



Sevadaan Celebrates !!

On the evening of Sunday, 27th Feb. 2005, all roads led to the Sevadaan Special School on St. Anthony's Road, it being the 20th Annual Awards Day.

An Annual Day is a culmination of all the training in various areas such as physical, social, communication and motor skills that the school imparts to its students all through the academic year. It's the day to appreciate the efforts of all those in the process of training these special children.

The evening began with the customary inaugural lamp lit by the Chief Guest Ms. Marie – Lou Fernandes, DCP Zone VII. Apart from the prayer songs, this year the students' choir also sang filmi songs effortlessly and could compete with any Indian Idol.

Even though 15% of the students are children with Autism, Hyperactivity and Multiple Disabilities, each and every student performed on stage. Just standing under the spotlight, decked up in all their finery is an achievement for them. In spite of all these handicaps, the children put up a wonderful show and performed with ease, never missing a step or a beat.

The highlight of the evening was based on the theme for the day "UDAAN". The children presented the musical "UDAAN" (the flight) showcasing the steady flight to progress and success of Sevadaan in achieving its Mission Statement of "Life-

Long Vocational Rehabilitation of the Mentally Challenged Adult". Ms. Myrtle Duarte, is the Founder member of Sevadaan Special School. She said, since its inception by Rev. Fr. Frank Toner in 1984, Sevadaan has indeed come a long way, taking each downfall in its stride, moving towards its goal.

The Annual Report presented by Ms. Lata Shenava, Principal and Medical Social Worker gave an insight into the various activities undertaken throughout the year in the school. The audience watched spell – bound as the students performed the integration dance – "Salsa" which could have given even the best of Latin – American dancers a complex. Prize distribution to the students, staff and volunteers followed. The soul – stirring evening came to an end with the singing of the National Anthem.

The Annual Day was a revelation to the enthralled audience. In spite of the types of handicap and financial constraints, the students put up an excellent show, proving their capacity to face all hardship that come their way with courage and fortitude. What these children deserve is not SYMPATHY but EMPATHY and understanding from us. They look from society openings for them to venture forward. Help and integrate them in every way; give them their much-deserved place and dignity in your world.

Viji Srinivas
(Sevadaan Special School)



Do this in Remembrance of Me...

Will this be a special week? Will you take time to taste, see, feel the Pasch and to believe?

We spend forty days preparing for EASTER and will extend it for another fifty days until PENTECOST, but how much of this will be really a time of preparation and hungering for a fresh anointing, a fresh outpouring of that first Pentecost?

When Jesus first appeared to the Apostles, Thomas was away. Where did he go, what was he going through, did he think, "its all a dream, its not happening, I'll wake up and everything will be as before" or may be he was even relieved to get out from under it! Thomas wasn't present at the Transfiguration on Mt. Tabor, so he hadn't the grace of that experience as did Peter, James and John. So imagine his chagrin and disappointment, when the disciples said, "We have seen the Lord".

A risen Saviour was too much for Thomas just then. May be, he was unwilling 'to be had' a second time, His Soul was already in the wine press of disappointment and disillusionment, so he made that infamous act of unbelief, "Unless..." We should be grateful to Thomas that he said it for us.

Unless...how often we stand at the crossroad of our faith and say "Unless..." One would think that Thomas would be the last one Jesus would bother about. But eight days later, Jesus came to His disciples and said "Peace be with you". Jesus came

apparently just for Thomas. "Take your finger, come put it in my wounds. Take your hand, put it in my side and do not be unbelieving, but believe."

'My Lord and My God' Thomas said it for us once again. In olden times, it was the practice of the entire congregation to say audibly My Lord and My God. At the Consecration at every Eucharist, wouldn't it be wonderful if we could bring back the practice and express our adoration? It would help our faith enormously if we said often during the day, my Lord and My God a constant remembrance of Christ in us the Hope of Glory, Alleluia!!

Peace be with you! Jesus is saying that to each of us this week. To have that Peace, we need to believe that death is abolished, life does not end with the grave. What Christ has in store for us is far greater than anything we have already experienced. "I go to prepare a place for you." Do we believe? Sin and death have no power over us because Jesus is risen and He is with us every step of the way. You are not alone – You are never alone. Alleluia!!

This Holy Week allow yourself to experience the washing of your feet with water, and the bathing of your whole self in His Blood. Feel the stigmata of His sacred wounds in your hands and feet and you will never again need to ask, "Do you love me Jesus, do you really and truly love me?"

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There are signs in our everyday life, but we will not see them unless we are ready – only then will Jesus show Himself to us. He said, ‘I will continue to manifest myself to you.’

How long did it take for those first priests to know what Jesus had done for them? Jesus asked, “Do you understand what I have done for you? 2000 years later, do we understand what Jesus has done and is doing for us? How long did it take for them to **DO** what Jesus asked them to “do in remembrance of Me” Jesus celebrated just one Eucharist and the price He paid was His death immediately afterwards, before the sunset of the next day.

What will your EASTER grace be? Will it deepen your faith, your peace, and your joy? Will the cumulative faith of 2000 years make a difference to your own small deposit of faith? Will it move you to higher ground? My Lord and My God! What Jesus is asking each of us today, is to be His Presence in the world among those who are most in need.

Do this in remembrance of Me.

Alleluia.!!!

Ena Carvalho

I'm glad You're My Friend

I don't often take the time to stop and thank you for being the really great person that you are, but I should, because there's only one you.

You are the one who seems to find a rainbow behind every cloud, the one who knows when to offer advice and when to just listen.

You can be fun and silly, light-hearted or serious caring and sympathetic whatever the situation calls for.

You're so attuned to the feelings of others that you're a comfort and a joy to be around.

And I think it's time to tell you how glad I am that you're my friend.

--- Linda Lee Elrod.



Church Statetment of Accounts - March 2004