

Local Venezuela support office up and running

The office of the Venezuela Support Group (VSG), which was launched by a number of civic and faith-based organizations in Guyana, is up and running, and members of the group say they are very happy with the way things are developing and relations with government officials. The group was launched to provide advice and assistance to Venezuelans seeking refuge from the deprivations and insecurity currently gripping their homeland. Since the local office was opened two weeks ago, this has

been its main function, namely to inform arriving Venezuelans of the procedures and rules with respect to visas.

Currently it is possible to travel around most of South America with just an ID card. This option is welcomed by many since it is very difficult to obtain a new passport in Venezuela at present.

(please turn to page 11)

Theology Conference reflects on Caribbean music, poetry, humour in disaster



Some of the Theology Conference participants take a group photo at the Bishop's residence in Paramaribo. Photo: Felix Edinborough

Caribbean theologians, scholars and students who attended the 19th Conference on Theology in the Caribbean Theology (CTCT) in Paramaribo, Suriname were all challenged to see the disasters and the ensuing chaos as an opportunity for reflection, newness, growth and deeper intimacy with each other.

The biennial conference, held June 11–15 had as its theme **Laudato Si': Caribbean Responses.**

A report from participant Sr. Annette Chow SJ said that during the week, some presentations recalled the work, ideas and values of Caribbean theologians Idris Hamid, Peter Sjak-Shie, Fr. Michel de Verteuil CSSp and Bishop Emeritus Anthony Dickson, whom was honoured for his work as an early 'Champion of the Environment'.

It stated, "We reflected on the nature of prayer and understanding of the Genesis story. We saw

how the music and poetry of the Caribbean helped us to reflect deeply and cope in our unique way with humour in the midst of the devastation."

Participants were graced by the presence of Rev. Sonia Hinds, a female Anglican priest and theologian from Barbados who presented the Anglican Church's response to the problems of the environment.

The conference also included talks on Guyana's situation as they decide on the use of the oil reserves, and a reflection on indigenous peoples whose lives are being adversely affected by greed and exploitation.

According to the report, the bishops from the Dioceses of Roseau in Dominica, St George's, Grenada; and Óbidos, Brazil; enabled them "to enter into the pain and strengths of their people in a personal and moving way".

New participants all remarked on the camaraderie at the conference and added their own perspectives. "Some of our best ideas emerged in the moments of fun, laughter and relaxation in the evenings."

Sr. Annette said that she left the conference with her "ears ringing" with the words of the Prime Minister of Dominica, Roosevelt Skerrit with his call to become the world's first climate resilient country. *(From Catholic News)*

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Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, B

Bishop's Engagements

Sunday July 1st

09:00hrs – Confirmation at St. Peter, BV
 14:00hrs – Attend Assemblies of God 60th Anniversary Rally

Thursday July 5th

13:30hrs – Marian Academy Prize Giving Ceremony

Friday July 6th

16:00hrs – Guyana Council of Churches Meeting

Sunday July 8th

07:00hrs – Mass at St. Thomas the Apostle, Enmore.



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EDITORIAL

WHO REALLY HELPS REFUGEES?

BY MIKE JAMES

Which countries are host to the most refugees?

Surely based on the publicity dominating world news of the urgent and drastic steps being taken to prevent the arrival of new refugees the answer surely must be countries like the US and Italy.

The US government has taken the extreme step to deter the flow of refugees and migrants across its southern border of separating weeping children from their accompanying parents, lodging the children in cage-like detention centres across the US to places as distant as Florida, New York and Michigan. Connecticut congressman Jim Hymes said lawmakers in McAllen, Texas saw "20 or 30 mounds of blankets. When lifted, they proved to be covering little girls. They were scared, they were crying. San Francisco congresswoman Jackie Spier declared "This is the most crude and unacceptable way to handle these people. They are human beings, many of them have family members here in the US." [Older Guyanese may recall the name Jackie Spier who as secretary to her predecessor Congressman Leo Ryan, narrowly escaped herself being murdered when Jim Jones' gunmen opened fire on the investigating visitors at the airstrip at Jonestown Guyana just prior to the mass murder of 914 US migrants to Guyana in 1978]

The new Italian government has taken the extreme step of turning away ships carrying refugees and migrants from docking in Italy. The action is reminiscent of the plight of the 900 Jewish-German refugees fleeing Nazi persecution in 1939 on the US ship St Louis. The boat was turned away by Cuba, the refugees' first destination, then the United States and, finally, Canada. Forced to return to Europe, 254 of the passengers on board were killed during the Holocaust.

Surely the number of refugees in US and Europe must be the greatest in world to require such drastic action by these countries, among the world's wealthiest.

Not so. The reality is quite different.

The country current hosting the largest number of refugees is Turkey (3 million, mainly from war torn Syria and Iraq) followed by Lebanon with more than 1 million refugees from the same countries as well as Palestinians expelled from Israel which applies the lessons of its own tragic history in incomprehensible ways today.

UN based data on the countries hosting most refugees per 1000 of the local population is most revealing.



Dear Editor,

I am a Roman Catholic and to my understanding, a Eucharist Minister is someone who holds a special position in the Catholic Church. Not everyone can be a Eucharist Minister because it carries certain responsibilities and one has to live in an appropriate manner.

In the absent of a priest, the Eucharist Minister conducts a service and also helps in the distribution of the Eucharist whether there is a priest present or not.

Eucharist ministers need to dress appropriately when functioning

I was taught that the Eucharist is sacred and is a representation of Jesus. It is important that I go to Mass and receive the Eucharist. It connects me with Jesus.

I am very upset over the fallen standards of the inappropriate way Eucharist Ministers dress when conducting services or distributing the Eucharist in my Parish. Sleeveless garments are worn by the female Eucharist Ministers and thus their armpits are outside when distributing the Eucharist. The Cross that was given is not worn.

Please do not get me wrong. I am very happy when persons take up this Ministry but they should be aware that it carries responsibilities. It seems that the training of a Eucharist Minister is less than a year now. Maybe the Church should reconsider having the previous training of two/three years. The Church should not lower its standards just to fill positions.

I pray that this issue is looked at and Eucharist Ministers are advised accordingly.

Concerned Catholic

Water rate hike another burden for the working people

Dear Editor,

The Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Guyana (FITUG) was disturbed to learn, from media reports, of the decision to increase water rates in two tranches – the first effective from October 01, this year and the second from October

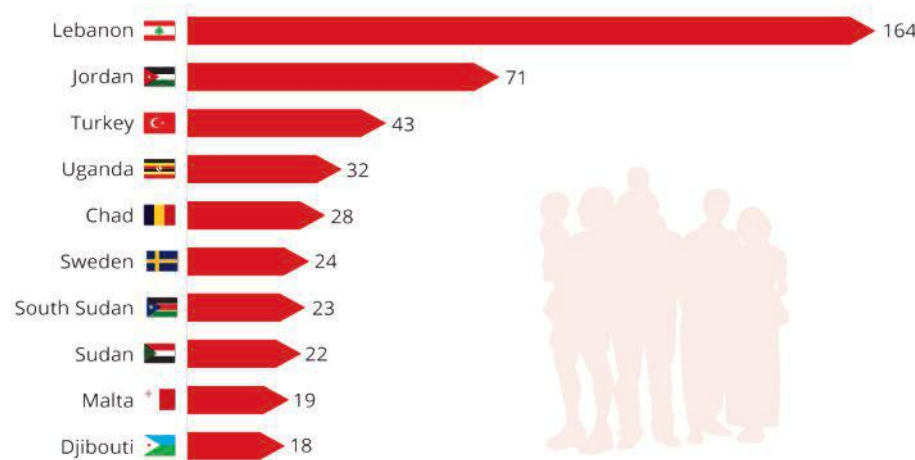
01, 2019. Through the increases approved, ordinary Guyanese will now have to find thousands of dollars more per year to enjoy an essential building block of life in the Land of Many Waters.

The FITUG saw from a Demerara Waves report, that the Guyana

Water Inc (GWI) CEO, Dr. Richard Van West Charles saying that the approved increases would be used in financing the Company's capital works. Indeed this is saddening recognizing that for quite a number of years the State had been assisting the Company ([please turn to page 4](#))

Lebanon Still Has The Highest Refugees Density

Countries with the most refugees per 1,000 inhabitants at the end of 2017



Source: UNHCR

On this basis, the US for example is near the bottom of the list of countries hosting refugees i.e. 10 refugees for every 1000 local inhabitants.

The UK, whose local population has opted via referendum to withdraw from the EU, largely because of a national horror of having to observe the EU rule of freedom of movement of members of the Union to live and work in any member country, currently hosts some 3 refugees of every 1,000 local inhabitants, almost insignificant in comparison with developing countries.

Very poor countries like Uganda host proportionally 10 times more refugees that G7 countries like the UK.

It is the poor who are more generous to the poorer and more marginalized than the rich.

Jesus himself drew this truth to the attention of his disciples when, observant as always, in the temple in Jerusalem, "He sat down opposite the treasury and watched the people putting money into the treasury, and many of the rich put in a great deal. A poor widow came and put in two small coins, the equivalent of a penny. Then he called his disciples

and said to them, 'In truth I tell you, this poor widow has put more in than all who have contributed to the treasury; for they have all put in money they could spare, but she in her poverty has put in everything she possessed, all she had to live on.' (Mark 12: 41-44).

The most generous to the thousands of refugees fleeing dire poverty, and rampant drug and political violence in Central America on their tortuous and dangerous trek through Mexico, are the Mexican poor themselves who wait by the tracks to hand out food ration packets and water to the migrants and refugees perched dangerously on the top of cargo trains moving north from Mexico's southern border. It is poor Mexicans who are the most generous in offering temporary shelter to Central American refugees on their way.

El Salvador (the only country in the world named after Jesus our Saviour) along with Honduras, are now just above Haiti as the poorest countries in our continent, and the ones with by far the highest murder rates.

The US has increased pressure on the Mexican authorities to order the

trains not to slow down to allow the migrants to receive the food rations from the local campesinos as a deterrent to the flow.

The world's most famous refugee of course is the tiny child whose parents fled with him (without papers or visas) south of the border.

'Get up, take the child and his mother with you, and escape into Egypt, and stay there until I tell you, because Herod intends to search for the child and do away with him.' So Joseph got up and, taking the child and his mother with him, left that night for Egypt, where he stayed until Herod was dead.

Herod was furious on realising that he had been fooled by the wise men, and in Bethlehem and its surrounding district he had all the male children killed who were two years old or less, reckoning by the date he had been careful to ask the wise men. Matt 2: 13-16

That child refugee would later proclaim that treatment of refugees, migrants, the poor, the forgotten and the rejected is the key condition for entry to his Father's Kingdom, now and in eternity :

"For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you made me welcome, lacking clothes and you clothed me, sick and you visited me, in prison and you came to see me." Then the upright will say to him in reply, "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and make you welcome, lacking clothes and clothe you? When did we find you sick or in prison and go to see you?" "And the King will answer, "In truth I tell you, in so far as you did this to one of the least of these sisters and brothers of mine, you did it to me." ...Then the upright will go to eternal life (Matt 25: 35-40). ❖

Nicaraguan bishops helped to avert massacre in rebel city, claims newspaper



Cardinal Leopoldo Brenes Solorzano and Auxiliary Bishop Silvio Baez Ortega, both of Managua, Nicaragua, are seen in Masaya, Nicaragua, June 21 as clashes between anti-government protesters and police continue. (Credit: Jorge Cabrera/Reuters via CNS.)

Bishops led a procession through the streets of Masaya last week protesting against continued violence and oppression in the city. Bishops from the Archdiocese of Managua, Archbishop Waldemar Sommertag, apostolic nuncio to Nicaragua, and about 30 priests from the capital travelled to pray in the besieged city of Masaya.

"I want to make a call to those who have come to this city to kill. I want to make a call to those that are sharpshooters ... I want to make a call to [President] Daniel Ortega and [Vice President and first lady] Rosario Murillo: not one more death in Masaya," Auxiliary Bishop Silvio Baez

Ortega told locals outside St Sebastian parish. "The pain in Nicaragua is enormous," Bishop Baez said. "Unarmed people are being massacred. Cities are in the hands of bandits."

The churchmen celebrated Mass and led a Eucharistic procession through city streets, passing through barricades and the scenes of past attacks while praying to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. Church bells in the city tolled to welcome them, a change from the sounding of the bells to warn the population of arriving police or paramilitaries.

Cardinal Leopoldo Brenes Solorzano of Managua entered the police

command post and spoke with a commissioner accused of directing attacks on the civilians. He also delivered a list of detainees he wanted released. The commander promised to stop the attacks, but Cardinal Brenes promised to "call again" if he did not comply.

Opposition newspaper La Prensa wrote that the bishops "stopped another massacre."

"When [riot police] knew that the bishops were going there, they withdrew," said Father Victor Rivas, executive secretary of the Nicaraguan bishops' conference.

Violence has convulsed Nicaragua for two months as citizens protested a proposed reform to the country's social security system. Demonstrations were met with police repression, but spread rapidly as demands increased for the ouster of Ortega and Murillo.

More than 200 deaths have been recorded in Nicaragua since April 18, according to observers and human rights groups. The Nicaraguan bishops' conference has convened a national dialogue, but talks have faltered because of a lack of consensus.

Father Rivas said, "What the government has promised, it hasn't fulfilled. ... The government condemns violence, whatever the source, but, in reality, it's been the one attacking."

To end the crisis, the bishops' conference has proposed holding elections in April 2019 and replacing members of an electoral authority considered pro-government. ❖

Upcoming Events

Sunday July 1st

Marriage Encounter Family Fun Day at Camp Kayuka

Please see page 4

Sacred Heart Barbeque Lunch

Please see page 11

Monday July 2nd

BV Family Fun Fair

All are invited to the Family Fun Fair at **St Peter's RC Church**, Beterverwagting, ECD, on Monday July 2nd from 3:30 to 8:00pm.

Admission: \$100

Children under 12 Free!

Catholic Charismatic Renewal Prayer Breakfast

Please see page 4

July 7th, 8th and 10th

RCA reunion

There will be an RCIA THREE DAY REUNION on July 7th, 8th and 10th, 2018. Interested persons are asked to contact Ms. Curtis on tel. no. 225-2354 before June 24th.

Fri. July 13th – Sun. July 15th

Catholic Men's Conference

Please see page 4. ❖



Please let us know of upcoming events by emailing us at: catholicstandardgy@gmail.com under the heading "Upcoming Events" or call 226-2192.



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Worldwide Marriage Encounter (Guyana)

presents a Grand

Family Fun Day at Camp Kayuka

on Sunday July 1st

Walk with your picnic baskets, drinks, games & tents. Admission into Kayuka only \$500 per person, children under 10 free.

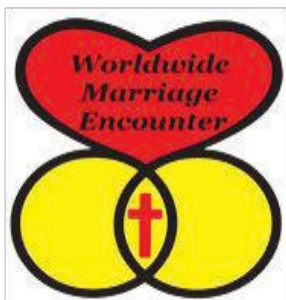
For further information, please contact:

Daniel & Coleen Thomas: 624-7742/644-5669

Tony & Sharon Mansell: 600-5069/657-8717

Ryan & Bonita Sampson: 624-1471

**** Water & ice will be provided compliments of the movement****



The Catholic Charismatic Renewal

Cordially invites you to its Annual
PRAYER BREAKFAST

THEME - "WHOEVER LOVES GOD MUST LOVE OTHERS ALSO" 1 JH 4:21

At the Marian Academy Carifesta Avenue, Georgetown
From 07:30hrs on Monday July 2nd, 2018

COME AND ENJOY A SUMPTUOUS BREAKFAST FOR ONLY \$1500.00

10th Annual Catholic Men's Conference

"Be Strong Be a man!"

1 Kings 2:2

Guest Speakers:

Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers,
Portland, OR

Micheal Haddock,
President, CMF of California

along with other speakers.

Registration: \$2,000.
Lunch Inclusive

Fri July 13, 2018
Time: 5:30 pm

Sat July 14, 2018
Time: 8:00 am to 4:00pm

Sun July 15, 2018
Time: 8:30 am to 12:00 noon.

at Marian Academy
Carifesta Avenue, Thomadlands,
Georgetown, Guyana.

Closing Mass on Sunday
Brickdam Cathedral
Time 5:00 pm

*Rev. Francis Allyene OSB,
Bishop of Georgetown, and
the Catholic Men's Ministry
invite all men to join them at
their Men's Conference
which is aimed at the
renewal of minds and
transformation of
hearts and lives
for Christ.*

Catholic Men's Ministry
Diocese of Georgetown, Guyana.
27 Brickdam, Stabroek, Georgetown
Tel: 226-4469

Letters · Letters · Letters · Letters · Letters · Letters · Letters

in reaching its capital requirements. It seems to us, in view of the expansion of tax revenues in recent times, the Administration can continue to provide such assistance and thus negating the necessity for the rate hike. Moreover, we recall that GWI's personnel had admitted, according to the media, that rate increase could have been avoided if the Company were able to collect rates from all consumers. At this time, we are unaware of steps to go in this direction in order to stave off the rate hike.

As FITUG pointed out not too long ago, the water rate hike would now require all consumers to pay VAT on water as they would now exceed the threshold. Thus, this amounts to a further indirect increase of 14 per cent. This newest increase comes on the heels of several other burdens that have been placed on the workers in recent times and is causing workers, more and more, to curtail their consumption in order to live within their means. Slowly and steadily, dismayingly, workers, indeed working-people and citizens, are reaching the point where the proverbial straw will break the camel's back.

Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Guyana (FITUG)

World Cup times of Catholic Broadcast

In order to facilitate the live World Cup matches, the Catholic Broadcast of **July 1st**, usually heard on NCN radio at 11:30 am will be broadcast instead at **6:30pm**.

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Sunday Scripture

July 1st - Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

FIRST READING

Wisdom 1:13-15; 2:23-24

It was the devil's envy that brought death into the world.

Death was not God's doing,
he takes no pleasure in the extinction of the living.
To be – for this he created all;
the world's created things have health in them,
in them no fatal poison can be found,
and Hades holds no power on earth;
for virtue is undying.
Yet God did make man imperishable,
he made him in the image of his own nature;
it was the devil's envy that brought death into the world,
as those who are his partners will discover.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 29

Response: I will praise you, Lord, you have rescued me.

1. I will praise you, Lord, you have rescued me
and have not let my enemies rejoice over me.
O Lord, you have raised my soul from the dead,
restored me to life from those who sink into the grave. *Response*
2. Sing psalms to the Lord, you who love him,
give thanks to his holy name.
His anger lasts but a moment; his favour through life.
At night there are tears, but joy comes with dawn.
3. The Lord listened and had pity.
The Lord came to my help.
For me you have changed my mourning to dancing,
O Lord my God, I will thank you for ever. *Response*

SECOND READING

2 Corinthians 8:7, 9, 13-15

In giving relief to others, balance what happens to be your surplus now against their present need.

You always have the most of everything – of faith, of eloquence, of understanding, of keenness for any cause, and the biggest share of our affection – so we expect you to put the most into this work of mercy too. Remember how generous the Lord Jesus was: he was rich, but he became poor for your sake, to make you rich out of his poverty. This does not mean that to give relief to others you ought to make things difficult for yourselves: it is a question

of balancing what happens to be your surplus now against their present need, and one day they may have something to spare that will supply your own need. That is how we strike a balance: as scripture says: The man who gathered much had none too much, the man who gathered little did not go short.

Gospel Acclamation Eph 1:17. 18

Alleluia, alleluia!

*Your words are spirit, Lord, and they are life:
you have the message of eternal life.*

Alleluia!

or

Lk 7:16

Alleluia, alleluia!

*Our Saviour Christ Jesus abolished death,
and he has proclaimed life through the Good News.
Alleluia!*



GOSPEL

Mark 5:21-43

Little girl, I tell you to get up.

When Jesus had crossed in the boat to the other side, a large crowd gathered round him and he stayed by the lakeside. Then one of the synagogue officials came up, Jairus by name, and seeing him, fell at his feet and pleaded with him earnestly, saying, "My little daughter is desperately sick. Do come and lay your hands on her to make her better and save her life." Jesus went with him and a large

crowd followed him: they were pressing all round him.

Now there was a woman who had suffered from a haemorrhage for twelve years; after long and painful treatment under various doctors, she had spent all she had without being any the better for it, in fact, she was getting worse. She had heard about Jesus, and she came up behind him through the crowd and touched his cloak. "If I can touch even his clothes," she said to herself, "I shall be well again." And the source of her bleeding dried up instantly, and she felt in herself that she was cured of her complaint. Immediately aware that power had gone out of him, Jesus turned round in the crowd and said, "Who touched my clothes?" His disciples said to him, "You see how the crowd is pressing round you and yet you say, 'Who touched me?'" But he continued to look all round to see who had done it. Then the woman came forward, frightened and trembling because she knew what had happened to her, and she fell at his feet and told him the whole truth. "My daughter" he said, "your faith has restored you to health; go in peace and be free of your complaint."

While he was still speaking some people arrived from the house of the synagogue official to say, "Your daughter is dead: why put the Master to any further trouble?" But Jesus had overheard this remark of theirs and he said to the official, "Do not be afraid; only have faith." And he allowed no one to go with him except Peter and James and John the brother of James. So they came to the official's house and Jesus noticed all the commotion, with people weeping and wailing unrestrainedly. He went in and said to them, "Why all this commotion and crying? The child is not dead, but asleep." But they laughed at him. So he turned then all out and, taking with him the child's father and mother and his own companions, he went into the place where the child lay. And taking the child by the hand he said to her, "Talitha, kum!" which means, "Little girl, I tell you to get up." The little girl got up at once and began to walk about, for she was twelve years old. At this they were overcome with astonishment, and he ordered them strictly not to let anyone know about it, and told them to give her something to eat. ❖



By: The Diocesan Stewardship
Council of Guyana

"Your abundance at the present time should supply their needs, so that their abundance may also supply your needs." This is the fourth time in 2 Corinthians, chapter 8 that St. Paul addresses the issue of giving. What Paul is trying to explain is that the motivation for giving should be similar to God's motivation for gifting us. In the passage which constitutes today's Second Reading Paul says, "As you excel in every respect, in faith, discourse, knowledge, all earnestness,

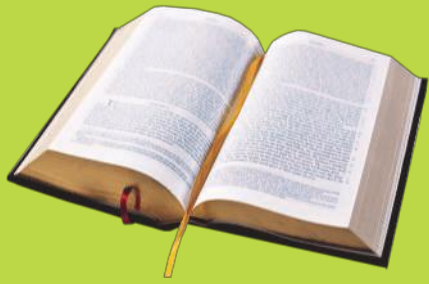
and in the love we have for you, may you excel in this gracious act also."

In the original, Paul uses the old Greek word *charis* to describe the giving to which he is making reference. We can probably see that the roots of that word are very much the same as the roots of the word "charity." Giving and sharing are definitely the work of God's grace in us. In fact, our motivation should be very much the same as that of the Lord. He gives to

us because of Who He is, not because of what or who we are.

We, too, must give if we wish to show holiness, or to at least aspire to it. That is also what we mean when we say that we are all called to stewardship, to be good stewards. It is one thing to be faithful, but it is another to give. At times we may think there are too many collections, but it is the results of these opportunities to give which support the Church's work both locally and around the globe. ❖

Gospel Reflection



By Fr. Michael Barrow SJ

This Sunday's gospel has two quite different stories of Jesus healing. One story interrupts the other and at first I wondered why St. Mark who wrote the gospel didn't sort them out and give them separately, as they are obviously quite different. In fact, if in your church they read the short form of the gospel, they will be cutting out the interruption. And that is a pity because the two miracles highlight the meaning of each other. The main story is one of the most charming and moving stories of the gospel, the healing of a 12-year-old girl, the idol of her mother and father. While Jesus is on the way with her distraught father to get there before she dies, his journey is interrupted by a woman who is worried about her own complaint. We are naturally more moved by the image of the little girl, but Jesus doesn't see it like that.

The father of the little girl was a synagogue official, an absolute pillar of his parish and he did not hesitate to ask Jesus to come to his home. The woman was more of an embarrassment, suffering in a way that only be appreciated by women who have suffered heavy periods. She had had it for 12 years, exactly the length of that little girl's life. Not only was it an embarrassing complaint, but the Jews of that time considered it unclean. For them during her period of menstruation a woman should not come in contact with other people, and that's why she felt so guilty in trying to touch Jesus. With all the sympathy we may feel for the woman, we are more inclined to appreciate the feeling of a mother and father whose daughter is dying. But what they felt for their little girl was what Jesus felt for this poor woman. She is his daughter and that's what he called her, "My daughter!" ❖

Lindo Creek Memorial Service at Brickdam Cathedral

The victims of the 2008 Lindo Creek massacre, some of whom were Roman Catholic, were remembered at an emotional service at Brickdam Cathedral on Wednesday June 20th.

This was the first time since the tragedy that all of the relatives had come together for such an event.

The Service was conducted by Vicar General Monsignor Terrence Montrose. He lamented that after ten years the relatives and others are still trying to find out the truth of what really happened and noted that our society is not very animated by such incidents. He also expressed sympathy to those affected on behalf of the Roman Catholic community.

At the end of the Service Monsignor Montrose invited the family members to hold the pictures of their dead relatives in front of them while he prayed that their faith may enable them to overcome their grief.

At the service relatives of the deceased also paid their respects to the dead in songs, tributes, readings and poetry.

Also attending the service was retired Justice Donald Trotman who is heading a Commission of Inquiry into the incident and some of his staff.

On or about June 21st, 2008, eight miners were killed and their bodies were subsequently burnt at a mining camp at Lindo Creek, upper Berbice River. ❖



President hosts St. John's Day thanksgiving service



Father Malcolm Rodrigues SJ presided over the St. John's Day thanksgiving service which was hosted President Granger

President David Granger, on Sunday, hosted members of the St. John's Association of Guyana at the Baridi Benab - State House, where they held a thanksgiving service in observance of St. John's Day. The service was ([please turn to page 7](#))

Martinique Preparation ongoing



“So have you any deep hopes or expectations for the Assembly...” Over the past months participants have been meeting regularly, both formally and informally, creating deeper bonds between them and becoming more connected, as they continue their preparations for next month’s Youth Assembly.

From Joshua Van-Sluytman

With less than 2 weeks remaining for the commencement of the Caribbean Bishops Conference (AEC) Youth Assembly in the Archdiocese of Fort-de-France, Martinique, youths from the Diocese of Georgetown are very much in tune with their preparations. Over the past five months, the young people have been getting ready for this assembly.

Under the theme “*Youth Transforming the Caribbean Family*”, Antilles Episcopal Conference Youth Assembly (AECYA) delegations will focus on Pope Francis’ “*Amoris Laetitia*,” the love of the family. This forms part of the AEC Youth Commission’s 5-year plan for renewal of family life in the Caribbean. It is our belief that the key to transforming society is transforming the family.

The Diocese of Georgetown will be making a presentation on chapter six of this document. This production has been completed and submitted to the AEC Secretariat in the form of a video. Participants will also be expected to perform a cultural piece showcasing the culture of their country. Guyana’s cultural piece will be in the form of dances, poetry and national & folk songs.

The Diocese of Georgetown will also take part in the ‘AEC Got Talent’ competition in the dance category.

Spirituality was also part of our preparations - over the past few months the group began meetings with the AECYA prayer and had Lectio Divina sessions on the virtues such as Prudence, Justice, Temperance, Faith, Hope and Love. These reflections allow us to read a

scripture passage, look for a word or phrase that stays with us, meditate on the word/phrase and explain what it means to us and finally pray on it. This has made the group more spiritually prepared for the Youth Assembly. On June 2nd, the entire group had a one-day retreat prior to their travel to Suriname to obtain French visas.

Currently the group is making the final touches to their cultural presentation and is preparing for a Reconciliation service which will be held on the weekend prior to their travel to Martinique. The Assembly will be held from July 10th - 23rd.

It is anticipated that each participant will return home after the assembly energized with God’s blessing and will continue to build God’s kingdom in Guyana. We ask you to keep them in your prayers. ❖

President hosts St. John’s Day thanksgiving service (From page 6)

officiated by Father Malcolm Rodrigues SJ.

St. John’s Day, which marks the birth anniversary of St. John the Baptist, is observed each year on June 24. President Granger, in his St. John’s Day message, called on all citizens, communities, corporations and local democratic organs to support the work of the St. John’s Association of Guyana. “Every household,

business place, community and neighborhood should have persons trained in emergency medical care so as to ensure a timely and effective response to health emergencies,” he said.

Since the establishment of the Guyana chapter in 1933, the Association has trained thousands of persons, including joint services ranks, in first aid, home nursing, patient care, ambulance

training and disaster preparedness. The Association has divisions in Linden, Upper Demerara-Berbice (Region 10) and Berbice, East Berbice-Corentyne (Region Six). In September 2016, the Head of State accepted the invitation to become patron of the St. John’s Association. ❖

(Ministry of the Presidency)

Journeying with the Word of God



MAKING THE WORD OF GOD YOUR OWN

Step 1: Look at today’s Readings prayerfully.

1st Reading: The Book of Wisdom tells us that death is not God’s work. We were made for life with God and it is for us to choose life.

2nd Reading: Paul is appealing to the Christians of Corinth to give generously to those who are less fortunate.

Gospel: Both of the miracles related in today’s Gospel are signs of God’s power to restore life and health through Jesus Christ.

Step 2: Applying the values of the Readings to your daily life.

1. St. Paul is suggesting that those who have much should give generously to those in need. Do we live like this in today’s society?
2. Why do you think it can be limiting if we think of Jesus only as a miracle worker?
3. The faith of the woman was enough to heal her. What would you say faith is?
4. The Gospel tells us that Jesus healed by touch. Touching is one of the most intimate forms of human contact. Do you see yourself as being able to extend a healing, life-giving touch to someone in need?

Step 3: Accepting the message of God’s Word in your life of faith.

The healing and life-giving Lord is powerfully present in the midst of our community. We are called to share our faith in him, not as a miracle worker but as the caring face of our God who does not want human suffering, who is ready to lessen it and who calls on us, his disciples, to do the same.

Step 4: Something to think & pray about

1. Reflect on your relationship with others. Ask yourself if your words, actions and relationships result in healing or hurting? If your relationships are not life-giving and healing ones, why do you think this is so? What changes do you feel you need to make in your life to make your relationships better?
2. Examine your life honestly. Are there any areas in your life that are in need of healing? Do you ever think of turning to Jesus in faith for healing?
3. Pray that you may see every person you come into contact with as God’s creation and that you will be able to recognise and respond when help and healing are needed. ❖

[From: *Journeying with the Word of God*, The Religious Education Department, Diocese of Georgetown, Guyana]



Proclaiming the Word of God

Speak, Lord, your servant is listening: you have the message of eternal life

July 1st: Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)

"Little girl, I tell you to get up!"

THE WORD THIS WEEK

Today we are invited to marvel at one of the most dramatic and amazing of the Lord's miracles – the raising back to life of the daughter of Jairus. The story is told with a level of emotional realism: the calm faith but dreadful fear of Jairus, the servants who bring the news of his daughter's death, the calm reassurance of Jesus and even the laughter of the servant who mock Jesus – all these make this a story that can engage us and speak to us. And what it says is something profound: all the miracles of the Lord proclaim the Kingdom of God - the world the way God wants it to be. God does not want us to die: death is not part of God's plan for us. This is reinforced by the unfamiliar first reading from the book of Wisdom, which opens our listening to God's Word today with

the dramatic phrase: "Death was not God's doing." God created us to live forever, and the raising of Jairus' daughter to life is a vivid and outstanding proclamation of this truth.

NOTES FOR READERS

First Reading: Wisdom 1:13-15; 2:23-24

This reading is hard work - be warned! It is not too long, but the language is very dense and the concepts are quite profound. Also, the little words have a huge impact in this reading: just imagine missing out each 'no' and 'not' and see what it would do to the reading! Proclaiming this effectively is all about emphasis: each line has a word that has to be stressed as, for example, the first line: "Death was NOT God's doing". Watch out for line 3, where you get the rather odd expression: "To be". Remember Hamlet! This is all about existence and life—God created all to exist and to live. Hades is a Greek name for the underworld, the kingdom of death - make sure you emphasise that death is not all-powerful on earth. The last four lines begin with a wonderful statement: "God DID make man imperishable" spend a while thinking about what exactly this is saying, and how it is Good News for your congregation today!

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 8:7.9.13-15

One of the themes that crops up quite frequently in Saint Paul's letters is his appeal for money that the different Church communities are asked to give for the support of the needy in the community - and this is one of them. Saint Paul, in a way, first flatters the Corinthians, by praising their eloquence, understanding and keenness, but he quickly points out that this means they also need to be the most generous! Paul is being very reasonable and practical in this passage, so the reader's voice should follow the same tone. There are two tricky sentences in this passage: the first, when

Paul talks about Jesus' richness and poverty - just take your time and see the verbal balancing game Paul is playing. The second is the final scripture quote - again just take your time, and realize that Saint Paul is saying something very encouraging - that because we help others, if the time comes when we need help (= gathering little) we will not go short.

July 8th: Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)

"A prophet is only despised in his own country."

THE WORD THIS WEEK

A prophet's job is to open people's eyes to the reality of their situation - pointing out to them the things they would rather forget or ignore. A prophet is a sort of "national conscience", always awake to situations of injustice and always speaking out about them. A prophet is commissioned to do this by God, who sends the prophet on his mission Jesus is just such a prophet - teaching and preaching about the Kingdom of God and the best way to live. Despite the welcome his message has received elsewhere, when he comes to his hometown he is faced with rejection - such that "he was amazed at their lack of faith." It is curious is that they seem to accept his wisdom, and his miracles, but because he grew up among them they cannot accept him as a teacher from God. We should remember that it is often hardest to stand up for the truth among those who know us well.

NOTES FOR READERS

First Reading: Ezekiel 2:2-5

This is a prophet's own account of his commissioning and send out by God. This short reading has a remarkable honesty - the mission is not going to be easy. Those forbidding words, "whether they listen or not..." give us insights into the task the prophet faces. This is a fairly simple reading:

be careful to understand the way in which God presents the mission - in a very negative way. God doesn't understate the difficulty of the job ahead - using dramatic words like "revolt", "defiant and obstinate". When we eventually get to the message that Ezekiel is to take with him, it might seem a little bit of an anticlimax: "The Lord says this." This was the formula of Divine prophecy - a sign that the words, whatever they were, came from God. Interestingly, it is the same phrase that you, the reader, will say at the end of your reading: "This is the Word of the Lord." As a reader of God's word, you certainly share some of the roles of a prophet. Bear this in mind as you read!

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 12:7-10

Paul gives us a strangely intimate insight into his ministry, in talking about his "thorn in the flesh". There has been a lot of debate as to what this could be: some think it could be a serious, possibly disfiguring disease; others that he refers to the failure of his brothers and sisters in Judaism to accept his message; some have even suggested that it could refer to his baldness, his short stature or a speech impediment. Whatever the details, here Paul is giving us a deeply personal testimony to his faith and his mission - whatever the burden, he is quite happy to carry on. Read in a tone that is friendly and almost casual (without losing any clarity). Announce the idea clearly - be careful with the words "thorn in the flesh"; in the second half of the reading, allow Paul's contentment to come through. Stress "weaknesses" in contrast with strength (which is what the world would boast about), especially in the last line. Spend some time with this reading before you proclaim it, and come to know the person of Paul, whose words you often read, a little better through this revelation. ✨

[From: Office for Liturgy of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Salford <http://www.salfordliturgy.org.uk/>]

A Christian Perspective on Social Issues



Real role models urgently needed (Part 1)

By GHK Lall

"You are the light of the world. A town built on a city cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." (Mt 5: 14-16).

Who are they - these lights of the world? Where are they now? And, if and when, they are found do they measure up to the earned regard and high esteem that comes with being seen and embraced as role models? In sum, can they, do they deliver?

It seems that at one time and for a long time that role models were always there: in the home, in the village, in the schools, in the church, in the workplace, and almost everywhere else. Many times they were strangers with a stranger aura about them: quiet, stern, dignified, respectable, honorable, wise, and usually godly. They did not have to be of the same race or social circle of those who looked up to them or were corrected by them. They commanded attention. From the safe reserve of space, many-even those who disagreed with them-pointed and whispered, "there goes a good man" or "she is a different kind of woman; she is a lady." Many times, the refrain was, "she is a real Christian woman." Titus 2:7 comes to mind and fits cleanly on these types of stalwart citizens, "Show yourself in all respects to be a model of good works, and in your teaching show integrity, dignity." They did.

Back then they were looked upon as steady reliable pillars of the community; people who were just there to go to in times of distress. People who would listen, were reliable and confidential and had answers. It is doubtful whether they saw themselves as belonging to any "middleclass." They

would have been coldly furious and reject out-of-hand any attempt to link them with any underhand business or classless conduct. If anything, they were formidably working class of the salt of the earth variety, those yeomen and yeowomen who shared the anxieties and struggles of their neighbors and their times. They occupied a number of different jobs: teachers, midwives, policemen, domestics, and lowly civil servants to name a few. They were praised for their simple steadfast honesty, a patient kindness, a ready listening ear, and helping hand in times of need. It was not money, as they themselves had limited earnings; it was the comfort of good neighbors and all-weather relationships. Poor they may have mostly been, but they were rich in the spirit and way of the Lord.

Since the beginning of time, there have been black sheep, dark secrets, fallen damsels, alcoholics, and dysfunctional families, among the weaker impulses and ways of humankind in any neighborhood. Nobody called them by those names, and most everybody took responsibility for their actions. There was little of the now patented escapism of blaming everybody and everything but oneself for life's failures. And

when these failures threatened the fabric of a community, there was always a willing elder who cared enough to counsel. Children were children and knew the order of things, the premium placed on respect and appreciation for those unofficial chaperones in the midst.

These onetime rocks of the community and wider social interaction in this country are now of a long gone way of life. Those comforting reliable docks in which to find shelter during the storms that life can bring, to lean on, and later to go forth into the world are sadly a thing of the past. Nobody used the term "role models" at the time. They were just there and forever it seems. That was that and taken for granted from home to school and work and all the points in between. In today's fast-paced, single parent, migratory world all of this appears overpoweringly quaint and hopelessly out of date. A fossil-charming, to be sure—from a simpler era that has had its time and with which there is neither time nor patience nor interest. The result has been relentlessly negative, if not sometimes harrowing.

Next week: Real role models: the fading past, the growing present... ✨



Children's Page

There Is Power in a Touch

Dear Boys and Girls,

One day Jesus was walking through a large crowd of people. The people were crowding around so that he could hardly move. There was a woman in the crowd who suffered from an ailment which meant that had been bleeding for twelve years. She had been to many doctors, but none had been able to help her. She had heard about Jesus and she believed that he could heal her, but there were so many who were people crowded around him that it seemed hopeless.

The woman thought to herself, "If I could just get close enough to touch his robe, I would be healed." So she pushed through the crowd and reached out and touched Jesus' clothes. Her bleeding stopped immediately and her suffering was ended.

The Bible tells us that as soon as the woman touched him, Jesus felt the power go out of him. He turned to the woman and said, "Your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be free from your suffering."

Won't you reach out to Jesus today? If you will, you too can feel his power in your life today.

Dear Jesus, we long to reach out and touch you and to feel your power in our life. Amen. ✨

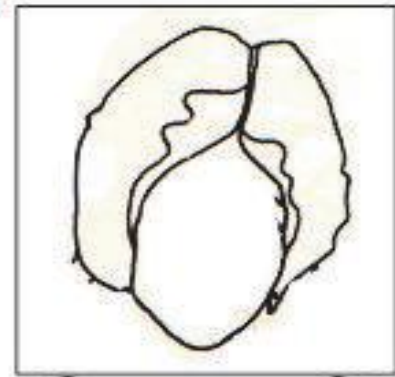
JESUS GIVES LIFE

Listen to today's gospel story then fill in the names of people mentioned in the story and complete the drawings.



J _ _ _ _ _

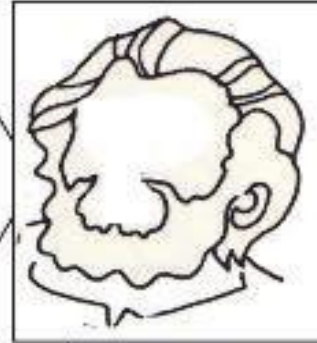
A large crowd gathered round him.



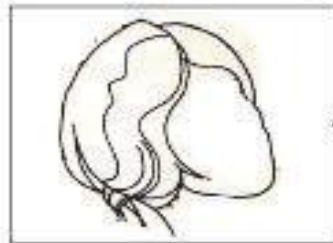
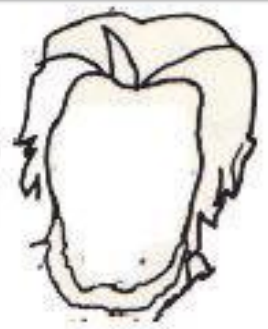
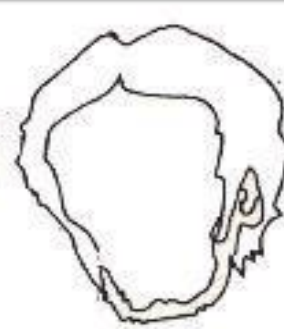
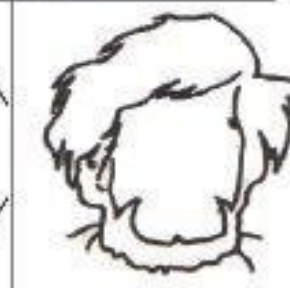
A W _ _ _ _ _

In the crowd was healed by Jesus. She had been ill for _ years.

J _ _ _ _ _
told Jesus about his sick daughter.



P _ _ _ _ _ ,
J _ _ _ _ _ and
J _ _ _ _ _
who entered Jairus's house with Jesus.



JESUS said to the girl

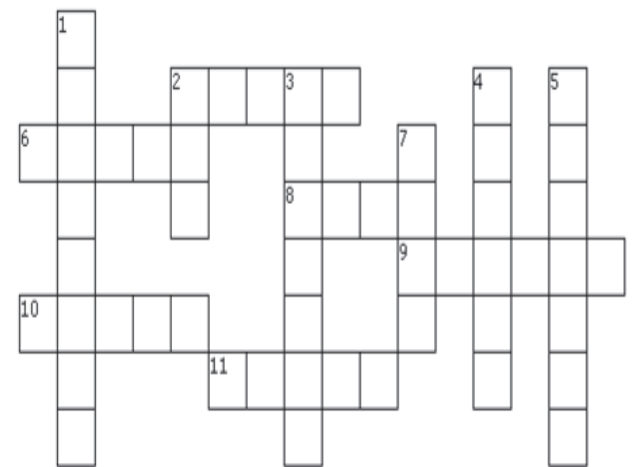
At this, she got up and began to walk.

E	S	K	A	L	S	I	D	E	L
T	D	E	R	R	H	A	S	N	C
G	O	I	T	I	U	S	D	S	H
N	N	E	S	G	H	U	A	D	I
I	H	I	H	E	G	R	P	N	L
P	C	T	P	D	K	I	E	A	D
K	E	H	I	E	L	A	E	H	G
R	D	E	I	A	E	J	L	S	I
P	E	E	W	D	F	W	S	E	R
E	A	D	R	E	T	S	A	M	P

LAKESIDE	JAIRUS	DAUGHTER
SICK	HANDS	DEAD
MASTER	FAITH	WEEPING
ASLEEP	CHILD	GIRL



Jesus Raises Jairus' Daughter



ACROSS

- 2. A very large number of people
- 6. A leader or someone who governs
- 8. To be alive; exist
- 9. To be filled with fear
- 10. To rise to an upright position on the feet
- 11. The part of the human body used for grasping and holding

DOWN

- 1. A female offspring
- 2. To shed tears; to be tearful
- 3. Taking steps with the feet
- 4. A ruler in the synagogue who had a daughter who was dying
- 5. To accept something as being true
- 7. To make someone well; restore to health

Jairus	daughter	live	cry
ruler	hands	afraid	stand
crowd	heal	believe	walking

We are eagerly awaiting the arrival of two more grandchildren. The 11th within a few days and the 12th in September. This caused us to remember what we used to tell the couples in the Marriage Preparation Courses some years ago.

A first birth is amazing - two people that have come a long way, bring a child into the world and overnight become a family. When you are a couple going through this process, it can seem that in one moment a small being who shares your DNA has suddenly appeared and is not looking at you longingly.

Birth and raising a child are very exciting things that can soon have its effect on your marriage, and if you don't learn to respond correctly, your relationship may be in danger. The birth of a child, especially a first child, is a serious marital challenge for new parents, with the majority experiencing decreased sexual desire, self-neglect, lack of sleep and more during the child's first years of life. How to deal with these common problems and more? We are suggesting some ways to cope with them.

1. Lack of sexual relations

This isn't a problem that stems only from exhaustion, but also from a sense of neglect, because most of the attention is directed at the new baby at home. Beyond that, most of the day (and night) you find yourself busy with baby, so you don't have the time to be sexual. It's important to note that this doesn't mean that you don't like each other, it just means that you

Problems New Parents Have (and How to Cope With Them)



By Chris & Noelma Lam

just don't feel like shaking sheets.

The solution is to plan your time correctly and be sure to put time aside for sex as well. (Not necessarily intercourse, but hugging, kissing . . .) You're probably raising your brow at the idea of having to "schedule sex," but just as in your younger days you'd get excited about a date, you can do the same here too. Get a babysitter and take your spouse to dinner - shower, shave, put a little effort in yourself and flirt with each other as if you were on your first date. In addition, it is very important to leave the bedroom an adult space, you don't want to roll over a piece of Lego in the middle of a romp....

2. Self-neglect of the spouse

Be honest with yourself, when you wake up every night to take care of your baby, work hard during the day and run through all your errands,

looking good isn't at the top of the list. For some couples, when the man stops shaving and dressing well, and the woman stops applying makeup and taking care of herself in general - this self-neglect can lead to marital problems.

The solution is to feel safe in your relationship - if you and your spouse are confident in each other and on your own, outward appearance shouldn't bother you. Try to think about your parents in your youth. If they could handle this situation, there is no reason why you shouldn't succeed. You may even enjoy the "not sexy" stage of marriage.

3. Different parenting strategies

Most couples discuss what they believe their parenting styles will be like before having children or at least while they are pregnant with their first. Problems arise when reality hits and what was discussed isn't what is being implemented. One parent may be more relaxed, lighthearted, and permissive, while the other advocates a more disciplined approach. This difference can be quite the obstacle since it leads to two parents working against each other as opposed to with each other.

The solution to this is to talk it out, you need to be on the same page to make this parenting thing work. A lot of compromise will be involved but you need to come up with a game plan together, and most importantly you need to always back each other up!

(To be continued next week). ❖

Pope's Intentions

July Monthly Intention:

Priests and their Pastoral Ministry

That priests, who experience fatigue and loneliness in their pastoral work, may find help and comfort in their intimacy with the Lord and in their friendship with their brother priests. ❖

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TitBits

-- This Week's Reflection:

Does anything express beauty better than a new-born baby or a pretty flower? The very sight of them reminds us of God's greatest masterpiece of all - the natural world. Looking at them brings us peace, reminds us of the gentler side of life, and bestows peace and tranquillity. So, we sometimes need to take a little break, lean back, and enjoy life - especially our little ones and the pretty flowers. God Bless You! Have a Great Week!

-- This Week's Bible Question:

Q. To what man does this final sentence of Genesis refer: "and they embalmed him, and he was put in a coffin in Egypt."

-- This Week's Teaser:

Q: There's a squirrel in the forest. It starts to rain. Under what tree will he hide?

-- Today's Bible Verse:

Test all things; hold fast what is good. Abstain from every form of evil. - 1 Thessalonians 5:21-22

-- Today's Marriage Tip:

It is natural to be proud of our children's success and take blame for their failures. Remember that they need your encouragement and support, but allow them to be independent in their life choices.

-- Humour:

Little Johnny was taken to an eye doctor to have his eyes checked for glasses.

The doctor directed him to read various letters with the left eye while covering the right eye.

Johnny was so mixed up on which eye was which that the eye doctor in disgust took a paper sack with a hole to see through, and put it on his head to cover up the appropriate eye and asked him to read the letters.

As he did so, he noticed Johnny had tears streaming down his face.

"Look," said the doctor, "there's no need to get upset about getting

glasses."

"I know," agreed Johnny, "But I kind of had my heart set on wire frames."

-- A Card Hallmark Would Never Print:

Beauty is on the inside, but some may doubt, - If its true, I'd prefer you inside out.

-- This Week's Truism:

It's never too late to have a happy childhood. But the second one is up to you, and no one else.

-- Conflicting Proverbs

A silent man is a wise one. A man without words is a man without thoughts.

-- Signs Found at Church:

If you can't sleep, don't count sheep. Talk to the Shepherd.

-- Answer to Bible Question:

A. Joseph. - see Genesis 50:26 So Joseph died, being one hundred and ten years old; and they embalmed him, and he was put in a coffin in Egypt.

-- Answer to Teaser:

A wet tree. ❖

Mind Puzzler Corner

Our Last Brain Teaser was:

It has four holes, but when you come out of it, you are still inside it. What is it?

Answer: A T-Shirt.

This Week's Brain Teaser:

I am something people love or hate. I change people's appearances and thoughts. If a person takes care of themselves, I will go up even higher. To some people I will fool them, to others I am a mystery. Some people might want to try and hide me, but I will show. No matter how hard people try, I will never go down. What am I?

Look for the Answer next week

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Pope Francis praises “ecumenical day” in Geneva for WCC anniversary



Pope Francis during his ecumenical visit to the World Council of Churches under the motto “walking, praying and working together.” Photo: Marie Renaux/WCC

Pope Francis has praised the ecumenical atmosphere of his visit to Geneva to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the World Council of Churches (WCC), and has

said work by churches for peace is a mandate from God in a world threatened by crises.

“One thing I would like to say clearly: today was an ecumenical day, really ecumenical,” Pope Francis told the journalists accompanying him on the return flight back to Rome after his one-day visit on 21 June.

“It was a day of encounter,” said the pope, speaking in Italian, and standing with a microphone at the front of the section of the aeroplane reserved for journalists. “The right word for the day is ‘encounter,’ and when one person encounters another and feels appreciation for the meeting, this always touches the heart.”

This experience at the meetings in Geneva had been “not mere courtesy, nothing purely formal, but an encounter between human beings,” said Pope Francis.

The need for “unity for peace” between churches had been among the issues discussed with WCC leaders, since the world was facing a “crisis of

hope, crisis of human rights, crisis of mediation, [and] crisis of peace,” the pope added.

“For me, to be a peace church is the mandate of God,” he said. “I believe that all the churches that have this spirit of peace must come together and work together, as we said in our speeches today.”

Today, “peace is a necessity, because there is risk of a war,” Pope Francis underlined.

Conflicts needed to be resolved through negotiation, dialogue and mediation, said the pope, and not “like Cain,” a reference to the biblical story where Cain slays his brother Abel.

The WCC gathers 350 Protestant, Orthodox, Anglican and other churches representing more than 550 million Christians in over 120 countries. The Roman Catholic Church is not a member but cooperates with the WCC in some areas. ❖

Local Venezuela support office up and running (From P1)

Immigration authorities in Guyana have been issuing temporary permits which have to be renewed every three months at the Immigration department. This has been granted to those who presented themselves with the identity card of their country of origin and a responsible person of Guyanese descent who can attest to the place where the foreigner resides and a telephone number where they can be contacted.

All foreigners who are in irregular status who have entered the country with a passport and visa can also apply for an extension of visas.

The VSG office has been responsible for publicizing all this information to Venezuelans through social networks such as WhatsApp and Facebook and person-to-person contact in the office providing all possible guidance and exhorting all Venezuelans to regularize themselves.

Since May 14 the VSG has received about 200 cases of varying types, of which 150 are from Venezuelans

seeking temporary residence permits. Of these 150 at least 100 of them are women.

The VSG has also encountered possible cases of human trafficking, gender violence along with sexual and labour exploitation. These have all been reported to the local authorities.

The VSG is also said to be looking into the possibility of getting employment for Venezuelans seeking refuge in Guyana. At present it is not clear what would be needed to obtain permission to work. The group said the type of employment they are considering would not be in areas in which they would be competing with Guyanese.

The VSG office is located in the compound of the Catholic Church opposite the Cathedral on Brickdam. The work of the SVG is being supported in the initial phase by the UNHCR which is in the process of establishing a permanent presence in Guyana.

In announcing their formation the VSG said its concerns have been shaped by the following considerations:

- Distinguishing humanitarian obligations to the Venezuelan people from political factors that currently influence both the internal crisis in Venezuela and Caricom Secretariat’s reluctance to date to formulate specific advice to member States on how to respond to that crisis.
- Devising a flexible, evidence-based rather than speculative response appropriate to the relatively small numbers of Venezuelans currently in Guyana.
- Respecting the fact that Venezuelans in Guyana have documented their wish not to seek formal refugee status but to seek temporary renewable visas that allow them to earn money while in Guyana.

The founding members of the SVG are: Amerindian Peoples Association (APA); Guyana Human Rights Association (GHRA); Guyana Institute for Transparency Inc. (GITI); Moray House Trust; Policy Forum Guyana; Red Thread; the Roman Catholic Diocese of Guyana and the Ursuline Sisters in Guyana. ❖

In Memory



Vera Validum Ramlochan

In loving and everlasting memory of our beloved mother Vera Validum Ramlochan

D.O.B : 23 February 1943

D.O.D: 26 June 2017

We’ll always remember that special smile, that caring heart, that warm embrace that you always gave to us.

Missed and forever remembered by your loving children: Nandanie, Radha, Paul and Natasha, grandchildren, great grandchildren, fellow parishioners in the Catholic Church, and the Sisters of Mercy.

Sacred Heart Church presents:
A TAKE-AWAY BAR-B-QUE LUNCH!
 Sunday, July 1, 2018
 Sacred Heart Church, Main Street

Bar-B-Que served from 12:00 - 4:00pm Snacks on sale!

Tickets: \$1200 each
 All proceeds go towards the cost of maintenance of the Church

58 graduate from Marian Academy



Hundreds of parents, friends and current students filled the auditorium of Marian Academy on June 22 to witness the class of 2018 graduate.

This was its 17th annual graduation exercise since the Roman Catholic private school was founded in 1997.

A total of 58 graduates from the fifth and sixth forms were led onto the stage by headmistress, Ursuline Sister Marie Harper, His Lordship Bishop Francis Alleyne OSB, guest speaker the Honourable Justice Navindra Singh, Board member Michelle Ming along with Vice Principals Yonette Duff and Ivy Callendar.

In her welcoming remarks Sister Harper said that the ceremony was testimony to all those dedicated people who had stood by and nurtured the graduates during their time at the institution.

As the proceedings got underway, a prayer was said by Bishop Alleyne in which he asked God's guidance for the graduates as they left the school. "Cleanse their hearts and enlighten their minds that their choices may enhance and magnify your work in the world. You have blessed them with a variety of talents, Lord God give them the courage to develop and use their gifts for your glory and the good of all", the bishop prayed.

The Charge to the 2018 graduands was given by the Honourable Justice Navindra Singh. He advised them quoting the words of Langston Hughes who said "Hold fast to dreams for if dreams die, life is a broken-winged bird that cannot fly".

"The dream is important because it can help you stay focused and energised, and in it for the long haul", he said.

The high court judge added "Just to be very clear I am not talking about a series of thoughts or images that occur in a person's mind during sleep. I am talking about a cherished aspirations, ambition, or ideals.

"The whole point of having a dream or dreams is for the motivation and inspiration that it provides. People who have dreams rarely suffer from doubt that stops their progress.

"There will always be doubt which are the result of the trials and tribulations that are an intrinsic part of human existence.

"But I submit to you that persons with a dream will persevere and keep working towards their dream. Day after day, month after month, year after year. That is what a dream can do for you.

"Dreams are a preview of different lives that you can experience. They



At the invitation of Bishop Alleyne all in the auditorium raised their hands over the graduates as they prayed for them. Photo: Ronald Chang Yuen

are stories that your heart wants to craft for your future," the serving High Court judge said.

The ceremony also included scripture readings, a very touching rendition of Celine Dion's 'The Prayer' which was performed by Nia Allen and Ronald Chang Yuen, the presentation of the graduands, the blessing and presentation of their rings and certificates,

reflections by Valedictorian, Ashley Valle and Head Prefect Poorendra Ramlall. Jasmine Grant gave the vote of thanks.

After the ceremony Marian Academy's newest round of graduates continued their celebration over snacks and cheery interaction with parents, teachers, special invitees and friends. ❖

Saint of the Week

July 3rd

St. Thomas the Apostle

Saint Thomas is remembered rather unfairly as 'Doubting Thomas'. His profession of faith, "My Lord and my God" is the climax of one of the Easter stories. Tradition has it that Thomas then preached in India, and was martyred there. ❖
[<http://www.salfordliturgy.org.uk>]



On the Lighter Side

