



## To Jesus through Mary

Jesus who said: "He who knows me knows my Father", could also say 'he who knows my Mother knows me'.

Because of the inseparable relationship between Jesus and Mary, Mary who is full of grace and blessedness radiated the light of Jesus through her eyes, her voice, her gestures. Looking at Jesus with Mary's eyes teaches us how to open our hearts like an empty chalice to receive the gift of God.

Mary is the daughter of Zion par excellence, chosen by the Father to be the Mother of His Son Jesus in the great plan for the salvation of all humanity. The simple, pure maiden of Nazareth, the most beautiful creature in the world, whose love surpasses the loves of all mothers on earth is the Mother of God and so far above any other Christian. Mary is the Woman of Genesis, the new Eve who gathers her children in unity as the new people of God. She is the Woman of the book of Revelations who gives birth to a Son destined to rule all the nations. (Rev.12/1-6). She is the Woman at the very centre of Salvation which intersects the two Testaments.

In every stage of Jesus' journey from the Annunciation to the Cross, from Cana to Pentecost, the Son is constantly accompanied in spirit by His Mother making her an associate in the Redemption. At Pentecost, at the heart of the new born Church we find Mary.

At the foot of the Cross, Mary is agonized as she went through the terrible trial of leaving Jesus desolate when she agreed to be the mother of all humanity. Mary is our Mother and our task is to take Mary home as John the beloved disciple did. This implies living in a loving relationship with her. As Jesus' most faithful follower, she is our model of a true and committed Christian by her surrender to God's will.

Our first task as Christians is not learning what Jesus taught, but knowing Him in a personal way. Could we have a better teacher than Mary? Contemplating her, we can grow in our likeness to Jesus and like her radiate Him to others. On this glorious feast, dearest Mother of Perpetual Succour bless and protect us and lead us to your Son Jesus.

*...Christabelle Pereira*



## Celebrate and live the Eucharist Gathering In Loving Unity:

The Eucharist begins not with the Entrance hymn but at the moment when Christians as a community of loving brothers and sisters united in faith and love come to celebrate this unique event of history: the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus. To come as individuals to get 'peace of mind' or to obtain favours for oneself is not a celebration, but a fulfilling of our Sunday obligation.

We come with the awareness that we are 'new creatures in Christ'. This means we see ourselves truly as God's children born of God by the precious Blood of Jesus. Sinners we are, yes, but precious in the eyes of a loving Father. We now relate to Him not out of fear but in love. Our sins are no obstacle knowing that we are accepted and loved no matter what.

Being new creatures also means that we see ourselves not as isolated persons, but members of one body whose lives are interlocked with one another. So my participation, good or bad, in the Eucharist affects the lives of my brothers and sisters. I enrich or hurt spiritually their lives.

So our Eucharist begins only when we realize more deeply what we are as Church: the gathering of God's holy people, united with Christ and equally members of one another like the ingredients that go to make one cake. At home with God and with one another we celebrate God's goodness and gracious gifts given freely to us.

**Practical Implications:** We come to the Eucharist not just to get solutions to personal problems, but to present to the Father the hopes and struggles of the world. E.g. we express our concern for the genocide and starvation of the 50,000 people of Sudan. Each of us lives the truth that the love of Christ has gathered us together into one. While we grieve with the distressed we also joyfully celebrate the victory of love over self-centredness, the selfless service to the needy, medical help to those with AIDS. It is no more 'I' but 'We'

We come to the Eucharist not so much to see bread & wine changed into Christ's Body & Blood but rather that our self-centred selves be transformed into self-giving, caring, loving, self-sacrificing persons even ready to die for the other.

Such an attitude makes us conscious of others at the Eucharist as we enter God's house and smile and greet one another and joyfully sing the Entrance Hymn: "Here we are, all together as we sing or song...."

We will find ourselves praying for others, asking forgiveness for the sins of others, praising God for the goodness in others. Further, rather than focus on our sinfulness and weaknesses we share God's joy in bringing us back together as one flock under one Shepherd.

(For further matter see our parish website: <http://www.geocities.com/olpschurch>)

... Fr. Osie D'Souza, CssR



## One Percent

“We remind every earning parishioner to contribute to the Community Fund”. I hear this announcement frequently and ask myself- do we really need to be reminded so often? Is it not our duty to contribute to the support of the parish?

Under the heading of precepts of the Church this is what the Catechism of the Catholic Church says: “The faithful also have the duty of providing for the material needs of the Church, each according to his abilities”. (C.C.C. nos. 2041-2043). Hence we are asked to give 'according to our abilities'. I would understand that as 'give as much as you can afford'. However, our Mumbai Archdiocese has stipulated a minimum of 1%.

Let us be clear that the Church does not speak of 10% or tithing. In the Old Testament, Deuteronomy Chapter 26/12 says: “Every third year give a tithe, a tenth of your crops – to the Levites, the foreigners, the orphans and the widows; so that in every community they will have all they need to eat...” Other Christian groups have taken, as they often do, these words of Deut. literally. They insist on tithing or giving 10% of their earnings to the particular church to which they belong.

However, there are two reasons why we should be generous in giving more than 1%. The first is God's word which encourages us. “ . Everything in heaven and on earth is yours...All riches and wealth come from you....we have only given you back what is

yours”. ( 1 Chronicles 29/11, 12, 14). God blesses you so that you become a blessing to others. God blessed Abraham so that generations of nations could be blessed through him. The second reason for being generous is to provide for the material needs of the Church. No member of, not only the Christian community but also the non-Christian community should be deprived of the bare necessities of life. With ordinary foodstuff, medical expenses and education causing such a financial burden on the poor, should we not help in all generosity?

Jesus praised the poor widow who gave all she had, Jesus Himself gave and still gives himself to us in the Eucharist “Take... this is my Body given up for you”. St. Paul says that Jesus became poor so that we might become rich. This self-giving of Jesus should motivate us to give not only of our possessions but even of ourselves.

When we stand before him on that final curtain call, God will not ask us what our bank balance is, what our qualifications and achievements are, but how much have we loved? The test will be the final judgment - Mathew 25/ 31-46. “Whatever you did to the least of my brothers and sisters you did to Me”. Surely we would like to hear those words: “Come you blessed of my Father, possess the kingdom which has been prepared for you ever since the creation of the world.”

....Ena Carvalho

---

## Peter's Prayer

No, it is not St. Peter of whom I write. This Peter was a plain man, yet saintly in his own way. I first saw him in front of the Blessed Sacrament, his eyes focused on the Tabernacle and his countenance exuding total reverence. An elderly man, he portrayed a follower in direct communion with the Master. What could an elderly man be praying for so intensely?

One day we both left the Church at the same time. I smiled at him and he nodded in acknowledgement and initiated a chat.

Finding him so amiable I told him I admired the way he prayed and asked him the nature of his prayer. He said: “Son, I pray for three things”.

“First, I pray that God gives me quickness in my feet”. “But you are so nimble and steady on your feet” I said. “It is not that what I ask for. I pray that God grants me quickness in reaching out to people – to the feeble, the needy, the lonely and the depressed – in whatever way I can. Not



generous by nature I pray for the grace to loosen up a little.

I next pray that God may give me a song in my heart, not to be singing all day but the gift to appreciate some music and dance which provides rhythm to my life. It makes me less irritable. Moreover, because of music I can appreciate how God orchestrates the universe into a great symphony.

“The third is that God grant me a prayer on my lips that I may learn the importance of praying always, not just for myself but for others too. I pray for my relatives, my friends, my ex-bosses in the army, the haves, the have-nots and for our pastors. I ask for contentment in what I possess and discernment in my decision making. I pray that people may respect life and nature and

live in peace.” After hesitating a little, I shot out my last question to Peter: “Are your prayers always answered?” “Well some of them are and I have faith the rest will be answered in His own time”, he replied.

“But I know one thing and that is ever since I started praying in this manner, it has made me light of heart. That’s reward enough.” We continued to walk in silence and soon it was time for us to change our paths. We took leave of each other. Being carried away by the novelty of his praying style I forgot to thank him and moved away. I did not meet Peter again after that enlightening meeting but I stand indebted to him even now for showing me how to be other-centred and for teaching me the one-line prayer.

...Vincent Rocha

---

## OLPS Church Golden Jubilee

Dear Parishioner,

As you are aware our Church will be celebrating its Golden Jubilee in May 2009. You will also notice that the structure is undergoing much needed major repairs and renovation before a painting job.

Over the last 50 years no major repairs have been undertaken, and neither has the church received intermittent maintenance. As a result – besides attending to the structural damage, for which the marble in the façade also needs changing, we have accepted a proposal to polish the flooring and the marble in the Sanctuary, to replace the electrical and sound system, to have new fans, an Altar and a Lectern, and to incorporate stained-glass panels. The estimated costs involved is in the region of Rs 50 lakhs, and we are confident that with your support we will attain this target.

We have always been proud to have the cooperation of our parishioners, and your generosity has been overwhelming. I personally make this appeal to you and know that you will respond wholeheartedly.

***“Give, and it will be given to you... for the measure you give, will be the measure you get back.” [Lk 6:38]***

Thanking you,

Yours in the Redeemer  
**Fr Paul Julius, CSsR**  
Parish Priest



**PS: Cheques may be drawn in favor of “OLPS Church Repairs and Renovation”**



---

---

## The Mystagogia Experience -- A report

27 confirmed youth, 5 animators along with their parents, S.C.C. responsables supported by the parish clergy assembled in the auditorium of St. Anthony's High School on the eve of Pentecost for the Mystagogia experience on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> May, 2008.

This experience was the grand finale of the year long Confirmation catechesis. Mystagogia is an opportune time for all the confirmed to recall every event, rite and the catechesis itself that culminates in the reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation. What better way of pledging oneself to become a witness of Christ and accepting His Lordship over one's life.

One can understand the meaning of Mystagogia if one recalls the experience of the Apostles after the crucifixion of Jesus. They fled far away in fear from the scene and mourned over the loss of their Messiah. Their years of companionship with Jesus seemed to have come to nothing. They were returning to their old trade of fishing. However, the several appearances of the Lord after His Resurrection changed their pattern of life.. During the 50 days after the Resurrection, the apostles were compelled to 'RECALL' to mind all that happened during their association with Jesus. He was not physically with them to guide their lives but the moments lived with Jesus became their focus. This was a 'weaning away or separation experience' which made them reflect and ponder over everything they heard, did and experienced with Jesus during the 3 year Catechesis. Now they were on their own and had to make their own decisions regarding their faith life. Jesus had already assured them of the help of the Paraclete. They had an option to follow Christ or give up.

On Pentecost, huddled in prayer in the upper

room with Mother Mary, they received that spiritual outpouring which changed their lives completely. They were transformed into spiritual dynamos whose power nothing would be able to overcome. Here were 11 uneducated men taking on rulers, scholars, and high priests. Persecution, torture and death did not deter them. All that mattered was Jesus whose Spirit gave them the power to crush paganism and all forms of evil. With words inspired by the Holy Spirit, they drew thousands to accept Jesus. This transformation is what we call the Mystagogia experience.

Our youngsters were bold and strong enough to make a choice of spending a whole night in spite of being busy with classes, family functions and their vacation. We are proud that they accepted the invitation of Jesus to listen and reflect on His word. 5 sessions on the book of Revelations with a lot of discussion and debate leading to thought provoking conclusions. These were interrupted by coffee breaks, music, painting charts and cleaning up in preparation for the early morning Eucharist. Not a moment to spare as the night turned to dawn.

Profound thanks to the parents who encouraged their wards by attending the 'Agape' or love meal. We congratulate the S.C.C. animators who came after mass with breakfast for the youth. A big thank you to the sisters of St. Anthony's High School who generously gave us the premises for the Mystagogia experience. Fr. Aniceto Pereira of the catechetical Centre paid us a flying visit. Hats off to our parish clergy for supporting and sustaining the Confirmation Catechesis bringing it to a glorious conclusion.

*...Mary Joseph*



## **Kuch Kuch Ho Raha Hai..... S.C.C. happenings**

(March 2008 to May 2008)

**Thanks to all the Small Christian Communities** for their dedicated services at Parish as well as Community level.

The Holy Hour in the Church for the month of March, April & May was conducted by the appointed SCCs on the First Friday of every month.

In the month of March the SCCs conducted the Way of the Cross, in their respective areas. One community 2 day Retreat for their community members on Palm Sunday and on Monday. Easter was celebrated with great joy in all the 21 SCCs with the Eucharistic celebration and a Special Service on the Confirmandis followed by a get-together with games, snacks, dinner, etc.

The Protest Rally at Azad Maidan on 15<sup>th</sup> March was attended by all the core-group members along with the 9 bus loads of people from our parish. The SCCs also joined for the Peace march held at the Holy Family on the 6<sup>th</sup> of April. Regular visits were made by the community members to the sick & old of the parish. Some communities visited the nearby hospitals.

The month of May was devoted to Our Lady, where the statue of Our Lady was taken to all the families of the communities in candle-lit procession. The month long devotion concluded with Eucharistic celebration and mini get-together. Rosary was also conducted in the church by all the SCCs. On the eve of the Pentecost, i.e., 10<sup>th</sup> May 2008, our parish had the Night Vigil for the Confirmandis. Prior to the vigil the Confirmandis in the company of their parents shared the meals prepared by the parents and on 11<sup>th</sup> May, when the Night Vigil concluded with the Holy Mass, the SCC Co-ordinators with their Core-Groups brought breakfast for the confirmandis, which was eaten together. This evoked a sense of belonging, bonding and a happy feeling.

.....*Wilson U. Patrao*

### **CONGRATULATIONS!!**

Our hearty congratulations to Shoanna, daughter of Sharmila and Sunny Dean, residing at Borla Society for her outstanding performance at the HSC Board Examinations. Shoanna, who is a student of St. Xavier's College, secured 87% in the Arts stream and stood 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Mumbai Board. She also gives her time and talent in participating in college and parish activities. The OLPS parish and the SCC group 'Harmony' is proud of Shoanna and her achievements and wish all success in her future endeavours.

***Dr. Ramola D'Cunha***  
*Harmony Small Christian Community*

**SCC Coordinators & Animators please note that the 20<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee Meeting will be held on Tuesday, 8<sup>th</sup> of July 2008 at 7.30 p.m. in the Church Meeting Room.**



## **The Bombay Catholic Sabha, OLPS Unit - Does The Parish Proud**

For the third year in succession, the BCS – OLPS Unit bagged the Runners-up Award among the hundred-odd parishes in the Archdiocese of Bombay, at the BCS Annual Day Awards Ceremony held on the 27<sup>th</sup> April 2008.

Apart from holding a medical camp, an awareness talk on HIV/AIDS, signature campaigns, street play and tackling social and civic issues; the scoring points was our strong involvement in political issues, our stand for justice against atrocities on Christians in several parts of India, and the dislocation of the poor and helpless from their homes under SEZ. We have voiced our protest loud and clear by several marches / rallies, going as far as Dadar, Utan, Gorai, Marve, and the last being on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2008 at Azad Maidan.

This Award is rightly shared by our PP, Fr Paul Julius, our Spiritual Director Fr Edgar Moreira, the Parish Council, Youth, and all you parishioners from whom we always receive unstinted support and cooperation. A prize was also awarded to Fr Aldrin Nunes for mobilizing 80 youth – the largest in the Archdiocese – for the 15<sup>th</sup> March Protest Rally. That is not all, our Mg. Com. member Terence D'Sa won a fancy mobile in a Raffle. What a Hat Trick!!!

*Yvonne Miranda - BCS*

---

**The Novena in preparation for the feast of Our Lady of Perpetual Help on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2008 will be preached by Fr. Ignatius Kumar C.Ss.R. starting from Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> June at 7.00 p.m. everyday**

<b>THEME</b>	<b>:</b>	<b>YOUR PERSONAL ENCOURAGER, JESUS THE LORD</b>
18/06/2008	:	Hold on to Jesus when God seems far away.
19/06/2008	:	Hold on to Jesus when God's promises are delayed.
20/06/2008	:	Hold on to Jesus when jealous thoughts invade.
21/06/2008	:	Hold on to Jesus when one sorrow follows another.
22/06/2008	:	Hold on to Jesus when marriage is rocked and there are difficulties at home.
23/06/2008	:	Hold on to Jesus when evil thoughts assail.
24/06/2008	:	Hold on to Jesus when forgiveness is not easy and you struggle with anger.
25/06/2008	:	Hold on to Jesus when worn with sickness.
26/06/2008	:	Hold on to Mary and she will never fail

**The programme for the SCCs is as on the next page**

---

With the next issue we will be starting a "HELP WANTED, HELP AVAILABLE" column for the benefit of our parishioners. Any person/s needing help in the form of nursing assistance, house help, supply of food, technical assistance, etc. and those able to cater to these needs are welcome to send a strip for inclusion in the Quest.



## Our Lady of Perpetual Succour Feast

We are celebrating our Parish Feast on Friday, 27<sup>th</sup> June 2008, preceded by a 9-day Novena beginning on Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> June. Given below are the Communities responsible for organizing the days' service, decoration of the altar and picture of Our Lady. Daily services at 7.00 p.m. except Sunday, which will be as usual at 6.30 p.m.

### WEDNESDAY - 18th JUNE

**JEEVAN PRAKASH**  
13th Road, 2nd, 3rd & 21<sup>st</sup> Road  
Station Road, Khandari Colony  
N.G. Acharya Marg  
**STARS**  
St. Anthony's Rd (South)  
R.B.I. Quarters

### THURSDAY - 19th JUNE

**DILKUSH**  
14th Road  
Emma Towers, Anchorage  
16th Road, 17th Road  
18th Road, 19th Road  
**CRUSADERS**  
Cross Roads  
Gaothan, 15th Road  
Kamlesh Bhavan  
Manohar Villa  
Postal Colony  
BARC, Sarvodaya  
Gama Grandeur

### FRIDAY - 20th JUNE

**HARMONY**  
Madhugiri  
Atur Park, Maitri Park  
Fairlawns  
Bharat Tirth  
Panorama  
Sunder Apts.  
Maska Chawl  
Dreamland  
Gulab Baug  
Chadwa Apartments  
Borla Society  
**SHELLITES**  
Shell Colony  
Sahakar Nagar  
Thakarbappa Nagar

### SATURDAY - 21st JUNE

**OUR LADY OF VICTORIES**  
Twinkle Star, Seema Society  
Greenfields, Sachatma  
Uttam Society, Mumbadevi  
Harikripa, Sai Nagar, Sainidhi

### SUNDAY - 22ND JUNE

**THE ARCHANGELS**  
Buildings 1 - 15, 16 - 27, 29, 30  
THE MADONNA  
Buildings 36 - 46  
THE DISCIPLES  
Buildings 31 - 35, 47 - 56, 28  
Saraswati Colony  
ST. ANTHONY  
Amir Baug  
MORNING STAR  
Marathi Group  
Siddharth Colony

### MONDAY - 23RD JUNE

**TORCH BEARERS**  
St. Anthony's Road (North)  
Central Avenue  
5th Road  
**DIVINE PROVIDENCE**  
Swastik,  
Shivpuri, Apurva,  
Sindhi Society  
Chembur Naka

### TUESDAY - 24TH JUNE

**ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI**  
Assisi Nagar, Gautam Nagar  
Nimoni Baug, Lokhande Marg  
**SHRINAGAR**  
**OLPS SEVA SANGAM**  
Tembe Nagar  
Saibaba Nagar

### WEDNESDAY - 25TH JUNE

**ST. FRANCIS XAVIER**  
R.C. Barracks  
Old Barracks  
**PERPETUAL RESORT**

### THURSDAY - 26th JUNE

**AVE MARIA**  
Convent View  
Waman Apartments  
Sangam Apartments  
New Borla  
Lotus  
**EMMANUEL**  
11th & 12th Road  
Marian Mansion, Ed-EI  
SANGAM  
Ghatla, Moti Baug  
Duke's, Amar Nagar

### FRIDAY - 27th JUNE

**YOUTH OF THE PARISH  
&  
THE CHOIR**

For Liturgy Assistance,  
Contact Celia Nazareth  
on Tel : 2521 0672

Concelebrated Feast Mass will be at 7.00 p.m. on Friday, 27<sup>th</sup> June 2008, followed by a Cultural Programme at Sevadaan.

*Fr. Rector, Parish Clergy and the Redemptorist community  
wish all our parishioners  
of OLPS Chembur*

*A Happy Feast*

*Published by: Fr. Paul Julius, OLPS Church, Chembur.*

*Editorial Team: Fr. Osie, Yvonne, Chris, Effie, Michelle & Wilson.*

*Website: www.geocities.com/olpschurch \* Email: olpschurch@yahoo.co.in \* Tel. 25212396 / 5708.*