



ANTONIAN

ST. ANTHONY'S CHURCH, VAKOLA

FEAST ISSUE - JUNE, 2012

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ST. ANTHONY –

is always venerated as a Patron of those who have suffered a loss and of the Poor. He was baptized as Ferdinand and later when he joined the Franciscan Order, he took the name "Anthony." In the beginnings, Anthony lived a life of obscurity in the Congregation, but Providence soon revealed to the Franciscans what a treasure they had acquired and Anthony was made professor of Theology. Later he gave up teaching to devote himself to preaching, for he was an accomplished Orator, being at the same time with zeal for souls. In his life time, he desired to be a Martyr for Christ. That did not happen. Though he was denied the grace of a Martyr's death, St. Anthony was a Martyr of the Word, a Martyr of the road, a Martyr of the crowds. So numerous were those who flocked to hear him that no Church could house them and the Saint often was forced to preach in the open air.

We pray to our Patron St. Anthony, that he may fill us with a zeal for the Gospel and that through his intercession, we may truly live a Christian life, especially in our families and in our Communities, experiencing his aid in all adversities! A VERY HAPPY FEAST TO ALL!

Fr. Lawrence A. D'Souza
Editor

ST. ANTHONY, WE PRAISE THEE.

A couple of years ago in the month of March some pick-pockets riding on a bike had stolen two of my gold chains and pulled my dupatta while I was walking in the neighbourhood. I registered a police complaint about my stolen chains. I also kept praying to St. Anthony to help me recover at least one chain. On June 13th, St. Anthony's feast day, the police asked me to come to the police station and identify one chain that they found. As I was preparing to go to church for St. Anthony's Novena devotion, I told the police that I would come the following day and the next day, I got one chain back. Thank you, St. Anthony, patron saint of lost items.

- Lily Dsouza (Community No. 17B)

GOODBYE DEAR...

... Fr. Vinay Kamath.

Joining our parish as a deacon for two and a half months, Fr. Vinay was ordained priest in August 2011. Posted as an Assistant Priest, Fr. Vinay was chiefly in charge of the Altar Servers, Prayer Group (Konkani, English and Youth Cell), the Parish Youth Movement (PYC and PYAT) and five Small Christian Communities in our parish. We would like to thank Fr. Vinay for his constant support and encouragement to our

parishioners. We wish him all the best for his ministry in his next posting.

... Fr. Sabino D'silva

Having been a part of our parish for two years, Fr. Sabino has directed the RCIA and Pre-Baptism Ministry in our parish. He was known to celebrate meaningful masses and preaching effective homilies. We pray that God may bless Fr. Sabino with good health and speedy recovery as he retires to the Clergy Home.

WELCOME FR. CLARENCE SEQUEIRA

Motto: I can do all things in Christ who strengthens me. (Phil 4:15)



Life is a gift from God. I did not value it much until my retreat in 1999 where I had a personal encounter with Christ. Then onwards began a journey to search the will of God. Finally I can say that I have reached a major step of this wonderful beautiful journey with Christ, the ordination to the priesthood. Along this journey towards priesthood, when sometimes it seemed that the goal was yet far away, this word of God touched me 'I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me' Phil 4:13. When I felt helpless, it was Christ who reminded me that it was He who had chosen me and I could do all things in Him in spite of all my weaknesses.

As I begin my journey as a newly ordained priest on his first appointment, I look up to the Lord and towards the new parish with Hope. As a priest I would like to emphasize a life of contemplation in action. Primarily to give first place to the Lord in prayer, and to be able to transmit the need to have a healthy relationship with the Lord, on a daily basis. It would be a wonderful experience to meet the new parishioners, to get to know them, in the different associations and cells, and also thorough periodical visitations.

God loves you very much dear parishioners, so 'seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things shall be yours as well' Matt 6:33.

Welcome dear Fr. Clarence Sequeira to St. Anthony's Church, Vakola. May God bless you with a fruitful priestly ministry in our parish. All the best for all your priestly endeavors.

MY FIRST HOLY COMMUNION - AN INSIGHT

21st April, 2012 will always be a special day in my life. On this day I received my First Holy communion. For one year I attended classes where I learnt about Jesus – the bread of life and finally I received him in my heart on 21st April, 2012. Before receiving Jesus I had to undergo a lot of training. Throughout the year I was taught what the Holy Mass means and that Jesus is present during the Mass. This was the first time I also received the gift of confession where I can be set free from my sins. This day changed my life. Now I want to be more obedient and loving. I want to help others and want them to see Jesus in me. I pray that each day I will draw closer to my Saviour and my God.

- Bianca Fernandes

MY CONFIRMATION EXPERIENCE!

Like any teenager I too thought that confirmation would be a waste of time and boring. Initially it was like that, but only because of my disinterest.

During the course of time, I realized how valuable this sacrament is, to the youth of today.

Most of the youth today do not understand the value of their parents, their hard work, and above all the meaning of the Eucharist and the importance of God. They do not even pray with a dedicated heart. But confirmation has taught me that Jesus has given me a special gift... The gift of the 'Holy Spirit'. He is my Guide and my Help. God doesn't seem to be distant any more, He is now my friend. It has helped me to appreciate and acknowledge the things God does for me much more. He has given us the 7 precious gifts which are really needed by us today....only if we are eager to have them!

Confirmation has also taught us the meaning of the 'I believe' and the 'Our Father' which I previously would just rattle off. It has a deep, spiritual meaning which I was unaware of and has made me respect prayers even more. The discussions after every session gave us a lot of insight of the topic and made the sessions more interactive; these discussions made me think a lot in depth. The animators were very helpful and sensitive to our needs. Also, following our pledges, we became more involved in the church and were happy to be of service to Christ's Bride, The Church.

I am now a 'confirmed' soldier in the Lord's army and the training has been tough but it definitely has been fruitful.

- Janice Mascarenhas (Community No. 25)

CHRIST'S CALLING TO CONVERSION

Adult baptism is the most rewarding and unique experience that I could have asked for in this life. It is the equivalent to a rebirth - a rejuvenating life giving birth - in Christ. The entire journey of getting baptized as an adult is even more enriching because there is a clearer understanding of the call of Christ. The child like innocence and faith when initiated through birth is now replaced with an adult

understanding of individual shortcomings and failure to follow a spiritual life and the necessity of knowing and walking in the way of Christ.

This journey to Christ supported by the RCIA is very wholesome as it provides a glimpse into the deeper meaning of Jesus' life and the teachings he gave us. The deeply humbling experience of feeling Christ in your life is reinforced by this course and it provides the stepping stone for a deeper journey in faith.

- Karthik Kasi (Community No. 32)

CAREER AND ME

I am sure you will agree that a career is an important and essential part of life. And choosing or deciding the right career is even more important. While thinking about a career or vocation it is very important to first take a personality test to get a clear understanding of your strengths and weakness. This will give you a direction on the path of your interest. These aptitude tests allow you to gauge your capabilities, your temperaments, your interests and gives you an indication on a successful career path. Once you have gone through this process find a career that best suits your personality. After which it is advisable to also look at alternate careers which match your personality and aligns to your primary career choice. Once you have decided on a career then start searching and researching for educational qualifications and the right institution that will be required to acquire success in that field.

The most important part of choosing a career is following your heart and not being bound by parents and their dreams or peer pressure. It is very important to ask yourself what you will

be satisfied doing. Will you be happy serving people? Or will you be satisfied being around with machines? Or designing and creative visualization gives you a sense of satisfaction? Looking within and hearing that inner calling for a career is not only about making money but it is about a vocation for life. It is more about creating a happy environment for you to live in the future. A career is a way of life not for the materialistic gains but for the inner joy and satisfaction of living a fulfilled life.

So good wishes to each making a decision on a career- may your choice of career bring smiles to you and your loved ones.

- Sarah Joseph

Some centres/ places where the aptitude test is conducted

- Xavier Institute of Counselling Psychology (XICP), Marine Lines 98206 87576 (10 am to 5 pm)
- Prafula, Matunga 24116727
- Disha Counseling Center, Dadar (W) 24384575/ 98194 78538
- Enoma Career Guidance Center, Andheri 98202 62263/ 26240264 www.enoma.org
- Growth Center [I] Pvt. Ltd www.growthcenter.org

Lucy Fernandes ®

Tel: **9930201899**

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