



ANTONIAN

ST. ANTHONY'S CHURCH,
VAKOLA

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MARY, FAIREST OF OUR RACE & EXEMPLAR OF ALL VIRTUES

My dear sisters and brothers, in these triple months of Aug-Sept-Oct that Holy Mother the Church consecrates to the Most Blessed Virgin Mary, it is fitting that this issue of the Antonian be dedicated to Her, who is the FAIREST OF OUR HUMAN RACE AND AN EXEMPLAR PAR EXCELLENCE OF ALL VIRTUES.

It is through the Blessed Virgin Mary that Our Lord came into the world and so, it is also through her that he must reign in the world. Because Mary remained hidden during her life, she is called by the Holy Spirit and the Church as ALMA MATER, Mother hidden and unknown. So great was her humility that she desired nothing more upon earth than to remain unknown to herself and to others, and to be known only to God. Hence, in answer to her supplication to remain hidden and lowly, God was pleased to conceal her from nearly every other human creature in her conception, her birth, her life, her mysteries, her resurrection and assumption. God the Son, willed that she should speak very little although he had imparted her wisdom to her and God the Holy Spirit willed that his apostles and evangelists should say very little about her, only as much as was necessary to make Jesus known.

"Mary is the supreme masterpiece of Almighty God, whom he has reserved, the knowledge and possession of her for Himself" (St. Bernadine of Sienna). She is the glorious Mother of God the Son, who chose to humble her and conceal her during her lifetime in order to foster her virtues, especially the virtue of humility, which is the crown of all her virtues. Our Lord called her "Woman" (Jn 2/4; 19/26), as if she were a stranger, although in his heart he esteemed and loved her above all men and angels. Mary is the sealed fountain (Song of Songs 4/2) and the faithful Spouse of the Holy Spirit where only He may enter. She is the sanctuary and resting place of the Blessed Trinity, where God dwells in greater and more divine splendor than anywhere else in the universe, not excluding his dwelling above the cherubim and seraphim.

St. Louis Marie Grignon De Montfort declares in his great work, "True Devotion to Mary" that, "Mary is



the earthly paradise of Jesus Christ, the New Adam, where he became man by the power of the Holy Spirit, in order to accomplish in her wonders beyond our understanding. She is the vast and divine world of God where unutterable marvels and beauties are to be found. What great and wonderful hidden things the Almighty God has done in this Wonderful Creature, as she herself proclaims in great humility, "The Almighty has done great things for me" (Lk 1/49).

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Lenin d'Cruz

The Saints have said wonderful things of Mary, the Holy City of God and, they themselves admit, they were never more eloquent and more pleased than when they spoke of Her. The Great St. Augustine says, "The world being unworthy to receive the Son of God directly from the hands of the Father, he gave his Son to Mary for the world to receive him from her." Thus, St. Louis de Montfort in his work, "Secret of Mary" says, "We must always act in Mary, that is to say, we must gradually acquire the habit of recollecting ourselves interiorly and so form within us a spiritual image of Mary, by which she becomes, as it were, an Oratory for the soul where we offer up our prayers to God without fear of being ignored. She will be as a "Tower of David" (Song of songs 4/4) for us where we can seek safety from all our enemies, especially from the chief enemy of our soul. She will be a burning lamp, lighting up our inmost soul and inflaming us with love for God. She will be a sacred place of repose where we can contemplate God in her company.

Hence, God wishes to reveal Mary, his masterpiece and make her known in our latter times, since she is the dawn which precedes and discloses the Sun of Justice, Our Lord Jesus Christ, she must be known and acknowledged so that Jesus may be known and acknowledged. Let us during these Marian months, grow in our true devotion to Mary, so that in Her and through Her, we may come close to Jesus, her Divine Son and thus, live as "Children of Mary" imitating her virtues in our daily lives. GOD BLESS!

Fr. Lawrence A. D'Souza
Editor



CELEBRATING OUR PATRON ST. ANTHONY'S FEAST IN GALORE

Families must be loving as Christ loves, serving as Christ serves

It is in the celebration of the Mass that parishioners gather together in large numbers to partake as a family, and so this year the novena masses in preparation of our parish feast was focused around the Family and it was actively conducted and participated by the communities zone wise as well as by the Konkani and Marathi groups. It was also kept in mind that the liturgical celebrations are "the source and summit of Christian life"

Furthermore, beyond participation in the Novena/ Eucharistic celebrations several activities were planned which was centered around the parish as a family. Members of the PPC/SCC and parish associations were invited to a meeting wherein a programme was planned for the entire parish.

Singing & Dance Contests, Telematch, Fancy Dress competition and the like, lay the foundation for overall development of children/youth of all ages. Often children shy away from engaging in conversation or taking part in activities even with their peers, due to lack of confidence and the resulting inability to vocalize their feelings and ideas. The activities held in our parish during the parish feast enabled our children and youth to get rid of their shyness and stage-fear. This is an essential part of a holistic growth, thus giving the child/youth the much required edge in today's competitive environment.

A four day celebration began with much enthusiasm with the Goans and Mangloreans organizing a special cuisine, much to the delight and palette of the parishioners on the 9th of June, followed by the Vakola East Indian Association on 16th June, thus giving an opportunity to all in the parish. The accompaniments on these two days were music and dance which set most of our parishioner's feet tapping.

The Parish Feast Mass was very enriching with Fr. Savio Fernandes, the chancellor of the Archdiocese as our main celebrant. To enhance the celebration, cake and coffee was served after all morning masses. The grand finale...vow, what an evening, for the first time the parish feast celebrations ended with live band Silhouettes making us tap our feet with the best music along with Thereza Fernandes as our compere and crooner for the evening. The feast day celebrations began with a community march, and the flow went into song and dance as the parishioners enjoyed every bit of the evening. The youth were super duper with their German dance, and with much gratitude we thank Louella who choreographed the dance. Spot Prizes kept the tempo high. And Yes!!! The rain did not keep us away...there was natural rain dance, unlike the otherwise organized tankers, so you see...Vakola has talent and talent to the 'T'. Keep it up.

All in all, the parish feast celebrations was great, thanks to all those involved as well as our religious and parish team, for their cooperation and presence ...

Let us have the spirit of building our parish community in the light of Christ...so Cheers to us Antonians. Let us bud forth with promise ...

- Jasmine Lobo (Parish Feast Celebration committee member)

PARENTS' AND GRANDPARENTS' DAY

Parents and Grandparents looked forward to this Day i.e. 26th July 2012, which was celebrated on 29th July 2012, in our parish. The family cell along with the youth under the guidance of Sr. Monica, Fr. Lawrence & Fr. Clarence worked hard for this Great Day. The Family Cell members are a close knit family. They work in one spirit with love and care for each other – right from the selling of the coupons, games, eatables and celebration.

The Tridum started with Mass from 26th July to 28th July at the 7.00 pm Mass. Care was taken to see that the event was convenient to Parents and Grandparents and there was a good

response where in large number attended. The event celebration started with a Prayer followed by the welcome talk. Little children expressed their love to their parents and grandparents through a prayer dance. The confirmation students sent out a meaningful message through a creative skit choreographed by Louella Fernandes. The entire events brought out the message on the Role of Parents, Grandparents and Children.

For the first time we celebrated Parents and Grandparents day in our parish. It was highly appreciated especially by the Grandparents and they look forward towards another celebration next year.

FUN AND FORMATION 12TH AUGUST 2012

This was the event I was looking forward to, in order to get to know the Youth of our parish. Before the event, the Parish Youth Council (PYC) and the Parish Youth Animation Team (PYAT) visited many of our youth, in order to get to know them and provide them with the passes for the Fun and Formation programme.

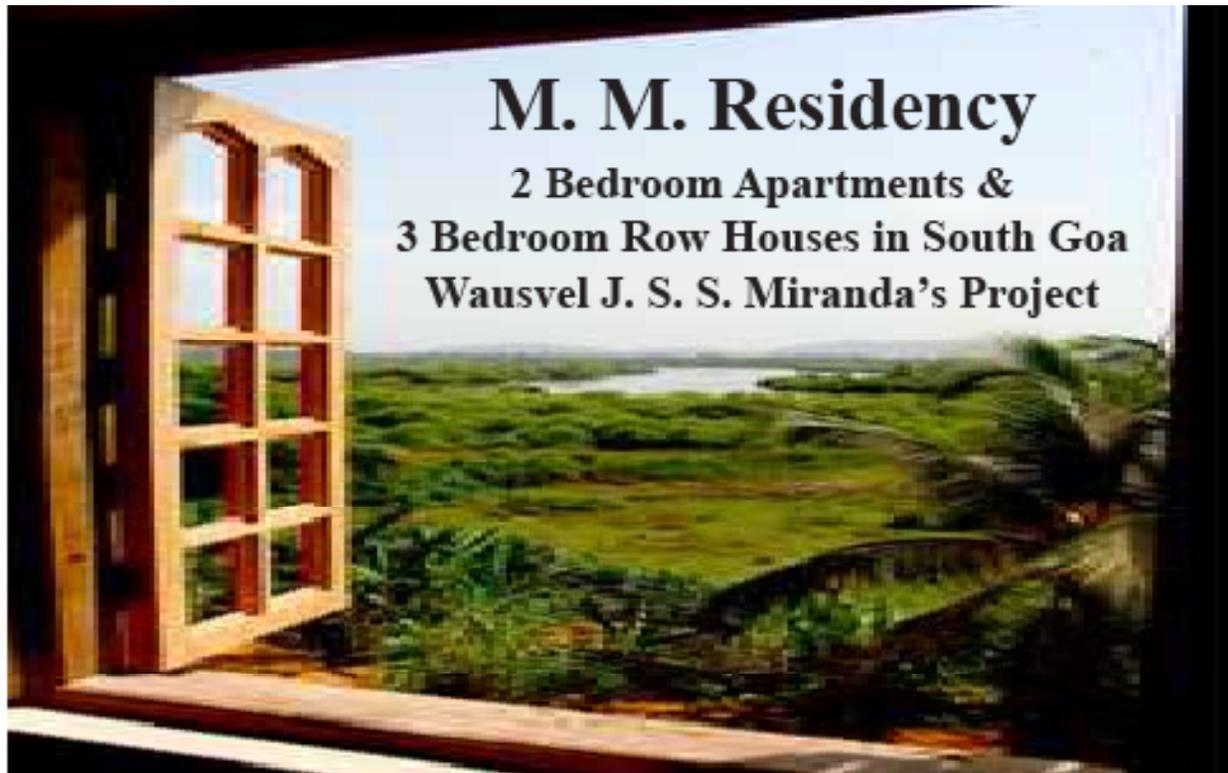
The programme began with the Holy Eucharist, presided over by Fr. Walter D'souza, Asst. Director of DYC, Bandra. In his homily, he spoke

to the Youth about the need to pay attention to the Word of God during Mass and in our daily living, and reflect on it, and make it an integral part of the our lives. After the Mass, snacks were distributed, followed by games, which included getting to know the talents of the youth around, and the newspaper game. This was followed by a powerful session by Fr. Walter to motivate the Youth to be involved in the Parish Neighbourhood Youth Groups. The NYGs are a platform where the Youth of our parish are involved in their respective Neighbourhoods, where they meet as a family, get to know the other youth, reach out to them, pray together and conduct activities to develop their talents and to increase their sense of belonging in the community and in the parish. Fr. Walter also spoke about the tremendous capacity and capability of the youth. They could do wonders if they got together and worked with the parish NYGs.

It was indeed a memorable event to see so many youth of our parish, taking part so meaningfully in the Holy Eucharist, participating wholeheartedly in the games and their rapt attention during the formation session by Fr. Walter was very noteworthy. Thank you dear Youth of Vakola, let us all work together, with the grace of God, to build "Youvak", the Youth of St. Anthony Church, Vakola.

- Fr. Clarence Sequeira (Youth Director)





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“MOTHER MARY” A SYMBOL OF HEROISM IN SIMPLICITY!

The definition of Hero is: one of distinguished courage or ability, admired for the brave deeds done and noble qualities possessed. In this context we can bring to mind numerous kinds of super heroes possessing various powers to either change the world and make it a better place or teach the evil ones a lesson. In both ways the hero is definitely creating an identity of a brave and determined individual which under any circumstances always emerges as the victor. There are many sacrifices noted down the line and shortcomings as well but their strong will power and final aim keeps them rooted to the cause.

As we celebrate the feast of the Nativity of Our Blessed Mother Mary, we thank her for the sacrifices she endured and helped us come closer to Jesus. She indeed is a symbol of Heroism which cannot go unnoticed. The act of this simple village girl, who said ‘Yes’ to the message of God sent via angel Gabriel to become the mother of Jesus, explains the quality of a true Hero. It wasn’t an easy task for her to follow the path that God had planned but

yet through her continual exercise of patience she believed in the Word of God. Amongst tribulations the Blessed Virgin grew just like a rose grows amongst thorns. She accepted and pondered over the mission entrusted to Her and in all her might made sure that she fulfilled her duties not only as a mother to Jesus but also as a Blessed Mother to the entire flock.

She was the first to believe and the first to be redeemed as the pre-eminent member of the Church. In the light of the fullness of graces bestowed upon her, she reflected the very image of God the Father. She showed through her faithful obedience to God and His laws that she truly loved God as her Father. As Mother of the Church and its pre-eminent member, she shows the rest of us how to follow her Son more closely.

At the foot of the cross as Jesus suffered for the sins of the entire world and also to fulfil God’s Word, Mother Mary stood there bearing witness to the ordeal, pain and sacrifice of her only beloved son. As a mother her heart did wrench each time the whip lashed against the flesh of Jesus, she did shed tears at the sight of the blood dripping all over from Jesus’ body and the sight of the thorns piercing onto His head could have made her faint. Yet as a woman of strength and courage, she endured it all though

she knew that the Son of God was being put to trial under the most severe conditions. Jesus suffered the pain and tribulations only to save the world and His Mother stood by him always. Therefore in all her simplicity by the life she led, Mother Mary is indeed a role model for the women of every generation, displaying heroic values, through her virtue of humility, prudence, faithfulness, obedience and purity.

Mother Mary through simple words and deeds wants us to follow her footsteps as we conquer all odds in this materialistic world. We don't need a magic wand to erase all suffering from this world but small deeds of kindness, love and charity can surely go a long way. We know that following the virtues of Our Lady enables us to deepen our love for Christ Jesus. May this season of Nativity of Our Blessed Mother Mary, encompass us with divine blessings as we spread cheer and happiness.

- Belmira Miranda

ONE MAN SO MANY ROLES

Parish meetings, deanery meetings, Eucharistic celebrations, funeral services, confessions, running for sick calls, counselling, wedding masses and much more, you name it and a priest has to be present- One man so many roles yet a priest does it all. Answering God's call to a vocation of priesthood, a priest leaves the comfort of his home and routine life and takes on a challenging role where he never knows what's in store for him the next day. A simple ordinary person living a life like you and me plunges and acts to change the life of many as they journey in their vocation.

Priesthood was instituted by Christ on Maundy Thursday and passed on to his apostles spreading to the ends of the earth. As the apostles lived a dedicated life inspiring many

to answer their calling to priesthood, one such historic personality is St. John Marie Vianney - today known as the patron of priests. As a priest he preached with words of fire, unforgettable words that won the heartfelt admiration of the people. He had looked around and seen the sins of his people and had begun a ruthless fight against these evils with prayer, fasting and penance, offering his whole life to God with the Crucified One.

When he listened to his people, he was kind, meek and very gentle; a true father with a marvellous message for them: love for Jesus Christ, intimacy with him, so that even the most rebellious could not resist his fascination. Even those who were the most remote from God, the most recalcitrant sinners, soon felt that God had sent a saint to his hometown and hastened to listen to him.

His priesthood brought him to a most exalted state: "Since the priest is important," he wrote, "the priest will only be understood in Heaven. If we were to understand him on this earth, we would die of love."

On 2nd August, 1859, Fr Jean-Marie received Holy Communion and Extreme Unction from his own curate in simplicity and joy. He came face to face with God at dawn on 4th August 1859. On the feast of Pentecost, 31st May 1925, Pope Pius XI enrolled him among the saints, and on 23rd April 1928, declared him Patron of the world's parish priests.

Keeping him as a role model, every priest today needs a salute from us for leading an extraordinary life in an ordinary world, daily.

A big thank you to our parish priests for enriching our spiritual lives daily.

- Sarah Joseph

HELPERS OF MARY

The Helpers of Mary is a religious women's organization started by Mother Anna Huberta in Mumbai in the year 1942. Their vision and mission is to take God's love to the poor voiceless and defenceless sisters and brothers living in the city slums and remotest villages of India where few dare to go. Their



Mother Anna

motto is "Live for Love," which spurs them on to new challenge and responds to the changing needs of a changing society. They have sixteen homes for girls where they feed, clothe, shelter and heal the girl – child across India. They also have two homes for the older people where they create an atmosphere of encouragement so that they live in dignity and security and maintain an optimum level of physical, mental and emotional well being. They have six women's training centres where they enable the marginalized and economically weak women to discover their capacity and ability and empower them to take collective action against unjust systems and structures of society. Through their ten socio – welfare centres where they prepare underprivileged

children and drop-outs through balwadis and coaching classes, they also run sewing classes and vocational guidance projects that assist backward women to make right choices in jobs. Their health care is channelized through twelve dispensaries, four maternity and nursing homes where medical facilities are made available to the poor in remote villages through mobile clinics, training of community health workers and promoting health work as a responsibility of the community. They have a hospital and rehabilitation centre for leprosy patients where these patients and children find a home in their 250 bed centre at Vehloli and at Naya Jivan in Assangaon. They also have two medical centres for AIDS victims mainly for women and children. They have reached the marginalized and disadvantaged sections of society through their forty-two centres spread over nine states of India as they believe in bringing hope and joy to the children, youth and adults through leadership programmes and reaching out to broken families and supporting them through casework and counselling, giving a voice to the voiceless.

- Sucorrine Dias (Guidance given by Sr. Shakuntala - Helpers of Mary)

BRIDGETTINE SISTERS

St. Bridget was born in 1303 in an aristocratic family at Finsta in Sweden. At the age of thirteen she was married to Duke Ulf Gudmarson. They were blessed with eight children and had a happy family life. After the death of her husband in 1344, Bridget decided to live in continuous prayer. Under divine inspiration and guidance she founded a Monastic Order and named it as the Order of the Most Holy Saviour also known as the Bridgettine sisters. In 1370, Pope Urban V gave official recognition to the order. After living a life of prayer and penance, on 23rd July, 1373, Bridget's soul soared up to heaven. On 7th October, 1391, Pope Bonifus IX raised her to the honour of sainthood.

As time passed by, this new order suffered many setbacks, and God in his mercy sent Elizabeth Hesselblad as the new Prophetess to revive the order. She was born in a Swedish Lutheran family on 4th June, 1870. She worked as a nurse in the famous Roosevelt hospital at New York, and experienced the divine values of pain and suffering. She took up her studies in



St. Bridget of Sweden.

Catholicism and embraced the Catholic faith on 15th August, 1902. Soon after that, she arrived at the Bridgettine house in Piazza Farnese, Rome. This visit helped her to go deep into studies on the life of St. Bridget and later plunge into the depths of Apostolate and Mission. Thus began a revival in the Bridgettine houses all over. A

wave of awakening ran through the order. Today the order is flourishing with thirty-six houses in thirteen countries with missions in Italy, Sweden, Switzerland, U.S.A, Mexico, Poland, Finland, India, Phillipines, Norway, Denmark and other countries. In India the first house was opened in 1937 at Marikunnu, Kerala. Realizing the needs of the society and at times, zealous members of the Order are involved in various Apostolate. In Karnataka there are six houses setup in Bangalore, Belgaum, Mysore, Mangalore, Puttur, Chikmagalur. The other houses in India are at Kozhikode, Kalamassery and Trivandrum in Kerala, Pallavaram and Sipcot in Tamil Nadu; Divar in Goa and Kurnool and Uizak in Andhra Pradesh, Bihar etc.

Prayer is the nucleus of all their activities and their lives are centered around it. They sanctify the hours of the day by praying and adoring the Eucharistic Lord. This is the source and strength of all the Bridgettines. They also render their services through tailoring centres, dispensaries, nursery schools, computer and typing centres, hostels for women, teaching catechism and social work. The qualification for those who wish to join the Bridgettine is H.S.C (12th Std) pass, physically and mentally healthy and most important readiness for dedication and prayerful life. Every Bridgettine sister is called to spend all the precious moments of her life as Martha and Mary, Bridget and Elizabeth, and have a calling to spread the good news of love and service to all mankind. They believe in being "CALLED TO BE TRANSFORMED TO TRANSFORM THE WORLD."

- Sucorrine Dias
(Guidance given by
Sr. Ivine - Bridgettine Sisters.)

LET'S HEAR WHAT OUR SSC TOPPER HAS TO SAY...

Tracy Pereira

Well, I scored 93.81%. Sounds great right? Well, it feels infinity times great

to say that I got 93.81%.

It wasn't an easy task to tell you. My mantra was "SLEEP WELL, EAT WELL AND STUDY WELL."

If you work hard, you're sure to get good results. I wish all the very best to the coming batch! Hope you'll do much better. :)

WORLD SEEN FROM ROME

Pope's Homily on the Feast of Sts. Peter and Paul (29 June 2012):-

Pope Benedict XVI emphasized that the Church is not a community of the perfect, but a community of sinners. He said that in the Gospel of St. Matthew, Peter makes his own confession of Faith in Jesus, as the "Messiah, the Son of the Living God." In reply, the Lord reveals to him the mission that he intends assigning to him, that of being the "rock," the visible foundation on which the entire spiritual edifice of the Church is built. But immediately the same Peter rebukes Christ on announcing his passion, death and resurrection. And Jesus immediately reprimands him, "Get behind me, Satan..." In this scene between Jesus and Simon Peter, we see anticipated in some sense, the drama of the history of Papacy itself, characterized by the joint presence of two elements namely, on the one hand, because of the light and the strength that come from on high, the Papacy constitutes the foundation of the Church during its pilgrimage through history; on the other hand, across the centuries, human weakness is also evident, which can

only be transformed through openness to God's action..."

In a Private Audience with the Prefect of the Congregation for the Cause of Saints, Pope Benedict XVI approved the "Heroic Virtue" of Archbishop Fulton Sheen, including him among the "Servants of God"; and opening his Cause for Canonization (June 28, 2012)

The following is the communique release by the Holy See on the Episcopal Ordination of Reverent Joseph Yue Fusheng, in Harbin, China:

"The Reverend Joseph Yue Fusheng, ordained without Pontifical Mandate and hence, illicitly, has incurred the sanctions laid down by Canon 1382 of the Code of Canon Law. Consequently, the Holy See doesn't recognize him as the Bishop of the Apostolic Administration of Harbin and he lacks the authority to govern priests and the Catholic Community in the Province of Heilongjiang."

Pope Benedict XVI called for prayers and expressed his solidarity with the People of Asia, those of Phillipinnes and China, who have been severely hit by violent rains as well as to the people of North-West Iran, who have been struck by a violent earthquake.

ADIEU TO SR. AUXILIA

A spiritual guide who walked with us teaching us the beauty of our faith with values of building a community, Sr. Auxilia has been an integral part of the Small Christian Community project in our parish. Juggling with multiple responsibilities as a member of the FILMC team, a representative of the Archdiocesan Pastoral Council for SCCs, the religious in-charge of Central Suburbs Deanery, conducting Bible Sharing sessions for children at every community in the parish and also working with the youth of our parish as a Parish Youth Animating Team member in the initial years of the project, Sr. Auxilia has helped influence and shape the lives of many Christians across Mumbai. We wish her the very best as she continues her journey of dedicated service in St. Charles congregation at Bangalore.

