

# Hatima Vani



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Fast



Give



The  
SEASON

OF

LENT



Prepare



Pray

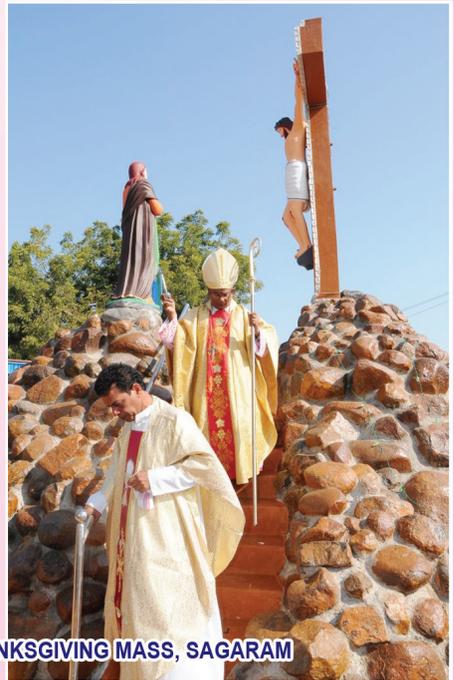




DHARAVATH FEAST MASS, NELLIKUDURU PARISH



VILLAGE CENTENARY JUBILEE THANKSGIVING MASS, SAGARAM



SHOWRINAGAR GOLDEN JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS, FATHIMA NAGAR PARISH



### I. Blame Game - Fine Art of Humans

Blame game is common among humans. It is a Fine Art and is as old as humanity itself. We live in a world of excuses. We live in a world in which we evade responsibility for our bad actions. We claim credit for good actions and inactions! We're good at being blame-shifters. The Blame Game is not new. It comes from our FALLEN NATURE. We blame fast food restaurants for making us fat. We blame tobacco companies for giving us cancer. We blame the Church for our lack of spiritual growth. We blame God for the results of our poor choices. But the question is: do we consider ourselves better off because of playing the blame game? Let's see what playing the blame game really accomplishes for us? God created man with the ability to choose. The choices we make in life have consequences, either good or bad.



#### 1. We Play the Blame Game with Others

The blame game started being played right after the fall of mankind (Gen. 3:12-13). One thing clear from this example is one doesn't have to lie to play the blame game. Adam and Eve responded truthfully to God. Eve had given Adam the fruit and the serpent had deceived Eve. So, being that what they said was true, don't they have valid excuses? Adam, "Don't blame me, I didn't take the fruit from the tree; she gave me some fruit and I ate it. Likewise Eve and other biblical examples, who played the blame game. Ex 32:1-8, 19-24. Aaron "Hey, these people wanted a god. You know how they are; what was I supposed to do? Further, we have this tendency to blame our parents for all our defects of character (Ezek 18:1-4).

#### 2. We Play the Blame Game with God

We can see from the blaming of Adam-Eve that in essence they were blaming God for what happened. "The woman you put here with me..." (Gen. 3:12). Adam was basically saying, "Don't blame me; you're the one who put this woman here. If you hadn't done that, I wouldn't be in this mess right now." Eve said in verse 13, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." When I read that, a question popped in my mind: is she subtly blaming God for allowing the serpent to tempt her? I could picture Eve saying, "Don't blame me; if you hadn't allowed this nasty serpent to be here, I wouldn't be in this mess right now." And, although it doesn't report them doing this, one can see Adam and Eve blaming God for their sin because, after all, he was the one who put the tree there in the first place. They have valid arguments before God. Remove the tree, remove the serpent, remove the woman and there would be no problems. Playing the blame game doesn't make matters better. It makes them worse. When we blame others or God, we will never grow. And when we blame God we see Him incorrectly and we fail to see Him for who He really is a loving God, whose desire is to see us stop blaming and start living a blameless life.

#### 3. Blame Game-Taking Responsibility in a World of Excuses

The First Couple's response reveals Our NATURAL Reaction to the EXPOSING HAND of GOD. We hide our wrong doings and even ourselves. "they hid from the Lord God among

the trees of the garden.” We do the same thing (Gen 3:8). We too hide from our parents, from neighbours, from our Church, even from GOD. It is the Fine Art of Blaming Others. Wise indeed in the person who makes no attempt to either hide his sins or to blame others for them. There is great victory in honestly and forthrightly confessing our sins and in accepting full personal responsibility for them. In this age of irresponsibility, it is easier to assign blame to others than to be honest with ourselves.

#### **4. Secret Faults**

There are some people who have secret faults in their lives (Ps 19:12). These are faults that are either hidden on purpose, or not recognized by the one who harbours it. The danger is when these faults begin to cause friction with each other. Just like earthquakes occur along fault lines, spiritual earthquakes can occur along the lines of these secret spiritual faults. We need to avoid this age-old tendency of blaming others. Those who do have a habit of blaming others for every little problem, forget what Paul said in Romans 7:18 says, "I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature". He does not try to find a scapegoat for his problems by blaming somebody else. In fact, he does not even attempt to escape moral responsibility for his own disobedience. Instead, Paul explains that our biggest obstacle to progress lies within our own sinful nature.

#### **5. Cultural Habits die hard: Unwilling to Confess**

Many people are unconsciously prisoners to their prejudicial assumptions about others. Prejudicial people tend to think they have the answers without first having to know all of the facts. Habits die hard. Those who are culturally conditioned to blame other people have a hard time replacing this tendency with positive behaviour. Being baptized involves giving an outward sign to an inward reality of our new birth in Christ. Few people realize that everything that is worthwhile in life involves an upgrade in our thinking. Many people get a perverse sense of pleasure when they blame others for alleged faults. Many people blame others because they are unwilling to confess their own sins of commission, omission, wrong attitudes and inadequate perceptions. Failure to speak the truth in love may hinder you from growing in all aspects in Christ. Spiritual transformation begins with confession of our weaknesses. Without a contrite heart, pride will hinder us from experiencing all the truth and power of God. God knows and God was giving Adam and Eve the chance to confess their sin to him. Notice that they didn't, and they fell out of fellowship with him. That's what happens when we have unconfessed sin.

#### **6. Families and Blame Game**

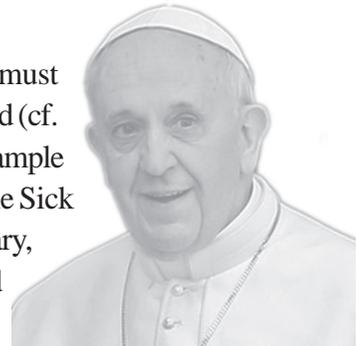
The Blame game began with the 1st couple. And it entered families, societies and the world itself. During this year of Family, let us animate families to be forth-right and accept responsibility for their actions and inactions. Even priests and Consecrated try to use different excuses or justifications why they cannot serve the Lord the way they should. They blame the Church, they blame their family, and they blame everybody except themselves. They insist on holding on to a victim mentality. Many youth of today use the excuse that they are victims of a broken home, or dysfunctional family, structural sins, and the like. Stop blaming your family for your loss and failure, take a thorough search of your life and through the Word of God analyze your life and accept the pitfalls. Let us praise loudly and blame softly!

## II. Message of Pope Francis for the 26<sup>th</sup> World Day of the Sick 2018

**Mater Ecclesiae: “Behold, your son... Behold, your mother. And from that hour the disciple took her into his home.” (Jn 19:26-27)**

**Dear Brothers and Sisters,**

The Church’s service to the sick and those who care for them must continue with renewed vigour, in fidelity to the Lord’s command (cf. Lk 9:2-6; Mt 10:1-8; Mk 6:7-13) and following the eloquent example of her Founder and Master. The theme for this year’s Day of the Sick is provided by the words that Jesus spoke from the Cross to Mary, his Mother, and to John: “Woman, behold your son ... Behold your mother. And from that hour the disciple took her into his home” (Jn 19:26-27).



1. The Lord’s words brilliantly illuminate the mystery of the Cross, which does not represent a hopeless tragedy, but rather the place where Jesus manifests his glory and shows his love to the end. That love in turn was to become the basis and rule for the Christian community and the life of each disciple. Before all else, Jesus’ words are the source of Mary’s maternal vocation for all humanity. Mary was to be, in particular, the Mother of her Son’s disciples, caring for them and their journey through life. As we know, a mother’s care for her son or daughter includes both the material and spiritual dimensions of their upbringing. The unspeakable pain of the Cross pierces Mary’s soul (cf. Lk 2:35), but does not paralyze her. Quite the opposite. As the Lord’s Mother, a new path of self-giving opens up before her. On the Cross, Jesus showed his concern for the Church and all humanity, and Mary is called to share in that same concern. In describing the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, the Acts of the Apostles show that Mary began to carry out this role in the earliest community of the Church. A role that never ceases.

2. John, the beloved disciple, is a figure of the Church, the messianic people. He must acknowledge Mary as his Mother. In doing so, he is called to take her into his home, to see in her the model of all discipleship, and to contemplate the maternal vocation that Jesus entrusted to her, with all that it entails: a loving Mother who gives birth to children capable of loving as Jesus commands. That is why Mary’s maternal vocation to care for her children is entrusted to John and to the Church as a whole. The entire community of disciples is included in Mary’s maternal vocation.

3. John, as a disciple who shared everything with Jesus, knows that the Master wants to lead all people to an encounter with the Father. He can testify to the fact that Jesus met many people suffering from spiritual sickness due to pride (cf. Jn 8:31-39) and from physical ailments (cf. Jn 5:6). He bestowed mercy and forgiveness upon all, and healed the sick as a sign of the abundant life of the Kingdom, where every tear will be wiped away. Like Mary, the disciples

are called to care for one another, but not only that. They know that Jesus' heart is open to all and excludes no one. The Gospel of the Kingdom must be proclaimed to all, and the charity of Christians must be directed to all, simply because they are persons, children of God.

4. The Church's maternal vocation to the needy and to the sick has found concrete expression throughout the two thousand years of her history in an impressive series of initiatives on behalf of the sick. This history of dedication must not be forgotten. It continues to the present day throughout the world. In countries where adequate public health care systems exist, the work of Catholic religious congregations and dioceses and their hospitals is aimed not only at providing quality medical care, but also at putting the human person at the centre of the healing process, while carrying out scientific research with full respect for life and for Christian moral values. In countries where health care systems are inadequate or non-existent, the Church seeks to do what she can to improve health, eliminate infant mortality and combat widespread disease. Everywhere she tries to provide care, even when she is not in a position to offer a cure. The image of the Church as a "field hospital" that welcomes all those wounded by life is a very concrete reality, for in some parts of the world, missionary and diocesan hospitals are the only institutions providing necessary care to the population.

5. Jesus bestowed upon the Church his healing power: "These signs will accompany those who believe... they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover (Mk 16:17-18). In the Acts of the Apostles, we read accounts of the healings worked by Peter (cf. Acts 3:4-8) and Paul (cf. Acts 14:8-11). The Church's mission is a response to Jesus' gift, for she knows that she must bring to the sick the Lord's own gaze, full of tenderness and compassion. Health care ministry will always be a necessary and fundamental task, to be carried out with renewed enthusiasm by all, from parish communities to the most largest healthcare institutions. We cannot forget the tender love and perseverance of many families in caring for their chronically sick or severely disabled children, parents and relatives. The care given within families is an extraordinary witness of love for the human person; it needs to be fittingly acknowledged and supported by suitable policies. Doctors and nurses, priests, consecrated men and women, volunteers, families and all those who care for the sick, take part in this ecclesial mission. It is a shared responsibility that enriches the value of the daily service given by each.

6. To Mary, Mother of tender love, we wish to entrust all those who are ill in body and soul, that she may sustain them in hope. We ask her also to help us to be welcoming to our sick brothers and sisters. The Church knows that she requires a special grace to live up to her evangelical task of serving the sick. May our prayers to the Mother of God see us united in an incessant plea that every member of the Church may live with love the vocation to serve life and health. May the Virgin Mary intercede for this Twenty-sixth World Day of the Sick; may she help the sick to experience their suffering in communion with the Lord Jesus; and may she support all those who care for them. To all, the sick, to healthcare workers and to volunteers, I cordially impart my Apostolic Blessing.

### **III. Letter of the Holy Father Francis**

#### **On the Occasion of the Centenary of the Promulgation of the Apostolic Letter "Maximum illud" On the Activity carried out by the Missionaries in the World**

To the Venerable Brother Cardinal Fernando FILONI

Prefect of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples

On November 30, 2019 the centenary will be celebrated from the promulgation of the Apostolic Letter *Maximum illud*, with which Benedict XV wished to give new impetus to the missionary responsibility to proclaim the Gospel. It was 1919: at the end of a tremendous world conflict, which he himself called "useless slaughter", the Pope felt the need to evangelically requalify the mission in the world, to be cleansed of any colonial incrustation and to keep away from those nationalistic and expansionist aims that so many disasters had caused. «The Church of God is universal, not at all foreign to any people», he wrote, also urging to reject any form of interest, since only the proclamation and charity of the Lord Jesus, spread with the sanctity of life and with good works, are the reason for the mission. Benedict XV gave such a special impulse to the *missio ad gentes*, working with the conceptual and communicative tools used at the time to awaken, especially among the clergy, the awareness of the missionary duty.

It responds to Jesus' perennial invitation: "Go into the whole world and proclaim the Gospel to every creature" ( Mk 16:15). Adhering to this command of the Lord is not an option for the Church: it is her "indispensable task", as the Second Vatican Council recalled, insofar as the Church "is by its very nature missionary". "Evangelizing, in fact, is the grace and vocation proper to the Church, its deepest identity. It exists to evangelise ". To correspond to this identity and proclaim Jesus crucified and risen for all, the living Savior, the Mercy that saves, "it is necessary - the Council continues - that the Church, always under the influence of the Spirit of Christ, follows the same path followed by these, the path of poverty, obedience, service and self-sacrifice ", so that the Lord really communicates," model of the new humanity, that is of that humanity imbued with fraternal love, of sincerity, of a spirit of peace, which everyone craves ".

What was important to Benedict XV almost a hundred years ago and how much the Council document reminds us for over fifty years remains fully current. Today as then "the Church, which from Christ has been sent to reveal and communicate the love of God to all people and all peoples, understands that there is still a great missionary work to do". In this regard, St. John Paul II observed that "the mission of Christ the Redeemer, entrusted to the Church, is still far from its completion" and that "an overview of humanity shows that this mission is still at the beginning and that we must commit ourselves with all our strength to his service ". Therefore, with words that I would now like to bring to everyone's attention, he urged the Church to a " renewed missionary commitment ", in the conviction that the mission "renews the Church, reinvigorates faith and Christian identity, gives new enthusiasm and new motivations. Faith is strengthened by giving it! The new evangelization of the Christian peoples will find inspiration and support in the commitment to the universal mission ".

#### **IV. Pope with participants in Assembly of Pontifical Mission Societies**

**Dear Brothers and Sisters,**

I welcome you with joy at the end of your General Assembly and thank Cardinal Fernando Filoni for his words. With him I greet all the Superiors, the General Secretaries, the National Director and all of you present here.

You well know my concern about the Pontifical Mission Societies, very often reduced to an organization that collects and distributes, on behalf of the Pope, economic aid for the neediest Churches. I know that you are seeking new ways, more suitable and more ecclesial methods to carry out your service to the universal mission of the church, let us allow ourselves to be sustained, in this process of urgent reform, also by the intercession of the Saints Charles Lwanga and companions, martyrs of Uganda, whose liturgical memory we celebrate today.

To renew ardour and passion, the spiritual motor of the apostolic action of countless missionary saints and martyrs, I have very favorably received your proposal, formulated together with the Congregation for the Evangelization of people, to announce an extraordinary time for prayer and reflection on the *missio ad gentes*. I will ask all the Church to dedicate the month of October of the year 2019 to this aim, as in that year we will celebrate the centenary of the Apostolic letter *Maximum illud*, of Pope Benedict XV. In this very important document of his Magisterium on the mission, the Pope recalls how necessary the holiness of life is to the efficacy of the apostolate, he recommends, therefore, an ever stronger union with Christ and a more convinced and joyful involvement in his divine passion for announcing the Gospel to all, loving and employing mercy towards everyone. Men and women, “distinguished by zeal and holiness”, are increasingly to the Church and to the mission. “May he who preaches God be a man of God”, exhorted Benedict XV.

May the preparation for his extraordinary time dedicated to the first proclamation of the Gospel help us always to be a Church increasingly in mission, following the words of Blessed Paul VI, in his Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii nuntiandi*, magna carta of the post-Conciliar missionary effort. Pope Montini wrote: “The Church is an evangelizer, but she begins by being evangelized herself. She is the community of believers, the community of hope lived and communicated, the community of brotherly love, and she needs to listen unceasingly to what she must believe, to her reasons for hoping, to his new commandment of love. She is the People of God immersed in the world, and often tempted by idols, and she always needs to hear the proclamation of the “mighty works of God” which converted her to the Lord; she always needs to be called together afresh by Him and reunited. In brief, this means that she has a constant need of being evangelized, if she wishes to retain freshness, vigour and strength in order to proclaim the Gospel”.

## V. Missionary Childhood in our Community

### Background

The figure of the child has always had an irresistible and undeniable influence on everyone's heart: his/her simplicity, beauty and sparkling vitality seems a reflection of God's life. Also Jesus Christ, who with His birth in the stable at Bethlehem and his infancy in Egypt and Nazareth knew that state of loving bliss, was particularly fond of children: Let the children come to me and do not hinder them: for to such belongs the kingdom of God (Lk 18:16).

### Introduction

Year 2018 is the 175th anniversary of the founding of the Pontifical Society of the Missionary Childhood. We are happy to share the wonderful reality of the Pontifical Society of the Missionary childhood or Holy Childhood, in order to know and take advantage of it more in our own communities. Through Bishops, missionaries, animators and children, God is helping children to achieve evangelizing wonders in their families, with other children and for the sake of universal evangelization. We also observe with immense gratitude that this Society is a special path for children's Christian and Missionary maturation. Each parish, each Diocese and the universe church can feel that this Society of Missionary childhood is its own.

The focal point of this Society is the particular role that 'children have in the proclamation of the Kingdom. In fact they are particularly suited to accepting it and living the riches of its beauty, joy and love. Then in the Christian language 'smallness' is a fascinating spiritual category that reflects God's holiness. Devotion to the Child Jesus is perceived as man's obedience; abandonment to the father's will and it is classified in states of life as spiritual childhood.

### Points for Homily

#### 1. Scenario of the World

There are 2.2 billion children in the world, with 1.9 billion living in under developed countries. The number of children mired in poverty is 1 billion- that is every second child. Every day nearly 30,000 children under five years die, mostly from preventable causes. Human made disasters continue to unfold in Africa, Iraq, Syria and occupied Palestine territory. Religious, communal and sectarian violence make millions of children orphans. With more than one-third of its population below 18 years, India has the largest young population in the world. Only 35% of births are registered, impacting name and nationality. One out of 16 children die before they attain the age of 1, and one out of 11 die before they are 5 years old. 35% of the developing world's low-birth-weight babies are born in India. 40% of child malnutrition in the developing world is in India. The declining number of girls in the 0-6 age group is a cause for alarm. For every 1,000 boys there are only 927 females - even less in some states. Out of

every 100 children, 19 continue to be out of school. 65% of girls in India are married by the age of 18 and become mothers soon after. India is home to the highest number of child labourers in the world. India has the world's largest number of sexually abused children, with a child below 16 raped every 155th minute, a child below 10 every 13th hour, and at least one in every 10 children sexually abused at any point in time. There is no guarantee that the girl child who escapes foeticide, infanticide and is in the 0-6 age-group will escape the cycle of deliberate neglect that may even result in death because she is less fed, less encouraged to explore the world, more likely to be handed jobs to do and given less healthcare and medical attention. Out-patient data from hospitals in northern Indian cities shows lower admissions of girl-children, and girls who are in a more serious condition than boys when brought for treatment.

## **2. Parents hold the key to show Jesus to the children**

Parents are to lead children to faith so that the children will encounter the Lord in their personal life and accept him as their only savior. Parents are to be like a pole star that showed the way to the magi; that the star stood still to show Jesus. Each family is to be like a shining star to the world. Through the exemplary Christian life, sound faith formation, enhancing better education, creating healthy environment for children we become the door of faith.

## **3. Our wealth is to be at the disposal of others**

When a person so the misery of a cancer patient he complained to God, "O God why this man has to suffer like this? Can't you do something?" God answered, "I certainly did something. I created you." The sufferings in the world are part of the reality. They are an opportunity for the others to exercise their goodness. The wealth, health, strength all are given so that we use it for others. Gandhiji once said: "The wealth that you have is not yours. You are only a custodian of the wealth. As much as you need is yours and the rest belongs to others." Selfishness is the cause for poverty and suffering. If the wealth that we have is equitably distributed there is enough for everyone. Gandhiji said, "There is enough for the need of every one but not for the greed of each one." Buddha said, "Desire is the cause of sadness." We desire too much. Ours desires are endless and this makes a person control wealth more than what is required depriving many of their bare necessities. It is my obligation to wipe the tears of a person suffering. Jesus says, "Whatsoever you do to the least of my brothers/sisters that you do unto me." Loving God is possible only by loving our neighbour who is in need – "Love your neighbour as yourself".



## VI. Solemnity of Presentation of the Lord

Fulfilling Leviticus 12:1-5 brought Joseph, Mary and Jesus to the temple. It was there where they met Simeon and Anna. They both represent the best of Old Testament Judaism. Simeon, was a truly righteous man while Anna was a woman who was dedicated to God's service and who worshipped day and night. Both of them received a revelation from God concerning Jesus and they witnessed to His identity as Messiah.



### **This was how Jesus was welcomed by the World**

The responsibility of bringing up Jesus according to the norms and values of the Father was placed on Joseph and Mary. Our Heavenly Father expected both Joseph and Mary to do their part in molding the character of Jesus and making Him ready for ministry.

Our Heavenly Father has given to us the same responsibility over our children. Although no holy man proclaimed our children to be important to a waiting world and neither did a prophet thank God for their birth and told everyone about them, God expects us to follow the model of Joseph and Mary in parenting our children. Our Lord speaks to our hearts and hopes that we do all that we can to mold our children into God-loving and God-fearing individuals. He wants us to lead our children into a discipleship with Christ, not only to make them physically strong but spiritually sturdy to receive His blessings. His desire is for our children to be spiritually equipped to walk confidently the unknown path of life.

God has anointed us to be His messenger (Lo, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me) to prepare His way unto the hearts of our children so that all of us, parents and children alike, may endure when He comes and appears to bring all of us back to our Father's home... so that we may grow and become strong and be filled with His wisdom. So that His favor may be upon all!

## VII. Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes

The Church celebrates the memorial of Our Lady of Lourdes. This title and apparition of our Blessed Mother has always held a special place in the hearts of the Fathers of Mercy — it was at Lourdes that Our Lady called herself “The Immaculate Conception” — and our community is consecrated to her under that very title. Are there a few lessons that we can learn from today's feast day?

Our Lady asked St. Bernadette, then still a young peasant girl, to “pray for the conversion of sinners.” Bernadette did not understand what that meant, and when she would ask, Our Lady would just smile. How beautiful it is when a person still has that fundamental innocence! Would that we all still had that child-like innocence where we are not even aware that there are people who deliberately offend Almighty God! But most of us today, even most children, no longer have that innocence. Our children are exposed to the reality of evil at a very young age. Would it not be better to shield them, to let them be surrounded by virtue and the love of God and all that is good and beautiful for as long as possible? This is not to say that they should not be taught right from wrong, good from evil, virtue from vice — but this teaching should be done when they are truly ready for it; it should not be forced upon them at too young of an age.



Do we pray, on a frequent basis, for the conversion of sinners? Some might say: “But we are all sinners” — and so we are. So we need to pray for ourselves, and all of our fellow men and women who are caught up in various forms of sinful behavior.

### **VIII. Lent: Time for Change**

Few times in the Christian year call us to reflect on transformational change like Lent leading toward Easter. Springtime is lush with rebirth, new beginnings, and new growth. Too often, however, we want to race to the Easter Resurrection without fully embracing the Lenten process that leads there. Lent reflects the forty days that Jesus wandered in the wilderness — tempted by Satan — in readiness for a ministry destined to end in tragedy. Few of us can relate to the level of sacrifice and commitment that Jesus displayed in his forty days, yet Lent provides us with an opportunity to deepen our spirituality by engaging in regular discipline from Ash Wednesday through Easter Sunday. The wilderness — the desert days of Lent — is the true path toward spiritual transformation.

There is a compelling metaphor that helps us embrace the wilderness and prevents us from racing to Easter. It is the metaphor of the seed. Jesus began his teaching ministry with the parable of the sower (Matthew 13) and referred to seeds and trees, fruit and branches, throughout his ministry. To see the metaphor of Christian growth and spiritual development contained in a seed is to learn valuable lessons about change and transformation. Receive these six lessons from the seed as six weekly devotionals for this Lenten season. Incorporate them into your daily meditations so that they might grow to full bloom in your heart.

## **The Three Practices of Lent: Praying, Fasting, Almsgiving**

**a) Fasting :** Fast from watching television one night each week so that you can spend time on a Lenten practice, such as praying, reading the Bible and serving others.

Fast from one movie during Lent and give the money... and the time in service to others.

Fast from using foul language and put-downs and start affirming the good in other people.

Fast from buying new things like clothes, music, magazines, or jewelry and make a donation...

Fast from spending money on entertainment and make a donation of time or money that serves others.

Fast from holding resentments and start practicing forgiveness.

Fast from gossiping or being dishonest and start the practice of always being truthful and honest.

Fast from a favorite snack food or drink and set aside the money you would have spent to donate to a special charity.

Fast from being angry or upset with people who have hurt or offended you, and pray for the courage to forgive them.

Fast from feeling guilty and angry at yourself for things you have done wrong, instead remember God's great love for you

**b) Praying :** Pray for a forgiving heart and ask the people you have hurt to forgive you.

Participate in Ash Wednesday services with your family.

Participate in the Stations of the Cross during Lent.

Participate in the Sacrament of Reconciliation during Lent.

Rent the video, The Prince of Egypt. Watch the video and read the story of Moses from the Book of Exodus, chapters 2-15. Try to read one chapter each day. Be sure to read the story of the Passover in chapters 12 through 13:22.

List three blessings you have been given. Say a prayer to God, giving thanks for the blessings in your life.

Pray for the children and families who are homeless, and think about ways you and your family might help them.

**c) Serving/Almsgiving :** Show an act of kindness to each family member today.

Show an act of kindness to a friend and to someone who is difficult to like.

Together with your family, spend time serving others during Lent. Work at a soup kitchen or homeless shelter. Visit elderly people who are in nursing homes or are shut-ins.

Bring food or clothing to the parish or community food pantry, food bank, or homeless shelter.

Do someone else's chores one day this week.

Donate a new item of children's clothing to the local homeless shelter or clothing center.

Go through your closet and find some clothes in good shape to give away to other children who are in need of clothes.

Write a letter or create a card for someone who is sick or might be lonely.

Buy a can of food to give to a food bank or homeless shelter.

Talk with your family about eating one simple meal each week of Lent and putting the money you save in the Operation Rice Bowl box or giving the money to a soup kitchen or homeless shelter.

## **X. Feast of See of St. Peter, the Apostle**

Feast of the Chair of Peter celebrates not only the triumph of Christ's grace in the heart and soul of Peter, but his status as the primary pastor and teacher of the Church. The chair is the symbol of his teaching authority, as it is of every bishop. Peter (d. ca. 64) was Jesus' chief apostle whom later Catholic tradition regards as the first pope. Born in the village of Bethsaida on the Sea of Galilee, his original Hebrew name was rendered in Greek as Simon, but Jesus gave him a new name, the Aramaic word for "rock" rendered in Greek as Kephas. The name Peter is a translation of the Aramaic word. Sometimes he is referred to in the New Testament as Simon Peter. Peter was married and remained so even after becoming a disciple (Mk 1:29-31; 1 Cor 9:5).



Our culture is just as hostile and opposed to Jesus as when He first asked the question "Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?" (Mt 16:13). As in Jesus' day, people offer a long list of inadequate and incorrect ideas about Jesus, ranging from "just a good teacher" all the way to "divisive" and "intolerant." The real question was and continues to be: "Who do you say that I am?" (Mt 16:15). Peter boldly declared, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God" (Mt 16:16). Jesus said that Peter's accurate confession was a God-given insight and that he was blessed because of his declaration (Mt 16:17).

Join Peter in confessing that Jesus is your Savior. Your life will be bolstered and blessed. "O

receives Him today who so loved you that He died on the cross for your sin; O believe Him and open your heart's door; Let the Savior who loves you come in." Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God (1 Jn 5:1). This is our faith. Only an authentic faith will give us the strength to live out our Christian commitment. As we celebrate the Eucharist, let us pray that our faith, and that of our whole church, may be strengthened.

### **XI. Bishop's Engagements for the Month of February-2018**

- 01 : Office
- 01-09 : CBCI General Body Meeting at Bangalore
- 10 : Clergy and Religious Joint Recollection at Jeevadhara Centre, Rampur and Planning Fatima Thirunalla (Diocese-wise) and Year of Family (Deanery wise)  
4:00 pm Holy Matrimony at Cathedral
- 11 : 9:00 am. To 3:30 pm.; Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, World day of Sick
- 12 : Office
- 13 : Ordination to Diaconate at Jeevadhara
- 14 : Ash Wednesday Mass in Cathedral
- 15 : Office
- 16 : Youth Fasting and Praying; Mass at Arunodaya Youth Centre
- 17-18 : TAP Rectors Meeting at Sanigudem, Eluru Diocese
- 19 : Visitation to St. John's Regional Philosophate, Vizag
- 20-23 : FABC Meetings, Bangkok, Thailand
- 25 : Family Sunday: Fatimanagar
- 26-28 : Classes and Visitation, St. John's, Ramanthapur, Hyderabad.

### **March-2018**

- 01 : Cherial Village Feast; Blessing of Village Entrance Arch
- 02 : am. Office; pm. Flag hoisting and Mass for Fatima Thirunalla at 5:30pm
- 03 : Office
- 04 : ARMS Exco Meeting at Bishop's House, Fatimanagar
- 05-8 : CCI and TCBC Meetings, Hyderabad
- 09 : Office
- 10 : Office

- 11 : Fatima Thirunalla-1st Day: Married Couples/Family Day
- 12 : Fatima Thirunalla-2nd Day: am Word of God and Healing Convention and pm Procession Our Lady of Fatima, Candle-lit Procession and Benediction, Night Cultural Programe
- 13 : Fatima Thirunalla-3rd Day: Solemn Holy Mass followed by Blessings and Veneration of Our Lady of Fatima.  
pm Lowering the Marian Flag.

## XII. Communication

**1. FULL DAY Monthly Recollection Organized by the CRI unit WARANGAL :** All the Secular Priests and the Consecrated are invited for the Full-Day of Recollection on February 10, 2018 at 9:00 am to 3:30 pm at Jeevadhara Retreat Centre, Rampur. This is a rare opportunity and all are expected to attend and also plan for Fatima Thirunalla and the special Warangal year of Family.

**Theme :** The Consecrated and Diocesan Priests Collaborators in the Mission of the Church.  
Registration Fee, Rs. 200/- Kindly attend without fail.

**2. World Day of the Sick :** Every year the Church celebrates the World Day of the Sick on the 11th of February, on the feast day of Our Lady of Lourds. I request all the parish priests to observe it meaningfully-kindly arrange Healing Mass, convention and Healing and deliverance of evil spirits.

**3. Holy Childhood Day :** This year the Holy Childhood Day falls on the 11th of February. Parish Priests and Heads of Institutions are requested to observe the Day and make a special collection and send it to the diocesan office by the end of the month. Kindly animate Catholic children in Schools & Hostels with special preaching, prayer and contribution. Let them thank the Holy Childhood office and learn to help the poorest children. They should be guided to conduct activities and raise funds for poorer children than they are.

**4. Season of Lent-Ash Wednesday :** This year, Ash Wednesday is falling on 14th of February, 2018, on which the holy Lenten period begins. All the Parish Priests are requested to make sure that the way of the cross is conducted in all our Parish Churches/ Chapels on every Wednesday and on every Friday during the Lenten season. All the Heads of the Institutions are requested to make sure that Catholic child/ youth participate in the 'Way of the Cross' service in Parish Churches/Chapels on Wednesdays & Fridays. It is the great responsibility of all of us to promote solid and strong Catholic Faith Formation of all Catholic children/youth/ adults in Parishes and Institutions, which is live, celebrate and share with others.

**The Law of Abstinence (keeping away from meat) :** The Catholics who have completed 14 years of age are to observe the law of abstinence on Ash Wednesday and on all Fridays of Lent.

**Law of Fasting :** The law of fasting is to be observed on Ash Wednesday and on Good Friday, by all those who have completed 18 years of age and have not yet begun the 60th year of their age.

**5. No Financial Transactions from 20th of March to 3rd of April 2018 :** As the financial year 2017 - 2018 will come to a close on 31st of March 2018, there will be no financial transactions in Bishop's House from 20th of March to 3rd April, 2018.

## **XIV. Information**

### **1. News from Family Commission**

In the context of Pope Francis Apostolic Exhortation, *Amoris Letitia* and the recommendation of the CCBI and in consultation with the the Family Commission of the Diocese of Warangal, our Bishop Most Rev. Dr. Udumala Bala has decreed that in the diocese of Warangal, all men and women who would like to get married in the Church should attend the pre-marital Course and get a Certificate. On the decree of the



Bishop the family Commission has taken up responsibility to conduct the pre-marital Course monthly or bimonthly. The first Course was conducted on 9 and 10 December 2017. Thirty five would be married men and women attended the Course. To our surprise that many attended though the first Course in the diocese of Warangal which was encouraging to go ahead to conduct the Courses in the New Year 2018.

The second Course was conducted on 13, 14 January 2018. This course astonished everyone with the total number of participants in this Course, which was 117 far beyond expectations, for which we are happy that the young men and women eager to learn something before they enter Sacrament of Holy Matrimony.

The Courses are conducted by the encouragement and guidance of our dear Bishop Dr. Udumala Bala, we thank him for his keen interest and personal involvement in the Course. In other words it was for building up the Families and thus building up the Domestic Church. We also thank the Family Commission members for organizing and conducting the Courses on regular basis. We thank Mr SundarRao and family (Couples) for conducting most of the classes and for their dedicated and valuable services, who come from Hyderabad every month.

The Topics dealt are relevant and practical that would help towards their happy married life. The main resource persons are well experienced handling the youth and guiding the would be young couples. We request everyone to pray and cooperate for the success of this new venture in our diocese of Warangal. Finally, we thank all the Parish Priests who did a good job motivating the people, hats off to them. We thank all Parish Priests and the Pastoral Center Director who help us in one way or the other. At the end of every Course review is conducted. Your suggestions are welcome.

Fr. Y Chinnappareddy, Director of Family Commission

## 2. News from Lodi

January month ushers in the New Year and everybody is anxious to know what is in store for them, the women with twelve stars on head “The mother of God” goes on accompany Lodi MSSS on the wings of peace and it provides a quick look at the likely happenings in the month of January for the different project zone.



**Project Title** : Improving livelihood of the Marginalized communities in Lingala Ghanpur Mandal of Warangal district.

In Chilpur Mandal to bring about overall sustainable development by improving livelihood and income generation among 6000 marginalized families the project activities implemented by distributing Pheromone traps, neem oil, and yellow strips.

**Project Name** : NABARD-WATERSHED PROGRAMME (sustainable development plan) Dornakal and Kuravi mandal

Conducted training program on Nutrient deficiency management in Soil for 100 Farmers and Vegetable garden demonstration plots were prepared in 20 villages to promote traditional crops.

**Project title** : Revolving Fund Loans and Fatima Federation

Second Group Federation Formation Process launched in Mallakpalli Parish on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2018 besides the existing group of 30 parishes.

**Project title** : KOLPING

Kolping Group Meeting held at Kyathampalli village on 16th December 2017. Financial support towards sanitation facility provided to 35 Kolping members. Mr. Jaya Kiran, Kolping Coordinator introduced Kolping activities in Mallakpalli Parish on 18th January 2018.

Fr. D. Vijayapaul, Director of Lodi

### 3. News from Arunodaya Youth Centre

**Visiting of Youth Groups :** Fr. Anil, the Diocesan Youth Director had visited the Youth of the following villages. Parkal, Yellapur, Jayagiri, Gorrekunta, Uppugallu, Deshaipet, Elukurthy, Dharmasagar, Valbhapur, Kazipet and Bheemaram. Fr. Anil celebrated the MASS and after completing he interacted with the youth about their works to the church. He strengthened the youth with his talks and also informed about the courses offered in Arunodaya Youth Center.



**National Youth Day - 12th January :** National Youth Day is celebrated with the great joy and enthusiasm in Arunodaya Youth Center every year on 12th of January to commemorate the birthday of Swami Vivekananda, maker of the modern India, who inspired all the youths of country with his philosophy and his ideals. Plantation program was done by the Youth Director and the Diocesan Committee Members in Arunodaya Youth Center.

Fr. S. Balashowry gave a talk on “LEADERSHIP SKILLS” by giving examples from the Bible. Bro. Paul spoke to the youth about their role in the Catholic Church. After the program the Presidents and Secretaries of various villages who participated in the program visited ST. ANN’S HOME FOR THE AGED and distributed fruits to all the inmates. They also spent some time talking with all the inmates.

#### **Sagar Gabbeta Elected as National Youth Vice President**

Sagar Gabbeta from our Diocese had been elected as National Youth Vice-President for ICYM (Indian Catholic Youth Movement) for the period of 2018 to 2020. Earlier he rendered his services as a President for the Youth of OUR LADY OF FATIMA CATHEDRAL-Parish Level, Treasurer in ARUNODAYA YOUTH CENTER-WARANGAL DIOCESE, Regional Youth President for Telangana & Andhra Pradesh.

**Sports Day Celebrations :** With the blessings and Encouragement of our Diocesan Youth Chairman Most Rev Bishop Udumala Bala, Fr. Anil along with the Diocesan Youth Committee conducted Sports such as Cricket, Volley ball, Throw ball, Long Jump, Running, Musical Chair and Shot Put for all the Youth of our Diocese in Bishop Beretta High School with the support of Fr. Yaga Reddy, to bring out the hidden talents of our youth. Fr. Vijay Kumar the 1st Youth Director of Arunodaya Youth Center graced this occasion and started it with a prayer. 200 above youth participated in this event from various villages. After completion of the sports Fr. Anil, Diocesan Youth Director distributed the prizes. Overall Championship is given to Station Ghanpur.

## యువతా తపస్సుకాల దీక్ష

తేది : 01-02-2018

పూజ్య విచారణ గురువులకు మరియు గ్రామ యువతా అధ్యక్షులకు, సంఘ సభ్యులకు అరుణోదయ యువతా కేంద్రం తరుపున శుభాకాంక్షలు.

**విషయం :** ఓరుగల్లు పీఠంలోని యువతీ యువకులకు 40 రోజుల క్రీస్తు శ్రమల ధ్యాన దీక్ష స్వీకరించుట గురించి.

**క్రీస్తునందు ప్రియ యువతీ యువకులారా!**

అరుణోదయ యువతా కేంద్రము వరంగల్ మేత్రాసనంలో వున్న యువతీ యువకులను నవీన సమాజంలో మంచి పౌరులుగా తీర్చిదిద్దుతు, శ్రీసభలో సువార్తా విలువలకు సాక్షులుగా జీవించుటకు నిరంతరం తోడ్పడుతుంది.

మన పీఠకాపరి మహా పూజ్య డా॥ ఉడుమల బాల గారి ఆధ్వర్యంలో అరుణోదయ యువతా కేంద్రం చేపడుతున్న 2 40 రోజుల క్రీస్తు శ్రమల ధ్యాన దీక్ష మీకు క్రీస్తుతో సంపూర్ణంగా అనుసంధానమై జీవించే వరాన్ని, ఆయనతో మమైకమై జీవించే మహద్భాగ్యాన్ని అందించగలడని, ఆ ఆశతోనే మిమ్ము హృదయ పూర్వకంగా ఆహ్వానిస్తున్నాము. రండి, ధ్యానించండి, ప్రార్థించండి. దేవుని రీతిని, నీతిని లోకానికి వెలుగుగా అందించగల దివ్య జ్యోతులై తిరిగి వెళ్ళండి.

**ముఖ్య అతిథులు :** మహాపూజ్యశ్రీ డా॥ ఉడుమల బాల, (వరంగల్ పీఠాధిపతులు, యువతా చైర్మన్)

**ప్రత్యేక ఆహ్వానితులు :** షా॥ విజయనంద్, షా॥ సాగర్ (సి.యస్.యస్.ఐ. మరియు దివ్యవాణి టి.వి. ప్రసంగీకులు)

**తేది :** శుక్రవారం ఫిబ్రవరి 16, 2018

**సమయం :** ఉ॥ 9.00 గంటల నుండి సా॥ 4.00 గంటల వరకు

**స్థలం :** ఫాతిమా కమ్యూనిటీ హాల్, ఫాతిమానగర్.

Fr. P. Anil, Director of Youth Centre

#### 4. News from FCT Scholarship Office

**a) Ond-day seminar :** On 13th January from 9 a.m to 4 p.m FCT office conducted seminar for the college students who did not attend the seminar on 1st and 2nd October 2017 at Jeevadhara Center in Rampur. After the words of welcome, there was praise and worship. The resource person was Fr. Praveen, parish priest of Rampur parish. In his talks he said that the life of any youth cut off from Jesus will fade away but



united with Him will bear much fruit. He told them to have short term goals and long term goals in the persuit of their career. At 11.45 Fr. Joseph, parish priest of Janakipuram celebrated Holy Eucharist. In the homily he spoke about the importance of relationship of love, trust, sacrifice and obedience among the family members. At 3.30 written catechism exam was conducted for the students. Then Fr. Martin, the director reminded the students to inculcate the reverential fear of God and fear/sense of sin which will help them to discern good and bad and to be on their guard. 180 college students participated in this seminar. The director thanked Fr. Joshuva, the superior, Fr. Praveen, Fr. Joseph and their seminarians for their collaboration.

**b) Visit of the Sponsors :** From 21<sup>st</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> January we had the pleasure of the visit of Fr. Franco Nanni OFM Cap together with two sponsors from Italy and also on 25th and 26th a group of 9 italian sponsors and friends of Fr. Colombo visited us. We visited Unikacherla, Nellikuduru, Mahabubabad, Fr. Colombo Memorial school at Nekkonda, Elkathurthy, Karunapuram and Bishop Beretta school hostel. Children gave us a colourful welcome with flower



garlands, shawls and dances. The children said that they were happy to see the sponsors but the sponsors told them that they were more happy to see them and are proud of the students who successfully completed their studies and now are doing jobs. They thanked them for their love, warmth and prayers. Our Bishop Most Rev. Dr. Udumala Bala also accompanied them to Banjara mission and Fr. Colombo Memorial school. They appreciated our committed efforts in the field of the education.

Fr. G. Bala Martin, Director of FCT

#### 5. News from WADES Desk

Unearthing Rural Talent through Technical Education

Christu Jyoti Institute of Technology and Sciences (CJITS), Colombonagar, Janagoan Dt,

To give shape to the dreams of late Fr. Augusto Colombo, PIME, Warangal Diocese opened CJITS. Striving to unearth the rural talent the institute made name for its Catholic value based technical education. Beginning with 180 students in 1988 the strength amazingly grew up to 2200. Under the able leadership of Most Rev. Dr. Udumala Bala, the President/General Manager, the college is paving paths for innovation and invention in technical field.

### **Strengths**

NBA & NAAC accredited; Own self-funded Research & Development Cell; Organizes summits, workshops and guest lecturers from collaborated institutions, industry? like IIT's and NIT W; Student counseling; Central Library and Departmental libraries with Internet facility, with 30,000 volumes, E-Journals, National and International Journals; Fully equipped Laboratories in all branches; High speed wi-Fi facility Separate hostel facility for 200 Boys and 200 Girls; Staff quarters; Spacious play grounds; College bus facility from Warangal, Janagaon, Cherial? & Palakurthy.

**Achievements :** Innovative projects like Air Car, Solar Car, Solar tricycle, Solar Bicycle, EPodium, Smart Plane Robo

### **Courses offered 2017-18**

Polytechnic Diploma in Engineering (3 Yrs): Civil, ECE, EEE and Mech. branches Bachelor of Technology (4 Yrs): Civil, CSE, ECE, EEE, and Mech. Master of Technology (2 Yrs): CSE, EPS (Electrical Power Systems)

Fr. T. Augustine, Director & Dr. Chandrashekar Reddy, Principal, CJITS

### **6. News from Pastoral Centre**

Services of the Diocesan Charismatic Team: We the diocesan charismatic team, formed by the directions of Our bishop Dr. Udumala Bala, is having special prayer services mainly night vigil prayer services twice a month since inception. Before serving in parishes, the team members felt the need to strengthen themselves in the spirit of prayer and word of God. The team, with the permission of Fr. M. Anand, conducted night prayer service in Kazipet parish on 16th of January from 9.45 PM to 3.30Am. Though it is not usual for the people, yet they participated without drowsiness. They felt it to be spirit lead prayer service. We thank our bishop for having encouraged to from the diocesan charismatic team and render effective services. We plan further to reach out into parishes.

**New mission village :** Hasaparthi proper: With the cooperation of Fr. Jerome, 30 families in Hasanaparthi are being prepared for baptism to be administered within a month. It is a fruit of evangelization for an year.

BCC program: 5 villages are taken up under BCC (basic Christian Community) program in the diocese. The director and the coordinator are taking care of this program.

Fr. Dasari Joseph, Director of Pastoral Centre



DIAMOND & SILVER JUBILEE - SAP, FATHIMANAGAR



DIAMOND & SILVER JUBILEE - SAP, FATHIMANAGAR



FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS & CONFIRMATIONS AT CATHEDRAL, FATHIMANAGAR



FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS & CONFIRMATIONS AT CATHEDRAL, FATHIMANAGAR



ONGOING FORMATION TO DIOCESAN PRIESTS AT ST. JOHN'S SEMINARY RAMANTHAPUR



ONGOING FORMATION TO DIOCESAN PRIESTS AT ST. JOHN'S SEMINARY RAMANTHAPUR



VINCETTI PALLOTTI FEAST OF PALIVELPULA: HOLY COMMUNION & CONFIRMATIONS



VINCETTI PALLOTTI FEAST OF PALIVELPULA: HOLY COMMUNION & CONFIRMATIONS



VISITATION OF ITALIAN SPONSORS & FRIENDS OF Fr. COLOMBO



VISITATION OF ITALIAN SPONSORS & FRIENDS OF Fr. COLOMBO

*Hearty Congratulations  
to His Lordship*

**Most Rev. Dr. UDUMALA BALA**

**Bishop of Warangal**

**On  
His Priestly  
Ordination Anniversary  
20-02-1979**



*Birthdays in the Month of February*

Rev. Fr. Idara Abraham	04-02-1941
Rev. Fr. Golamari Bala Martin	08-02-1967
Rev. Fr. Nagothu Maria Joseph	08-02-1981
Rev. Fr. Singareddy Balashowreddy	14-02-1959
Rev. Fr. Arlagadda Prakash	14-02-1941
Rev. Fr. Yeruva Chinnappa	15-02-1949
Rev. Fr. Yeruva Joji	15-02-1956
Rev. Fr. Basani Prakash	20-02-1957
Rev. Fr. Devarapu Sudhakar	26-02-1973

