



Happy Resurrection

- o Each time we love again after having our love rejected, we share in the power of the resurrection.
 - o Each time we trust again after having our trust betrayed, we share in the resurrection.
 - o Each time we fail and try again, we share in the resurrection.
 - o Each time we hope again after having our hopes smashed to pieces, we share in the resurrection.
 - o Each time we wipe our tears and start again, we share in the power of the resurrection.
 - o The message of Easter is that nothing can destroy us any more-not pain, not sin, not rejection, not death.
 - o The message of Easter is that Christ has conquered all, and that we too can conquer all, if we put our faith in him.
- That's what the resurrection is all about!!





Eucharistic Adoration

Our Holy Father, Pope John Paul II has declared October 2004 to October 2005 as the Year of the Eucharist.

We have heard deep and soul stirring truths about the Eucharist – an invitation to enter heaven. Indeed we are in heaven and join its liturgy at every Eucharist. Earth unites with heaven to cry out, “Holy, holy...”

At the Eucharist, Jesus makes a total gift of Himself to the Father first, and then He makes a total gift of Himself to us as food and nourishment. We receive the victim who was sacrificed and consumed out of love. Our victim places himself in our hands to be consumed in Holy Communion.

We became conformed to Jesus, the Resurrected Lord as we see Him with eyes of Faith. We are challenged to totally give ourselves to our Master.

Like Mary, who first carried the Body and Blood of Christ within herself and ever remained obedient to the Father’s will; we too are called to be in total surrender, even to the Cross. The Holy Spirit comes upon the bread and wine and it is transformed. The same spirit makes us one and brings the fruit of love in us which includes forgiveness and total healing of mind, body and spirit.

We enter Holy Week full of gratitude to Jesus for this most wonderful gift He has



given us. May we be ever filled with awe, amazement, wonder and reverence for this marvel that is ever at our disposal.

No angel or archangel has the privilege of receiving Holy Communion. Let us therefore, put aside all our pettiness and resist the temptation of allowing the Eucharist to become for us a mere routine – too commonplace or just an obligation we must fulfil.

The heavenly liturgy does not permit disunity and Holy Communion bears little or no fruit when there is no forgiveness. As we see Jesus passing over to the Father, may we too pass over from mediocrity and indifference to faith and deep devotion. May this our Parish community at Chembur, journeying towards Abba, our Father, always strive to be a loving, united Eucharistic family going out to transform whatever we can in the world we are sent out into.

*-- Mrs Leela Moraes
(a response with excerpts from messages of Bishop Valerian D’Souza who preached in our parish in February)*

- ☒ A lot of kneeling will keep you in good standing.
- ☒ Are you wrinkled with burden? Come to the church for a face-lift.
- ☒ Don’t wait for six strong men to take you to church.



Action to Passion

(Gospel reflection by Father Gerry Pierson, C.Ss.R.)

In my work as a priest I have to companion people who are going through various kinds of difficulties. One of the most stressful journeys is with those who are facing serious illness or death. I often meet a man or a woman who has been very active - a school head or office manager, an active parent and breadwinner. Suddenly, they are faced with disability, incapacity or terminal illness. They have nothing to do, or, they can do nothing. From being active givers they now become passive receivers. They feel very useless that they are burdens to themselves and to others. A few can articulate this and come to grips with it in some way. For most it makes no sense at all.

During lent we reflect on the passion. We often say that Jesus saved us by his passion, death and resurrection. We do not even mention his active life. So passion; being the recipient of things that were done to him, was how Jesus saved us. Passion then must be of great value in the eyes of God.

Being handed over is an expression that is central to the account of the last events in Jesus' life. In Gethsemane he was handed over by Judas. Some translations would say Jesus was betrayed, but the Greek word is to be handed over. But the extraordinary thing is that this word is not only used for Judas but also for God. God handed Jesus over for our sins. God did not save his own son but handed him over. This word "handed over" is very central to the life of Jesus - he was handed over to suffer for us.

The handing over of Jesus divides his life into two parts. The first part is one of activity, initiative, healing, feeling, thinking, talking. After being handed over he becomes the one to whom things are being done. He is being flagellated, being led to the High priest, led to Pilate, being crowned with thorns, given a cross, being nailed to it. All is done to him. He is the recipient of other people's initiative over which he does not have any control at all. Once he is handed over all the verbs are passive in Mark's Gospel. We do not know any more how Jesus feels or what he does - all is done to him. He receives the action of others. This is passion - being the recipient of other people's initiative. Jesus does not simply fulfill his vocation in action but also in passion. He not only does the things his Father asked him to do but he also lets things be done to him. "It is fulfilled." It is fulfilled more by his passion than by his action. During lent we reflect on the power of the passion, the being passive, of Jesus. It also leads us to see that there is a power in our own passivity, that at a certain stage in life we come to glorify God more by accepting what happens to us than by actually doing things ourselves.

I believe that our capacity to see and believe this truth, as we become less active, will depend to a great extent on how we prayed in our active days. If our prayer was only about our activity we will be in trouble; but if our prayer was about God's activity we will be able to let go to it more gracefully as health or age limit us.



My Attorney

After living what I felt was a “decent” life, my time on earth came to an end.

The first thing I remember is sitting on a bench in the waiting room of what I thought to be a court house. The doors opened and I was instructed to come in and have a seat by the defense table. As I looked around I saw the “prosecutor.” He was a villainous looking gent who snarled as he stared at me.

He definitely was the most evil person I have ever seen.

I sat down and looked to my left and there sat My Attorney, a kind and gentle looking man whose appearance seemed so familiar to me, I felt I knew Him.

The corner door flew open and there appeared the Judge in full flowing robes. He commanded an awesome presence as He moved across the room. I couldn't take my eyes off Him. As He took His seat behind the bench, He said, “Let us begin.”

The prosecutor rose and said, “My name is Satan and I am here to show you why this man belongs to hell.”

He proceeded to tell about the lies that I told, things that I stole, and in the past when I cheated others. Satan told of other horrible perversions that were once in my life and the more he spoke, the further down in my seat I sank. I was so embarrassed that

I couldn't look at anyone, even my own Attorney, as the Devil told of sins that even I had completely forgotten about. As upset as I was at Satan for telling all these things about me, I was equally upset at My Attorney who sat there silently not offering any form of defense at all. I know I had been guilty of those things, but I had done some good in my life - couldn't that at least equal out part of the harm I'd done?

Satan finished with a fury and said, “This man belongs to hell, he is guilty of all the charges I brought on him and there is not a person who can prove otherwise.”

When it was His turn, My Attorney first asked if He might approach the bench. The Judge allowed this putting aside the strong objection of Satan, and beckoned Him to come forward. As He got up and started walking, I was able to see Him in His full splendor and majesty. I realized why He seemed so familiar; this was Jesus representing me; my Lord and my Savior.

He stopped at the bench and softly said to the Judge, “Hi, Dad,” and then He turned to address the court. “Satan was correct in saying that this man sinned, I won't deny any of these allegations. And, yes, the wages of sin is death, and this man deserves to be punished.”

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Jesus took a deep breath and turned to His Father with outstretched arms and proclaimed, "However, I died on the cross so that this person might have eternal life and he has accepted Me as his Savior, so he is Mine."

My Lord continued with, "His name is written in the book of life and no one can snatch him from Me. Satan still does not understand yet. This man is not to be given justice, but rather mercy."

As Jesus sat down, He quietly paused, looked at His Father and said, "There is nothing else that needs to be done. I've done it all."

The Judge lifted His mighty hand and slammed the gavel down. The following words bellowed from His lips... "This man is free. The penalty for him has already been paid in full. Case dismissed."

As my Lord led me away, I could hear Satan ranting and raving, "I won't give up, I will win the next one."

As He gave me my instructions where to go next, I asked Jesus "Have you ever lost a case?"

Jesus lovingly smiled and said, "Everyone that has come to Me and asked Me to represent them has received the same verdict as you, Paid in Full."

You will never grow old !!

In Christ, there is no Old or Young, no Fit or Unfit, all build-up the Body of Christ.

**A) Here is something to ponder about
"The Autumn of Life"**

The Youth call it 'Happening'.

For us we are there "Hum Hai Naa".

Remember the Pope is an old man, yet

When we expected him to retire –

He is there

Despite being a victim of Parkinsons –

He is there

In our youthful fast track world –

He is there

Inspite of frailty – He is there

Inspite of being inaudible – He is there.

Inspite of his immobility with a walking stick – He has gone round the world.

We don't die till we really die.

So keep up the good fight till the very end.

Even here in our parish, senior members are rendering yeoman service to the today's community. The Catholic Sabha is bridging the generation gap : with the youth, to promote sports. The St. Vincent de Paul society exhaustively caring for the marginalized; The Grace Age is giving Hope for Life and many other organizations.

- Amy D'Souza



Kuch Kuch Ho Raha Hai

Small Christian Communities: Update



The brief update on the happenings in the 22 Small Christian Communities (SCC) of our Parish: 8th December 2004 to 7th March 2005.

- * The Holy Hour in the Church held every First Friday of the month was conducted by various SCCs of our Parish.
- * In order to involve the Confirmation Students in the SCC, follow up prayer services were conducted by various SCCs.
- * In the month of December, almost all the communities organized a Christmas get-together with Mass, Games & Dinner. Some communities organized a New Year get-together with Mass, Games & Dinner, while some communities went Carol Singing to the homes of their community. Also visits were made to the families inviting them to welcome the Parish Carol Singers at the community.
- * SCCs participated in the OLPS Parish Zonal Chitramala competition.
- * Some communities put up a Community Crib & Star. One of the communities had a X'Mas party for the children of their area. They also celebrated their Cross Feast, which was followed by a cultural programme. People from other faiths also participated in this. This community also conducted the Thanksgiving

service on 31st December followed by the Divine Mercy Prayers.

- * One community visited the NASEOH Institute & celebrated Christmas along with the people of other faiths. Visits were made by some communities to the orphanage, Leper's Home & Aids Home at Trombay, and Beggar's Home at Chembur.
- * Some SCCs visited the sick & old members of their community. They spent time with them & prayed for them for their quick recovery.
- * Some communities visited the Shrine of Infant Jesus at Nasik, while one community organized a picnic for their community.
- * One community organized a talk on Anger Management.
- * During Lent – Way of the Cross was conducted by various communities, some went house to house, another at the Leprosy & Aid's Home at Trombay along with the Legionaries. One community showed a DVD on Mercy & Grace. The visits were also made by all the communities along with the priest to invite them for the Parish Lenten Mission, which begins on 13th March.

... *Wilson U. Patrao*

B) Respecting choices: There is value in every choice.....

This is certain. It was not the Senior Citizen who took the melody out of music, the beauty out of art, the pride out of appearance, the love out of romance, the commitment out of marriage, the responsibility out of parenthood, togetherness out of family, learning out of

education, service out of patriotism, the heart out of a home, civility out of behaviour, refinement out of language, dedication out of vocation, prudence out of spending, ambition out of achievement and eliminated patience and tolerance from relationships.



Bombay Catholic Sabha FOOTCOM 2005 **Inter Parish Football Tournament**

The much hyped football tournament – the Inter Parish Tournament organized for the first time by the Bombay Catholic Sabha, kicked off on Sunday, 9th January 2005 at St. Xavier's School ground, Vile Parle with great pomp after more than a month of hectic preparation.

The tournament was played on a league-cum-knockout basis with 37 teams from different parishes participating. These teams were divided into eight pools according to their geographical proximity and 92 matches were to be played on 10 different grounds.

The main objective of the BCS was to display the talent of our Catholic Community and to encourage the players to play at higher levels of the game. The BCS also hoped that this tournament would help people from various

parishes to acquaint themselves with one another.

Our OLPS Parish team – a blend of the young and the not-so-young participated, and I am happy to inform our parishioners that we fared extremely well. This is in spite of the limitations that we faced like non-availability of the football ground for regular practice. We reached the SEMI-FINALS under the able guidance of our coach, Phil D'Cruz and the encouragement of our BCS unit. The semifinals was a tough fight and we ended up losing to Our Lady of Egypt Parish, Kalina.

We hope that this success will motivate our boys to come back to the playing field, after a lapse of many years, with the continued help of the authorities concerned.

Benes Coutinho (OLPS – Team Manager)

C) Wishing all Women Happy Womens' Day – 8th March

D) Dedicated to Grandmothers of to-day: They never go out of fashion

Did you ever stop to wonder about the grannies of to-day?

Instead of growing old and stiff they just grow young and gay

They drive their dear old auto, they also dance and play

They really don't stay much at home if they can get away

They know world news from A to Z,
they sing each brand new song and when they go on shopping, a day can't be too long

You mustn't think we're judging our grannies of to-day,

Because I think that they're all fine, because I'm one you say

Of course they go on jogging, do you really think they do not?

And when it comes to yoga why? They tie themselves in knots

But gosh – We wouldn't change the grannies of to-day

They're all good sports and heaps of fun and all know how to play

Here's wishing all the best of luck with lots of years of joy with grandchildren a plenty, a boy, a girl, a boy.



Sunday School Annual Day

Sunday, 6th March 2005, was the Annual Day of our Sunday school. The enthusiasm, however, was built up weeks ahead with all the planning, preparations and practices that culminated in a vibrant evening at the Sevadaan premises.

Students from Std. I to Std. IX & X participated in songs, skits, and dances to project Christian values and

Biblical episodes. It was a real joy to see their enthusiasm, a lot of talent and creativity, both from students and catechists, surface. The chief guests Sr. Benedict & Mrs. Patsy Mendes from Loreto Convent along with parents added to the encouraging and appreciative audience.

All had a lovely time.

- Amy Barton

E) Did you know???

Gerontology is a study of ageing and related ailments. A survey made in this connection has revealed that "Senior citizens have the most amount of Aids – Spectacles, hearing aids, dentures, wigs, strollers, walking sticks, wheel chairs and pace makers."

F) Dignity Foundation publishes a magazine "Dignity Dialogue". Those interested can write to:-

Dignity Foundation,
Municipal School, Topiwala Lane,
Opp. Lamington Police Station,
Lamington Road, Mumbai.

G) Have you made your Senior Citizen ID Card?

If not, do so at Hanuman Temple, Near Diamond Garden, Chembur, Mumbai - 71.

Benefits of ID Card:-

- * Railway concessions – 30% (60 years)
- * Separate queue for senior citizens for railway bookings.
- * Air travel concessions – 50% on only basic fare (65 years)
- * Bank gives ½% extra interest (60 years)
- * High court gives priority hearing (65 years)
- * Maharashtra State Transport – 33% (65 years)
- * MTNL – 25% rebate on telephone rental.