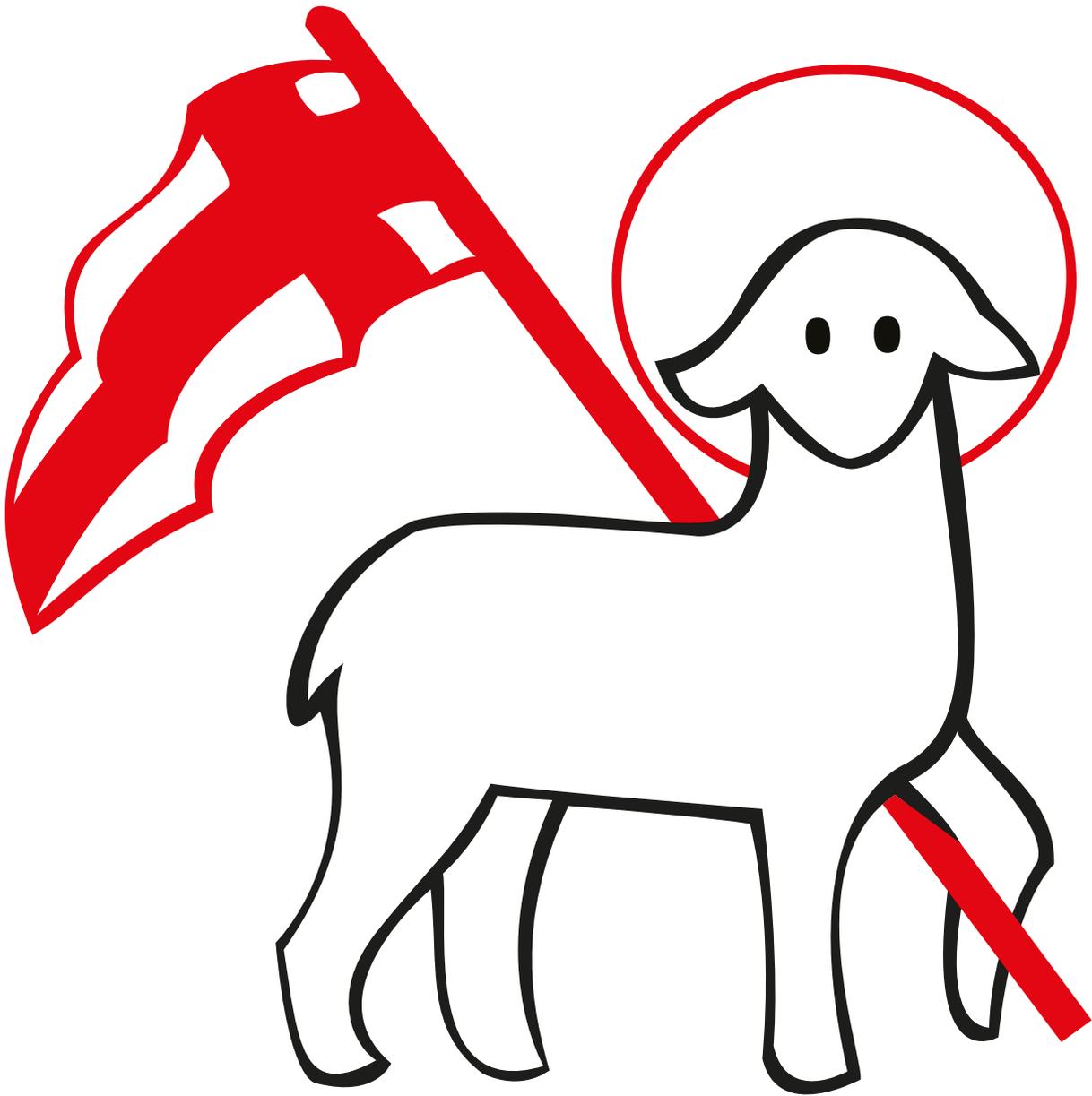


APRIL, 2011



ANTONIAN

ST. ANTHONY'S
CHURCH,
VAKOLA



HOLY WEEK PROGRAMME 2011

CONFESSIONS

11th, 12th & 13th April 2011: 10a.m. to 12 noon & 5p.m. To 8p.m.

PALM SUNDAY, 17th April 2011

Blessing of Palms: At the 7.45a.m. Mass
Passo Service/Veronica Singing/Sermon: 5p.m.

MAUNDY THURSDAY, 21st April 2011

Liturgical services: At 5p.m. In Konkani; 7.30p.m. In English
Holy Hours: At 10p.m. In Konkani; 11p.m. In English

GOOD FRIDAY, 22nd April 2011

Stations of the Cross: 6.30a.m. in Konkani, 7.30a.m. in English, 8.30a.m. in Marathi, 9.30a.m. for Children
Agony & Passion of the Lord: 11.00a.m. Preacher: Fr. Allwyn Nazareth SDB
The Lord's Passion Service: 5p.m. In Konkani
7.30p.m. In English followed by Passo Service in Marathi by Fr. Sabino D'Silva

HOLY SATURDAY, 23rd April 2011

Easter Vigil Service: 8.30p.m. Celebration of the Lord's Resurrection

EASTER SUNDAY, 24th April 2011

Masses: 6.30a.m. In Konkani; 7.45, 9.00 & 10.15am. English
NO EVENING MASS

The Parish Fathers, Sisters and the Antonian team wish our parishioners a "HOLY AND HAPPY EASTER" - Rejoice ! Hallelujah! For Christ has Risen! Hallelujah!

LENT-EASTER: A TIME TO PASS-OVER AND BE FILLED WITH PASCHAL JOY!

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In Christianity, time has a fundamental importance. Within the dimension of time, the world was created; within it, the history of salvation unfolds, finding its culmination in the "fullness of time" of the Incarnation, passion, death and resurrection, and its goal in the glorious return of the Son of God at the end of time. In Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh, time becomes a dimension of God, who is himself eternal.

In the light of the New Testament, the years of Christ's earthly life truly constitute the centre of time; this centre reaches its apex in the Resurrection. But for that to happen, he has to first undergo the "Paschal-tension" of being rejected by the human race whom he loved so much and for whom, he came into the world – "He came unto his own, but his own received him not..." (Jn 1/11). "He has to self-empty himself (Kenosis in Gk) and take the form of a servant, humbling himself and being obedient unto death, so that God would highly exalt him and give him a name above every other name, so that every knee would bend at the name of Jesus, and every tongue confess that He is Lord, to the glory of God the Father" (Phil 2/7-11). It is precisely for this reason that, in celebrating the Easter Vigil, the Church acclaims the Risen Christ as "the beginning and the End, the Alpha and the Omega." These words clearly attest that "Christ is the Lord of time: every year, every day and every moment are embraced by his Incarnation, Death and Resurrection, and thus become part of the "fullness of time".

Similarly, Lent is the period of "Paschal-tension" for us, as it was for Jesus. It is like a desert in our life, providing the quiet we need for prayer, for reflection on the Word of God, providing us a time "to retreat"- a time for "Self-denial": so that we may die to ourselves, so that we may be able to give food to the hungry, drink to the thirsty and comfort the afflicted. It is a time par excellence for reconciliation, with God and with our neighbor and for a daily sharing in the death-resurrection of Jesus through the Eucharist.

Though most dictionaries, prompted by the Venerable Bede tell us that, the word "Easter" takes its origin from 'Eastre', the Teutonic goddess of the dawn, whose rites were celebrated in spring, it may more likely have come from the German 'Urstand' which means, "Resurrection". Or it may even have come from East, from where the sun rises and the dawn (eastarun) appears. In the Easter mystery of Christ, all these significant meanings can be applied in their fullest sense, for by becoming the grain of wheat, the Unleavened Bread, the Passover Lamb, Jesus wove his death-resurrection, his PASCHAL MYSTERY into the cosmic cycle of life-through-death! Through his resurrection, we too shall rise to new life by making our PASSOVER with Him. May you have a joyful and fruitful Lent, making your PASSOVER with the Lord by sharing in his Death-Resurrection in the Holy Week. "Hallelujah! Christ has risen from the dead; He has risen to die no more! A VERY HAPPY EASTER TO ALL OF YOU!

Fr. Lawrence A. D'Souza,
Editor.

REPORT ON AREA MASS IN OUR PARISH

The Annual Area Masses were held in 36 communities from October, 2010 till February, 2011 in keeping with the theme of "Care for Creation". The celebration of the Eucharist is the essence of the Small Christian Communities which calls us to a live a life filled with humility, love and dedicated service. I take this opportunity to thank our Parish priests for their inspiring homilies and encouraging words and support extended to the animators and community members. I would also like to thank the co-ordinators and animators for all the efforts made to enhance and make the theme relevant to present day situation and may they continue to serve their communities.

-Christina Lobo
Parish Project Co-ordinator

...A WISE MAN ONCE SAID, "CREATE TO RECREATE"

In many ways, it still amazes me how a seemingly straightforward (and self-explanatory) assignment of making the Crib and the Star can change a person's world view in several ways. Who ever knew that you could enjoy doing something so much, that it didn't really matter how dirty you got while doing the job. A wise man once told me that you will never get to know a person that well, until you have both dunked your hands in a bucket of Plaster of Paris together. Okay, maybe it isn't the greatest piece of advice (or maybe he wasn't so wise after all...). Whatever the case be, after December 2010, I'm willing to take his word on it.

The team started off with a planning period and I have to say, that this was sort of the most likeable phase of the entire process (likeable yes, most enjoyable – not so much). The theme given to us was "Care for Creation". Fr. Lawrence suggested that we base the crib on the basic principle – everything was created to be destroyed, and then recreated. On Christmas, Jesus was brought to the world, for the sole purpose of dying and rising again on Easter. Safe to say that this logic involved repeated explanations, and several slightly confused people. But yes, it did make sense. Would any sort of hint of Jesus Christ's death on a crib with baby Jesus on it be slightly morbid? Not really when you think about it. The end result – a star with an Earth waving for help (or more appropriately – a falling star!), and a crib with a manger surrounded by scenes of creation and destruction.

I couldn't have asked for a better outcome or for better people to work with on it. I conclude with by saying, the time I spent on the Crib and the Star, the people I met, the lessons I learned, were all worth their weight in gold.

- Chirag Apte
Confirmation Student

LA FIESTA

"LA FIESTA" a social gathering was held in St. Anthony Parish was organized by the PYC members on the 2nd of JAN 2011. Since the youth of Vakola wanted something vibrant happening in the church, the PYC members thought of having a "New Year Ball" it was a good time that we all cherished with our fellow-mates everyone dressed in their formal wear. It was a grand celebration started off by the march. Thanks to our Registration team who had taken a lot of pain in getting our youth involved, we had a signature poster to make an entry special. Our comperes for the evening were Adonia and Joel. There were a lot of spot prizes as well... The East indian masala mix with goan tracks got us all dancing crazy till the end ...it was an evening filled with delight and enthusiasm....lastly are great thanks to Fr. Lawrence, Romina and Charleston for gracing us on this Auspicious day.

-Marian Miranda

RECOLLECTION BY FR. FELIX

A recollection for the coordinators and animators of our parish was held on 28th November 2010. The speaker for the day was Fr Felix, a FILMC (Formation and Involvement of the Laity in the Ministry of the Church) member. Fr Felix briefed us on 10 guidelines wherein we became aware as to how one could get involved in the working and functioning of the SCCs. Through the 10 guidelines, we were guided to understand that in serving our community, we serve God as God is the only way to build a community. Therefore, God has chosen each of us to serve, help, care, help in times of need, conduct activities in our communities, etc. It was quite an enlightening experience for us Coordinators and animators all thanks to Fr. Felix. May our Lord bless him in his priestly ministry.

- Beena P Fernandes
SCC Coordinator - Area No.13A



RELIGIOUS DAY

Our parish celebrated Religious Day on February 5, 2011. We are blessed with Five religious congregations i.e. Sisters of St. Charles, Helpers of Mary, Queen of Apostles, the Bridgetine Sisters, Sisters of St. Anne's who were felicitated.

The Celebration began with the Eucharist on the theme being of 'Called to Be Sent Out In Love & Service'. The SCC Project Coordinator thanked the sisters for all their help and support in the pastoral work in the building of the SCCs in the parish. This was followed by a small get-together in the School Hall along with the Parish Councilors and the area coordinators. Ms Melanie Fernandes expressed her gratitude to the sisters as our sisters cut the feast day cake. The event was hosted by 2 young dynamic and talented youth. Games and spot prizes marked the highlights of the day. A token in appreciation was presented to each religious sister. Mr. Marlon Rego, vice president of the Parish Council proposed a vote of thanks.

Well done Sisters, please continue your good work!

- Christina Lobo
SCC Project Coordinator

THEY CAME, THEY SAW. THEY HAD FUN.

Masti ki paathshaala 2010 was just what its name suggested – Masti and paathshaala. It was a perfect blend of fun and learning at the same time. Not only for the over hundred and fifty children who partook in it with all their enthusiasm and energy, but also for the

youth volunteers who gave it their 100 percent. It is a Holiday Club which was held from 8th - 12th November on the church grounds for the school children of Vakola conducted by the youth of the Parish. MKP, as it is fondly called, includes a variety of games for the children, both indoor and outdoor games. And this time around what was even more special was that the games were designed to not only make the kids enjoy but also learn something. The most wonderful part of MKP was the fact that we, the organizers, became kids ourselves. It was indeed a pleasure to be around the kids who were so energetic and enthusiastic that you could not help but laugh and play with them.

This report of MKP cannot be complete without a special mention of this year's confirmation batch. It was their relentless effort, detailed planning and dedicated service that made Masti ki Paathshaala possible.

From the entire team of Antonian, here is a special Thank-you to all the youth who volunteered and made the five days of MKP so much fun. I hope this enthusiasm continues and the PYC can have many more such events.

- Zenia D'Cunha
VP. PYC

FAITH CELEBRATION DAY (IX)

On Thursday, 10th February 2011, the students of St. Anthony's High School attended the Faith celebration at St. Mary's, Kalina. Our topic was 'Small Christian Communities.' We had prepared all through the year for this day beginning with our Religion teacher, Sir Ronny Fernandes' teachings, followed by a seminar given



by a well known animator from our Parish. The programme was conducted very gracefully by Fr. Gavin. It started with snacks and moved forward to an ice breaker and then a quiz. After that every school started presenting skits on various topics like S.C.C's, house workers, street children, Environment - Save mother earth...etc. Every skit gave out a message. After all the skits were over, we attended mass and then left for home.

- Ashley D'Costa
St. Anthony's High School, Vakola

MY EXPERIENCE IN CONFIRMATION CLASS

Confirmation is one of the sacraments of initiation. Before class began I never really understood this sentence but confirmation classes have made me conclude that confirmation initiates discussions, knowledge and better understanding of God's message.

The confirmation class has been a great experience for many reasons one of which is discussions. It's amazing to know how you and your friends have different views about the common faith we share. It helped in order to wipe out certain wrong ideas. Our animators tried their best every Sunday to make the lessons as interesting as possible with presentations, dialogues etc. We were also given group activities which helped build team spirit and boost confidence levels in each of us.

Confirmation class accordingly brought about a development of faith in God as well as personality development. It has succeeded in strengthening our faith and also prepared us for the future where we will be challenged in different ways.

As we prepare to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit on the day of our Confirmation, I would like to thank all those who helped us to grow in faith especially our animators who made each of our class a memorable one!!!

- Amantia D'souza
Confirmation student

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“EASTER FILLS US WITH HOPE”

My dear Parishioners,

In the context of Easter, I share a couple of incidents I read:-

Sir Winston Churchill, the former Prime Minister of England, took three years to pass Std. VIII, because he had trouble learning English. Later on, the Oxford University once invited him to give the opening lecture to the students at the start of the academic year. Churchill reached the stage with his usual cigar, (walking stick) and his hat. Removing the cigar, and carefully placing the hat on the table, Churchill gazed at his audience. There was authority in his voice when he shouted, “Never give up.” Several seconds passed before he repeated: “Never give up”. His words thundered in their ears. There was a deafening silence as Churchill reached for his hat and cigar, steadied himself with his cane and left the platform. The Lecture was over. Never give up.....echoes of the Easter message....we shall overcome....Hope...

A man had cancer. He was only 42. He had a wife and 4 young children. The doctor told his people that he was to live anywhere until 6 months and 3 years. It took him and his wife quite sometime to absorb the shock. In their sorrow, they hardly spoke to one another.

And then, the man began treatment for Cancer. And, as they were returning from the hospital, the man

stopped the car by the side of the road. And he told his wife: “I’m not dead yet. I’ve got cancer. And I’ll probably die of it. But I’m not dead yet. We’ve got to talk about it. And the wife said: “Are you sure you want to talk about it. Are you sure that you are ready to talk about it? And he said, “Yes, I have been feeling miserable and making all of you miserable. Let us talk about it and talk to the children about it. And so, they reached home and after the man spoke to his children, “You know, I’ve got cancer and the doctors say that I will probably die of it. I’ve started treatment and I’m going to stay alive as long as I can. And I want you to help me. We don’t have to like death, but we don’t have to be frightened by death either.

And after his children went to bed, he held his wife’s hand and said: “You know, when this happened, I cursed God. Why did he do this to me? Why not to somebody like that drunkard down the street who has no family. And you know what God said, “Go home and start living again”. And I thought: Why not? I can still move about. I don’t know how many days I have left. For that matter, none of us know how much time we have left. So why not grab each day as it comes, and make the most of it, explore it to the fullest, enjoy all its delights and treasures.

And so, this man who was a journalist, sat down and wrote an article for a newspaper, telling how it feels to be a person with cancer. And he was deluged with replies from patients and their families. And so he thought: why not begin some sort of club for people with life-threatening situations, to help one another. For the first meeting, there were 18 persons and they called their group

"Make Today Count" (MTC). Other persons heard of MTC and soon more groups were formed all over the country. And this man, who was not given much time to live, was traveling and speaking all over the country. And this is what Easter tells us: Not only is Christ alive You are alive - Make Today Count....Hope....

Each year, we are given this joyful Season of Lent, when we prepare to celebrate the Paschal Mystery, with mind and heart renewed. We recall the events that give us new life in Christ and when we realize that God sent his only Son, not to judge us, not to condemn us, but to heal, save and guide us on the paths of love, we find Hope....

May Lent be a season of renewal, so that Easter fills us with Hope.....

And so to everybody, but more to all those who are feeling low and depressed.....

A Hope-filled Easter to You!

- Fr. Seraj Pinto
Parish Priest

LENTEN LITURGIES: MAKING THE "MOST" OF LENT – THE "BRIDGE" TO EASTER JOY!

Popular piety and practices such as growing long beards, abstaining from having a haircut and from consuming alcohol (sometimes publicly compensated for at Easter), addressing Lent, as a 'sorrowful period' (dukh'ache divas) depicts Lent to be a "Kill-joy season" or even for that matter, a season caged in "externalisms" of the various forms of piety and humanly fabricated customs that exaggerate sentimental piety born out of uninformed traditional mindsets.

Quite to the Contrary, Lent is like a desert in our life, providing the quiet we need for prayer. It is a time for Bible reading, for reflection, for theological study, for a post-baptismal Catechesis. Lent in many ways is like a retreat, perhaps the only one most lay persons would ever make! It is also a time for self-denial: so that we may be able to give food to the hungry, drink to the thirsty, clothing to the poor, shelter to the homeless and comfort to the afflicted. It is a time par excellence for the Sacrament of Reconciliation and for a daily sharing in the death-resurrection of Jesus through the Eucharist. The Lenten liturgies at Mass bring home to us the spirit and theology of the Season, so that we can make Lent more fruitful by a daily preparation for each Lenten liturgy through

a prayerful study of the readings and other texts of the Lenten Masses. This article is to facilitate you practically to enter the true Spirit of Lent, which is a Season of PASCHAL JOY.

The Mass texts of Lent yield a wealth of information about the meaning of the holy season, particularly about its Baptismal-penitential character. Lent, as we know, came into existence for two groups of people:

a) The Penitents, who at the start of Lent, made their confession to the Bishop who sprinkled them with ashes (hence, "Ash Wednesday") and expelled them with the same words used by God for Adam and eve: "Remember that thou art dust and to dust thou shall return." They were to be reconciled on Holy Thursday;

b) The Catechumens, ready for baptism were enrolled on the first Sunday of Lent and who were baptized at the Easter Vigil Service. Hence, the readings of the Lenten Masses can now be studied with this historical background at the back of our minds. For instance, as the first Monday of Lent was also the first day of public penance, the Gospel about the Last Judgment in which Jesus separates the sheep from the goats is rather pertinent, considering that the penitents had a place of their own and were separate from the rest of the congregation.



There are three main themes which find expression in the Masses of Lent: Penance, baptism and the passion – often found interwoven throughout the season:- a) Penance dominates the Liturgy during the first two weeks seen in the readings as well as the collects and the prefaces bringing out the various dimensions of penance – positive-negative, social-personal, interior-external; b) By the third week, the Mass texts take on a baptismal theme (The Samaritan woman, Naaman, the healing at the Sheep pool); c) It is only towards the end of Lent, particularly in Holy Week, that the theme of the Passion predominates.

Once again, when we review the historical development of the Season of Lent, we realize that later in the Church's history both the catechumens and public penitents disappeared. On the one hand, adult baptism was no longer the order of the day so that there was no catechumenate. On the other hand, penitents were reconciled or absolved at all times of the year. So the season of Lent was extended to the entire Church – a good move indeed, since we are all sinners and need catechesis and time to make a breakthrough! Indeed, Lent offers us each year a forty-day period of Passover from death to life, sin to freedom, discord to reconciliation, hatred to love, selfishness to sharing, despair to hope, from being locked-in to openness. Lent is the bridge we must cross before we can have the Paschal Joy of Easter!

- Fr. Lawrence A. D'Souza

GOD IS HOLDING HIS BREATH

Offer! Offer! A Mega Offer! Hurry up. Validity till stock last. The world of Media surrounds us with many such "Mega Offers" that we are easily attracted to it, unless otherwise. For some the TV has become a counselor who directs their life, makes them grow in knowledge, etc. And still some are attracted to offers made by a successful career, for whom other things are secondary. We are so much caught up with the activities of our life that we easily tend to miss the 'Mega Offer' of life that God proposes us.

But this was not the case with our Lady. Unlike being caught up only in the things of this world, Mary was steeped in the Torah (The Law of God ie. Old Testament) & had memorized sections of it since she probably couldn't read. Almost through her veins coursed the story of God's fidelity towards his people. She would have lit the Sabbath candle each week as a graphic reminder of God's goodness. She would have sung the psalms regularly.

On the other hand, she lived under Roman oppression. She had friends who were sold into slavery with their children when Romans slaughtered 2000 Israelite men. As if being caught up between these powerful forces was not enough, she is visited by Angel Gabriel. But Mary, because of her piety, is able to recognize the visitation of the angel of God. The Angel then asks Mary's consent in God's Plan, whether she would give God a human body? One thing to be noted here is that God asks humans to consent. He does not simply dispose things as He wishes through his own power. In this creature, man, God has created a free being (freewill) to stand over against him and God has now need of the freedom of this creature that His kingdom may truly come to be, that kingdom which is based, not upon external power, but upon freedom. It is like; God is holding his breath when Mary is asked for her consent. Mary's fiat as it is called (Fiat being not a cute little car but



in latin it means "let it be done to me according to God's word" was a 'Yes' to the unknown. Such are the only 'Yes' that really count.

St. Thomas Aquinas teaches that Mary's fiat is a "yes" which is uttered in the name of humanity in general: A willingness of human beings to use their free will to cooperate with God in the saving of souls beginning with our own.

Mary's 'Yes' becomes the cause of salvation for the whole human race. And so likewise God still keeps making an unceasing offer to us to make a difference in our life & thereby in the world. It could be 'reaching out those in need, standing for justice, caring for creation & so on. But there is a far greater or you may say a 'Mega offer', God makes it to all of us and that is by calling for a religious life.

This kind of vocation/ calling is a kind of some stirring

of the soul, to undertake a special state of life which is ordained to the supernatural good of others. How can a vocation be so important? The grace of a vocation is the source of many graces. It is an occasion for doing many good works, for having more time pray, to learn about God, to serve him by love & sacrifice & fidelity. It is the source of graces for ourselves, as God apportions to each of us grace in the measure of our needs. A religious vocation is a magnificent grace from God, but it is only the beginning of a long chain of graces one must cooperate with, by serving God with love and fervor.

Yet some struggle to respond to the call & many, being caught up by offers of the world, miss out to hear God speaking. This reminds of an incidence where after a battle, in a certain place the hands of Jesus 'statue had broken & underneath it a placard was put mentioning "Now Jesus has no hands but yours".

I conclude by quoting an extract from Pope Benedict XVI' speech to the youth: 'Do not be afraid of Christ! He takes nothing away but He gives you everything. When we give ourselves to Him, we receive a hundredfold in return. Yes open, open wide the doors to Christ & you will find true life.

May Mary our Mother help us to say the "Yes" on which our Loving Father wants to make the world a better place & on which our Loving Father is almost holding his breath.

- Francis Ferrao

FEAST OF THE DIVINE MERCY

The Feast of the Divine Mercy falls on the octave day of Easter. The eighth day, the octave is the fulfillment of what Easter is all about – perfect life in eternity. The feast of the Divine Mercy fulfills the purpose of the restoration of the liturgical year, allowing "the faithful through their faith, hope and love to share more deeply in the whole mystery of Christ as it unfolds throughout the year."

This Feast is a summation of the event to His active mercy in our lives now. It is because of His mercy that we have forgiveness of sin and new life as children of God. This needs to be celebrated! The idea of this special celebration of God's mercy on the Sunday after Easter is not a new or radical idea stemming simply from private revelation. Our Lord, through Saint Faustina, is simply reemphasizing what was strongly urged by Saint Thomas the Apostle in the earliest liturgical document in existence.



In preparing for the feast of the Divine Mercy we are to make a novena of Chaplets to the Divine Mercy (beginning on Good Friday), and to be purified by the sacrament of reconciliation.

Devotion to the Divine Mercy involves a total commitment to God as Mercy. It is a decision to trust completely in Him, to accept His mercy with thanksgiving, and to be merciful as He is merciful. The Divine Mercy devotion, the message takes on a powerful new focus, calling people to a deeper understanding that God's love is unlimited and available to everyone – especially the greatest sinners.

The message of mercy is that God loves us – all of us – no matter how great our sins. He wants us to recognize that His mercy is greater than our sins, so that we will call upon Him with trust, receive His mercy, and let it flow through us to others. Thus, all will come to share His joy. It is a message we can call to mind simply by remembering ABC. A- Ask for His Mercy, B- Be merciful and C- Completely trust in Jesus.

It ensures even greater prominence to the paschal mystery of Christ and is filled with His saving grace. It is a feast with three distinct dimensions, each emphasizing an aspect of the paschal mystery that needs to be brought out more clearly and appropriated by the faithful: merciful love, atonement and covenant.

The image of The Divine Mercy with its rays signifying the Blood and water that flowed from Christ's pierced side with the inscription (Jesus, I Trust In You), and to our Lord's insistence that this image be specially venerated on the first Sunday after Easter, which is to be celebrated as the Feast of Mercy. (Divine Mercy Sunday).

We can also see these rays as simultaneously symbolizing the Holy Spirit, whom Christ breathed into the Disciples during the same Octave –day appearance. This is Christ's great promise of complete pardon of sin and punishment on the Feast of Mercy through the reception of the Sacraments (which is a participation of Christ's death to sin and rising to divine life.)

On the octave day of Easter we, too, ratify the Covenant of Mercy, reaffirming not only our Baptism, already renewed at the Easter vigil, but also the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Confirmation and Eucharist.

Our Lord is asking for a Feast of His mercy to bring attention to the outpouring of the ocean of graces, and to His promise of the complete forgiveness of sins and punishment, to the souls that will go to confession and receive Holy Communion.

The Feast of the Divine Mercy strikes the resonant chord of Easter, developing the meaning and richness of the paschal mystery and applying it in a new and deeper way. It resonates with all of nature, sounding anew the grace of the resurrection, alleluia!

- Jennifer Mendes

The novena for the Divine Mercy starts on Good Friday, i.e. 22nd April, 2011 at 12.00pm after the 3 hour agony and continues on 23rd April- at 9.00am, 24th April after the 9.00am mass, 25th April- 30th April after the 7.30am mass.

Divine Mercy Sunday- 1st May, 2011- 3.00pm with exposition of the Blessed Sacrament with homily and benediction.

EASTER TIDE - JOURNEY OF THE NEW PENTECOST

As Eastertide unfolds, we feel the power and influence of the Spirit growing. This is the Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead, and the Spirit who brings the Church to birth at Pentecost. As we journey towards Pentecost - the climax of the Easter Season - we should be considering the presence of the Spirit in the Church today: the reconciler of disputes, the solver of problems, true inspiration for the family of God on our journey to the New Jerusalem! From this side, Pentecost is about promise: the Lord at the Last Supper promises that He and the Father will "make their home" with all who keep his words - and it is the Advocate, the Holy Spirit who will remind us of his words. We believe that all Scripture is "inspired" - the word of the Spirit - the fulfillment of the promise made by the Lord.

It is significant that Pentecost ushers in the Ordinary Times of the Liturgical Calendar. The Liturgical calendar in starting the Ordinary Time after the Pentecost bridges the continuing journey of Christians from the experience of Easter and the ordinary life. Our journey towards the fulfillment of God's Promise is fulfilled in the ordinariness of our lives. Christians who are the People of God in the New Covenant relive the journey of the Israelites with the experience of the Pentecost serving as the guiding light for the journey, seeking guidance in the discernment of the community anointed by the Spirit. The Pentecost story signals that the New People of God, as a prophetic community, is on a journey to continually read the "signs of the time," discerning the will of God and proclaiming the Good News in their lives and in the society. The community of disciples, from the least to the greatest, united with its head- Jesus, discerns and experiences the will of God (Hebrews 8: 11). It fulfills the utterance made by the Lord that He will make a New Covenant with which the Law is no longer written on tablets of stones but in the heart of the disciples (Hebrews 8: 10).

So let us as one community in Christ's love seek His wisdom and strength to walk in His righteous ways to serve our community, our needy brethren and aged members. With the Spirit's peace bring unity within us and our neighborhood. With the Spirit's joy live a cherished and accomplished life. With the Spirit's knowledge nurture our souls and discern His will in our lives. With the Spirit's kindness be a helping hand to a needy brethren. With the Spirit's humility grow to be a servant leader. With the Spirit's faithfulness, abide in the love of the Father and remain united with Him. With the spirit's self- control, be a model of change and transformation to society.

Spread the Easter light dispelling the darkness within and around us making Christ' light shine through you... and be made an instrument of peace and sustainable change in our parish.

- Sarah Joseph

EASTER: NIGHT OF NIGHTS

"I am the Light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." (John 8:12), these words come to its perfection when Jesus makes a Passover from his dark days of the passion to the brightness of his resurrection on Easter. The origins of the word "Easter" is not certain, but probably it is derived from Estre, an Anglo-Saxon goddess of spring. The German word Ostern has the same derivation, but most other languages follow the Greek term used by the early Christians: pascha, from the Hebrew pesach (Passover) or the feast of the Passover. The Liturgy of the Easter Vigil is divided into four parts: The Liturgy of Light, The Liturgy of the Word, The Liturgy of Baptism and The Liturgy of the Eucharist.

The Liturgy of the Light is the first part of the Vigil and also the most essential one as it symbolizes of the Passover from darkness to light which in short would mean that the absence of the God symbolizes living in darkness and his presence means illumination of our life. At the opening of the Easter Vigil the place is darkened by extinguishing all lights and lamps. This represents the darkness of the world without God. a "new fire" is lit and blessed. The Paschal candle is the first candle to be lit with a flame from this sacred fire, representing the light of Christ coming into the world. This represents the risen Christ, as a symbol of light (life) dispelling darkness (death). As it is lit, the minister may say words similar to: "The light of Christ, rising in Glory, dispels the darkness of our hearts and minds." While entering in procession the celebrant repeats the words "Christ our Light" to which the congregation replies, "Thanks be to God."

The origin of the paschal candle is uncertain. The most likely origin is that it derived from the Lucernarium, the evening office with which early Christians began the vigil for every Sunday and especially that of Easter. In turn, this rite is probably inspired by the Jewish custom of lighting a lamp at the conclusion of the Sabbath. The rite therefore has its roots in the very beginning of Christianity. The Paschal candle is a tall white candle which is made out of wax from the virgin bees to symbolize the birth of Christ from a Virgin mother. It is placed on a special candlestick near the altar or ambo. During



the ceremony, five grains of incense representing Christ's wounds are inserted in the form of a cross. An alpha above the cross and an omega below (the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet) indicate that Christ is the beginning and end of all. The current year is traced on the four sides of the cross. The candle remains in the presbytery during the 50 days of Easter season and is lit for all liturgical offices. After Pentecost it is left next to the baptismal font. During the year it is lit during all baptisms and funeral services; the candle is placed next to the casket during the funeral Mass. In this way it symbolizes baptism as a death and resurrection in Christ, and also testifies to Christian certainty in the resurrection of the dead as well as to the fact that all are alive in the risen Christ. The tall white candle in many ways signifies the Divine pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night that lead the Israelites in their Exodus from slavery in Egypt.

After the candle is blessed and has been placed in the candle stand next to the altar it is incensed by the priest. The deacon /cantor proclaims the message of the Resurrection with special solemnity, inviting the congregation to join in the joy he expresses in his hymn of praise: the Exultet. The Exultet is also known as the Easter Proclamation or in Latin Praeconium Paschale, is the hymn of praise sung before the Paschal candle after the procession preceding the liturgy of the Word. As it stands in the liturgy:

- An invitation to those present to join with the deacon in invoking the blessing of God, that the praises of the candle may be worthily celebrated.

- "Dominus vobiscum" etc., "Sursum corda etc.", "Gratias agamus" etc. This section serves as the introduction to the body of the Praeconium, cast in the Eucharistic form to emphasize its solemnity.
- The Praeconium proper, which is of the nature of a Preface, has first, a parallel drawn between the Passover of the Old and the New Covenants, the candle corresponding to the Pillar of Fire. Here the language of the liturgy rises to heights to which it is hard to find a parallel in Christian literature. Through the outlines of ancient dogmas as through a portal we are drawn into the warmth of the deepest mysticism, to the region where, in the light of paradise, even the sin of Adam may be regarded as truly necessary and a happy fault. Secondly, the candle itself is offered as a burnt-sacrifice, a type of Christ, marked by grains of incense as with the five glorious wounds of his Passion.

After this the candles in the hands of the congregation are extinguished only to light another lamp in our hearts as we move to the next part of the service the Liturgy of the Word. Thus because of its significance St. Augustine calls "Easter – the mother of all vigils."

- Sucorrine Dias.

TIPS FOR A VACATION WITH A DIFFERENCE

Okay!!! So you've worked hard 24/7, burned the midnight lamp, completed assignments, prepared presentations and finally.... it is vacation time!!! Yippee!!! Bags are packed and off you go on that Holiday which was so meticulously planned, returning back with loads of souvenirs and memories.

All said and done but what if we make this vacation a little more challenging?

Appreciate the unappreciated by visiting the Old Age home. Your time. Their remedy.

Be a bookworm. Chetan Bhagat, Nicholas Sparks or any good book and a warm cup of coffee!!

Conversations with God through the Bible. Learn a new verse. Lightens the soul. Brightens the mind.

Discover the joy of cooking of cooking. Vacations are the best time to experiment different cuisines.

Educate an under privileged child. "TEACH INDIA" in your own community

For every day you spend this vacation document it. Your very own "Vacation Diaries"

Grow a mini garden. Beautify nature. Mother Earth will be happy.

Host a Chat show in your community.

Initiate a "Go Green Drive" Caring for nature is a blessing in disguise.

Jive, Salsa or Hip-Hop just dance to the beats these "Summer Days"

Keept the Sabbath Holy. Make up for the lost time and

Learn a new art. Unleash you creativity with Paper Mache, Pottery or maybe Karate!!

Melt all the calories this summer. Walk and talk.

Never mind all the late night parties. Spend quality time this vacation with your family.

Organize a clothes drive. Donate to the needy. Discover Joy.

Play gulli cricket. Crazy and Fun but a sure short energy booster.

Quieten all the noise that surrounds you. Practice meditation.

Rewind with good ol' classic songs. The wonderful 70's!!

Seek solace! A Holistic Retreat can work wonders for an exhausted mind.

Trace your family tree. It could be fun to know you are related to Archimedes or Einstein.

Volunteer at an NGO coz Good deed will reap great rewards.

Write short letters to your long lost friends. Surely they miss you loads.

Zero out all negative energy this vacation. Laugh, Lead, Live and Love!!!

- Belmira Miranda

CONGRATULATIONS DEACON MELROY!!!

Philippians 4: 13 'I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me', keeping this as his main motto Deacon Melroy is venturing to transform the lives of others through his life testimony, the word of God and leading the people to a God experience through his priestly ministry. Born in Mumbai, 36 years ago on the 2nd of July, Deacon Melroy will be ordained a diocesan priest on the 09th of April, 2011 in St. Pius X seminary at Goregaon.



Deacon Melroy has come to see that as a priest, life is different in the sense that, what defines a priest is the definite offering he makes of his life to Christ. He takes all he is and offers it to Christ. He lives only for him. This means primarily that he chooses Christ over any other human to be the center of his life, and he is totally dedicated to His will and His work. He is called to a greater accountability and transparency to the parish at large and so he is continually challenged to live the message of Jesus through his words & loving service. As a Leader of the community in his priestly function he is called to lead from the front through his role as a Prophet, Priest & King.

With a mission to helping the people & teaching them about God's love, Deacon Melroy sees the current challenges of priesthood against the backdrop of a very rapidly changing world. The challenges are walking the talk and keeping abreast of the latest trends in theology which will be the enabling factor in connecting with the lives of people. The second challenge he foresees is that of loneliness but this he states can be overcome through an active participation in his priestly ministry, regular contact and friendship with fellow priests, and good relations with the lay faithful.

In conclusion, Deacon Melroy would love to give young

people discerning a vocation this piece of advice, "The young people should discover the vocation within them. It is simply an awareness of self, and taking note of all that you have already done in your life till now. Your own life and experiences are the real guideposts. You have to be happy doing them. That would be the cue to determine your vocation."

We the parishioners of St. Anthony's Church, Vakola wish Deacon Melroy a hearty congratulation and the Lord's abundant blessings for a joyous and spirit filled priestly ministry. As the gospel of John says, "Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me."

- Sarah Joseph

POWER TO LEAD

'POWER TO LEAD' is an unique and influential Value based leadership movement. It is designed to develop you into an outstanding change agent and enables you to impact the world by creating a sustainable transformation in society based on freedom, justice and harmony. It empowers you with the concepts, skills and techniques of Strategic thinking and leadership principles rooted in biblical principles to respond to Jesus' call to be the 'salt of the earth' and 'light of the world'.

'POWER TO LEAD' is a 'not for profit' leadership programme, having completed 5 years with over 165 leaders already making a substantial difference in India today. A typical participant mix includes people from banking, media, education, entrepreneurs, corporates, politics, consultants and social work.

After doing this unique influential six months intensive programme I have being empowered and enriched to reach out to others in need. It has helped me discern my mission and calling in life.

All you need to do is invest in an 18 full days spread across 6 months from July, 2011 to February, 2012 For more details visit www.powertolead.net

- Sarah Joseph



THE WORLD SEEN THROUGH ROME...

- FEB 18/2011: Benedict XVI says that Evangelization will come through the understanding that a personal relationship with Christ is the key to complete fulfillment. The path to re-discovering humanity's true destiny can only be found in the re-establishment of the priority of God in the hearts and minds of every human person and that in Christ, he answers the deepest questions of our lives.
- The Servant of God, Pope John Paul II's beatification will be held on May 1, 2011 and will be an "historic event" which has no precedent and it will be presided over by Pope Benedict XVI, to present him to the world as a model of personal holiness. The Prefect of the Congregation for Saint's Causes says that Pope John Paul II's sanctity rested on two pillars: Faith in the presence of God and a Missionary Spirit – seen in his pilgrim journeys to the ends of the earth to proclaim the gospel of Christ.
- Benedict XVI's two-day visit to Spain had a deep impact. The Pontiff gave a profound message inviting them to overcome the split between human conscience and Christian conscience, the need for advances in medicine to respect human life and dignity and the contribution of the faith to a more fitting and promising society. His visit has sparked a greater interest of people in the Catholic Faith and life of the Church.
- Benedict XVI's new book – "JESUS OF NAZARETH" Part II – covering Holy Week – from the Entrance to Jerusalem to the Resurrection will be presented in the Vatican on March 10, 2011. The book has nine chapters and an Epilogue.
- Pope Benedict XVI's Lenten message: The Pope offers the whole Church this Lent – as individuals and communities – a "Road-Map" to rekindle the Supernatural life that was given to us in Baptism:-
 - a) The Pope wishes for us to experience a personal encounter with Christ through the specific persons and events in the Gospel passages on the five Sundays of Lent, so that we may allow ourselves in these 40 days to listen, contemplate and act on God's Word;
 - b) To encounter Christ in His Word and Sacraments, manifesting itself in the concrete works of mercy – an impetus for Lenten Campaigns – with the help of God's grace, to move our hearts from living self-centered lives to loving our neighbor in need;
 - c) To look at Lent as a "path" or a "journey" a span of time, to bring to fruition the seed planted at Baptism, with the ultimate offer of communion with God in eternity, shaping our life here on earth, both individually as well as socially today

Courtesy: Zenith News Agency, Rome

PRAYER SERVICE FOR EASTER BLESSING OF HOMES IN ENGLISH & KONKANI

By the Head of the Family (H)

(The whole family assembles at a convenient time and begins with a hymn- Bind us together)

H: Peace be upon our house

R: And upon us who dwell here

S/s Reading: Col 3/12-25 (Reflect & Share)

INTERCESSIONS: R/- Stay with us, Lord

- Lord, make our family aware of your presence and keep us close to you, making us strong in faith and love. R/-
- Lord, teach all the members of the family how to use our daily trails to build up a home of love. R/-
- Lord, grant eternal rest to all the deceased members of our family. R/-

Let us pray: Blessed are you, O Lord in the Passover of the Old Testament you kept unharmed the Hebrew houses of your people, that were sprinkled with the blood of a lamb. Your Son was crucified for us and raised from the dead so that we might be saved. In your goodness send your angel to watch over us, your flock, to protect us and be with us to defend us from all harm. We ask this through the same Christ Our Lord. R/- AMEN.

(The head of the house then sprinkles holy water, while the rest sing – I saw living water flowing from the temple)

Kuttumbachea vhoddilan (V)

Gaion: Mhojea Nanvan ekttaim zal'leam

V: Sovostkai hea ghorak

Z: Ani soglleank hanga ravtoleank

Vachop: Kol 3/12-25 (Niall korcho)

Bh.Prar: Z/- Amchem modem rav, Dhonia

- Hea ghorabeant soglle ami jieunk and vaddonk ekvottan ani mogan, ravun sodanch tuje lagim. Z/-
- Amcho Kristi ghorabo oddchonnim modem legun, sodanch ekvottan asunk. Deva lagim magum-ia. Z/-
- Dhonia, dhi sassnacho visov amchea kuttumbachea sogllea mel'leank. Z/-

Prarthum-ia: Povitr Dhonia ani amchea Bapa, Tuji porza Ejiptantli bhair sorli tednam mornachi khast laitelea tujea dhutak Hebrevamchea ghoramnim rigunk tuvem dilem naim, zanchea ghoramcher menddreachem rogot ximpddail'lem aslem, jem zaun aslo rupkar Krista amchea Paskamchea Menddreacho, Zannem apnnakuch amchea khatir somorpilo. Tujea boreaponnan, dhadd Tujea boddveak samballunk amkam sorv Vaitta-vignanntlem. Teach Somia Jezuche nanvim. AMEN.

(Ghoracho Vhoddil ghor benzar korta ani ieram gaion kortat: Argham Tuka Somia.)



T	F	I	G	O	U	R	D	O	W
O	A	I	N	R	U	T	E	R	E
D	T	D	R	O	W	Y	I	P	S
N	H	E	V	E	I	L	E	B	S
I	E	L	O	O	S	O	L	T	P
M	R	B	L	E	C	H	R	I	I
E	P	U	V	E	C	A	E	P	R
R	L	O	E	A	E	S	T	S	I
E	L	R	E	H	O	M	E	E	T
T	H	T	A	E	U	Q	E	B	E

LOVES REMIND WORD PEACE
 FATHER BEQUEATH HOME GIFT
 ADVOCATE HEARTS HOLY TROUBLED
 SPIRIT RETURN TEACH BELIEVE



ΕΙΣ ΤΗΝ ΔΟΞΑΝ ΤΗΣ ΚΑΘΑΡΗΣ
ΚΑΙ ΑΣΠΕΡΓΗΣ ΤΗΣ ΚΑΡΜΙΝΟΣ
ΙΗΣΟΥ ΧΡΙΣΤΟΥ ΤΟΥ ΘΕΟΥ ΚΑΙ ΣΩΤΗΡΟΣ



