



OLPS CHURCH

Perpetual QUEST

"Like a deer that yearns for running streams so my soul longs for you my God."

REDEMPTORIST PARISH BULLETIN (Private Circulation only) JUN. 2009 VOL. XV/II

Jesus Calls Us to Build a Community

We had a number of important celebrations these past few days - it started with the feast of Pentecost, followed by the feast of the Body & Blood of the Lord. Now we are on the eve of celebrating the feast of Our Lady of Perpetual Help.

Each of these celebrations is very central to our life and faith as Christians. They define who we are as Christians. "By this they will know that you are my disciples, that you love one another as I have loved you".

Our religion is a religion of relationship. We are not individual islands existing next to each other with the attitude "you don't touch me, I won't touch you". We are the one body of Christ, a living being, very much connected to each other. Paul described us as a "body with different parts". What happens to the other always finds an echo in my life. Your pain is my pain; your joy is a celebration for me. The death bell never tolls without me feeling the pain.

It is Christ that binds us and keeps us one. When I sit next to another person, Jesus is always there in the space that is between the other and me. The space between the other & me is holy ground. It is only when I realize that God is between me and the other, that we reach out to one another and "community" happens.

We, as Christians, are called not to just build

community with each other. It is a starting point. Jesus wants us to go beyond; to the wider community. We have already started on one level of reaching out to the non-Christians. It was heartening to see some of them present at our jubilee celebration in the Church. A number of you have helped to make this a reality. In the long run, it can bring peace even to our beloved city Mumbai.



There is another community, too, that we need to reach out to - it is the community of the poor. We have chosen three areas for this - a) the beggar's home b) Shivaji Nagar for daily wage labourers, and c) working with an NGO "Nirman" at Marouli. Once again it is so touching to note that some parishioners have volunteered to join us and the venture has already begun. We urge that more & more people may join in these ventures as our parish takes on this new direction. A Golden Jubilee is a good occasion to begin this.

Let us ask Our Mother of Perpetual Help, who is the titular patroness of our parish, and whose feast we celebrate on the 27th of June, to pray for us not just to share Jesus with all these people, but to discover His presence in the least of our brothers and sisters ■

Fr. Joseph Abraham C.Ss.R



The Eucharist: Presentation of Gifts

The Presentation of Gifts (Offertory)

The mass is God's offer of friendship inviting us to a partnership with Him in building His beautiful world with love. The Offertory is our willing response of involvement. This response signified in the host we offer, has four dimensions: Personal, Social, Material, Celestial.

Personal: We say in our mind over the host in the ciborium: "Bread be thou me". "Father as your child I am happy to belong to you. All the good you have put into me I offer to help to make your world beautiful with love. I also include all the evil in me, I cannot keep it back: my selfishness and self-love, pride, anger & unforgiveness, laziness, jealousy and envy, mean-ness and many other personal and secret sins. This too is my gift to you that you may destroy it. This personal dimension is the TOTAL ME with my positives and negatives.

Social: We offer ourselves, but who are we? We see clearly that we are connected with our family, city, country, with peoples of all continents: believers and unbelievers, diseased and healthy, those in homes, those on the pavements, the happy and the sad, the wealthy and poor, the educated and illiterate, the saint and the sinner. All of us are one SINGLE WE. We realize that in the offering of the host we place all our energies at the service of the Lord and are Christ's instruments to banish from this world hatred, enmities, sorrows and distresses and the thousands of evils afflicting God's family.

Material: The social dimension also includes the whole cosmos- the heavens and the earth with its resources. So we offer all that the earth and human beings produce in the way of food and drink and technology: fields, forests, oceans and rivers, factories and offices, instruments, stores, banks, our properties and buildings and all the remarkable inventions. We pledge to our Heavenly Father all these material riches to

cultivate and develop, to harness and exploit for the happiness of the human family.

Celestial: Our host also includes those in heaven because all of us are the Body of Christ. Mary's tremendous love, the heroic lives of the saints, the sufferings of the martyrs, the spread of the kingdom by missionaries, the saintly people both single and married, the religious not forgetting the deceased members of our families. When our minds see all these things contained in the host, our host begins to grow and grow till it becomes as big as the universe. The whole world is our host and it is this world we lift up to our Father with the power of Jesus living in the Church.

Implication: The more deeply we understand the multi-dimensional meaning of the host, the more urgent will our involvement be in making our homes, society, country and world more pleasing and acceptable to our heavenly Father. The Offertory is the sealing of a partnership and a pledge of total involvement in God's enterprise in the world. We wholeheartedly throw ourselves into this mighty operation with God to make creation and ourselves beautiful and holy with selfless, godly love. The Offertory is our promise of involvement in effective service to the world. We present our bread and wine to the Father "THAT THEY MAY BECOME THE BODY OF CHRIST"

These words proclaim the profound mystery that the goal of all God's activity in the world and my partnership with Him is to help the world to "BECOME CHRIST". To change it into Christ just as the bread is changed into the Body of Christ. This is the challenging process we are involved in that we renew and confirm as individuals and as a community at each presentation of gifts ■

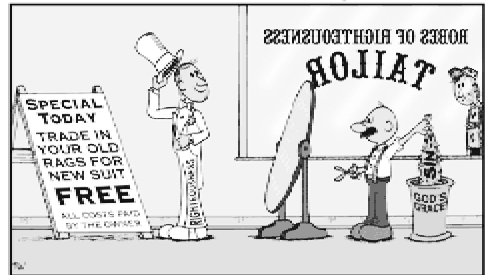
Fr. Osie D'Souza C.Ss.R
(Adapted from the "Eucharist Step by Step"
by Fr. Erasto Fernandez)

CARRY YOUR BOOKS? A Joyful 'toon by Mike Winters



Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.
-1 PETER 5:7 kjv

TAILOR A Joyful 'toon by Mike Winters



I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness,

-ISAIAH 61:10



Starting with this issue, we intend publishing a hagiography of Redemptorist Saints. We start with:



ST. ALPHONSUS LIGOURI – FOUNDER OF THE REDEMPTORISTS

Saint Alphonsus Liguori (September 27, 1696 - August 1, 1787) was a Roman Catholic Bishop, spiritual writer, Theologian, and founder of the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer, known as the "Redemptorists," an influential religious order. He was canonized in 1839 by Pope Gregory XVI and is a Doctor of the Church.

He was born, Alphonsus Marie Antony John Cosmos Damien Michael Gaspard de Liguori, on September 27, 1696, at Marianella, near Naples, Italy. Alphonsus was the oldest of seven children, raised by a devout mother of Spanish descent. Educated at the University of Naples, Alphonsus received his doctorate at the age of sixteen.

Alphonsus Liguori went to law school at age sixteen, becoming a very well-known lawyer. At the age of twenty-seven, after having lost an important case, he made a firm resolution to leave the profession of lawyer.

In 1723, after a long process of discernment, he abandoned his legal career and, despite his father's strong opposition (and reluctant consent), began his seminary studies in preparation for the priesthood. He was ordained a priest on December 21, 1726, at the age of 30. He lived his first years as a priest with the homeless and marginalized youth of Naples. His sermons were very effective at converting those who were alienated from their faith. In 1729 Alphonsus left his family home and took up residence in the Chinese College in Naples. It was there that he began his missionary experience in the interior regions of the Kingdom of Naples where he found people who were much poorer and more abandoned than any of the street children in Naples.

On November 9, 1732, St Alphonsus founded the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer (Redemptorists), when Sister Maria Celeste Crostarosa told him that it had been revealed to her that he was the one God had chosen to found the Congregation. This order's goal was to teach and preach in the slums of cities and other poor places. He gave himself entirely to this new mission. A companion order of nuns was founded simultaneously by Sister Maria Celeste.

For thirteen years Alphonsus fed the poor, instructed families, reorganized the seminary and religious houses, taught theology, and wrote. His austerities were rigorous, and he suffered daily the pain from rheumatism that was beginning to deform his body. He spent several years having to drink from tubes because his head was so bent forward. An attack of rheumatic fever, from May 1768 to June 1769, left him paralyzed. He was not allowed to

resign his see, however, until 1775. He is the patron of confessors, moral theologians, and the lay apostolate. In liturgical art he is depicted as bent over with rheumatism or as a young priest.

Alphonsus was consecrated Bishop of Sant'Agata dei Goti in 1762. He tried to refuse the appointment because he felt too old and too sick to properly care for the diocese. During this time he wrote sermons, books, and articles to encourage devotion to the Blessed Sacrament and the Blessed Virgin Mary. In 1775 he was allowed to retire from his office and went to live in the Redemptorist community in Pagani, Italy.

He died peacefully on August 1, 1787, at Nocera di Pagani, near Naples as the Angelus was ringing. He was buried at the monastery of the Pagani near Naples. He was beatified in 1816 and canonized in 1839. In 1871, Alphonsus was declared a Doctor of the Church by Pope Pius IX. His writings on moral, theological, and ascetic matters had great impact and have survived through the years, especially his Moral Theology and his Glories of Mary ■

THE LIGHTHOUSE

THERE'S A LIGHTHOUSE ON THE HILLSIDE
THAT OVER LOOKS LIFE'S SEA.
WHEN I'M TOSSED IT SENDS OUT A LIGHT,
THAT I MIGHT SEE.
AND THE LIGHT THAT SHINES IN DARKNESS NOW
WILL SAFELY LEAD ME ON.
IF IT WASN'T FOR THE LIGHTHOUSE,
MY SHIP WOULD SAIL NO MORE.
EVERYBODY THAT LIVES AROUND US,
SAYS TEAR THAT LIGHTHOUSE DOWN.
THE BIG SHIPS THEY DON'T SAIL THIS WAY ANYMORE,
THERE'S NO NEED OF IT STANDING ROUND.
BUT THEN MY MIND GOES BACK TO THAT
STORMY NITE, WHEN JUST IN TIME I SAW THE LIGHT,
OH THE LIGHT FROM THAT OLD LIGHTHOUSE
THAT STANDS UP THERE ON THE HILL.
AND I THANK GOD FOR THE LIGHTHOUSE,
I OWE MY LIFE TO HIM
FOR JESUS IS THE LIGHTHOUSE,
AND FROM THE ROCKS OF SIN
HE HAS SHONE A LIGHT AROUND ME
THAT I COULD CLEARLY SEE.
AND IF IT WASN'T FOR THE LIGHTHOUSE,
WHERE WOULD THIS SHIP BE?
AND IF WASN'T FOR THE LIGHTHOUSE,
WHERE WOULD THIS SHIP BE?

Written by Ronnie Hinson Copyright 1971

I am the light of the world:
he that followeth me shall not walk in
darkness, but shall have the light of life.
John 8:12

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom do I fear?
The Lord is my life's refuge; of whom am I afraid?
Psalm 27:1



World Environment Day & The Monsoon

"We do not inherit the earth
from our ancestors,
We borrow it from our children."

Native American Proverb

"When you defile the pleasant streams
And the wild birds abiding place,
You massacre a million dreams
And cast your spittle on God's face."

John Drinkwater

World Environment Day was celebrated on 5th June, 2009. The theme for 2009 is climate changes, as also the broader consequences of environmental change, and what societies can do in response. Combating climate change and preserving eco-systems is an issue for everyone. Every individual's effort, no matter how small can contribute.

World Environment Day reminds people of the seriousness of Global Warming, an increase in the Earth's temperature due to the use of fossil fuels & other industrial processes leading to a build-up of 'greenhouse gases' (carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide and chlorofluorocarbons) in the atmosphere.

The monsoon in India happens around the same time that World Environment Day is being celebrated. After the 'sweat and fret' of the hot blistering summer, those overcast skies signalling the advent of the much-longed-for monsoon bring sighs of relief all around. And, when those drops of water begin to fall upon the parched earth, both man and beast rejoice. The farmer is ecstatic that his prayers have been answered. Most children simply love the rain and make the most of those first few showers. The vegetation turns lush and once again earth sports a coat of green.

Six Important Things We Can Do To Help The Environment

- Shop locally - Walk to a store near your house. Go to one store for all your need instead of driving all around town for two different items. If a store like that is too far away, then ride a bike there. By doing this you will be saving the earth and also tons of money.
- Reduce, Recycle, Reuse - Reduce the amount of trash you generate by buying stuff with less packaging. Recycle used plastic, paper & Styrofoam. Reuse old leather, clothing, etc.
- Use less energy - You will save money and the earth. Turn off appliances when you are not using them. It might not make sense to turn off every light in the house before leaving, but this is the biggest money-saver.
- Eating - If you learn to cook yourself a meal, you will be reducing the amount of pollution in the world because many buy fast food everyday and half the people who buy fast food throw the trash on the ground.
- Saving trees - Use Sunday comics as wrapping paper.
- Compost - Put rotten food in the compost. If you don't have a compost bin / pit, don't buy one, make one ■

A Concerned Parishioner

FIRE '09 – JESUS YOUTH

"Rejoice in the Lord always and again I say rejoice".

The 7 of us were ignited by the fire of the Holy Spirit when we attended the 'Fire 09' Retreat conducted by Jesus Youth at Tabor Bhavan. This eye-opening retreat mainly consisted of Eucharistic Adoration, Inner Healing, Confessions & Counselling. These 4 days inspired the hearts of many a youth to develop a closer relationship with our loving God. All of us experienced the presence of God and the power of the Holy Spirit. During the adoration, our hearts were opened to the truth of how far we had drifted away from God. The Confession was the first time we all realized the forgiveness of God and also felt that our burdens were lifted. Several of the youth, including us, witnessed the presence of God through visions. Many of us received the

gifts of the Holy Spirit.

On the whole, the retreat was an awesome and indescribable experience which left all of us touched and transformed. Everything that happened there had a purpose and there was no reason to complain about anything.

Today, all 7 of us are Spirit-filled and Spirit-led youth. In conclusion, we would like to say that *IT ONLY TAKES A SPARK TO GET THE FIRE GOING* ■

Valentina, Pearl, Vanessa,
Riana, Zenobia, Rebecca & Reynold



Celebrating 50 Golden Years

It was a moment of grace in 1959 when a Church & Parish dedicated to Our Lady of Perpetual Succour was established by the Redemptorists, in Chembur.

When a cricketer reaches 50 runs, he raises his bat to the cheering crowds. When our Church & Parish was on its way to completing 50 years, all of us raised our hearts & minds in praise, gratitude & thanksgiving to the giver of all gifts - the Most Holy Trinity & to Our Mother of Perpetual Help.

The celebrations kick-started with the renovation of our Church in 2008. The beautifully constructed edifice was given a tastefully designed new look. The altar & lectern with their significant carvings, the dramatic stained glass front & windows, all, together refurbished our Church "in beauty enshrined".

In April, an excellent presentation of Christ's life on Earth raised our spirits higher towards the climactic celebrations. "The Witness" directed by Joe Cordo was brought to our Parish enthusing & inspiring us with soul-stirring drama & music, on the grounds of St. Anthony's Convent.

The preparations then started apace & culminated in the grand celebrations of the Golden Jubilee on 31st May 2009, exactly 50 years after the inauguration in 1959. It could surely be no accident that the Inauguration & Golden Jubilee celebrations both fell on the Feast of Pentecost - a sure sign that the Holy Spirit guides our Church & Parish in its endeavours, as it did at the start of the Church of Christ, when the Paraclete came down in tongues of fire.

At 9.30 am on Sunday, 31st May 2009, the pealing of the bells announced the jubilee celebrations with a concelebrated Mass. Bishop Bosco Penha, Auxiliary Bishop of Bombay, the main celebrant, was assisted by our Parish priest, Fr. Merwin Victor and Fr. Antonio Rodrigues (a founding member of the Parish & Church who was given a special mention by the Bishop, and a resounding ovation by the congregation), together with a galaxy of Redemptorists who had been associated with our Parish & had come from far & wide to rejoice with us.

Bishop Bosco's illuminating sermon started with congratulations & praises, also for the beauty & upkeep of our Church. He divided his homily into 2 parts; the first dealing with the theology of the Holy Spirit with a special emphasis on prayer. In

the 2nd part, he detailed the 3 Cs which should

characterize a successful Parish, namely, Contemplative, Communitarian and Concerned. He advocated more contemplation, meditative silence, even during the Eucharistic celebration. "Communitarian" described & embraced the small Christian communities inspired by the neighbourhood groups started in Chembur by the late Fr. Frank Toner. He strongly recommended the starting of Clusters & was ready to train the Parish in their formation. "Concern" was to extend to our immediate milieu, and even to being involved in the situations in the country, such as the Christian involvement in the recent elections.

The evening's celebrations were held in the Church, with a screen for any overflow, in the School Quadrangle. After a graceful dance by the Marathi group, invoking the Holy Spirit, choreographed by Snehal Kasbe of Morning Star Community, a playlet was presented on the theme "Christ is not dead, Christ is Alive" produced by Fr. Peter D'Souza & compered by Dr. Jeanette Pinto. Witnesses for the "case" came up from the congregation to give testimony to the living reality of Christ in their lives. This was followed by a PowerPoint presentation of the history of the OLPS Church from its inception with a commentary which took us through the years. This was put together by Bro. Francis Lobo, a new recruit to the "Reds" ranks.

An attractive souvenir was published by an editorial committee consisting of Chris Jude assisted by Bro. Francis Lobo & Dr. Yvonne Freitas. The Souvenir presented the Church & Parish "As It Was in the Beginning", "Is Now" & "Shall Be".

From the Church the audience proceeded to the school quadrangle where over snacks & a drink provided by the Parish council, everyone enjoyed a happy ending to the day's festivities.

Our Lady of Perpetual Succour has truly kept our Church, Parish & Parishioners under her maternal care through the last 50 years. We pray that we may continue to be worthy to honour and glorify her as our perpetual help, so that all generations may call her blessed, as our hearts & souls magnify her & her Lord through the glorious years ahead, with another luminous 5 decades ending in a Gloria ■

Dr. Yvonne Freitas

NOTE

If any parishioners feel that they have material which they should have contributed to the Golden Jubilee Souvenir, they are welcome to send it to the 'Quest' for consideration of inclusion in future issues, so as to continue the spirit of the Golden Jubilee.



OLPS – Community Fund

“God loves a cheerful giver. You are not doing God a favour; you are only giving back to HIM (His Church), His rightful part of what He has given you”.

Dear Parishioners,

During the financial year ending 31st March 2009, the collection in the community fund was Rs. 809,494/-. The figure reflects contributions received from only 55% of the parishioners.

As per an Archdiocesan Circular, it is recommended that all earning members of a family contribute or give 1% of their gross income to God.

You have been so kind and generous. I take this opportunity to thank you sincerely for all that you are doing to support our parish financially with your generous contributions. May God bless you and give you abundantly.

Fr. Merwin Victor C.Ss.R
Parish Priest

P.S. - Have you given your 1% for this year?

Snapshot Of Accounts For Publication Of Golden Jubilee Souvenir:

Receipts		Expenses	
Advertisements	Rs.80,400	1300 Souvenirs - Designing, Printing & Delivery - 52 pages, 250 GSM Art Card Cover, 100 GSM Art Paper inside, Offset Printed, Laminated	Rs.40,500
Bookmark	Rs.07,700	1300 Bookmarks - Gold Based Card Paper (285 GSM) Designing, Printing & Delivery	Rs.07,700
		Handed over to parish for Golden Jubilee Celebration Expenses	Rs.39,900
Total Receipts	Rs.88,100	Total Expenses	Rs.88,100

Souvenir Editorial Team

In a lighter vein...

At a Deanery lunch, the caterer by mistake, served water-melon chunks laced with vodka. When he anxiously asked a waiter if there had been any trouble, the boy replied “Strangely, the priests were all asking for plastic bags to take the seeds back with them”.



The Power of the Hail Mary - A True Story

A six year-old Protestant boy had often heard his Catholic companion reciting the prayer 'Hail Mary.' He liked it so much that he copied it, memorised it & would recite it every day. 'Look, Mummy, what a beautiful prayer,' he said to his mother one day. 'Never again say it' answered the mother, 'it is a superstitious prayer of Catholics who adore idols & think Mary is a goddess. After all, she is a woman like any other. Come on, take this Bible & read it. It contains everything that we are bound to do & have to do.' From that day on the little boy discontinued his daily 'Hail Mary' & gave himself more time to reading the Bible instead.

One day, while reading the Gospel, he came across the passage about the Annunciation of the Angel to Our Lady. Full of joy, the little boy ran to his mother & said: 'Mummy, I have found the 'Hail Mary' in the Bible, which says: 'Hail Mary full of grace, the Lord is with thee, blessed art thou amongst women.' Why do you call it a superstitious prayer?'

On another occasion he found the beautiful Salutation of St. Elizabeth to The Virgin Mary & the wonderful canticle, MAGNIFICAT in which Mary foretold that 'the generations would call her blessed.' He said no more about it to his mother but started to recite the 'Hail Mary' every day as before. He felt pleasure in addressing those charming words to the Mother of Jesus, our Saviour.

When he was fourteen, one day he heard a discussion on our Lady among the members of his family. Every one said that Mary was a common woman like any other woman. The boy, after listening to their erroneous reasoning, could not bear it any longer, and full of indignation, he interrupted them, saying: 'Mary is not like any other children of Adam, stained with sin. No!'

The Angel called her FULL OF GRACE AND BLESSED AMONGST WOMEN. Mary is The Mother of Jesus Christ & consequently Mother of God. There is no higher dignity to which a creature can be raised. The Gospel says that the generations will proclaim her blessed & you are trying to despise her & look down on her, your spirit is not the Spirit Of the Gospel or of the Bible which you proclaim to be the foundation of the Christian religion.'

So deep was the impression which the boy's talk had made that his mother many times cried out sorrowfully: 'Oh my God! I fear that this son of mine will one day join the Catholic religion, the religion of Popes!' And indeed, not very long afterwards, having

made a serious study of both Protestantism & Catholicism, the boy found the latter to be the only true religion & embraced it and became one of its most ardent apostles.

Some time after his conversion, he met his married sister who rebuked him & said indignantly: 'You little know how much I love my children. Should any one of them desire to become a Catholic, I would sooner pierce his heart with a dagger than allow him to embrace the religion of the Popes!'

Her anger and temper were as furious as those of St. Paul before his conversion. However, she would change her ways, just as St. Paul did on his way to Damascus. It so happened that one of her sons fell dangerously ill & the doctors gave up hope of recovery. Her brother then approached her & spoke to her affectionately, saying: 'My dear sister, you naturally wish to have your child cured. Very well, then, do what I ask you to do. Follow me, let us pray one 'Hail Mary' & promise God that, if your son recovers his health, you would seriously study the Catholic doctrine & should you come to the conclusion that Catholicism is the only true religion, you would embrace it no matter what the sacrifices may be.'

His sister was somewhat reluctant at the beginning but as she wished for her son's recovery, she accepted her brother's proposal & recited the 'Hail Mary' together with him. The next day her son was completely cured! The mother fulfilled her promise & she studied the Catholic doctrine. After long preparation she received Baptism together with her family, thanking her brother for being an apostle to her.

The story was related during a sermon given by the Rev. Fr. Tuckwell. 'Brethren', he went on & said, 'The boy who became a Catholic & converted his sister to Catholicism dedicated his whole life to the service of God. He is the priest who is speaking to you now! What I am I owe to Our Lady.'

You, too, my dear brethren, be entirely dedicated also to Our Lady & never let a day pass without saying the beautiful prayer, 'Hail Mary' & your Rosary. Ask her to enlighten the minds of Protestants who are separated from the true Church of Christ founded on the Rock (Peter) & 'against whom the gates of hell shall never prevail' ■

Contributed by Fr. Osie D'Souza C.Ss.R

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