacrament of Reconciliation, Seeking God, Power of Praise, Media and Making Godly Choices were the topics covered during the sessions over two days along with Repentance and the Inner Healing sessions.

The session on the first day began with an action song. I vividly remember that many of us were shy and uncomfortable doing the songs with actions and dancing. A prayer and learning session then took place along with a guidance session followed by lunch. The day wore off as the sessions continued till the last topic of the day was on the Holy Spirit, followed by Mass and then it was pack-up.

Next day all of us reported at 9 am at the Community Centre. Before the sessions began, we were told not to speak to each other in order to feel the real effect of this session. It was a hot day and most of us were sleepy. As the session went on, we spoke of the Holy Spirit, along with many action songs. A noticeable change was that many of us were actually doing the actions this time around.

Then came the most life changing moment, 'the inner healing session'. None of us knew what was about to happen. We were led to looking back into our past; a deep dark place in our mind and heart to things that have never been revealed before. As the Holy Spirit led Brother Derek, conducting the session guided us, he asked us to prayerfully take all those areas of our lives that were hurt and wounded and give them to the Lord. We were asked to forgive all those who hurt us. I recall that there was total silence and everyone was deep in prayer. Later when we opened our eyes; Brother Derek asked us to forgive or apologize to every person present whom we may have hurt or been hurt by. I remember seeing everyone running helter-skelter. I saw a tear in every eye. Some crying bitterly, followed with many hugs and apologies. By the time we came back to our seats I guess all were feeling so light! As for me, I thought I would just float away!

The sessions continued and we came to the final stage of celebrating the Eucharist together. Everyone the same, no one different or exiled, together celebrating in the joy and grace of God! A wonderful day came to an end with tears of joy and happy memories that will last forever.

We are grateful to the 'Jesus the Real Vine' Team for these two grace-filled days, preparing us for our Confirmation!

**- Ralph Rodrigues,
Confirmand - Batch of 2014**

GOD GAVE US THE GIFT OF MUSIC

Our Gift To God Is To Share the Gift of Music With All Our Heart!

This year indeed is a significant time in the life of our choir at Sacred Heart Parish, Andheri, completing 25 years, singing and praising God. In 1989, we started singing at the Canossa School Basement on Sundays under the guidance of a Salesian Brother, Euclidis, who, conducted and played the guitar while we sang. After a few years, we moved to the Parish grounds as the Shed was cleared and an Altar was placed, and we continued singing until the Church which now stands tall was built. We have thus witnessed and lived all these stages in the life of this parish and made it vibrant.

The baton was passed onto Conrad D'Sa, who at first was hesitant to take on this herculean task of conducting the choir, as he did not have any formal training in music. Being an Interior Designer by profession, his passion for music was varied, tremendous and being self taught, took on the challenge, as he came from a family of musicians, inheriting his dad's natural flair for music!

None of our Choir members have professional training, yet, it was Conrad's tireless efforts that our voices were molded to singing a four part harmony and to have reached these heights! We are ever so grateful and proud to be an intrinsic part of this Choir. Besides singing in our home parish, we have been invited by other parishes in Mumbai to sing. We have also travelled to Goa to sing at a nuptial Mass and to Panchgini to sing at Christ the King's Feast! During Christmas, we perform at hotels and malls singing carols and spreading the peace and joy of Christmas.

22nd November 2014 is a festival for all choirs but for CONRAD'S CRESCENDOS, it's one notch higher, as we complete a quarter century of our existence! It is the splendid harmony in the group that helped us to reach where we are today! Our Choir members wasted no time when the announcement of this event was made known and quickly put on our thinking caps to celebrate this jubilee, recalling all members who sang with us since 1989, to join us in this celebration.

We first celebrated the Eucharist, with His Lordship Bishop Percival Fernandes presiding and sang the hymn "*Great is Your Name Lord*" to commemorate the golden jubilee of the

Eucharist Congress. After Mass, a fellowship and an elaborate walk down '**Memory Lane**' program at the Community Center, completed the celebration. Being a Church choir and singing only Church music, we thought we could display our talent by singing the most acclaimed Broadway musical 'LION KING', a CURTAIN RAISER FOR THE EVENING, costumes were set to the Broadway theme, which has been our trademark, as we do it for all our festivities in the Parish. '*The Our Father*' sung at Grace before meals and 'The Blessing Song', our signature hymn ended the day's celebration!

This unique occasion will be embedded in our hearts and minds for a long time to come.

- Anita D'sa,
Conrad's Crescendos

A JOY FILLED VACATION

Vacation Bible Joy, is a joy and fun filled way of teaching children, the **Word of God**. Jesus said, "**Let the little children come to Me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the Kingdom of God belongs**" (Mk 10:14). On 1st of November, the Bible Cell team warmly welcomed 160 children of our Parish at the Community Centre Hall for a 6 day programme (9 am to 11 am, each day); 6th November being the last day. The children who participated were students, right from standard 1st to Xth. It was such a joy to see the happy faces of these little children as they came with excitement each morning, to know more about this wonderful friend of theirs, 'JESUS'!

Here, the children were taught to pray, praise and worship God with, wonderful songs of Praise. They sang and danced unto the Lord at the beats of the melodious music of those who struck the keys at the boards and strummed the guitar strings.

The theme was '**Biblical Women of Strength and the Men who supported them**'. The children learnt about Queen Esther who interceded for the Jews; her faithfulness to God and her virtue of humility. They also learnt about how Mordecai, the man, helped and supported her. Through Hannah's example the children learnt how to persevere in prayer and not to give up. Hannah was barren and was longing for a child. As she persevered in prayer God gifted her with a son – the great prophet Samuel, and Elkanah, her husband supported her.

Ruth's story taught the children about commitment; commitment to God and towards one another. Ruth, though a gentile, was a woman of great commitment. She accepted Yahweh as her God and remained faithful to Him. Boaz was the man who helped her and took care of her. Besides teaching the value of commitment to all, Ruth's story taught the boys how to respect and care for women.

From the New Testament, the children learnt of Mary Magdalene the sinful women. They learnt how her life was transformed when she encountered JESUS. Mary Magdalene was transformed from a sinner to a saint! This was a life changing session for children who became aware of what JESUS can do to a person when they surrender their life to Him and how JESUS forgives our every sin and loves us, unconditionally.

Finally, the children were taught about our Blessed Mother Mary, who was a woman of great faith and was obedient to God. They also learnt about how Joseph stood by Mary and supported her.

This program culminated with the Eucharistic Celebration by Fr. Wilson Wilfred SVD on the last day. Through his wonderful homily Fr. Wilson, urged the children to bear fruit through the seed that is sown in their hearts, the seed which is the 'Word of God'.

*- Josephine Fernandes,
Bible Cell*

CREATIVITY IN THE SCCs

A SCC Training Program was held on 17th August 2014, at our parish Community Center, conducted by the eminent speaker, Conrad Saldanha. "What is the purpose of our life? Why do we exist?" was the crux of his talk. The speaker went on to say that in order to have a fulfilling relationship in all its dimensions, one has to find the right-connect with one's self, job-profile, organisation, people and job. We possibly cannot love one and hate or ignore the other.

The difference between a community and an organization was explained. While one works voluntarily with a community, one earns remuneration in an organization. In a community we don't have to abide by rules but in an organization one has rules and regulations to abide by. In an organization you work out of compulsion and less out of love.

To further drive the point home, he went on to explain that just as trillion of cells work in tandem in the human body to keep it alive, so is there a need to work closely with one another to keep the community going. For a community to be vibrant, an openness, renewal of ideas, acceptance of diverse views and inter-dependency on each other are needed. A community cannot be called vibrant if we cannot express our ideas, concerns and feelings, freely. Very often, people find it difficult to express their concerns, fearing ridicule. Trust is an important factor in all our dealings, so it needs to be nurtured. An understanding is needed; a heart-connect with people in our immediate families, with colleagues in one's work environment and with our communities at large.

"Speed" as in technology is a welcome innovation as it allows us to save time, but to allow speed to overrule other areas of our lives comes at a steep price, eroding the very fabric and essence of our lives. We look for instant gratification and the virtue of patience has taken a beating and the stress factor has been given an impetus, thus impacting our core values and health. 'Compatibility' is not something one can buy across the counter – one needs to invest time to nurture it so that it is in sync with one's soul and mind. So does marriage; it is a covenant between two individuals and God as the witness and not a cut and dry contract of give and take, like it has come to mean these days.

Not enough credence is been given to learning, a slower but having more retaining power. We do not stop to reflect but act instantly which has its own dangers. In this melee of making the most in the shortest duration of time, the humane aspect of life is lost.

We all have our individual roles to play in our communities. To be inclusive is what we should all strive for. Leadership needs to be viewed upon as a mission, vision, dream and purpose for the larger good.

The training program ended with a vote of thanks proposed by Fatima Serrao, who while thanking Conrad Saldanha for his insightful teachings, assured him that as leaders we will make our communities more vibrant with mutual love, compassion and empowerment. Fr. Innocent thanked members of the Project Team, PPC members, coordinators and animators of our parish for their presence and urged them to put into practice what they just learnt.

*- Sera Fernandes,
Community No. 14 - Helpers of Jesus*



YOUTH FULLY
A L I V E



THE REAL GIFT OF CHRISTMAS

So, Christmas is around the corner; let's bring in the Christmas spirit. The Christmas tree - the king of all traditions, is the most obvious, the centrepiece of many homes. Although we don't kill trees to cover them in lights, we definitely decorate artificial ones, send fruitcakes, cards, cookies etc. to our loved ones, kiss under the mistletoe, and hang colourful stuffed stockings. Yes!! These are our Christmas traditions, lit trees and yard decorations everywhere. The postman and the postal delivery services are inundated with packages and letters to be delivered. Looking around town, you would think that we are celebrating snowmen, Santa Claus and lots of lights.

And now for the season's obvious questions....

Have you already mailed your packages? What about those Christmas cards? How many parties this week? Can you make it for both parties on the same night? Whose house will you be spending Christmas this year? There is so much to do and so little time before Christmas.

Too few yards and homes acknowledge that Christmas celebrates the birth of Jesus, God's gift to the world. We went into the "store" looking for just that "right" gift, and can't seem to find it. Maybe we cannot find "it" because we are looking for a gift that must be wrapped when we should be sharing a gift that cannot be wrapped.

The difference is that there are no gifts under the tree. The gift that God gives us cannot be wrapped up and put in a box. We do wrap gifts as symbols of our love and give them to our

families and friends. It would be a shame if we failed to give the right gift to someone, and then forget to pick up the special gift that has been given to us.

John 1:14 says, "And the word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen His glory, the glory as of a Father's only Son, full of grace and truth." This text reminds us that God has "wrapped" His gift of love in Jesus. Jesus is such a wonderful gift that He can be both kept and given away. We receive this wonderful gift of God's love all wrapped up in baby Jesus. What better manifestation of love could God have sent us?

We all have been focussing so much on Christmas traditions, that we have actually forgotten the actual significance and importance of Christmas. Jesus is God's greatest gift to us. Let us receive God's awesome gift and not let Jesus get pushed aside. After all, it is Jesus' birthday.

Now for some Christmas fun trivia.....

- ◆ *Wonder where X-Mas came from? X means Christ in Greek so to shorten the word Christmas we sometimes use X-Mas.*
- ◆ *Why Twelve Days of Christmas? It is believed that it took the 3 kings 12 days to find baby Jesus.*
- ◆ *Santa Claus was a real Saint. He lived in Myra in the 300s. Myra is in what's now Turkey. The German name for Saint Nicholas is Sankt Niklaus.*
- ◆ *The first artificial Christmas tree wasn't a tree at all. It was created out of goose feathers that were dyed.*
- ◆ *The Christmas stocking got its start when three unmarried girls did their laundry and hung their stockings on the chimney to dry. They couldn't marry, they had no dowry. But St. Nicholas, who knew of their plight, put a sack of gold in each stocking and in the morning the girls awoke to discover they had their dowries. They could marry!*

Merry Christmas!

*- Blaisi Fernandes
Neighbourhood Youth Group of Community no. 5*



TIME PAST

Beware one and all, for there is an outbreak of this new disease. It is spreading like wildfire and this time it is 'We the people' who want it. Every single youth is soon going to acquire it and the teenagers want to know what it feels like to have it.

It's not something that we are unaware of; it's just that we don't know how harmful it is to everyone around us. Some take it for a fact; others think it's cool for us to have it. Yes, you all may be wondering which disease I am speaking of. The disease that I'm referring to is a simple word called BUSY!

Nowadays, when youth are invited for a High Mass, quite a few of us may respond that we they are busy and would rather attend a regular (shorter) Mass that would take not more than 50 minutes of our precious time. Yes, we are all different, so that's just one case in point. On such occasions, we choose to invite a select few whose company we enjoy,

but then are hurt when they too say "Sorry I'm busy I won't be able to make it!"

So why did I fail to celebrate Mass this Sunday? To attend the monthly NYG meeting? To attend the Community Way Of The Cross or the Rosary at a friend or acquaintance's cosy home?

We all do have valid excuses : I have a class to attend, I'm in junior/ senior college, and need to study hard, as it's my final year in college. What will I do with all those kids around me? I don't have time for all this! So we all are busy, yet we make time for an overnight party, skipping an important Church-related meeting, most willing to dip into our normal sleep time. We send our parents to buy groceries, while we happily spend our time on the social media.

Shouldn't we tackle this upcoming and wildly spreading disease by prioritizing what we really ought to do? What tops my list? Facebook? Twitter? WhatsApp? "We have all the time in the world to watch our favorite TV programs; how do we find time for that when we are oh-so-busy?" It's what tops our list of preferences that dictates what we do and do not have time for.

Isn't it annoying when we invite someone we value to dinner and they say they are busy. But why is it that every single person we ask is busy? Why is it that we can't find time for our friends and family?

So, then has work and studies consumed us so much that they rule all our decisions and free time and make us question as to what we are willing to sacrifice our time for? Let us learn to while our time trying to get a smile on everyone's face, rather than waking up one fine day and regretting that we could have done and accomplished so much if we could only go back in time and change the past. Unfortunately, it will be too late, as that would have been **'time past'!**

- Sheldon Pereira
Neighbourhood Youth Group of Community no. 17

God has called us clearly and unmistakably. Like the Magi we have discovered a star: a light and a guide in the sky of our soul.

- St. Josemaría Escrivá

REGEN OLYMPIA

2014 is being celebrated as the “Year of Family” in our Parish and what better way than REGEN OLYMPIA, where different families and people from different age groups come together as one family of a Community and bond with each other both, at the community and parish level.

Regen Olympia, an event of tele-matches for parishioners was organized by the Parish Youth Council (PYC) in collaboration with Parish Youth Animation Team (PYAT) on 23rd and 24th August 2014, on our parish grounds.

On the D-day, the grounds were lit up and there was a lot of vibrancy and excitement on and off the field. The Pledge was taken by both the Participants and Volunteers, the list of games were read out. There were 4 games, 3 for each age category and 1 team game. Very soon the buzzer went off for the Game #1 and the Day 1 events began - three, two, one.....

A group of 12 communities played at one go and then the other group followed and all the 4 games for each age category were over. The energy and fun around was equally amazing in both the groups. A lot of cheering and enjoyment was seen among the participants, as well as the audience. Day 1 ended with a total of 12 members qualifying for the semi-finals.

Day 2 also started after the teams registered themselves and this time there were 2 games, both time bound. The 4 finalists for the day were chosen from each of these teams.

Day 2 games were not revealed until the day, to keep up the fun element unlike Day 1, where game details were given a week in advance so that members could meet up in advance and work together as a team.

Once the semi-final games were over the 4 finalists were announced. Then was revealed the most happening part of the event and those were the four tasks, which were to be completed in the stipulated amount of time. The team to complete first would be declared winners!

Then winners of *Regen Olympia* were revealed! Community No. 1, the Winners and Community No. 2, the Champions, proud owners of the Gold and Silver medals, respectively.



The idea of organizing *Regen Olympia* was to get all our families together to enjoy as one big family, be it as participants or audience or even organizing team, and this *Regen* was definitely a huge hit because every bit of hard work paid off and God blessed this event as it was organized with a good motive that was to bring the family of parishioners together.

'Regen' means rain in German! On Day 1, when the event began, many in the audience left the grounds, due to unexpected showers but after sometime all were back and by the time the final task was announced, all started enjoying the games along with the rain - which fulfilled the purpose of *Regen Olympia*! Much to our joy, it ended up being a day blessed with 'Showers of Joy'!

- *Shreya Antony*
Neighbourhood Youth Group of Community no. 6



ZEAL 2014

Where the mystery unfolds



ZEAL 2014 WHERE THE MYSTERY UNFOLDS

The Parish Youth Council in collaboration with the PYAT organized '**Zeal 2014**'...where the mystery unfolded an evening of fun, frolic, fascination and fellowship! The members of Area 3 worked hard and sacrificed their vacations to make 'Zeal' a successful event and surely their efforts paid off.

About 290 youth turned up for the evening of 23rd October 2014 all dressed in formals complying with the theme 'BLACK TIE'. All the boys were dressed in their Sunday best and the girls as usual looked *tres chic*. As the youth entered the arena they were divided into groups and every group was given a funny name. The event began at 4.45 pm with Fr. Innocent Fernandes SVD declaring '**Zeal 2014**' open. The compères for the evening Jose Kizhakedathu and Ralph Rodrigues kept the crowd entertained. The Mystery Box was played with a lot of enthusiasm and energy. Group No. 12 won the Mystery Box as they were the first to find the criminal. The first session ended at around 6.30 pm and the youth were given some refreshments so that they had energy for the next session.

At around 7.30 pm they entered the arena again for a 'Praise and Worship' dance session by the Youth For Christ (YFC), followed by a Jam session. Mr. Nicholas Monterio and Miss. Cyberica Fernandes were named Zeal KING 2014 and Zeal QUEEN 2014. The event ended with Fr. Wilson Wilfred SVD giving the vote of thanks followed by a sumptuous meal.

We are grateful to the Parish Clergy Team, Fr. Wilson, PYAT animators and volunteers, PYC executive committee for all the help, constant guidance and support, all the sponsors without whom this event would not have turned out as it did! Yes, a BIG success! And a big loud yeah to all the Area 3 members for their determination and hard work!

*- Aron Mathias,
Neighbourhood Youth Group of Community no. 32*



TEACHERS' DAY

"A good teacher can inspire hope, ignite the imagination, and instill a love of learning" - Brad Henry.

So very true, down the generations.....

On behalf of the Parish Youth Council (PYT), Area 2 commemorated Teachers' Day on 7th September, at the parish level. We wished to thank all teachers for their dedication and commitment in educating us, teaching us values and the finer things of life. We began the celebration by invoking God's blessings and grace on all our teachers. Fr. Henry D'souza SVD who was the main celebrant at the 'special' Mass, gave a very touching and inter-active sermon on the occasion. We are sure that the teachers present, the stars of the day, were most appreciative of his unique sermon and will remember it for a long time!

After the Mass, Mr. Iyer, Mr Fadi Suarwez and Ms. Braganza our chosen emcees for the evening, led us through the activity session for a round of endless fun and some innovative games. Nursery rhyme puzzles were used to split the teachers into

groups and it was hilarious to watch how this activity brought in the 'hidden' child in all the participants, to the core. From an impromptu art session to singing, brain teasers and yes, a dash of dancing, (as pretend school administrators we know how important physical activity is), we experienced it all! Then there was a round of tasty snacks and yummy biryani!

As a gesture of our deep gratitude and appreciation, each teacher was given a small token. Not only were they gracious enough to take time away from their families and be a part of the special evening but they made us feel special too. Some of the teachers true to their vocation took the trouble to give their feedback of the evening in writing, as requested. To sum it in a nutshell, the evening was well appreciated and gave us, the youth, to be on the other side of the divide, to look on as our teachers battled the clock to win our exciting group prizes!

A big 'thank you' to all the teachers who made the day *special!* It was an enjoyable evening and here's hoping that all our teachers had a great time and it was an evening well spent. We wish to see a larger number of teachers next year, because we believe teachers need to be celebrated!

*- Amita Lobo,
Neighbourhood Youth Group of Community no.14*

"Today the darkness begins to grow shorter and the light to lengthen, as the hours of night become fewer.... Realize that the true light is now here and, through the rays of the gospel, is illuminating the whole earth."

- St. Gregory of Nyssa

FROM THE PARISH REGISTER

BAPTIZED IN CHRIST



Mishka Theknath	D/o	Dax & Christina Theknath	14-Sep-14
Gia Dalvi	D/o	Amrish & Reshma Dalvi	14-Sep-14
Joanna D'Souza	D/o	Kevin & Sheela D'Souza	14-Sep-14
Eliana Bhandari	D/o	Nickson & Concessio Bhandari	28-Sep-14
Avelyn Hirve	D/o	Ashwin Peter Hirve & Angelica Rose Almeida	28-Sep-14
Kyran D'Silva	S/o	Preston & Melba D'Silva	12-Oct-14
Shivena Mendis	D/o	Francis Cassian & Kavita Mendis	9-Nov-14
Ethan Fernandes	S/o	Nelson & Jessica Fernandes	9-Nov-14
Adiev Matade	S/o	Abhijeet & Archana Matade	9-Nov-14
Jordan Sharma	D/o	Ashish & Smita Sharma	9-Nov-14

Ravesh George Ukken	To	Aditi Apte	7-Sep-14
Rohit A. Touro	To	Cheryl S. Mergulhao	21-Sep-14
Agnelo D'Souza	To	Reshma Padwalkar	18-Oct-14
Fredger Fernandes	To	Kriselle Karishma Lono	25-Oct-14
Jason Keith D'Mello	To	Lavina Cassiana Sequeira	26-Oct-14
Albert Gracious More	To	Christin Mac Donald	26-Oct-14
Roland Gavin Pereira	To	Vanessa D'Souza	26-Oct-14
Arun Urban D'Souza	To	Jennifer Edwina D'Souza	8-Nov-14
Melroy Barretto	To	Jennifer Nancy Lobo	8-Nov-14
Sachin Babu Sagar	To	Elaine Lavy Quadras	8-Nov-14
Melroy G Andrews	To	Selwyn Pius	9-Nov-14



UNITED
IN CHRIST

RESTING IN CHRIST



Victoria D'Souza	82 Years	02 Adarsh Seva Mandal, Jawale Compound	8-Aug-14
Maria Soosai Chettiar	92 Years	Home for the Aged	11-Aug-14
Salinho Alphonso	81 Years	E-506 Trans Residency, Subash Nagar	22-Aug-14
Pelegarine Pinto	92 Years	7/B-31, Takshila	27-Aug-14
John Fernandes	84 Years	Home for the Aged	20-Sep-14
Christopher C. Noronha	53 Years	16B/47, PMGP Colony, Sahajeevan Co-Op Society	28-Sep-14
Aveline D'Souza	72 Years	Room No.4, Jai Bajrang Chawl	5-Oct-14
Estefania Fernandes	79 Years	A/9, Laxminagar (Kanti Welfare)	7-Oct-14
Walter Jude Lobo	47 Years	C-212, Kamlesh Apartments, Sher-E-Punjab	17-Oct-14
Minguel D'Sa	85 Years	C-1, Mahakali Kutir, Mahakali Caves Road	26-Oct-14
Mary Mendonca	81 Years	B-16, Baptistawadi	3-Nov-14