

## Clergy discuss spiritual, cultural, social connections with environment



ANTONIO TORRES

The annual gathering of priests and religious brothers in the Diocese came to an end last Thursday at Santa Rosa, Moruca. The closing Mass was celebrated by Bishop Francis Alleyne OSB who thanked the community for their hospitality and generosity over the week and encouraged them to continue ([please turn to page 7](#))

## INSIDE

Editorial: Idolatry of money in the Church: Francis - [p2](#)

Letters to the Editor - [p2](#)

Asia Bibi released but in an undisclosed location in Pakistan - [p2](#)

Pope Francis marks World War I centenary with message of peace - [p3](#)

A Christian Perspective on Social Issues - [p4](#)

Sunday Scripture - [p5](#)

Gospel Reflection - [p6](#)

La Parfaite Harmonie: please help build our new church: funds, materials needed - [p6](#)

Journeying with the Word of God - [p7](#)

Marching for Jesus through Georgetown - [p7](#)

Lectors Corner - [p8](#)

Children's Page - [p9](#)

Two Bananas every day - [p10](#)

Viewpoint: Life's Journey - [p11](#)

October devotions, First Communion in North West - [p12](#)

Saint of the Week - [p12](#)

On the Lighter Side - [p12](#)

## Bishop's Engagements

**Sunday November 18th**

10:00hrs – Sacrament of Confirmation at St. Joseph, Diamond, East Bank Demerara.

**Monday November 19th**

17:00hrs – Mass at Cathedral

**Wednesday November 21st**

15:00hrs – AEC Web conference

**Sunday November 25th**

07:00hrs – Sacrament of Confirmation at Our Lady of the Mount, Meadow Bank

## Lethem Youth grow in their faith



**By Matthias Thomas**

Youths of Our Lady Queen of Peace Church in Lethem conducted a Youth Service at the end of October. The Service was

led by two young parishioners: Nickell Pugsley (in red) and Racheal Abraham (in black) with the help of Ms. Allison Camacho, who is the Eucharistic Minister.

The altar servers were: from left Akela Thomas, Joyce Simon, Serena Roberts and Leone Smith. It was a wonderful day for all.

([please turn to page 7](#))



✠ Francis Alleyne OSB

**CATHOLIC STANDARD**

Editor: **Colin Smith** Telephone: **226-2192**

Email: [catholicstandardgy@gmail.com](mailto:catholicstandardgy@gmail.com)

222 South Road & Wellington Street, Georgetown



## Love and service

The task of serving is there to be done. There is nothing depressing about this task of rendering service in the spirit of Jesus. We constantly receive light and strength from him who loves us. There is much to be achieved to accomplish in the line of love faith kindness and service.

In view of all this it is not only important that we should have pure

intentions in our work but that the work should be done well. One should try to give oneself humbly and joyfully as Our Lord did. The message of love and service remains throughout as the precious and inspiring contribution of the gospel.

*Leon Jeetlall*

## EDITORIAL

### IDOLATRY OF MONEY IN THE CHURCH: FRANCIS

BY MIKE JAMES

Last week Friday the Gospel reading was taken from near the beginning of St. John's Gospel (2:11-20) in which Jesus makes a whip and drives the money changers and merchants selling animals for sacrifice out of the most sacred place for God's chosen people, the Temple of Jerusalem.

"Take these out of here and stop making my father's house a marketplace," Jesus said, in the only instance recorded in the Gospels of Jesus taking violent action.

Francis said Jesus' action was prompted by the presence of "idolaters," people who were enslaved by "the idol of money." "This calls for our attention and makes us think about how we treat our temples, our churches; whether it is a house of God, a house of prayer, of encounter with the Lord" or "if it resembles a marketplace," the pope said.

The pope also warned that the temptation of worldliness that can turn a solemn celebration of the sacraments into a social gathering. "Let us think about the celebrations of some sacrament where you go, and you do not know if it is a place of worship, the house of God, or if it is a social hall," he said. "It is true that celebrations must be beautiful, but not worldly, because worldliness derives from the god of money. It is also an idolatry."

Turning to the issue of those who charge fees for providing the Sacraments, Francis warned, "The sacraments are gifts from God that are given freely and are not a way for the Church to fill up its coffers to cover expenses." "Sometimes," he said, "I have seen - not here in Rome, but in another area - I saw a list of prices" for the sacraments, the pope said. "If someone wants to give an offering, they should put it in the poor box, secretly, so that no one can see how much they have given."

Pope Francis added it is not the question of what our sins are, but of finding out if there is the lord of money within us. If there is a sin, he said, we have the Lord, the merciful God, who forgives if we go to Him. But if there is another lord, the god money, we are an idol worshipper, a corrupt person, and not a former sinner.

The Pope concluded saying the core of corruption is precisely an idolatry, of having sold one's soul to the god of money, to the god of power. [\(please turn to page 11\)](#)

Dear Editor,

The people of God are priestly because of their readiness to serve. (1 Peter 2 – 5).

## Asia Bibi released but in an undisclosed location in Pakistan



*Asia Bibi, the Catholic woman acquitted by Pakistan's Supreme Court after being sentenced to death in 2010 on blasphemy charges, was released on November 7.*

By Robin Gomes

Asia Bibi, the 47 year-old Catholic mother of 5 children, acquitted by Pakistan's Supreme Court on October 31 after being sentenced to death in 2010 on a false charge of blasphemy, was released on Wednesday, Nov 7, and transferred to an undisclosed location in the capital.

Amid tight security, Asia Bibi left a prison in Multan, Punjab province, for a flight to Islamabad. Troops guarded the roads leading to the airport from which she flew out.

Asia Bibi's lawyer, Saiful Mulook, who fled Pakistan this week and sought asylum in the Netherlands, confirmed she was no longer in prison.

Authorities last month said they arrested two prisoners for allegedly conspiring to strangle her and since then additional police and troops have been deployed to the facility in Punjab. Officials said Asia Bibi will be safer at the new facility in Islamabad.

**Protests**

Since the Supreme Court verdict, groups linked to the hardline Islamist Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) party, who want the Christian woman hanged publicly, paralyzed many of the country's cities with demonstrations, roadblocks and threats.

To end the unrest, the government came to terms with the Islamists on Friday, putting a hold on Asia Bibi's release, preventing her from leaving the country, accepting a revision of her sentence, and freeing all the demonstrators arrested.

After the news of Asia Bibi's release, a TLP spokesman Ejaz Ashrafi said Asia Bibi's release was in breach of their deal with the government. "The rulers have shown their dishonesty," he told Reuters.

**Asia Bibi still in Pakistan**

The ministry of foreign affairs on Thursday rejected news reports that Asia Bibi has left the country. "There is no truth in reports that Asia Bibi has left the country. She is in Pakistan," Foreign Office spokesperson Muhammad Faisal said during his weekly press briefing.

Shortly after Faisal's clarification, Information Minister Fawad Chaudhry slammed some media organizations for running the "fake news" regarding Asia Bibi leaving the country.

In a tweet he said, "It has become a norm to publish fake news for sake of headlines, #AsiaBibi case is sensitive issue it was extremely irresponsible to publish news of her leaving the country without confirmation, I strongly urge section of media to act responsible."

The minister for foreign affairs further said, "Asia Bibi is now a free citizen and can go where she pleases after the SC verdict. There is no ban on the movement of a free citizen." "A review petition has been filed in the court and the Ministry of Interior can inform regarding whether she can be legally barred from leaving the country," he added.

**Plea for asylum**

Asia Bibi's husband, Ashiq Masih, pleaded with the United States, Great Britain, Canada and Italy for asylum, saying it would be too dangerous for his family to stay in Pakistan.

Pakistani authorities now say the Christian woman may not leave the country because a petition for a review of the court's ruling was filed by a radical Islamist lawyer requesting the acquittal be reversed. Pakistani courts usually take years to decide such cases.

**Blasphemy**

In perhaps Pakistan's most famous blasphemy case, Asia Bibi was arrested and imprisoned in June 2009 on allegation of insulting the Prophet Muhammad, following an argument with Muslim women over her use of a drinking vessel meant for Muslims. She and her family have denied the allegation. The following year she was sentenced to death.

According to the blasphemy laws in Pakistan's Penal Code, insulting the Prophet Muhammad is a crime punishable by death, while offending the Koran, Islam holy book, incurs life imprisonment.

**Popes**

In the past years, 2 Popes have pleaded for the release of Asia Bibi. In 2010, Pope Benedict XVI had added his voice to international calls for the release of Asia Bibi.

During a special event organized in Rome on 24 February to express solidarity for those persecuted for their faith across the world, Pope Francis had a private meeting with Ashiq and Eisham, the husband and daughter of the Catholic woman. ❖

# Pope Francis marks World War I centenary with message of peace



World War I. Credit: cEverett Historical/Shutterstock.

(CNA/EWTN News).- The bells of St. Peter's Basilica rang out in unison with thousands of other church bells around the world Sunday as Pope Francis commemorated the 100 year anniversary of the end of World War I. "While we pray for all the victims of that terrible tragedy, let us say forcefully: invest in peace, not on war!" Pope Francis said at the end of his Angelus address Nov. 11.

The memory of World War I should be a warning to "reject a 'culture of war' and seek every legitimate means to put an end to the conflicts that still bleed several regions of the world," he said and added, "It seems that we do not learn."

Francis quoted Pope Benedict XV, an advocate for peace during WWI, who denounced the war as "useless slaughter" in his 1917 peace plan. As pope throughout the entirety of the first world war, Benedict wrote five encyclicals and three apostolic exhortations concerning peace.

Around 17 million people, soldiers and civilians, were killed during the Great War. November 11, 2018 marks the 100th anniversary of the signing of the armistice between Germany and the Allies in France, which ended World War I in 1918.

At 1:30 p.m. in Rome, the bells of St. Peter's Basilica tolled in honor of this centenary in coordination with church bells all over Europe and around the world.

The pope noted that the feast day of Saint Martin of Tours falls on Armistice Day, calling the soldier saint's act of cutting his cloak in half to share with a poor man a "gesture of human solidarity" that points toward "the way to build peace."

Francis focused the message of his Angelus address on the poor widow in Matthew's Gospel, who gives two coins that make up her entire livelihood in her offering to the Temple.

"In this humility, she performs an act charged with great religious and spiritual significance," he said. "That gesture, full of sacrifice, does not escape the attentive gaze of Jesus, who indeed sees in it the total gift of self, which he wants to teach his disciples."

"The scales of the Lord are different from ours. He weighs people and their actions differently: he does not measure quantity but quality, he searches the heart and looks at the purity of intentions," Francis explained.

When we are tempted to seek the attention of others through our altruism, we should think of this poor woman, Francis said. "It will do us good: it will help us to get rid of the superfluous, to focus on what really matters, and to remain humble."

"The Virgin Mary, a poor woman who gave herself totally to God, sustains us in the purpose of giving the Lord and our brothers not something of ourselves, but ourselves, in a humble and generous offering," he said. ❖

## Upcoming Events

**Tuesday, November 20th**

**Youth Office Family Funday**

Please see page 6

**Saturday, November 24th**

**Sacred Heart Tea Party**

Please see page 4.

**Saturday December 8th**

**Brickdam Feast Day Pilgrimage**

In observance of their parish feast on Saturday December 8th, parishioners from the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Brickdam, will make an after lunch pilgrimage in buses to the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Victoria, East Coast Demerara.

The **deadline for registration** at the Parish Office is **Sunday, November 25th**. ❖



Please let us know of upcoming events by emailing us at:

**catholicstandardgy@gmail.com**

under the heading "Upcoming Events" or call 226-2192.

## Edwards & Co. Accountancy and Tax Consultancy

We provide the following services:

- Tax Compliances
- Payroll services and NIS Remittance and Calculations
- Issuing and Renewal of Work Permits
- Bank Proposals
- Consultations
- Preparation of Income, Property and Corporation Tax Forms
- VAT Calculations and Filing

321 East Street, N/C/Burg

Tel: 226-6592, 643-8833, 645-8539

Email: johnedwards10@live.com

# John Fernandes Ltd.

GROUP OF COMPANIES



24 Water Street, Georgetown Tel: 227-3344, 227-3350, 227-3363, 226-8843, 225-6294, 226-1506

Fax: 592-226-1881, 592-227-3360 Email: sales@jf-ltd.com

**Where Experience is Always at Your Service**

## A Christian Perspective on Social Issues



By GHK Lall

The new  
Consumer  
Affairs  
Commission  
can do a  
world of  
good

I read with delight of the arrival of the Competition and Consumer Affairs Commission (CCAC). This is a long-awaited development that is most welcomed. The CCAC can make a difference, do a world of good, bring accountability. The daily commercial environment becomes less disadvantageous to a long and much abused public. In addition, I like the part about this being a "competition" commission, too; the playing field has not been level for a longtime. I trust that Guyanese will make

constructive use of its existence to register honestly their experiences and issues; to hold the feet of unscrupulous businesspeople to the fire through challenging their unfair practices.

The facility of online consumer access and reporting means a lot; especially when most simply throw up hands when contemplating the time and hassles involved in continual in-person complaints over a defective product or poor treatment. Given old experiences and results, many simply shrug shoulders, lament bitterly to neighbors, leave matters alone, and move on. Since a significant number of citizens now have internet access (computer or that ubiquitous phone) they must be assertive and consistent in using the CCAC's online reporting mechanism. They must use properly, too. Those who do not touch keyboard or keypad can always recruit family member or friend to table electronically their matter before the CCAC. A listening ear is there; a voice on behalf is promised.

For too long Guyanese consumers have been subject to one outrage after another and with no place to turn. Try these well-known examples. Cars paid for with hard-earned, scarce dollars are not delivered for months on end, while the hapless distressed,

waiting and hopeful are given one-time consuming, expensive run around after another. Then there are products that do not measure up, or come with no warranty, or are unfairly rejected upon return, and on and on. In the service areas, it has been shabby disdainful treatment seemingly without fail, and definitely without care; and without resort to any place or person for assistance. Just ask the long-suffering public. Some state entities are among the frontrunners through delivery of the scornful, dreadful, and highly unsatisfactory. Perhaps, the presence of the CCAC might make them sit up straight, pay attention, commit to improvements, and actually deliver. This is particularly applicable to the sprawling utilities. As a quick aside, I applaud the GTT's efforts at quality control through monitoring. Things should no longer be confined to the exposure and embarrassment of a letter in the media by the unhappy.

I am hopeful that the Guyanese public will make full use of the wiring of this wireless channel to speak up and speak out. Citizens should take care that their issue is legitimate and has substance. Further, I am expecting the CCAC to publish statistics and name names. This has to be more than the blandness of general quantities. There should be categories, sectors, repeat

offenders, and resolutions. In terms of the latter, I should think that this would incorporate responsiveness to complaints by entities identified, and some rating as to the fairness and reasonableness of any curative actions. While I understand that the CCAC is not there as referee or jury, it has the presence and weight to wave a big stick. Wave one for the little guys, please.

As I close this out, a controversial thought came: I suggest that the GRA and City Hall name publicly those big fishes who are delinquent. After all that is an abuse meted out to the state and a disservice to the whole populace. Start with the ones who owe over a hundred million. Problem is that there may not be any space left for anything else. State agencies should have the right to complain and seek redress too in the court of public opinion. All of this ought to be less of shaming businesses and those who play expensive tricks with people's lives. It is more about there being a medium for the messages of those harmed and who now have someplace to go, someplace to hold people and place accountable and get results. ❖

## PILGRIMAGE TO FATIMA/LOURDES



It is a good thing to get to know and understand our faith through visits to historical sites around the world. To this end, an invitation is extended to journey with us on a pilgrimage to **PORTUGAL/SPAIN/France**. In Portugal we will visit the site at **Fatima**, considered to be a journey to the altar of the world, where in 1917 Our Blessed Mother, Mary appeared to the local children and the "miracle of the sun" happened. We will celebrate Mass in the Basilica of Our Lady, followed by a visit to the House of Lucia and the House of Francis and Jacinta. There will be other stops along the

way as we journey to Lourdes via the Pyrenees Mountains (Spain)

We will visit the site at **Lourdes** where 14-year-old Bernadette reportedly experienced 18 visions of the Virgin Mary, and walk in the footsteps of St Bernadette. Join your prayers with those of pilgrims from around the world as you pray for the sick, drink water from the miraculous spring or submerge yourself in the healing baths.

We leave Lourdes and travel to Paris where we will visit Nevers (St Bernadette's incorrupt body), Lisieux (St Therese), St Catherine Laboure and St Vincent de Paul (incorrupt bodies), have dinner at the Eiffel Tower one evening.

We will conclude our journey in Holland where we will stay for 2 nights and then home via Suriname.

It is hoped to visit from **August 1st to 18th, 2019**.

You may indicate your interest to Sis Cheryl Douglas on 697-5002 or Sis Joylyn Jafferally on 684-5992 so that timely plans can be initiated. ❖

## Sacred Heart Church

invites you to join us for

An Afternoon of  
Entertainment

and a

Spot of Tea



Saturday, November 24, 2018

from 3 to 6 pm

at Marian Academy, Carifesta Avenue

Contribution: \$1,500

## FLEX GYM

Aerobics,  
Weight Training



151 Thomas St. Kitty  
Tel: 226-7735

## PATRICK'S TAXI SERVICE

A Service You Can Trust

226-8524, 226-6770,  
223-5400, 225-6969 (Manager: 660-0018)

Taxi for all occasions - 24/7 Reliable Service

118 Cowan St., Kingston, Georgetown  
patrickstaxi@yahoo.com

## MODERN OPTICAL SERVICE

316 Middle St., N/C/Burg,

Tel# 226-1082

For comprehensive eye examinations,  
contact lenses and solutions

## General Services Offered

For your every service need, including:  
Computer repairs, Handyman  
services, A/C installation, Security  
Camera installation, Electricals, Fire  
Alarm installation and much more.

Contact Roderick at (592)623-5906  
roderick.vansluytman@gmail.com

# Sunday Scripture

## November 18th - Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

### FIRST READING

Daniel 12: 1-3

*When that time comes, your own people will be spared*

“At that time Michael will stand up, the great prince who mounts guard over your people. There is going to be a time of great distress, unparalleled since nations first came into existence. When that time comes, your own people will be spared, all those whose names are found written in the Book. Of those who lie sleeping in the dust of the earth many will awake, some to everlasting life, some to shame and everlasting disgrace. The learned will shine as brightly as the vault of heaven, and those who have instructed many in virtue, as bright as stars forever.”

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 15

**Response: Preserve me, God, I take refuge in you.**

- O Lord, it is you who are my portion and cup;  
it is you yourself who are my prize.  
I keep the Lord ever in my sight:  
since he is at my right hand, I shall stand firm. *R/*
- And so my heart rejoices, my soul is glad;  
even my body shall rest in safety.  
For you will not leave my soul among the dead,  
nor let your beloved know decay. *Response*
- You will show me the path of life,  
the fullness of joy in your presence,  
at your right hand happiness for ever. *Response*

### SECOND READING

Hebrews 10: 11-14. 18

*By virtue of one single offering, he has achieved the eternal perfection of all whom he is sanctifying.*

All the priests stand at their duties every day, offering over and over again the same sacrifices, which are quite incapable of taking sins away. Christ, on the other hand, has offered one single sacrifice for sins, and then taken his place for ever, at the right hand of God, where he is now waiting until his enemies are made into a footstool for him. By virtue of that one single offering, he has

achieved the eternal perfection of all whom he is sanctifying. When all sins have been forgiven, there can be no more sin offerings.

### Gospel Acclamation

**Matt 24:42,44**

*Alleluia, alleluia!*

*Stay awake, and stand ready, because you do not know the hour when the Son of Man is coming. Alleluia!*

**Or**

**Lk 21: 36**

*Alleluia, alleluia!*

*Stay awake, praying at all times for the strength to stand with confidence before the Son of Man. Alleluia!*

### GOSPEL

Mark 13:24-32

*He will gather his chosen from the four winds.*

Jesus said to his disciples: “In those days, after the time of distress, the sun will be darkened, the moon will lose its brightness, the stars will come falling from heaven and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in the clouds with great power and glory; then too he will send the angels to gather his chosen from the four winds, from the ends of the world to the ends of heavens.

“Take the fig tree as a parable: as soon as its twigs grow supple and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. So with you when you see these things happening: know that he is near, at the very gates. I tell you solemnly, before this generation has passed away all these things will have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

“But as for the day or hour, nobody knows it, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son; no one but the Father.” ❖



By: The Diocesan Stewardship  
Council of Guyana

The first reading from the prophet Daniel describes a time “unsurpassed in distress since nations began” and warns that “many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake; some shall live forever, and others shall be an everlasting horror and disgrace.” The second reading, from Hebrews, speaks of Christ who “waits until his enemies are made his footstool.”

However, when we firmly establish for ourselves as individuals — as a family and as a parish that we will give to God the first and best portion of our Time, Talent, and Treasure — the warnings we read in the Scriptures today should be no cause for alarm. In fact, we can view these words as encouragement — “Keep Calm and Steward On,” no matter what comes our way.

One of the blessings of a stewardship way of life is that in challenging times,

whether in our homes or workplaces or even our beloved Church itself, we can take great comfort in knowing we have a concrete plan to keep our priorities in right order. And, when we put God first in all aspects of our lives, we will experience the peace that He gives that surpasses all understanding. ❖

[<http://www.catholicsteward.com/blog/>]

## Gospel Reflection



By Fr. Michael Barrow SJ

Towards the end of her life, Mother Teresa was interviewed on an American chat show. As this wrinkled old lady hobbled on to the stage, one of the camera crew saw her and whispered, "Wow, she is so ugly!" As she talked with the host, the whole studio group went quiet. Then when they finished the same cameraman said, "Wow, isn't she beautiful!"

I was reminded of that when I read this Sunday's gospel. The first impression is: what gospel! How miserable can you get? "A time of great distress, the sun darkened, the moon losing its brightness, stars falling from heaven." But that is just a quick superficial reading of the gospel. The whole point of it is that when everything seems to be falling apart and there is no hope, that is precisely the time when you will see "the Son of Man coming in the clouds with great power and glory." This is a wonderful gospel full of hope - asking us to trust that when everything seems to go wrong, that is just the time of everything falling into place.

You might look at the world today and think that everything is falling apart. And it is. Every three days, more people die from malnutrition and disease than from the bombing of Hiroshima. Every year more people die from preventable hunger than died in the Holocaust. One out of every four human beings has no access to safe drinking water. Faced with that, Pope Francis can still write on this *World Day of the Poor*: We are in debt to the poor, because in stretching out our hands to them, our faith is strengthened, our love is inspired and our hope enables us to see Christ coming towards us. Wow, aren't they beautiful! ❖

# La Parfaite Harmonie

## - please help build our new church: funds, materials needed

By Roxanne Douglas

The Catholic community of La Parfaite Harmonie wishes to express our gratitude to everyone who supported our recent Bingo held on November 6th 2018. Funds from this venture will go towards our building project which we started last October.

Our housing scheme comprises of over six sections and of recent times, has seen a large number of families relocating from various parts of the country. For over five years this community has been meeting and to date we have approximately sixty families who would come from time to time, to celebrate Mass and other gatherings as a church community. It has been noted that many Catholics who have now relocated to this area, are unaware of the presence of this community.

Due to inadequate space at our present location where we meet which is at the upper flat of 689 Independence Drive, the community has embarked on constructing a temporary structure to accommodate our growing population.

Last October, through fundraising and funds received from the annual Guyana Mass in 2015, we were able to fence the plot of land which was acquired from the Central Housing & Planning Authority. Landfilling was also done previously with funds received from the Guyana Mass. We were also granted approval from Central Housing to construct our church building, however, due to a lack of funds presently, we are unable to do so.

In 2016, we received building materials taken from the Cathedral's former presbytery building such as wood, windows, doors and zinc sheets along with some pews. Some of these materials are being utilized to construct our present, temporary building on the church site which is located at 4608 West Minister, Phase 1, W.B.D.

Construction of the walls and roof are completed and through ongoing fundraisers and donations, we are hopeful that we can sandfill and complete the floor, install minor plumbing and electricity, add a coat of paint to the walls and repair the pews.

Once again, our sincere gratitude to those who came from Georgetown parishes, donated items for prizes or snacks, purchased tickets, offered prayers or supported us in any way. Special thanks to Catholic Media and the Catholic Standard for assisting in the promoting of the Bingo, and The Gift Centre, Bounty Farm and Sterling Products for their generous donations. May God richly bless you all.



The temporary structure being built at La Parfaite Harmonie for the holding of religious services and other community events.

Anyone desirous of making a contribution in the form of monetary donations or building materials may contact us on the following numbers;

Fr. Cris: 654-8787, Josephine: 678-4093; Roxanne: 642-8866 or Lisa: 626-8294. We thank for your generosity, may God continue to bless you. ❖

# FAMILY FUNDAY

@ 9:00 a.m

Food and Drinks will be on sale!

**BRICKDAM GROUND** - Opposite the Cathedral of The Immaculate Conception  
**20 NOVEMBER, 2018**

Musical Chairs

Limbo

Lime & Spoon

Shuffle

3 Legged Race

Derby

Tug of War

Sack Race

Clothespins

Buns Race

Bank Deposit

Indoor Games

Refill the bottle

**BBQ**  
**\$1000**

**PLUS**  
**ADDED ATTRACTIONS**

**Entrance**  
**\$100**

# EVERYONE WELCOME!

Proceeds go to the Diocesan Youth Office

## Marching for Jesus through Georgetown



Hundreds of participants mainly from the variety of Christian denominations in Guyana took part in 'March for Jesus 2018' last Saturday, November 10th. (*please turn to page 11*)

## Journeying with the Word of God



### MAKING THE WORD OF GOD YOUR OWN

**Step 1: Look at today's Readings prayerfully.**

**1st Reading:** The prophet Daniel shares his vision of the Day of Judgement when God will reward the good and punish the wicked.

**2nd Reading:** By the great sacrifice of himself on the cross, Jesus has won for us his forgiveness of all our sins.

**Gospel:** We are encouraged to examine our lives in the face of the second coming of Christ but it is clear that no one knows the exact day or the hour when he will return.

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

1. With its message of dark days in the future, how can today's Gospel reading be a message of hope for you as a follower of Jesus?
2. Why do you think the words of Jesus do not change or pass away but remain a source of inspiration and challenge to people everywhere and of every age?
3. In the Gospel, Jesus states that only God knows when the Son will return. Given that he said this clearly, why do you think so many preachers spend time calculating when he will return?
4. Should we look on the Second Coming of Jesus as a time of disaster or should we welcome that moment with open arms whenever it occurs?

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

*The words of Jesus as found in the Gospels contain everything we should ever need for our lives. It is for us a teacher that will never lead us astray. Its wonderful riches are ours for free. In examining our lives in the light of the Gospels, we can never go wrong. It means, then, that the Gospels are not just to be read but must be lived. We miss much of their richness and challenge if we only read the Gospels to look for comforting passages when misfortune visit us.*

**Step 4: Something to think & pray about**

1. Reflect on your attitude when the Word of God is read in Church. How well do you listen to the Word and how well do you practice what you hear? Do you ever examine your life in relation to the words of the Gospel?
2. Reflect sincerely on what you as an individual and what your Christian community can do for those around you who live in such darkness. How can you put your reflections into practice?
3. Pray sincerely for those who live in the darkness of abuse, poverty, sickness and discrimination. ❖

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

## Lethem Youth grow in their faith (From Page 1)



Also recently at Our Lady Queen of Peace church, there was the distribution of Certificates of Completion to those who participated in a recently-concluded Vocational Bible School by

Gabriela Bernard, Nichole Joseph and Kail Joseph. Many thanks to the parishioners who made this a success. ❖

## Clergy Conference (From Front Page)

being faithful to the Gospel message.

The meeting was held in Santa Rosa this year as they are celebrating 200 years since the beginning of the Church there.

The discussions were centred on the protection of children and vulnerable adults, family life and marriage, the oil and gas industry, youth, and evangelization in a Guyanese context.

The overall theme followed that of the upcoming Synod on the Amazon: *New Paths for the Church and For an Integral Ecology*. Integral ecology is an approach outlined in Chapter 4 of *Laudato Si'*, the letter on the environment written by Pope Francis, which highlights how spiritual, cultural, social and environmental problems are interconnected and interrelated.

This was seen, for example, in a presentation the participants viewed which showed a link between the prevalence of abuse and social problems in regions with extractive industries like mining.

The concept of listening as a pastoral approach was also raised in terms of listening and engaging with Guyanese culture.

The theme of a Church which discerns and listens came up strongly. This is in line with Pope Francis' emphasis on the Church becoming a synodal Church which listens and journeys or accompanies the People of God.

In this spirit of listening, the participants dedicated an afternoon to listening to the people of Santa Rosa who shared about their hopes, dreams and struggles as a Christian community. They were hopeful about the

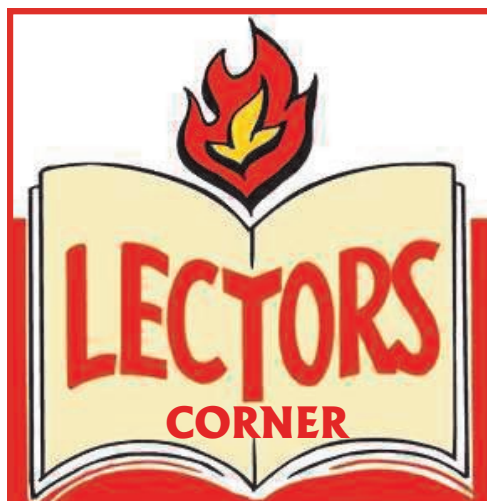
future given the rich history of the Church's presence there, but spoke about the decline in those identifying as Catholic, the decline of culture and language and the decline of a general community spirit where everyone looked out for each other.

Youths were a dominant concern and they expressed their confidence that the Church would find ways of engaging and listening to the struggles of young people.

After the closing Mass on Thursday, participants were treated to a concert by the members of the community which highlighted the tremendous talent and potential of the people of Santa Rosa.

For more pictures and videos, please visit the Catholic Media Guyana Facebook page.

(Photo: Antonio Torres) ❖



## Proclaiming the Word of God

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

November 18th: Thirty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)



*"He will gather his chosen from the four winds."*

### The Word This Week

As always at this time of year, we begin to contemplate the end of the world - a theme that carries us over next Sunday's feast (Christ the King) and so into Advent. Such a contemplation is not gloomy or morbid: throughout the ages (and especially in the early days) Christians have been utterly positive about the coming end of all things, because we know what will happen, and in fact we earnestly desire it to come: the phrase that gives this away is in the Gospel: "Then he will send his angels to gather his chosen from the four winds". This gathering of God's children together will be a truly wonderful event, when we will all be completely enfolded in that love of God that we talk so much about.

### Notes for Readers

First Reading: Daniel 12:1-13

The tone of this reading is interesting: in one sense it is very flat - almost like a newspaper report but at the same time has immense colour and drama. It is as if the drama is slightly

removed from the account, which is very measured and controlled. This is not a 'repent, the end is nigh' sort of text, but a calmer statement of the facts of what will happen. The impact of the reading will be greater if it is delivered with clarity and conviction, rather than great drama or histrionic enthusiasm. This does not mean, however, that it should be read without any expression at all: there are some marvellous phrases which call for great warmth - such as "**your own people will be spared**" or "**the learned will shine**", and the reader should do his or her best to create that feeling of hope of comfort that these words are meant to evoke in the listeners. That these are the important ideas is made clear by the 'thematic title' you always find at the top, just under the biblical reference: this short verse (which you should never read out loud) always points out the key content of the whole reading, and is there to help the reader judge the emphasis correctly.

Second Reading: Hebrews 10:1-14.18

In this, our final selection from Hebrews, the author underlines all he has been saying about the priesthood of Jesus Christ in recent weeks. The perfect offering or sacrifice has brought about eternal perfection. So today, when we celebrate Mass, that one single sacrifice of Christ is present to us, so that we may share in the eternal perfection it achieved. As with all these readings from Hebrews, this should be delivered carefully and slowly, so that people can follow the rather intricate argument being developed. If it is gabbled rapidly, the congregation will be lost by line three. Take your time, and emphasise each point along the way.



Nov 25th: Our Lord Jesus Christ, Universal King (B)



*"It is you who say I am a king."*

### The Word This Week

Every time we complete the cycle of the liturgical year, there is a seamless blending into the new year: so, just as this week we hear of the King who is to come, next week, we begin a New Year and the Season of Advent by more meditation on the end of time, and the One who is to come again, as he once came among us. This feast affirms that Christ is King, that he is Judge, that he is Ruler of the kings of the earth. By his own words we know that this is true, as he stands before Pilate and says, "Yes, I am a king." But his kingship is different: it is not of the same kind as earthly kings, whose empires fade and pass away. His kingship is eternal, and holy until the end of time. Through his love for us, we share in this sovereignty - this holiness - as priests and kings who "serve his God and Father". We end our year in simple, awe-filled praise of the One who is, who was, and who is to come - the Almighty. Alleluia! Amen!

### Notes for Readers

First Reading: Daniel 7:13

Imagine you are a composer, setting this reading to music: the first line, "**I gazed into the visions of the night**" is so full of images and ideas that it is easy for anyone to imagine a 'musical mood' for it. This is a good way to 'get into the reading', because mood and tone can be conveyed by the way you read just as much as through music. It will have to begin in stillness, and quietly - though to do this you will have to pause (perhaps for quite a long time) to allow an utter silence to descend in Church. The reading then builds up in a huge crescendo - as the imagery and language grows more and more glorious and triumphant: from an almost silent beginning, it should rise to a solemn and confident proclamation of the empire that will never be destroyed. Enjoy the proclamation of this simple but powerful piece of Scripture.

Second Reading: Apocalypse 1:5-8

Like the First Reading, this is about images and pictures, and full of music and poetry. It is more 'informative' than the reading from Daniel, and so for a lot of it your tone will be more balanced and factual. It's only towards the end that a sort of exalted rapture overtakes Saint John - from the first '**Amen**' onwards this becomes more like a hymn, ending on the wonderful description of the Lord as "**the one who is, who was and who is to come.**" Make sure you read the words "**He loves us...**" with appropriate warmth and emphasis. Be careful with the two '**Amen**'s. 'Amen' means 'Yes'. It is so. It is the truth. Allow this simple word - just two syllables - to be emphatic. The same goes for the remarkable little expression "**This is the truth**" (which could be one of those moments when, if you are able, you look at the congregation to affirm your own belief that this is the truth.) ❖

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



Synod for the  
**AMAZON**

## Prayer for the Synod for the Amazon

*All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures.*

*You embrace with your tenderness all that exists.*

*Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty*

*Fill us with peace, that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one.*

*O God of the poor, help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth, so precious in your eyes.*

*Bring healing to our lives, that we may protect the world and not prey on it,*

*that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction.*

*Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain at the expense of the poor and the earth*

*Teach us to discover the worth of each thing, to be filled with awe and contemplation,*

*to recognize that we are profoundly united with every creature as we journey towards your infinite light.*

*Bless your Church here in Guyana*

*that we may listen attentively to the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.*

*Bless our Holy Father Pope Francis Our own Bishop Francis*

*And all the bishops of the Amazon, That together we may prepare well for the coming Synod ❖*



# Is It Time Yet?

Dear Girls and Boys,

Suppose that your best friend was to pick you up at two o'clock to go to a movie. First, you would make sure you were dressed and ready to go, and then, as the time drew near, you would be waiting and watching for your friend to come. If you know how to tell time, you would probably check the clock every few minutes to see if it was time for your friend to be there. If not, you would probably ask your mom, "Is it time yet?"

The Bible teaches us that a day is coming when this earth will pass away and Jesus will come to take his children to heaven to be with him. When will that be? No one knows. In fact, Jesus told his disciples that even he doesn't know. He said that only God the Father knows. Should we worry and be afraid? We don't think so. If we are going to be with Jesus, we will be OK. So, what should we do? It's just like we are waiting for our friend to pick us up to go to the movie. We should watch, wait, and be ready when our friend comes.



We should watch, wait, and be ready when our friend comes.

Dear Jesus, we are watching and waiting for your return. Amen. ✚



# AT THE END OF TIME JESUS WILL COME AGAIN

## BUT WHEN?

No one knows when except



G \_\_\_\_\_ the

F \_\_\_\_\_

HOW CAN YOU GET READY FOR JESUS WHEN HE COMES AGAIN?



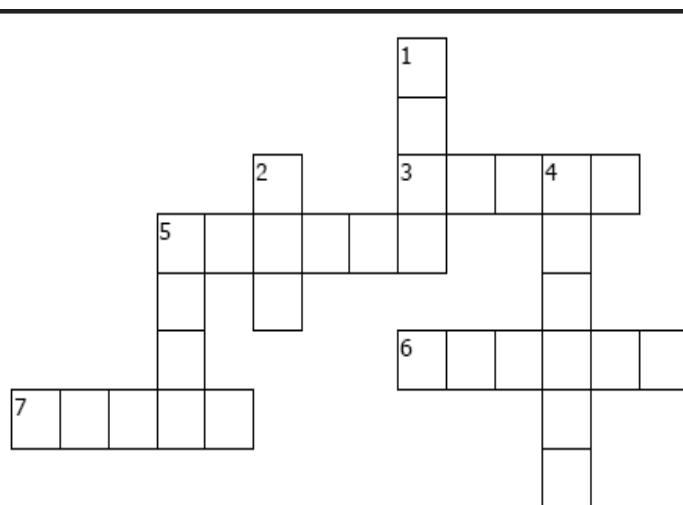
S	A	T	S	D	N	I	W	I	B
T	T	R	D	L	E	G	E	R	Y
R	E	A	A	E	E	N	I	R	O
A	Y	S	R	S	U	G	O	F	L
S	A	T	K	S	H	L	N	I	G
G	D	O	E	T	G	A	N	A	M
I	I	S	N	O	O	M	K	L	O
W	F	E	E	I	R	T	H	E	N
T	S	E	D	L	R	O	W	O	N
S	S	E	R	T	S	I	D	L	O

- DISTRESS
- DAYS
- MOON
- STARS
- BRIGHTNESS
- ANGELS
- WINDS
- WORLD
- FIG
- TREE
- TWIGS
- SUN



## Gospel

In today's Gospel, Jesus talks about coming back to earth. Listen to the words in the Gospel and add details to the picture.



### ACROSS

- 3. To look at something; to keep guard
- 5. The place of God and the angels are
- 6. To come back again
- 7. To be prepared and ready for action

### DOWN

- 1. To begin to get light as the sun rises
- 2. A period of twenty-four hours
- 4. A light puffy, or billowy object floating in the air
- 5. A period of time sixty minutes long

HEAVEN	DAY	ALERT	CLOUDS
RETURN	WATCH	HOUR	DAWN

We usually eat a banana in the morning, mainly because it is a pleasant tasting fruit and a source of daily Vitamin C for our bodies. We never knew the true value of bananas until we came across this article on the internet. We would like to share it with you this week:-

If We Eat Two Bananas Everyday For One Month This Is What Happens To Our Body.

One of nature's most underrated fruits, the bananas, are one of the most popular foods in the world because of their perfect portion size, natural protective wrap, and cheap price. They are the perfect superfood that gives us energy, make us feel full, and provide our body with all the essential nutrients. They're rich in fibres, vitamins, and natural sugars like fructose and sucrose. That's exactly why even doctors recommend it. And it's the perfect addition to our breakfast.

It's the top consumed fruit in the United States. When we buy a bunch of bananas they usually last until the end of the week. But we'll probably notice that, in time, spots begin to appear on them, growing bigger and bigger until they turn black. We usually tend to throw away the bananas when they turn brown and mushy because we think they're rotten, which usually is the case with most fruits. However, the dark patches in bananas are actually not a sign of rotting, but something entirely different.

The more dark patches a banana appears to have, the more ripe it is, and the more TNF it contains. TNF stands for Tumour Necrosis Factor, and it's a cancer fighting substance that help fight against abnormal cells in our bodies. Specifically, TNF helps to assist communication between cells in

## Two Bananas every day



By Chris & Noelma Lam

our immune response system, and it guides the movement of cells towards areas in our bodies which are inflamed or infected.

Research has confirmed that the TNF found in ripe bananas interferes with tumour cells growth and inhibits them from spreading by causing cell death. This, in conjunction with the high levels of antioxidants which are also found in bananas, boosts our immune systems, and can increase our white blood cells as well. The next time you see bananas with brown spots, don't pass it over. Instead, eat it up and give your body a mini-health boost and some extra energy.

Bananas are natural anti-acid and can relieve our heartburn in a minute. If you feel the symptoms, just munch on one banana and you'll feel better almost instantly. Bananas are rich in potassium but contain almost no sodium in them which is why they're good for our heart. They can lower the blood pressure and help to prevent stroke or a heart attack.

Eating a banana or two before work-

out gives us enough energy to last an hour or more. The low glycemic carbohydrates, vitamins, and minerals all support our body, increase endurance, while potassium helps to prevent muscle cramps. People suffering from anaemia can benefit greatly from introducing bananas into their diet because they can provide them with much needed iron. Iron stimulates haemoglobin production and strengthens the blood supply.

Ulcers can be really annoying because there are a limited number of things we can eat without causing stomach upset. Luckily for us, bananas are just perfect for this condition because they're soft and mushy and protect the stomach lining from acid and irritation. They can help overcome depression because they have high levels of tryptophan, which our bodies convert into serotonin. Serotonin is a brain neuro-transmitter that makes us relax, feel happy, and improves mood. Thus, bananas can help us feel better and beat depression.

Bananas have high amount of fibres which is beneficial if we're suffering from constipation. They can stimulate bowel movement and relieve the symptoms. When we're feeling moody and stressed, if we eat a banana it helps to regulate blood sugar and are rich in B vitamins, which naturally calm the nervous system, and make us relax, resulting in an overall improved mood. Bananas can lower our temperature and cool us off. This goes for when we're feeling hot or if we have a fever.

Even though bananas are the perfect food for us, we should not go overboard and indulge in a heavy diet of bananas. Two bananas a day is the recommended daily intake. ❖

## Pope's Intentions

November Monthly Intention:

*In the Service of Peace*

That the language of love and dialogue may always prevail over the language of conflict. ❖

## Classifieds

### BECK WELDING MACHINING & MARINE PARTS REPAIR

Specialists in:

- Re-grinding of Crankshafts
  - Re-boring & re-sleeving of Engine Blocks
  - Re-surfacing & fitting inserts in Engine Heads
  - Repair and fabrication of machinery parts.
- 3 Princess & Ketley Sts., Tel# 225-6272

### ABRAMS PHOTO WORLD

We specialize in: Video Recording, Video Editing, Digital photographs, Designing & Printing, Laminating, Tent Rental and much more. Contact Romeo on Tel# (592) 643-4558.

### Handyman Service

Any job handyman service available including:- Tiling, plumbing, carpentry, painting, lock installation, joinery and repairs, the weeding of lawns and parapets, painting, cleaning of yards and drains.

Contact: Jabaun at 693-9548 or Keron at 617-2346

Our prices match our service. We are willing to negotiate.

## TitBits

### -- This Week's Reflection:

Prior to his death, Winston Churchill planned his funeral and requested that at his funeral a bugler, positioned high in the dome of Saint Paul's Cathedral, play "Taps," the signal that the day is over. As soon as "Taps" was finished a second bugler positioned on the opposite side of the dome was to play "Reveille," signalling that a new day is beginning and that "It's time to get up, It's time to get up in the morning!" Churchill had it right. Death is not the end of life. It's just the end of life on earth, for the human spirit is immortal. For the non-Christians death is eternal disconnection or separation from God, the author of all life and love. For us Christians death is but the end of our "day" on earth and the beginning of a new day... the entrance into eternal life to be "forever with the

Lord."

God Bless You! Have a Great Week!

### -- This Week's Bible Question:

Q. What affliction did Naaman have?

### -- This Week's Teaser:

Q: What do you call a sleep-walking nun?

### -- Today's Bible Verse:

Do not accuse a man for no reason, when he has done you no harm. - Proverbs 3: 30

### -- Today's Marriage Tip:

50% of a marriage is finding the right person. The other 50% is being the right person.

### -- Humour:

The new priest was talking to the Sunday School class about the 23rd Psalm. He told the children about sheep, and that a shepherd's job was to stay close to the sheep, and protect them.

He pointed to the little children in the room and said that they were the sheep and needed lots of guidance.

Then the priest put his hands out to the side, palms up in a dramatic gesture, and with raised eyebrows said to the children, "If you are the sheep then who is the shepherd?"

He was pretty obviously indicating himself. A silence of a few seconds followed. Then Little Johnny said, "Jesus: Jesus is the shepherd."

The young priest, obviously caught by surprise, said to Johnny, "Well then, who am I?"

Little Johnny frowned thoughtfully and then said with a shrug, "I guess you must be a sheep dog."

### -- Answer to Bible Question:

He was a leper. - see 2 Kings 5:1-2 Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Syria, was a great and honourable man in the eyes of his master, because by him the Lord had given victory to Syria. He was also a mighty man of valour, but a leper.

### -- Answer to Teaser:

A Roaming Catholic. ❖

## Mind Puzzler Corner

### Our Last Brain Teaser was:

Soldiers line up, spaced with pride,

Two long rows lined side by side,

One sole unit can decide,

If the rows will unite or divide.

What is it?

Answer: A zip.

### This Week's Brain Teaser:

I beam, shine and sparkle white,  
I brighten the day with a single light,

I charm and enchant one and all,

I can counter the darkest pall.

What am I?

Look for the Answer next week

## M.K & E ELECTRICAL & VARIETY STORE

DEALERS IN ALL TYPES OF ELECTRICAL MATERIALS

85 POLLYDORE (DURBAN) ST, LODGE, G/TOWN

TEL/FAX: 231-8430

mke.electrical\_variety\_store@yahoo.com

## Allan DeJonge

Refrigeration & Air Conditioning Consultant Services

147 FIFTH & ALBERT STS.  
Tel: 231-4470; 623-3726



REPAIRS & PARTS FOR SALE

## MODERN OPTICAL SERVICE

316 Middle St., N/C/Burg,

Tel. 226-1082

For modern designed frames, glasses, plastic and photochromatic lens

## JOHN'S GARDENING SERVICES

We do Weeding, Mowing, clearing leaves, watering plants & landscaping

"We offer the best service"

CONTACT JOHN: 698-6276



# “LIFE’S JOURNEY” Viewpoint by Vibert Parvatan

**“It is only an error of judgement to make a mistake, but it shows infirmity of character to adhere to it when discovered.” - Christian Bovee**

Too many persons in our troubled world seem perpetually obsessed with looking back in anger while cultivating and nourishing feelings of bitterness, resentment an even hatred. Such behaviour may be paralleled to the driver of a motor vehicle who dedicates most of his time looking in the rear mirror, rather the road he is taking and its destination.

The utterances of such Officials may at be controversial and in such a situation their statements are placed under the microscope. But magnification does not necessarily lead to the revelation of truth or the removal of ambiguity in relation to interpretation.

The subjectivity of the listeners, viewers and those interpreting statements

may be even further polarized by motives of defending, neutralizing or attacking. This concept is well illustrated in the Courts. A statement made by the accused may have a certain interpretation by the Prosecutor but a different meaning when explained by the Defence. It is left for the Jurors to form their own conclusions which may differ, although they have listened to and have examined the same evidence.

In that beautiful Film “**Love Story**” the young lady advised her lover with deep hurt, emotion and sincerity, that love means – never having to say you’re sorry. That is the ideal! But in life it is often different.

Many of us may have had cause to say I am sorry in differing circumstances. We may have provoked the wrath of others. This may have even happened in the sanctity of our homes, not addressing strangers but loved ones. The response and meaning of statements made will no doubt be influenced by the circumstances. The utters mood, the context in which a statement is framed; whether impetuous or calculated and the image of the utter will affect both interpretation and reaction.

## MISTAKES

- **An incorrect idea or opinion is a mistake!**

- **Something wrongly done, whether through ignorance, malice or inadvertence is a mistake.**

With that definition, it is evident that there may be **MISTAKES** flourishing and surrounding us. Many interesting statements have been made on the subject of **MISTAKES**.

John Pye Smith – an English Theologian stated: **“Exemption from mistake is not the privilege of mortals; but when our mistakes are involuntary, we owe each other every candid consideration; and the man who on discovering his errors acknowledges and corrects them is scarcely less entitled to our esteem than if he had not erred.”**

## UNITY

Notwithstanding the economic problems, we can take pride in the fact that over the past years of our post-Independence period Guyanese have generally lived in peace and harmony.

The diversity of culture has enriched our lives. In spite of political and ideological differences, Guyanese can make ever meaningful our National Slogan.

**ONE PEOPLE! ONE NATION! ONE DESTINY!**

We need to preserve this Unity which is absolutely necessary for the wellbeing of our People and for National Building.

**It is certainly a mistake for anyone to make statements which can create racial disharmony. It is no less a mistake for anyone to similarly create racial disharmony in reacting to any statement perceived to be**

**having a derogatory racial connotation.**

We must learn from past mistakes. Destructive flames should never be fanned, but extinguished. In destroying the weeds in our garden, let us not destroy the crop and jeopardise the harvest.

## VICTIMITIS

In his inspirational writings Robert Schuller advised:

**“No one travels the road of life without being affected by injustice at one time or another. But the worst thing that can happen to you is to develop VICTIMITIS.**

**VICTIMITIS is carrying your grudge and nursing the hurts. This o n l y produces a whole new batch of emotional demons to torment your soul.**

**Resentment, anger, self-pity and even vengeance become a mixed up recipe for messed-up feelings...**

**So do not carry the Grudge, BURY IT.”**

It will be a mistake, indeed a serious mistake for anyone, or any organisation to encourage, promote or tolerate any act which aims at creating or accentuating divisions in our society.

The patriotic song of Guyana – **“Onward, upward may be always go”,** has a message of encouragement; but one must not only journey well, but know the desired destination.” ❖

## EDITORIAL- IDOLATRY OF MONEY IN THE CHURCH: FRANCIS (From Page 2)

Pope Francis admitted the Church needs to be maintained by the faithful, but this is done in the offering box, not with a price list.

During his five years of service to the People of God as Pope, Francis has repeatedly warned priests and bishops against charging fees for the administration of the sacraments, echoing the warnings of his predecessors Benedict and John Paul II.

Canon Law which has provided the rules for administration of the Church over centuries is no less clear and adamant. For example, on Mass offerings:

Canon 945: In accordance with the approved custom, any priest who celebrates or concelebrates a Mass may accept an offering to apply the Mass for a specific intention.

It is earnestly recommended to priests that, even if they do not receive an offering, they celebrate Mass for the intentions of Christ’s faithful, especially those in need.

Canon 946: The faithful who make an offering so that Mass can be celebrated for their intention, contribute to the good of the Church, and by that offering they share in the Church’s concern for the support of its ministers and its activities.

Canon 947: Even the semblance of trafficking or trading is to be entirely excluded from Mass offerings.

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* addresses the biblical matter of simony in the section titled “Irreligion.”

Paragraph 2118: God’s first commandment condemns the main sins of irreligion: tempting God, in words or deeds, sacrilege, and simony.

Paragraph 2121: *Simony* is defined as the buying or selling of spiritual things. To Simon the magician, who wanted to buy the spiritual power he saw at work in the apostles, St. Peter responded: May your silver perish with you, because you thought you could obtain God’s gift with money!” (Acts 8:9) Peter thus held to the words of Jesus: “You received without pay, give without pay.” It is impossible to appropriate to oneself spiritual goods and behave toward them as their owner or master, for they have their source in God. One can receive them only from him, without payment.

As far as I am aware, no bishop or priest in the AEC region of the Caribbean requires payment for baptisms, marriages or funerals or for celebrating Masses for the intentions

of any person. All offerings are strictly voluntary.

In medieval Europe, however, an ugly side of Church administration reached extremes where documents were widely sold by church officials offering “indulgences” and the forgiveness of penalties for sins in order to raise funds for church projects. These practices were strenuously denounced by reformists, contributing the Protestant Reformation and their being banned by the Catholic Church.

Sadly however, simony is still practised by some priests who refuse to “book” a Mass if the full stipend is not offered. At one large, well-supported church in Latin America current printed and public requirements for a Baptism stipulate that “in order to confirm a baptismal booking the payment of 50% of the contribution is required, and the full payment should be made 15 days before the celebration of the sacrament. YOU ARE REMINDED THAT ADVANCES ARE NOT REFUNDABLE”

Francis in homily said that Jesus noted that the temple in Jerusalem was populated by idolaters - men ready to serve “money” instead of “God”. “Behind money there is an idol,” the Pope said, adding idols are always of gold that enslaves. ❖

## Marching for Jesus through Georgetown

(From page 7)

The worshippers assembled at the Parade grounds then marched through the city singing and chanting to culminate at D’Urban Park on Homestretch Avenue.

One of the organisers, Reverend Dr. Raphael Massiah said, “I think the principal goal we have in our mind is that this march will exemplify the unity that this nation is capable of, we have a wonderful nation and under God once we achieve unity, anything is possible. Guyana will able to achieve everything that God has destined for us to achieve.” ❖



# October devotions, First Communion in North West

## Saint of the Week



**November 24th**  
*St. Andrew Dung-Lac & Companions*

On June 19, 1988, Pope John Paul II canonized a group of 117 martyrs who died for the Roman Catholic Faith in Vietnam during the nineteenth century. The group was made up of ninety-six Vietnamese, eleven Spaniards, and ten French. Eight of the group were bishops, fifty were priests and fifty-nine were lay Catholics. Some of the priests were Dominicans, others were diocesan priests who belonged to the Paris Mission Society.

St. Andrew Dung-Lac, who represents this group of heroes, was a Vietnamese diocesan priest. He came from a poor, non-Christian family and was taught by a Christian lay catechist. He worked in the missions with the priests of the Foreign Mission Society of Paris. He was imprisoned and repeatedly tortured during the persecutions of Minh-Meng, the emperor of Vietnam between 1820 and 1840 who was famed for his persecutions of the Christians. Among the many Vietnamese and international martyrs who died alongside St. Andrew Dung-Lac was Saint Peter Thi.

This feast day, and the witnesses of the lives of the martyrs, give testament to the sufferings inflicted on the Vietnamese Church, which are among the most terrible in the long history of Christian martyrdom.



**From Fr. Amar Bage SJ**

Last month, being the month of the Holy Rosary, parishioners of Hosororo sincerely dedicated their time and energy in prayer. In particular, Catechists with their children gave special time to prayer.

The youth of Hosororo organised this program for all the people in Hosororo, but especially for the catechism children and for youth. They beautifully involved the children in prayer. On one day during the month they all came to Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto and spent time in singing and in

prayer. It was so wonderful to see and hear small children praying the rosary with devotion. The children experienced the courage and confidence of expressing themselves in prayer. Mother Mary did great things for them.

This grotto is also historic, being more than one hundred years old. All are encouraged to visit the grotto and pray - you will be blessed.

There was also first Holy Communion in Hosororo recently. Eighteen children took first Holy Communion. There were nine girls and nine boys.

The Youth of Hosororo, under the guidance of Brothers Paul and Joseph, are very involved in helping the people with their spiritual growth. They are visiting different communities and arranging prayer meetings.

Parishioners are encouraged to get involved in these beautiful prayer meetings where they will enjoy singing worship songs, prayer and meditation.

May God Bless you.❖



## On the Lighter Side



Derek had solved the embarrassing problem of how to end a time of open prayer!