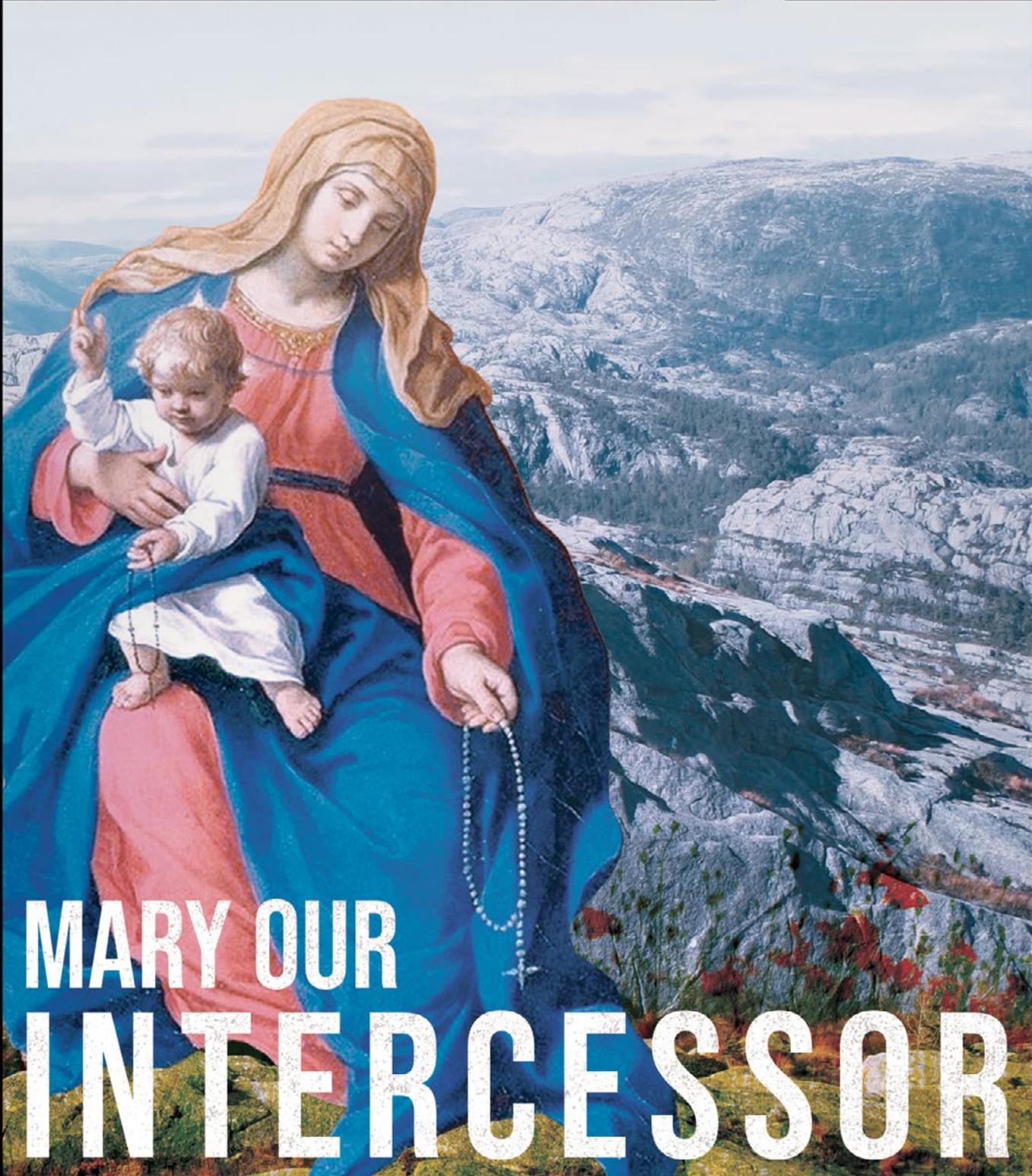


Reaching ut



**MARY OUR
INTERCESSOR**



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Theme for the December 2020 issue of the Reaching Out

JESUS - A LOWLY CHILD

*An insignificant birth shook
 the Roman Empire more than 2000 years ago.*

***The lowly child who created CHRISTMAS, comes once more
 to heal a world shaken by a tiny virus!***

Please send in your articles, as attachment by email only, to reachingout.orlem@gmail.com, latest by 15th November, 2020. Article sent to any of the members of the Reaching Out team will not be considered. Please send article as attachment. Please send images separately and not along with the Word document. Please do not forget to mention your zone and sector number.

Looking For An Intercessor?

Melville X. D'Souza

There are numerous instances in real life when people are in trouble, they feel helpless, unable to handle the situation by themselves. Like it's out of their capability, out of their control. They feel the need for an intercessor to help plead their cause, to help them get over the situation.

Haven't we ourselves at some time or the other, found ourselves in such situations? So, what do we do? Like when the children in the family want something and the father refuses to give in, they turn to their mother to intercede for them. Take for instance this family of the mother father & son. The mother is a housewife, the father does odd jobs and struggling to provide for the family. They have managed to send their little fellow to a decent school. When the school decides to go for a picnic, the son naturally wants to go. The father is hesitant to give in; short of funds, etc. The little fellow cries and pleads with the mother. The mother then goes and intercedes with the father on his behalf. After much discussion, the father agrees to their wish. A familiar scene? Have we seen this sort of a situation in our own family, neighborhood, in our community? **What is it about the mother that she can successfully plead the cause of those who place all their hope and trust in her? There's definitely something about a Mother!**

Let's look at the larger picture. A large number of devotees flock to Marian shrines around the world. One of the most popular devotions to Mary in Mumbai, is the Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Succour, at St. Michael's Church, Mahim. Thousands of devotees flock, to ask Mother Mary, wednesday after wednesday for help. To plead their cause before the Father, to intercede with the Father on their behalf. Do we need proof that their prayers are being heard?

Those who receive a copy of the Don Bosco's Madonna would find a Column on the back cover, entitled 'Mary was there'. It carries testimonies of devotees who have found solace in Mother Mary. A mother never fails. There are

also times when Mary herself senses the needs of people and without even waiting for them to approach her, she goes out of her way to help. We have seen this when she rushed to help her cousin Elizabeth at the time of her pregnancy. At the wedding feast at Cana, when the hosts had run out of wine.

Mary is always there to intercede for us, she is our heavenly Mother, indeed the Mother of the universe. Look at the Titles given to Mary in the Litany recited with the Rosary, in many a home. The Rosary is one of the most popular family prayer. Here's what Archbishop Fulton Sheen had to say about the Rosary. "The rosary is the book of the blind, where souls see and there enact the greatest drama of love the world has ever known; it is the book of the simple, which initiates them into mysteries and knowledge more satisfying than the education of other men; it is the book of the aged, whose eyes close upon the shadow of this world, and open on the substance of the next. The power of the rosary is beyond description."

Many of us do recite the Rosary, but think of it, are we reciting the Rosary just as a matter of routine, a formality? Then, it has no meaning. During the months of May & October which are devoted to Mother Mary, the Rosary is recited as a community. Are we participating in the Rosary with devotion or are we physically present only for the grams or snacks served after the Rosary?

Let our devotion to Mother Mary be true and she will definitely be with us in our difficult situations and intercede for us before Jesus. However, do we have a feeling that by praying to Mary, we are diminishing our honour for Jesus and giving more honour to Mary? This is what Saint Louis Marie de Montfort had to say, "**We never give more honour to Jesus than when we honour his Mother, and we honour her simply and solely to honour him all the more perfectly. We go to her only as a way leading to the goal we seek - Jesus, her Son.**"

Mary will always remain a powerful intercessor, greater than any other intercessor here on earth.

The Greatest Advice

Deacon Kelvin Santis

If you are a reader and you love going to bookstores, the arrangement of the books is what immediately catches the eye. The books are systematically arranged based on different genres and sections to make it easy for the reader to trace to the book of your choice. Amidst the vast sections like Hobbies, Thriller, Fiction, Non-Fiction, Religious etc., my favourite genre is reading Self Help books. There is no shortage of options under this section and the process to zero down on the book of your choice can be mind boggling and often leaving you feeling very overwhelmed. The story is no different when it comes to growing in our spiritual life as well. There are books written on our faith – on how to live religious life, how to make moral choices and also how to get to heaven! The daunting task to figure the best book is simplified for us Christians as we have the Bible which is sometimes overlooked by majority of us.

When reading the Bible, we can feel lost amidst the expansive list of books and have no idea where one must begin but if I have to suggest a good place to start to know more about Jesus, then it would definitely be the Gospels and if I have to choose one verse that highlights how we need to live our lives, then it has to be the last words of our Blessed Mother in the Bible, where she says, ‘Do whatever he tells you.’ (John 2:5) This advice may sound a little simplistic, but in reality, it is what will give meaning and purpose to life. Her simple words of counsel “do whatever He tells you” will always lead us to a deeper union with Jesus who is the way to God the Father and who gives us the Holy Spirit.

When facing hardships and difficulties in our lives, especially, we see so many during these trying days of the pandemic are struggling making ends meet, it is normal that we are afraid, anxious. The rise in the cases of people feeling defeated and lost among young as

well as old needs urgent attention. Here we are challenged to move beyond our human solutions and ways to seek genuine help and grace from God. Like Mary who realized when some situation needed the intervention of Jesus and that she could not handle it alone she went to him. She counselled using the Spirit of God and not her human understanding to solve the problem. Most of us tend to either stay away saying this is not our problem and so are indifferent to the issue, if it does not directly affect us or try to solve it on our own because we think we can manage everything which only ends up making the situation worse. But like Mary, if we have the Mind of Christ as spoken on in the letter of St. Paul, we will not remain indifferent but be guided by the Spirit of God. Mary knew her limitation but was aware of the infinite goodness and power of Christ and this awareness became her strength. She knew that when in need she could rely on her loving relationship with God for assistance and her simple words of counsel remain valid for us today – Do whatever he tells you.

The challenge in our times is that we want to live by our own terms and we want to be in control of everything we do. Why should I listen to someone else or do what they tell me to do? But such an individualistic and narrow-minded lifestyle leads to bigger problems. We are all interconnected and that’s one thing this pandemic has shown all of us. Even if we don’t practise religion, we still are spiritual beings. There is a thirst inside us to seek more and desire ultimate goodness and happiness. No worldly solution or opinion can offer us the complete wellbeing that Jesus wants to give. Stop merely existing and be ready to rise above the mundane life you have been living. Mary has beautifully broken down the complexity of religion to make it practical. Following her greatest advice, all we need to do is Stay close to Jesus and do whatever he tells us.

Mary Our Powerful Intercessor - To Jesus Through Mary

Olga Pereira, JBC Community 3, Sector 1



Jesus saw His Mother and the disciple he loved standing there, so He said to His mother, “He is your son.” Then he said to His disciple, “She is your mother. (John 19:26-27)

Mother Mary was the first to accept and welcome Jesus when she said her great “Yes” to God’s plan of salvation for us. She journeyed with Jesus through His life – through joyful, sorrowful, glorious and luminous moments.

Jesus Himself gave us the gift of His mother from the Cross to be a part of our earthly journey. During her life on earth, Mother Mary experienced anxiety, fear, exhaustion, worry, suffering and grief. She is humanly close to us and even more at present when we are going through a dark period because of COVID-19 pandemic. Life has become fragile, there is pain and stress, mental and physical exhaustion, death and grief along with depression and feelings of helplessness. Mother Mary is concerned about the problems and difficulties we face, just as she was concerned at the shortage of wine at the wedding feast at Cana.

On her intercession Jesus performed His first Miracle. It is at this time we need to implore to

our Mother Mary to plead for us with God our Abba Father and Jesus her son. Mother Mary is a powerful intercessor because God found favour with her and she was always receptive to the working of God in her and will always grant our petitions.

One very powerful form of intercessory prayer is the Rosary which is dear to Mother Mary. During this pandemic, the Rosary has been prayed by millions of people all over the world. When we meditate on the mysteries of the rosary, it fills us with love and compassion and strengthens us to reach out in loving service to our family, community and society.

The other prayers of intercession and supplication which are efficacious are the Devotion of the 3 Hail Mary’s, the Memorare and the various Novena Prayers to Our Lady. We can talk to Our Mother Mary and she will listen to us.

Mother Mary is truly our beloved Mother. Her maternal presence is seen in our world through her many Apparitions in times of catastrophes and wars. She is always interceding for us and even if our prayers go unanswered, she gives us solace and hope and the strength to cope, just as she did with the apostles after the crucifixion of Jesus. Mary alone can lead us to Jesus and ask him to heal our world of the pandemic and its aftermath. Through her life she has taught us to put our trust in God and surrender to Him. Through the powerful intercession of our Mother Mary God will show His Divine Mercy as He has shown from Generation to Generation. Holy Mary Mother of God and our Mother pray for all of us.

Daily, Daily Sing To Mary, Sing My Soul Her Praises Due....

Arlene Alves - JBC Community Sector-1

The words of this hymn are in praise of Mother Mary, Mother of God, Majestic Queen of Heaven and Earth. Mary with God's grace is a noble Lady to our race.

Every morning we wake up to the Bells of "The Angelus". Yes! Indeed like Mary, it teaches each one to say "YES" and be doing God's will in our daily life.

The greatest of all saints declared by the Church, is Mother Mary the Mother of Jesus, God's only begotten, son Saviour of the World.

Mary a simple, holy and humble maiden, answered God's calling to play the motherly role, accepting, believing, obediently accomplishing God's will for her. Thus Mary is a role model for all Christians and a powerful vehicle of God's holy saving grace.

All the key moments of Saint Ignatius Loyola blessed are inspired by the presence of Mother Mary all through his life. He constantly prayed to Mother Mary as he did at the Black Madonna at Montserrat Spain on a day of the Annunciation feast, at the night vigil for his spiritual discernment to the religious life. Saint Ignatius made his first vows on the feast of Assumption.

He celebrated his first mass in 1538 on Christmas day at the Basilica of Saint Mary Major (Rome) and the Society of Jesuits were founded. Saint Ignatius's dedication to our Lady was a true guide in his spiritual journey through life.

Mary's life teaches us the many virtues she lived, by her prayers, actions of love and service towards her holy family and others, importantly undertaking God's plan to accomplish. We can see in the life of Mary, how she has been called our Lady of Sorrows as she had encountered and endured her trials, of pain and suffering

from the very beginning, from the conception to the death of Jesus on the cross.

It is very befitting that the church begins every new year by celebrating this great feast of "Mary the Mother of God". During the year there are so many feasts dedicated to honor Mary, like Immaculate Conception, Mother of Perpetual Succor, Lady of Rosary, Lady of Lourdes etc. There are so many churches all over the world named after Mary. The numerous titles Mary holds in the litany simply shows how greatly blessed is the Mother of our Lord and Savior.

Pope Francis this year, has added the title of Mother of Mercy, Mother of Hope and Solace of Migrants. For sure we know as Christians that she is an exemplary model for us to follow. We should have authentic devotion to our Blessed Virgin Mary in every Christian home, as we recite the mysteries of the most Holy Rosary with great devotion and fervour.

The innumerable prayers seeking Mary's intercession for our many petitions and thanksgiving will never go unheeded if we place all our faith, trust and hope like Mary did in God's plan for her. From Mother Mary we can draw all strength, happiness and joy in all the darkest challenges in life.

Come October, the church celebrates the feast of Our Lady of Fatima who appeared to the little shepherd children asking them to pray the holy Rosary for all mankind and in all times to come. May the powerful intercession of the Blessed Mother be with us and our families and hope renewed in everything with God's grace.

Our Lady of the RosaryPray for Us.

Mother Mary Our Intercessor

Francis Fernandes – Community 4, Sector 8



We Catholics are very fond of our mother Mary and venerate her with a lot of love and affection. Sometimes I feel we love her so much that we start reciting the Rosary in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament or even in Church during Mass. We need to realize that Jesus is God and Mother Mary is the mother of Jesus. We need to look up to her as an intercessor for us.

Last year in the month of October 2019, I had attended a retreat in Potta, Kerala and Father John Prince gave us one of his testimonies of Mother Mary's intervention in his life which went as follows.

While he was giving a sermon from a huge stage, he happened to slip and was about to hit the ground hard. However, he felt someone holding him and preventing him from falling. He realized that it was our very own Mama Mary who aided him and prevented him from meeting with an accident. Similarly, we too are always cared and loved by our Mama Mary. However, we sometimes fail to recognize her role in our life.

Why do we need Mother Mary's intercession?

It is like in your day to day life when you find it difficult to convince someone of a certain requirement and you almost give up. However, if you happen to meet that person's mother and she agrees to your request and because this request is coming from his mother he obliges. The same applies to the way Mother Mary intercedes for us and requests her son Jesus who is an obedient son and Jesus agrees to the request, provided it is in the best interest of that person.

We wonder when there are so many saints in the world then why should we request Mother Mary to intercede for us.

My understanding is that imagine there is Heaven and Jesus is seated on the throne. There is a big queue of saints waiting with requests/petitions of the earthly people. However, then I see Mother Mary coming into the huge hall from the back entrance and goes straight to Jesus with all the petitions she has received. Being his mother, Jesus entertains her requests/petitions first before all the others. We can rightly say that Mother Mary is the Queen of all saints.

Why do we need to recite the Rosary?

Rosary based on Scripture readings should be recited as it takes us through the journey of our Lord Jesus and Mother Mary, from his Incarnation through her Coronation. Praying the Rosary is very powerful as Saint Padre Pio said it is a "Weapon" against sin and Satan.

Jesus was generous to give us his Mother to be the World's Mother in order to bring the world closer to him and obtain salvation.

My prayer to Jesus is to give us an honest heart like Mother Mary, filled with the spirit to do God's will always.

Hope & Life Zoom Meetings Of OLLC Orlem

Angela Fernandes

Our First Zoom Hope and Life Meeting Of Our Lady of Lourdes Church Orlem was held on 16th August 2020. Our Host Mrs Jyoce Dcunha welcomed the 22 participants for the meeting. Present among them was our dear All Mumbai President, Dr, Jeanette Pinto, Past President , Mrs. Lorna Dsouza and Patricia Lobo Leader of Hope and Life, I C Colony.

We began by praying for our deceased spouses and sick members and recited the Widows prayer. Next we had a reflection on the Word of God on Social Justice Sunday. We see the faith of the Canaanite woman by her persistent pleading, Jesus has compassion and her daughter is made well. Jesus' Ministry of healing surpasses the boundaries of caste and culture. The gentiles were considered as dogs but the persistent faith of the woman overcomes such social stigma.

We also reflected on the feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Assumption was an event of love , Mary's ardent love to be with her son Jesus Mary was humility reflected in the Magnificat. Let us emulate Mary's humility, obedience and Love for God and one another.

One of our widows Mrs. Mary Kolembel, a nurse, gave us an insight of being a Covid 19 hero.

As per the directive of our President Dr Jeanette Pinto I formed 5 groups of widows. Each group was assigned a leader. The objective was to get in touch with one another, sharing and caring for each other. A few of our widows shared their experience in this pandemic lockdown.

Our host Mrs. Jyoce Dcunha gave a video presentation and shared a few insights on Footsteps. (Footsteps walking with me, footsteps I cannot see, footsteps of Jesus).

The meeting ended with words of appreciation from Dr. Jeanette and Mrs Lorna Dsouza.

Our Second Zoom Hope and Life Meeting Of Our Lady of Lourdes Church Orlem was held on 27th September, 2020. Our Host Mrs Jyoce Dcunha welcomed the 18 participants for the meeting.

Our meeting focused on the theme of Love which is depicted in the parable of the Good Samaritan. In the parable we have 4 images the Levite, the priest, the wounded soldier and the Good Samaritan. The reality is, we live in an unjust society and like the priest and the Levite, some of us have no social conscience. In the wounded man we see afflicted persons in need our love, time, money and attention. As against the reality, what is the contrast? We must show compassion and love to the afflicted and those in need. The road to Jerico was unsafe because travellers were attacked by robbers and the good Samaritan risked his life In conclusion we must love God and by loving our neighbours.

Our Sister Stella Rebello gave us an insight of her experience during the lockdown, which was commendable.

Oh Corona Oh Corona

Cough, Sneeze or body pain
It looks like you going to be on the train.
Everyone trying hard to refrain
But Doctors advice use your brain

Precious life looks so fragile
Everyone is worried & missing to be agile
No family reunion, lock down & shops with long line
UN Investigation on, everybody cursing the WHAUN swine

With corona fever, doctor, nurses, health workers in the dock
But Politician & opposition are involved in a mock
People running from pillar to poll
To save the near dear ones & their soul

Priest are praying and connecting on line.
Congregation hoping for everything to be fine
When will this end is the query
Answer me please oh mama Mary

Oh Corona oh corona
It's high time you say Sayonara



Teachers' Day 2020

Annie Braganza, Nivedita Community Sector 8
(Former Principal of St Anne's High School and Junior College, Malad)

Teachers' Day 2020 brought nostalgic memories of Teachers' Day Celebrations at St. Anne's High School and Jr College where I was a teacher for 31 years. On 5th September 2020, in addition to wishes pouring in from my students, former colleagues and teachers at St. Anne's via social media, I was pleasantly surprised by a visit from two animators of our Community who acknowledged my services as a teacher in the years gone by. Their thoughtful gesture reminded me that a Teacher is always a Teacher and her influence never stops.

To express their gratitude to teachers for their yeoman service to their students and society, Nivedita Community presented its Ministers of the Word, teachers in service, retired and tuition teachers with a token of appreciation. Our Parish Priest Fr Michael Pinto and our Community Priest Fr. Clifton Lobo were also felicitated for the services rendered by them as Principals of St. Anne's High School and Junior College and other schools in Mumbai. It is noteworthy to mention here that our secular and inclusive Nivedita Community also felicitated teachers of other faiths.

I take this opportunity to commend all teachers who by nature and circumstance learn to be adaptive as they cater to students of different calibre, talents and social backgrounds.

The present pandemic has seen teachers overcoming yet another challenge - reaching out to their students through the virtual classroom. Kudos to all teachers who are making every effort to make the online teaching - learning process interesting and effective in spite of the technical glitches they encounter at times.

Thank you, Mrs Belinda Monteiro and your team of animators for going out of your way to make us, teachers, feel special and important members of society and gifting us personalised pens and creative bookmarks. The carefully selected quote on the bookmark "Teachers encourage minds to think, hands to create and hearts to love" summed up the role of the teacher in the holistic growth of the child. The bookmark further said 'To teach is to touch lives forever.' That's what many of our students have often told us and it, indeed, gives us, teachers, a sense of fulfilment that we have to some extent accomplished our mission of influencing and moulding our students.

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Independence Day

Sandra Pereira and Deeka Fernandes – Nivedita Community 4 - Sector 8



Celebrate God's creation! When God created the world, God blessed it and called it very good (Genesis 1:1-31). The Earth and all that is in it belong to God (Psalm 24:1). As Christians, we are called to celebrate and care for Creation. "Cultivating and caring for the land is central to God's first job description for humans" (Genesis 2:15).

We must also commit ourselves to discovering new ways to incorporate creation care in our homes, churches, and communities. The health of humanity hinges on the health of the Earth. The Earth cared and nurtured will lead to a secure future.

On August 15, 2020 at the celebration of the 74th Independence Day members of Skywalk and Suman Society, gathered in their respective compounds, (observing social distancing) to hoist the National Flag. Suman Society requested the frontline workers i.e. Security Guards / Housekeeping staff do the honour of hoisting the National Flag and a small token of appreciation was given to them.

This Independence Day we also emphasised the need to respect our Mother Nature along with our Country. We distributed Flags made from Seed Paper. Each Family was given one Flag with a request to sow these environment friendly flags in the soil and see these plants grow (Flags made from Marigold, Basil, Tomato and Chilly Seeds).

May God inspire us to be responsible citizens of India to protect and conserve our motherland. Be protectors of God's Creation.

World Catholic News

(Source-CNS - Vatican city)

Solidarity is the antidote to selfishness, exploitation, says Pope Francis at his first public audience with pilgrims in six months. Read on.....

The pleasure of seeing other people face to face and not “screen to screen” as COVID-19 restrictions ease clearly demonstrates that people are social beings and need one another, Pope Francis said.

After six months of livestreamed general audiences, more than 600 people gathered in the San Damaso courtyard of the Apostolic Palace to see Pope Francis in person and listen to his audience talk about the virtue of solidarity.

“The current pandemic has highlighted our interdependence: we are all linked to each other for better or for worse,” he said. “Therefore, to come out of this crisis better than before, we must do so together, all of us, in solidarity. Together, not alone.”

“As a human family, we have our common origin in God; we dwell in a common home, the garden-planet where God placed us; and we have a common destination in Christ,” the pope said.

But when people forget that, he said, interdependence is ignored and inequality and marginalization increase, the social fabric weakens, and the environment deteriorates.

“In an interconnected world, we experience what it means to live in the same ‘global village.’ It’s a beautiful expression — the world is nothing other than a global village because everything is interconnected,” the pope said.

“However, this interdependence does not always transform into solidarity,” he said. “On the contrary, selfishness — individual, national and by power groups — and ideological rigidity increase structures of sin.”

Solidarity, on the other hand, is rooted in the truth that God created all human beings and created

the earth as well, the pope said. Solidarity not only treats both with respect but acts to help when one is in peril.

“We build towers and skyscrapers, but we destroy communities,” he said. “We want to be lords of the earth, but we ruin biodiversity and the ecological balance.”

For Christians, he said, the source of true solidarity is the Holy Spirit.

At Pentecost, the Spirit descended upon the disciples and created a community united by faith, “united in diversity and in solidarity,” the pope said. “Diversity and solidarity joined in harmony. This is the path. A diversity with solidarity has the ‘antibodies’ necessary so that each person’s individuality — which is a unique and unrepeatable gift — does not get sick with individualism, selfishness.”

“In the midst of crises,” he said, “a solidarity guided by faith enables us to translate the love of God in our globalized culture, not by building towers or walls — and how many walls are being built today that divide, but then collapse — but by interweaving communities and sustaining processes of growth that are truly human and solid.”

Pilgrims and visitors who wanted to attend the audience could do so without tickets as long as they wore a face mask and had their temperatures checked by members of the Knights of Malta standing under the colonnade around St. Peter’s Square.

Fr. Edwin Abudho, a Kenyan studying at Rome’s Pontifical University of the Holy Cross, celebrated his release from the 14-day COVID-19 quarantine by attending the audience with nine other priests.

Continued On Next Page

“It’s a lovely experience to listen to the pope,” he told Catholic News Service. “It’s very important for me as a Catholic and as a student of theology.”

Company of Jesus Sr. Margarita, who helps run her order’s hostel in Rome for Czech pilgrims, said she and other staff members wanted to see the pope, but they also wanted to get

a firsthand look at how the audience in the courtyard works so they can tell pilgrims once they start arriving again.

Oscar Watts, a 20-year-old from London, said he biked from Switzerland to Rome Aug. 13-31 and “I thought it would be very nice to see the pope.”

Edu-Warriors – Teachers’ Day

Sonia Rodrigues – JBC Sunder lane

Where during normal school days we happily sang:

Row Row Row your boat, gently down the stream
Merrily merrily merrily merrily, life is but a dream

We now sing:

Schools have shut suddenly, here comes the lock down
Teary weary jerky stormy, life’s all upside down!



During this extended lockdown at various points, we sang songs, rang bells, lit candles, chanted prayers, clapped & cheered for many of our frontline warriors to commend their selfless and dedicated service, all with good reason. However, there is one category of warriors who have been silently battling it out since the very first day schools were closed, who have reinvented their lives, rearranged their homes and in some cases recreated their identities in order to cope – our very own dear teachers.

Life has changed drastically for teachers and educators who:

- Over the years were conditioned and trained to function in a certain manner, went through an arduous phase of unlearning, re-learning and self-learning.
- Barely knew how to use a computer or a mobile, through several trial and error attempts, slowly became experts at navigating cyberspace, conducting online classes, recording videos and mastering technology.
- Were restricted to only executing lessons planned by dedicated teams now brainstormed and collaborated to think out of the box and create superb lessons.
- Earlier hesitated to speak on a public platform, learnt to conquer their fears and inhibitions and make confident presentations.
- Formerly squabbled and disagreed over trivial things now drew closer, discovered hidden strengths and became pillars of support for each other.

- Initially felt wary and conscious of facing adults watching online with hawk eyes, managed to break the ice and engage beautifully with children and their parents.

It's amazing that on a head that already balanced multiple hats, teachers have somehow managed to create space to don a few more hats - that too with panache and grace!

None of this has been accomplished however without pain and sacrifice. Many of them have struggled with balancing household chores and family responsibilities, unsupportive domestic settings, restricted work-spaces, fluctuating power and network connectivity, delayed reduced or no salaries, tough financial & family restrictions and several health implications due to extended work-hours and increased screen-time.

However, they never gave up hope. Life knocked them down, but not out. They slowly but surely picked themselves up, fought every hindrance and learnt to find their way. Their passion and commitment towards their profession re-ignited their spirits and kept the fire burning. As it is said, "A good teacher is like a candle, it consumes itself to light the way for others."

They soon realized that apart from academics there were critical life-lessons they needed to impart to their children which would stand them in good stead for a lifetime. Hence despite the challenges, when they switched on their cameras, they also switched on their smiles to give their children hope and to teach them to never give up, to always find solutions and to face life head-on.

So today, all you wonderful edu-warriors, we express our heartfelt gratitude to you for all your efforts and sacrifices. You are truly cherished, loved and respected. And rest assured that your tears, dedication, diligence and perseverance will bear rich fruit in the years to come.

And yes, let's not forget to whisper a prayer to our Almighty Creator who is our best teacher and who always teaches us brilliant life lessons - only if we are willing to learn.

Happy Teachers Day!

'Laudato Si Mi Signore'

Giselle Wilson, For ECO

"Praise be to you my Lord", is a beautiful canticle by St. Francis of Assisi, wherein we are reminded that our common home is like a sister with whom we share our life. Pope Francis extends these beautiful thoughts and words while pondering on today's consumeristic, technocratic world, thus creating a piece of work which truly hits hard, whilst opening our eyes to the harsh reality of the present. Our environmental – social/ economic turmoil, is all intertwined. The cause being anthropocentrism, which is the key idea of this thought provoking encyclical, and urges us to shift to a new lifestyle, a conversion in our relationship with nature to one which flows from the Holy Trinity. "God took Man and placed him in the garden of Eden to till it and take care of it" GEN 2:15. It is a call to take care of the earth.

Laudato si was well followed by the environmental cell of our parish with activities still on, despite the lockdown. The Eco competitions, restarting the collection of tetra packs, e-waste and plastic waste are some examples.

Work for the environment never stops..... it is an ongoing process.



E.C.O. COMPETITION WINNERS



Veggie garden in the pot

Category A (Over a period of 7 days)

- 1 Jean Fernandes
- 2 Renita Sequeira
- 3 Kaelyn & Carla Fernandes

Category B (This the Lookdown)

- 1 Simran Gond
- 2 Jewel Rodrigues
- 3 Graciously Quarantined family



Eco-Pictionary

- 1 Giselle Dmello
- 2 Marissa Rodrigues
- 3 Trinelle, Taleesa, Valentine & Willrine Vaz



Khana khazana without waste banana

- 1 Renita & Ryan Sequeira
- 2 Stephen & Fiona D'souza
- 3 Sheldon Pereira



Family connect with Creation

- 1 Kneller Gretchen Erin & Kaylin
- 2 Griselda & Reuben Lopez
- 3 Trinelle, Taleesa, Valentine & Willrine Vaz



Twitter Feed

- 1 Cristal Gomes
- 2 Beatrice Nair
- 3 Gretchen & Kaylin Fernandes

OVERALL PRIZE

- 1 Graciously Quarantined fly.
- 2 Diana Monteiro
- 3 Sheldon Pereira

Environment Cell of Orlem

VEGGIE GARDEN IN THE POT



ECO PICTIONARY



KHANA KHAZANA



FAMILY CONNECT WITH CREATION



Kneller Gretchen Erin and
Kaylin

**1st Place Family Connect &
3rd place Twitter Feed**



**2nd Place Family Connect
Griselda & Reuben Lopez**



Taleesa Trinelle
Willrine Valentine

**3rd Place Family Connect &
3rd place Pictionary**

TWITTER FEED



1st Place - Cristal Gomes



**2nd Place
Beatrice Nair**



**3rd place
Gretchen, Kaylin, Erin**

OVERALL PRIZE

