



Perpetual WEST

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

REDEMPTORIST PARISH BULLETIN (Private Circulation only) June 2006 Vol. XIII/2

The Beatitudes – The Eight Be-Happy Attitudes that will change our Lives!

All men and women look for happiness. Some seek it in wealth, others in fame, and still others in sex, drinks or drugs. But as many have discovered at one time or another, wealth, fame, positions, illicit relationships, alcohol or drugs do not bring real happiness.

Many tend to confuse "happiness" with 'pleasure', and "to be happy" with 'to experience pleasure'. Pleasure has to do merely with our senses and material achievements. Happiness, on the other hand, is deeply moral and spiritual; it is really human fulfillment.

Centuries earlier, God had given the Law on the Mountain of Sinai (Ex. 20). After that, on another mountain, the Son of God gave the New Law. This is what we call 'the gospel', or 'the good news'. The Beatitudes contain the essence of this good news.

The Beatitudes are the eight opening lines of Jesus' famous 'Sermon on the Mount' found in the gospel of Matthew (5:1-12)

- * "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."
- * "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted."
- * "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth."

- * "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied."
- * "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy."
- * "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall be called children of God."
- * "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

Blessed literally means "happy". Whether one is winning or losing, succeeding or failing, joyful or depressed, he or she can be really happy if they live the 'beatitudes' given by Jesus. Mary our Mother, the saints and holy men and women, the Father of our Nation lived the beatitudes and experienced real joy. Let us also try to discover the same happiness in our lives by reflecting on these eight spiritual blessings and making an effort to live them.

During the Great Novena this year we will be reflecting each day, along with Mary, our Mother of Perpetual Help, on one of the Beatitudes. All are welcome to this great spiritual feast!

Fr. Paul P. Thomas C.Ss.R.



Communion & Confirmation Testimonies

A true Communion with Christ

Testimonies from some of our children who received their First Holy Communion in April 2006 :



“On my 1st Holy Communion day, I felt very happy & proud of myself. Jesus had come into my heart & all my sins were washed away”- Anjanette Raj

“I was glad that I was receiving Jesus for the first time. Well, at the same time I was shocked how Jesus gave his body to sinners like us. When the girl before me had gone after receiving communion, and I had to receive communion, my heart was full of joy. When I had the communion in my mouth I felt something really great till the communion went down my throat. I don't know what it was but it was as if I could see JESUS even though I didn't! This is how I felt on that day” - Maya Janine

“On that special day of my 1st Holy Communion, I received Jesus in my heart for the very first time through Holy Communion. It was a rare experience never felt before. A feeling of meeting Jesus for the very first time through his body and blood. Throughout the mass I could feel the strength and the power of the Lord Jesus Christ within me. All of us took our oath to grow in the Lord's love and care. I prayed to Jesus to guide and help me to lead a good Christian life and keep me away from all evil. It was an everlasting experience” - Glen Martin

“This summer was a very special summer for me as I celebrated a special day on 23rd April 2006. I received the sacrament of 1st Holy Communion in OLPS Church. My family and me were very excited and had waited for this day patiently. I attended Catechism classes for 1 year in preparation for this day. I awoke in the morning. I was

very excited and couldn't wait to go to church to meet my friends as we were about to receive Jesus for the first time in our hearts. And I was also happy that I was going to sing a hymn in the Church. The ceremony in the Church was beautiful and was celebrated by Fr. Paul. At the end of it all I said, Lucky that I was born a Christian to receive Jesus” - Karl Pereira.

“First I received the sacrament of Confession, but before this I prayed to God that I could make a good confession. As I was confessing my sins, I thought that Jesus was sitting and hearing my sins. I was feeling good within myself. The day came when each and every child waited to receive Jesus for the 1st time. As the mass began I was feeling the Holy Spirit coming into me when I received Communion (Jesus for the first time). I felt Jesus coming and touching me and saying Congrats, today you have received me and be a prayerful child. The most important thing I want to also thank my parents, brother and my teachers Fiona, Amy, Sheila and Sister Sunita for taking so much trouble for this day and making this occasion a happy one for me. May God bless them” - Valentina Saldanha

Confirmed in Christ



Our youth received the sacrament of Confirmation in April 2006. Some of the candidates have shared their experiences:

Anita Fernandes, “Confirmation is more than a sacrament. The notion of a Bishop giving a light pat on the cheek is replaced with the notion that the sacrament makes me a real soldier of Christ. I always thought that the Church was against science, inventions and modern technology. But Dr. Pascoal Carvalho during one of the

(contd on pg 3)



(contd from pg 2)

sessions on Pro-Life proved to us how the Church is all for human progress and modern science. It only raises objections when science goes against human life and human ethics. This was an eye-opener for me”

Ankita Menezes, “Confirmation helped me deepen my relationship with God. I understood the meaning of being a Christian. For me the retreat was the high point of the confirmation catechesis. I learnt a lot. I learnt to appreciate others and recognized how precious life is. The whole year was a period of challenging situations. It was exciting. I owe a lot to my animators, SCC animators, the Parish Clergy & my parents.”

Dianycious Rayen thought that Confirmation catechesis was another class that he was already used to, where one sat and listened to boring lectures because one had to. “But weeks into the catechesis, I began to learn to treasure my faith. I became eager to learn and know more about my faith. I realized I belonged to one big beautiful family – the Catholic Church. When Bishop Ferdinand laid his hands on my head, I felt that I had really become a true soldier in God’s army. It suddenly dawned on me that I am born for a special purpose in life.”

Shawn Rozi has this to say, “Confirmation to me means a very blessed sacrament which I received as a gift from God. Confirmation has brought about a lot of changes in me during the year-long confirmation catechesis. Earlier, I never used to attend Mass and always stood outside the Church. But now, I regularly go to Church and attend Mass standing inside the Church. Confirmation has helped me realize the true value of life and time. It has taught me to respect my parents, elders, relatives, friends and all the people around me.”

Love Conquers All !!

It was a sports stadium.

Eight children were standing on the track to participate in a running event.

* Ready! * Steady! * Bang!!!

With the sound of the toy pistol, all eight girls started running.



Hardly had they covered ten to fifteen steps, when one of the smaller girls slipped and fell down and due to the bruises and pain she started crying.

When the other seven girls heard this sound, they stopped running, stood for a while and turned back, they all ran back to the place where the girl had fallen.

One among them bent, picked and kissed the girl gently and enquired, ‘Now the pain must have reduced’. All seven girls lifted the fallen girl, pacified her, two of them held the girl firmly and they all seven joined hands together and walked together and reached the winning post.

Officials were shocked. Clapping of thousands of spectators filled the stadium. Many eyes were filled with tears and perhaps it had reached GOD even!

YES. This happened in Hyderabad [INDIA], recently!

The National Institute of Mental Health conducted the sports. All these special girls had come to participate in this event and they are spastic children. Yes, they were mentally challenged.

What did they teach this world?

Teamwork? Humanity? Equality among all?????

Successful people help others who are slow in learning so that they are not left far behind. This is really a great message... spread it!

We can’t do this ever because we have brains!!!!!!!!!!!!

It’s Always Love.

Life is at its weakest when there are more doubts than trust.....

But life is at its strongest when you learn to trust inspite of the doubt.



Family life and Beatitudes of our times.

The family is the basic unit of society with the members of each unit finding mutual fulfillment leading to maturity. The family is the centre of all human life and this affects and influences human society. The family is the “**sanctuary of life**”, where life is nurtured, children are raised and God’s love prevails.

Home is a place where we live, a place where we are understood and where we should experience joy, happiness and peace. Home is precisely where warmth and love exist. Love is caring, sharing, and giving within the many relationships and experiences that family life provides. It is here within a home that a family, namely parents, children and grandparents can individually and together develop into mature persons, and grow to be wonderful human beings.

The family has a vital link with society as it is not only the foundation, but also continually nourishes society. The relationships between the members of the family should be guided by free self giving.

Blessed are those who respect and foster personal dignity in each and every member of the family for they will bring joy to all. Children whatever be their age must be respected as persons. This respect takes the form in acceptance of the other, a communicative attitude, availability, generous service, a deep sense of loyalty and solidarity. In the family, various generations interact especially when they come together. It is important to transmit ‘**virtues**’ and ‘**values**’ to help one another grow. It is often said that the family is a custodian and transmitter of values. Appreciation, team work and living according to moral values enhance the life of family members.

We presently live in an age of violence and intolerance. Discipline is often understood as to be firm, demanding, autocratic, tyrannical etc. Shouting, beating, screaming, ridiculing and punishing is not discipline for all this does not build, but breaks the person. Discipline should not inhibit the personality rather it should bring out the best valuable qualities in all the family members. **Blessed are you** if you know how to appreciate, smile and forget someone’s rude behavior, your days will be full of sunshine.

Spouses have a responsible role to play in the family. They must firstly be life-giving and supportive to each



other. They have the duty of caring for their children and other members of the family.

Blessed are they who make family time a special time for fun, fellowship and laughter. **Blessed are the children** who learn much from their parents at such times, as they see them in a different light. This makes for a happy family life.

Service and good example are valuable assets of family life. **Blessed are they** who

know how to listen and remain silent, they will grow in knowledge. The value of helping and doing good deeds helps build sound and strong characters among the family members. **Blessed are the parents** who pray for support and skills to live good exemplary lives, for theirs is a sacred task. All they need is grace to acknowledge the presence of the Divine in their lives. The elderly in the family have the wisdom of years gone by. **Blessed are you** if you know how to treat them with love and attention bringing serenity to their hearts, you will enrich your life.

Today’s youth are often confused and disillusioned by the double standards prevalent in family and society. Since they are searching for their identity, youth must be molded and challenged to live a value system which is crucial to their future and prosperity. **Security, understanding, love and good example** of their parents and family members will help youth understand their role in family life. **Blessed are the youth** who think before acting, and pray before thinking, for they will avoid doing foolish things.

It is in the family where one learns forgiveness. Family members must learn to forgive, and forgive everyday, day after day. “**Blessed is the family that prays together for surely they will stay together**”. A family is God’s plan, a sacred gift to nurture and protect life and to facilitate the growth process at every stage. Empowered with God’s grace every family is called to live out its mission – to build the family with respect, love, life and communion.

Blessed are they who know how to recognize the Lord in everyone they meet they will find true light and true peace. On the feast of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour may all the families in our parish be blessed by Our Lady, so that they remain united, joyful and enjoy God’s precious gift of love and life.

Dr. Jeanette Pinto



Decline of people at the Perpetual Novena

We will soon start the Solemn Novena to Our Mother Of Perpetual Help, the Patroness of this parish. We expect all the families in the parish to be present for this 9-day preparation commencing on the 18th June and ending with the feast on the 27th June.

At the same time we are apprehensive: Have we reason to believe the church will be filled to capacity when every Wednesday the number attending the devotions is pathetically small? We ask ourselves why? Have our parishioners no time? Have they little love for Mary? Do they find the way devotions are conducted un-inspiring? These are some of the questions that come to our mind. We shall be happy to have your reasons for not attending the devotions.

For the present let us reflect on "The Role of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God in the Mystery of Christ and the Church." The Mystery of Christ means the whole plan of Salvation revealed by God through His Son Jesus. What part does Mary play in this work of Jesus?

From Genesis God chose her as "the Woman" who in and through her Son Jesus was to crush the Serpent's head. In other words, to cooperate with Jesus in bringing about our salvation. At the Annunciation she accepted that mission by her "Yes" to the angel's message. Her appearances in the life of Jesus till the foot of the Cross and then in the Upper Room at Pentecost indicate her involvement.

On the Cross Jesus entrusted Mary to St. John as his mother. John represented the community of

believers, the Church. As Mary cared for her Son with great devotion she now cares for His Body the Church down the centuries. Her one aim is to make us committed followers of Jesus. She is perpetually helping each of us to make Him the Centre of our lives. As such, she herself is our model, because He was the Centre of her life. She expressed her total commitment in these words: "Behold the handmaid of the Lord, be it done to me according to your Word". In other words, Mary is totally available to Jesus and in Jesus to others. There is no doubt, that imitating her total commitment many more in this parish would be involved and would be at the service of their brothers and sisters.

Selfish and self-centred as we are Mary knows how difficult it is to keep Jesus at the Centre, to be totally committed. She also sees us being pulled in the direction of the world. As an empathetic mother, she realizes the various pressures we are subjected to in our day-to-day living. So, as we come to her week after week, she looks out at us with compassion and says: "I am there for you. I will speak to my Son for you". Mary offers us courage, hope & a vision for the future. Tell me, why should we deprive ourselves of all this help?

A final point: In our sermonettes we want to throw some light on the questions and problems that make the following of Jesus difficult. I am sure that Our Mother of Perpetual Help would like us to offer you some explanation of the doubts and queries that modern living poses. Shall we say, with a little humour, we are trying to make her work easier?

Parish Clergy team

PRAYER TO THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

O God, who by the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, did prepare a worthy dwelling place for Your Son, we beseech You that, as by the foreseen death of this, Your Son, You did preserve Her from all stain, so too You would permit us, purified through Her intercession, to come unto You. Through the same Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, world without end. Amen.





Kuch Kuch Ho Raha Hai..... Community Happenings

Here is a brief report of the happenings in all the 22 SCCs for the period of March to May 2006:



- * Holy Hour in the Church was conducted by different SCCs on First Friday of every month.
- * In March, one community celebrated Holi along with their Hindu brethren.
- * During the Lenten Season, most communities had the Way of the Cross in their zone. One community had the Way of the Cross from home to home on all the Fridays in Lent, while another community recited the Rosary in all the homes in their community. One community visited the Leper's Home at Trombay & conducted the Way of the Cross in Marathi in which each station was explained with contemporary examples. Another community had the Way of the Cross on Good Friday at 12.00 noon.
- * After the Easter Sunday, all the communities had Easter Zonal Masses in their community, which began with Mass, blessing of the water, games, snacks & dinner.
- * The final Prayer Services prior to the actual Sacrament of Confirmation for the Confirmation students were also conducted in the SCCs.
- * Another community again visited the Leper's Home at Trombay and arranged for the Holy Eucharist in Marathi, which was followed by visits to the inmates at the home.
- * 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. Some communities had the Rosary from area to area, while some recited it in front of the Grotto in their community. The Rosary in the Church was also conducted by various SCCs before the daily evening Mass.

* One community provided assistance to the hutment colonies within their area for the last three months.

Extracts from Bishop Bosco Penha's letter dated May 15, 2006 to our Parish Priest. He has once again congratulated all our SCC coordinators & animators for the excellent service they have been rendering. He says, as the communities meet in June, they could formulate a plan for the year, at the parish & SCC levels. Depending on the specific conditions, some of the goals could be: -

1. Sub-division of large SCCs into smaller units/ formation of clusters.
2. Introduction / promotion of Gospel sharing.
3. Parish level training sessions / deputing promising candidates for Archdiocesan Training courses (TOA / Skills for Animators)
4. A regular schedule of visits to families by animators.
5. Introducing a more systematic method of functioning with respect to meetings, reporting, minutes, plans, attendance, discipline, evaluation, feedback, etc.
6. Strategies to ensure greater levels of participation in SCC programmes by families / youth / children.
7. Revival of dormant SCCs, if any.
8. Widening the range of activities to cover spiritual, socio-cultural, outreach and civic spheres. Outreach in particular to the sick, lonely, aged, marginalized, needy members of each SCC is of vital importance.
9. Fostering collaboration between SCCs and other Cells / Associations.
10. Any other initiative / strategy relevant to your specific situation.

Wilson U. Patrao



Small Mercies...

It was a manic Monday. Every chore was going behind schedule. My penchant for matching attire only made matters worse. When I was just about to leave the house for office, I felt that my trousers did not go with my shirt and decided to change into another pair. Having done so, I dashed off to catch the 9am bus from from Chembur to Flora Fountain. I just managed to board it only to discover that I had left my wallet behind in the other trousers. I hurriedly squeezed my way through the standees up to the conductor and requested him to let me alight, telling him why. He gave me a benign look and said, "Thero". He pulled out a ticket and handed it over to me (since I was a daily commuter, he knew my destination). He saved me a good thirty minutes of time-loss and energy and I thanked him. I told him that I would square him soon. Next morning, I boarded the same bus after ensuring that my do-gooder was on duty. I offered him the previous day's fare but he flatly refused it. He said that it was a small matter and I should please forget it, leaving me overwhelmed.

This railway porter saved my life. Once in my youth, I braved it alone to a dental hospital in

Central Mumbai for a check-up. The dentist told me that there was a small bit of a molar that was causing me discomfort. He asked me if I was willing to have it extracted the same day and I readily agreed. I was completely drained after the extraction. In pain and anxious to get home, I struggled to the nearest railway station. Being dizzy, I had lost my bearings and was looking towards the wrong end of the platform for the train. Just then I heard a loud "Peeche hato" shout. As a reflex action to the strong yell, I stepped back and looked aghast as I saw a fast train whiz past from where I had stood only a fraction of a second earlier. Had I been at the point where I was only a moment earlier, I was a sure goner. Someone at the platform told me that it was a porter who had sounded the warning. I looked around for my saviour, but his duty done, he had moved away and I could not locate him. To this day, I remember his life-saving service.

Sometimes, I reminisce with awe, the spontaneity with which these saving graces cam my way and each time I conclude that they were flashed out by the 'Hand' that dispenses all things, big and small; and say *Deo Gratias*.

Vincent Rocha.

A Quiz on Mary, Our Mother

- 1) Name Mother Mary's parents.
- 2) Name the months of the year set aside specially for the Rosary by the Church.
- 3) The Litany of Our Lady comprises of _____ salutations.
- 4) When does the Church celebrate Mother Mary's birthday?
- 5) 15th August is the feast of the _____.
- 6) The Annunciation is celebrated on _____.
- 7) Name the disciple who was asked to be Mary's son and take care of her after Jesus' death.
- 8) The Novena to Mary our Mother is conducted by our Church on _____ (name the day of the week).
- 9) Name the first miracle performed by Jesus at the request of Mary.
- 10) Name Mary's cousin.
- 11) Name Mary's nephew.
- 12) Name Mary's husband.
- 13) Who was the angel who announced that Mary was chosen to be the mother of Jesus?
- 14) Write the full form of O L P S.
- 15) What were the words uttered by Elizabeth when Mary visited her?

This quiz is open to children of the age of 12 and below. Give in your answers at the Parish Office. Winners will be announced in the next issue of the Quest. There were no enteries for the Easter Crossword. You may still send in your solutions.



Our Lady of Perpetual Succour Feast

We are celebrating our Parish Feast on Tuesday, 27th June 2006, preceded by a 9-day Novena beginning on Sunday, 18th 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 pm. except Sunday, which will be as usual at 6.30pm.

SUNDAY – 18th JUNE

EMMANUEL

11th & 12th Road
Marian Mansion, Ed-El
HARMONY
Madhugiri, Atur Park,
Maitri Park, Fairlawns
Bharat Tirth, Panorama
Sunder Apts., Maska Chawl
Dreamland, Gulab Baug
Chadwa Apartments
Borla Society

MONDAY – 19th JUNE

CRUSADERS

Cross Roads
Gaothan, 15th Road
Kamlesh Bhavan
Manohar Villa, Postal Colony
BARC, Sarvodaya
Gama Grandeur
MORNING STAR
Marathi Group
Siddharth Colony

TUESDAY – 20th JUNE

JEEVAN PRAKASH

13th Rd, 2nd, 3rd & 21st Rd
Station Road, Khandari Colony
N.G. Acharya Marg
DIVINE PROVIDENCE
Swastik, Shivpuri, Apurva,
Sindhi Society
Chembur Naka

WEDNESDAY – 21st JUNE

GOOD SHEPHERD

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

THURSDAY – 22nd JUNE

AVE MARIA

Convent View
Waman Apartments
Sangam Apartments
New Borla, Lotus
PERPETUAL RESORT
SANGAM
Ghatla, Moti Baug
Duke's, Amar Nagar
Khardeo Nagar

FRIDAY – 23rd JUNE

DILKUSH

14th Road
Emma Towers, Anchorage
16th Road, 17th Road
18th Road, 19th Road
ST. FRANCIS XAVIER
R.C. Barracks
Old Barracks

SATURDAY – 24th JUNE

OUR LADY OF VICTORIES

Twinkle Star, Seema Society
Greenfields, Sachatma
Uttam Society, Mumbadevi
Harikripa, Sai Nagar, Sainidhi
OLPS SEVA SANGAM
Tembe Nagar
Saibaba Nagar

SUNDAY – 25th JUNE

STARS

St. Anthony's Rd (South)
R.B.I. Quarters
SHELLITES
Shell Colony, Sahakar Nagar
Thakarappa Nagar

MONDAY – 26th JUNE

TORCH BEARERS

St. Anthony's Road (North)
Central Avenue, 5th Road
ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI
Assisi Nagar, Gautam Nagar
Nimoni Baug, Lokhande Marg
Sri Nagar

TUESDAY – 27th JUNE

YOUTH OF THE PARISH & THE CHOIR

Concelebrated Feast Mass will
be at 7.00 p.m. on Tuesday,
27th June, followed by a Cultural
Programme at Sevadaan.

For Liturgy Assistance

Contact Celia Nazareth on Tel : 2521 0672

*Fr. Rector, Parish Clergy and the Redemptorist community
wish all our parishioners of OLPS Church - A Happy Feast.*

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