

SLUBLUOU ONLENTS



REVELATOR



Mother Mary, Pray for our Readers

- 04 KNOWN BY LOVE
- 06 GOD'S PLAN FOR YOUR LIFE
- 08 WHERE DOES GOD'S MERCY END?
- 10 TREASURE HUNT
- 12 MERIN'S JOURNEY
- 22 JESUS MY ROCK









PATRONS

Archbishop Julian Porteous DD

Archbishop of Hobart, Australia

Bishop Joy Alappat

Auxiliary Bishop of Syro Malabar Chicago, USA

Bishop James Massa

Auxiliary Bishop of Brooklyn, USA

Bishop Jacob Manathodath

Diocese of Palghat, India

Bishop Alphonsus Cullinan

Diocese of Waterford & Lismore, Ireland

Bishop Joseph Srampickal

Syro-Malabar Diocese of Great Britain, UK

Bishop Robert Byrne

Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Birmingham, UK

Bishop Bosco Puthur

Syro-Malabar Diocese of Australia & Apostolic Visitator to New Zealand

EDITORIAL ADVISORY BOARD

Rev. Fr. Xavier Khan Vattayil

Rev. Fr. Soji Olikkal

Rev. Fr. Shyju Naduvathaniyil

The Editorial Board wish to give all the Glory to God. Without His divine help the production of this magazine would not have been possible.

If you would like to send us your personal testimony, write an original article for an upcoming issue (maximum 800 words please), submit a drawing or poem or just to contact us with feedback please

E-mail us at : articles@kingdomrevelatorusa.org FOR ALL INQUIRIES:

inquiry@kingdomrevelatorusa.org **BILLING:**

billing@kingdomrevelatorusa.org

OUR MAILING ADDRESS:

KINGDOM REVELATOR USA

P.O Box 22,

TECHNY, IL 60082-0022

PLEASE VISIT US AT:

www.kingdomrevelatorusa.org

DESIGN & LAYOUT:

www.nanmabranding.com

"CALL TO ME AND I WILL ANSWER YOU"

PRAYER LINE

WORRIED?

CONFUSED?

PROBLEMS?

STRESSED?

We have a dedicated prayer team waiting to pray for you. Please send us your intentions and we will pray for you in confidence.

USA - Prayers@kingdomrevelatorusa.org

SUPPORT US

Please help us in touching many souls through KR mission in prisons, campuses and schools.
To donate, please visit us at www.kingdomrevelatorusa.org

How do Christians make Sunday "The Lord's day?"

Y O U C A T



365: A Catholic Christian attends Holy Mass on Sunday or on the vigil of Sunday. On that day he refrains from all work that would prevent him from worshipping God or disturb the festive, joyful, restful, and restorative character of the day. [CCC- 2177-2186 - 2192-2193]

Since Sunday is an Easter celebration that occurs each week, Christians from the earliest times have gathered together on that day to celebrate and thank their Redeemer and to reunite themselves with Him and with others who are redeemed. So it is a central duty of every conscientious Catholic Christian to "keep holy" Sunday and the other holy days of the Church. One is exempted from it only by urgent family duties and important responsibilities in society. Because participation in the Sunday Eucharist is fundamental to Christian life, the Church explicitly declares that it is a serious sin to stay away from Sunday Mass without good reason.

"Without Sunday we cannot live"; The Christian MARTYRS OF ABITENE, said before they were executed in 304 by Emperor Diocletian because they had opposed his ban on the celebration of Sunday.

www.ignatiuspress.com

Editorial

This month is dedicated to the Holy Rosary. We are once again reminded about the importance of intercession. When Abraham pleaded for the people of Sodom and Gomorrah, God promised to spare the people of those cities from destruction if at least ten good people were found to be living there. When Moses pleaded with the Lord on Mount Sinai for the people, the Lord changed His mind about the disaster He was going to bring on the Israelites. He is a merciful Father who does not intend anything bad for His children. Through the intercession of Mary our Mother and the saints, God answers the prayers of His beloved children.

The Holy Father has asked Christians all over the world to pray that "the breath of the Holy Spirit engenders a new missionary 'springtime' in the Church. "The feasts of some of the most popular saints, such as St Therese the Little Flower, St Francis of Assisi, St Teresa of Avila are celebrated during this month. These saints are a source of encouragement to all Christians, and great models to be imitated. In this issue, we have a beautiful vocation story and life changing testimonies which propels us towards the kindness of our loving God.

It's a month to be holy. Perhaps each one of us can pick one virtue that each of these saints practiced well and try to implement it in our lives.

 $\times \times \times$



KNOWN BY LOWE



Sr Jordan Rose, SV, is a Sister of Life who currently lives in Toronto, Canada. She shares how her trip to World Youth Day in Madrid led her to discover a bigger, better and more beautiful plan for her life.

In the depths of our hearts each of us desires to be known and loved, to be cherished and delighted in. The undeniable fact is, we are. It was my encounter with this truth that revealed my deepest desires, illuminated the way my heart was made to love, and completely changed the course of my life.

Recently, I was reminded of how radically different my life had become when asked the question, "Did you, um... were you, um... what were you before you were a Sister?" I smiled and responded teasingly, "I was born a Sister." The young woman was shocked, and then smiled as she saw I

was kidding. The truth is, growing up, I never imagined myself as a religious Sister, let alone a Sister in New York City! Raised in Idaho, I had never seen a young Sister, nor had I truly prayed about the possibility of the Lord inviting me to be totally His, in a life of consecration. From a young age, I had envisioned myself as a wife and mother, and felt called to love the little and weak ones in society, and I eventually became a teacher. My prayers regarding my future could easily be summarized into one sentence: "I've got this all figured out!"

The horizons of His plan for my life and love – bigger, better, and more beautiful than anything



of my own design - opened before me at World Youth Day. Coming from a small, Catholic community back home, I was shocked when we arrived in Madrid to see vast crowds of young Catholics, priests, and religious. My thoughts? "I can't believe you exist!"

At the beginning of our time in Spain, while touring a museum in Madrid, my friends and I encountered something more fascinating than any of the artwork we'd seen: a Sister. Saying, "Hello," we told her our names. Smiling from ear to ear, she said she would be praying for each of us, that Jesus would speak to us in a profound way during World Youth Day. I walked away simply thinking, "How cute!"

Days later, standing in a plaza of thousands of people, I heard something that made my heart stop: my name. Turning around, I saw the Sister we had met at the museum! She had seen my friends and asked, "Where's Jordan?" She remembered my name, but when I heard Sister speak it, it wasn't her voice that resounded in my heart... it was the Lord's. Looking back, I see how the Lord was seeking me, and when He found me, He called me by name.

The pilgrimage continued, and I quickly forgot this second encounter. It was months later, back home in the U.S, that I would hear that same voice in my heart and have the grace to respond. Sitting on the floor of my room, I came across a booklet I picked up in Madrid. I was about to throw it away, when I paused to glance through it. Inside was something I'd never heard of: a "Vocation Story."

With each word I read, my jaw dropped lower and lower. It

was the story of a young woman who had a brother with a disease that weakens his body, much like one of my own sisters, Gabbie. She spoke of how their family had travelled to Lourdes, France, seeking a physical healing, but returned spiritually strengthened instead. We had done just the same only a year earlier with my sister. When I read that this woman felt the Lord was speaking directly to her at World Youth Day, I exclaimed, "Is this Sister reading my journal?!" I reached the end of the story and read who the Sister was. Almost

Through continued discernment and prayer, I began what I can only describe as falling in love with Love Himself.

reflexively, I threw the book across the room. It was the story of the same sister - the only sister - I met at the museum, and in the crowded plaza. In that moment I received the grace to know, without a shadow of a doubt, that God had a plan for my life, and He knew me. He knew every detail of my life. He knew everything and everyone that mattered to me.

This new-found awareness of being so truly known and loved, propelled my heart into the depths of an authentic relationship with the Lord. Later, I would eventually reach out to the Sister I had met to thank her for her role in leading me

closer to Jesus. I learned she was a Sister of Life. It was then that I was introduced to the Charism of Life at the heartbeat of her community, and I was captivated. My heart resonated deeply with the way the Sisters were called to love: the most vulnerable, the unborn, the wounded and the weak.

Through continued discernment and prayer, I began what I can only describe as falling in love with Love Himself. A lasting peace and joy rising in my heart, the Lord showed me how this new desire to be consecrated to Him as a Sister wasn't erasing my desire to be a mother; to love the littlest, the weakest. Instead, He revealed how at the core of my original desire was an even deeper desire to give my whole life in love, though in a way I could never have dreamed of!

I'm now in my sixth year as a Sister of Life, and grateful to the Lord for leading me to a life of true fulfillment and deep-rooted joy! He is faithful! His words to my heart of being known and loved are the same words He is singing over you. He knows you and loves you more than you can ever imagine.

The Sisters of Life are Catholic religious Sisters who are committed to the truth that every human person is deeply good, unique, valuable, and unrepeatable. These Sisters serve women who are pregnant and vulnerable to abortion, giving them support to be able to choose life for themselves and their children; they host weekend retreats for women and men; they help women who have suffered after abortion to experience Jesus' healing mercy; they also travel the country speaking on the beauty of human life and love. They were founded in 1991 in New York by Cardinal John O'Connor, and take a fourth vow to protect and enhance the sacredness of human life.

www.sistersoflife.org



GOD'S PLANFOR L L L



Alex Heath, the Advisor for Adult Faith Formation, Catechetics and Chaplaincy in the Northampton Diocese in the UK, invites the readers to know what God's plan is and how we should be like Him.

A re you ready to hear an amazing Biblical truth? You may have heard it before, but ask yourself if you have really taken it in? I invite you to be astonished by its truth, beauty and power. If you can memorise it, keep it in your heart and mind, and go back to it over the coming days: "Before the world was made, he chose us, chose us in Christ, to be holy and spotless, and to live through love in his presence." (Ephesians 1:4)

Before the World was made, He Chose You

In our everyday life, the more important something is, the more we plan for it in advance. A career we are preparing for may require years of study. A holiday or pilgrimage can mean saving up for many months or even years. Important plans usually require foreknowledge and preparation. It's amazing then to realise that each of us was chosen before the world was made, chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, chosen to be holy. This shows how important holiness is to the Lord.

God chose you before time itself began and has planned your life in love. His plan is that you should be like Him and live through love in His presence. He called you according to His purpose and chose you especially long ago to become a true image of His Son. (Romans 8:28-30)

The Biblical Call to Holiness

Holiness is a powerful theme throughout the Bible. We see God's call to His chosen people in the Old Testament: "I am the Lord, who brought you up out of Egypt to be your God; therefore, be holy, because I am holy" (Leviticus 11:45). By His death and resurrection, Jesus has saved us from the slavery of sin and death; He saved us so that we can share in His holiness. In the Old Testament we also see the Lord saying to Moses, "Speak to

the entire assembly of Israel and say to them: 'Be holy because I, the Lord your God, am holy" (Leviticus 19:1-2). Here we see that the entire people were called to holiness. So, we shouldn't think that holiness isn't for us. No, each one of us is personally called to a holy life. The Second Vatican Council of the Catholic Church emphasised this in what is referred to as the Universal Call to Holiness. Holiness is emphasised in the New Testament as well. For example, "but just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: 'Be holy, because I am holy'" (1 Peter 1:15-16).

A Father's Story

Recently one of my older children and I were discussing some contemporary moral issues. We explored the challenges of trying to decide what is right and wrong when modern media and contemporary culture often seem to have a different

Before the world was made, he chose us, chose us in Christ, to be holy and spotless, and to live through love in his presence.

(Ephesians 1:4)

77

III Kingdom Revelator | 7 IIII

standard compared to Christian teachings. After reflecting on the conversation, I had to go back and add something that I had neglected to say: 'When we are making a decision, we should ask ourselves: Will this course of action lead me closer to the holiness that God desires for me or further away?' I realised that deep down, I desired holiness for my child. If I, as an imperfect human father, desire this for my child, then how much more must our perfect heavenly Father desire holiness for His beloved children?

Allowing God to Work

Holiness is not something we are supposed to attain by our own efforts; that would be impossible! Instead we should trust in God's grace and allow Him to work in us. For He not only calls us but justifies us and enables us to share in His glory (Romans 8:28-30). Therefore, we give "glory to him whose power working in us can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine..." (Ephesians 3:20). God's Spirit is sanctifying us day by day, but we have to say 'yes' to this. We have to co-operate and yield to Him if we want to see the fruits of holiness grow in our lives. We do this by being faithful to prayer, Bible reading, serving others and celebrating the Sacraments (especially Reconciliation and the Eucharist). Monthly confession is a really good practice to help us grow in holiness.

So, God's plan for your life... is holiness! It will be expressed in different ways in our lives depending on our particular vocation. There are so many ways to be holy; we see that in the wonderful variety of Saints. With them we share the great dignity of being chosen and called by our holy God.

90 90 90



WHERE DOES



MERCY END?



Anney Ngugi, from Ireland, explains how God desires to have us in heaven with Him forever.

God So Loved Us

Jesus is the treasure

of Heaven and the beloved Son of God our Father. He came to start off the journey of salvation for the people created in the image and likeness of God. The Bible states: "For all have sinned and fallen short of the Glory of God" (Romans 3:23). It is for this reason that God seeks to redeem His own people and does only what unconditional love and unfathomable mercy can do - "gave his only begotten son, so that whoever believes in Him does not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). This scripture verse reveals the infinite love which moved Jesus to die on the cross, so that we may believe in Him and thus be ushered towards eternal life.

We obtain salvation by confessing with our mouth and believing in our heart; "For one believes with the heart and so is justified and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved" (Romans 10:10). This means that for faith to rise, we have to believe in our hearts and confess with our lips. Scripture says; "Thus faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the Word of Christ" (Romans 10:17). This also implies that where there is less confession of the Word of God, there will be a faith crisis which affects our ability to trust God. His desire for us is to be transformed everyday as we journey in faith, yearning to dwell with Him one day. This is how salvation becomes a journey and not an event; the road upon which we become what John the Baptist desired - "that He must increase; I must decrease" (John 3:30).

He Sent His Son to Die

What Jesus did on the cross has everything to do with God's love and mercy, for we did not deserve it;



instead He chose to offer
Himself as a ransom for us.
When we read the Old
Testament, we see the
Israelites offering animal
sacrifices to God as
atonement for
sins.

66

Mercy reigns from the Cross of Calvary upon all and for all. Once Jesus accomplished His purpose, He changed the course of our destiny forever.

99

When

Jesus died, however, He changed the order of things. Scripture says; "For by one offering, He has made perfect forever those who are being consecrated" (Hebrews 10:14). This is how mercy reigns from the Cross of Calvary upon all and for all, a sacrifice that no other priest could offer in this way. The blood of Jesus is so precious that no monetary value could account for it. Once Jesus accomplished His purpose, He changed the course of our destiny forever.

Worthy Lamb of God

While on earth, we see Jesus carrying the cross and dying like a criminal on Calvary. His death on the cross becomes a gateway that ushers us to His heavenly dwelling where He is exalted to sit on the throne at the right hand of the Father and crowned as the King of Kings forever more. As Jesus sat on the throne, a new song is sung, "Worthy is the Lamb of God who with His blood purchased for God a people of every nation, tribe and tongue" (Revelations 5:9).

Whereas sin had separated us from God, the blood of Jesus cleanses, purifies and unites people of every nation, colour and creed, to become the children of God. Since all of heaven's worship is echoing "Worthy is the Lamb", every

creature on earth has no other option than to cry out, "To the one who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honour, glory and might, forever and ever" (Revelations 5:13).

The Lord Is King and He Reigns Forever

The reign of Jesus did not start when He sat on the Throne of Glory, but before time began, because He is the Word of God. The Gospel of John (1:1-2) says; "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God." This is a reminder that, "In him were created all things in heaven and on earth, the visible and invisible... all things were created

through him" (Colossians 1:16). While His kingship is a sign of authority and power, we now know that His power has no timeframe because "He is the Alpha and Omega" (Revelations 1:8).

Application

The Lord is a promise keeper. At different times in our lives, He brings to fulfilment what He has already spoken in His Word. There might not be a king Nebuchadnezzar in your life to test your loyalty and reverence to God, but there will be other factors that try to rob you of your worship and praise to God. Do not allow yourself to be deceived by what you see or feel, but always remember 'worthy is the Lamb who died for us.' What nothing else could do, He gave His life so that we could be restored to our original state of righteousness. Even as He sits on the throne He doesn't stop, but continues to intercede for us.

Since it was mercy that compelled God to send His Son to die for us sinners, in His mercy, Jesus paid a debt which He did not owe. It was we who owed the debt; one that we could never pay. With open arms He forgives us each time we sin against Him; every time we fall He's ready to lift us up. His Love and Mercy is what draws us to Him. The more we experience this, the more we are transformed to be like Him. His Love sanctifies us. "Beloved, we are now children of God, and what we will be has not yet been revealed. We know that when Christ appears, we will be like Him, for we will see Him as He is" (1 John 3:2). Thus, God will restore all humanity back to Himself where we all belong.



Treasure Hunt

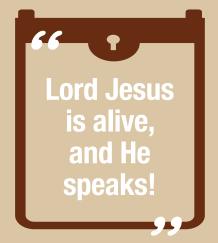
Joyal Joseph, a medical student from Bulgaria, sheds light on a unique treasure hunt that changed his life.

This testimony is from an incident that happened 7 years ago, but I remember it as clear as today because what I experienced changed my life forever. My friend from the Church youth group had mentioned about a treasure hunt and that it would be an evangelization outreach on the streets of Bristol. So, I turned up thinking it will be the usual thing - standing on the streets and handing out prayer leaflets.

We met in a room at the back of a Cathedral. A couple of priests were present with their teen youth groups. First the leader explained what treasure hunting was. Treasure hunting is in essence, a form of personal evangelization in which you search for 'God's treasures', which are of course, people who are away from God; it can also be defined as Holy Spirit evangelization. Typically, people ask Jesus for revelatory clues to identify His treasures and after receiving revelations from the Holy Spirit, they search out those people on the streets. Often they are able to share the love of God. share the Gospel and even offer to pray with or for them.

I was overwhelmed with this

whole idea. First of all, I had never done anything like this before and never even had the faith to believe that I could receive any revelation from Jesus. The group sang worship songs, prayed and then the room went entirely quiet. Some scribbled what they



seemed to have received while I sat there thinking, 'Jesus if this is real, please would you speak to me?'. Then, spontaneously, in my mind I saw a picture of an old lady with a tiny white dog on a leash. I decided to scribble this down as this thought came out of nowhere, or perhaps because this was the only one I received.

I was stunned when the other teenagers started sharing about

the revelations they had received; they were describing details of people with problems that needed healing, what they were wearing, where they would be located, etc. I must confess that I was so overcome with 'holy' jealousy that I asked the Lord, "God why don't you speak to me the way you speak to these kids?"

Later we went out onto the streets and very quickly everyone, except me found their divine appointments. I must have been there for at least an hour and was on the verge of giving up, but to my very pleasant surprise I finally saw the lady with the white dog. I managed to speak to her but, unfortunately, she didn't want to receive any prayer.

Whatever the results, one thing I knew - God spoke to me! And that's all that mattered to me. In fact, this experience set me on a long journey of learning to hear the voice of God. The Bible mentions the Lord as the 'Living God' and, unlike the Gods that are mentioned in other religions, our Lord Jesus is alive, and He speaks! I pray that this testimony will urge you to be like a child before the Lord and learn to listen to His voice as He speaks to you daily.

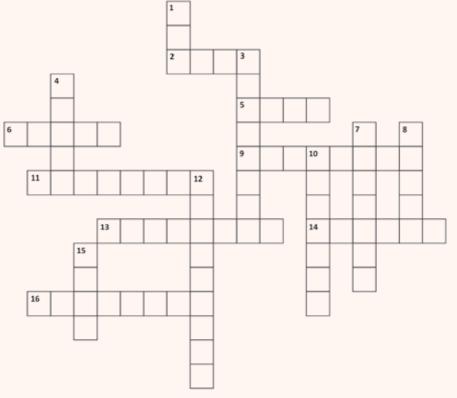
 $\approx \approx \approx$



REVELATOR

Across

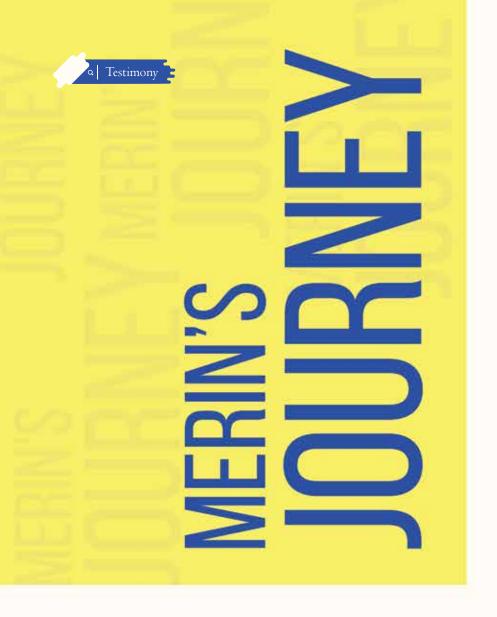
- The Holy Spirit appeared in this form during the Baptism of Jesus.
- 5. The shortest gospel in the Bible.
- Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive _____.
- Joseph and Mary fled with baby Jesus from Egypt to this place.
- The gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke are called _____ gospels.
- 13. The Anglo-Saxon word for good news.
- 14. He is the brother of Simon Peter.
- The number of generations from Abraham to David.



Down

- Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see _____.
- 3. The name which means 'God is with us.'
- 4. For ____ days and nights Jesus fasted.
- 7. Father of St James and St John.
- The number of wise men who visited baby Jesus.
- 10. Father of Isaac.

- After the arrest of John the Baptist, Jesus left Nazareth and made his home in ______.
- 15. The number of gospels in the Bible.





Merin Abraham, from
Australia, testifies
about her turningaround moment
towards God and
realizing the presence
and power of our living
God and the Holy Spirit
in her life.

or many years of my life I was my biggest enemy. Ever since I could remember, I hated myself. I found no self-worth and couldn't think of even one thing about myself that I liked. I used to always blame God for giving me the life I had. I would stand in front of a mirror and point out everything I hated about myself. Dwelling in this self-hatred was part of my daily routine. For 16-17 years of my life I lived in this mindset, convincing myself that this was normal. Everyone has insecurities, but no one told me that this daily mental torture was abnormal. I was so good at putting a smile on my face, pretending to be happy, and giving everyone the impression

that I had everything under control.

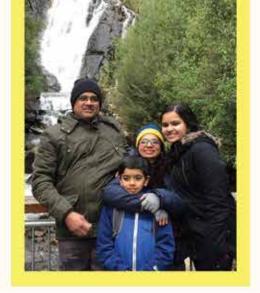
My friends in High school would urge me to get help, but I was afraid because for years I had put on a persona of being a tough individual. I thought that asking for help was a sign of weakness. If I told my parents how I felt about myself, they would just say, "It's all in your head!" But that was the problem; it was all in my head and no one could see it. For years I had kept these thoughts in my head and they grew and manipulated my mind as the years went on.

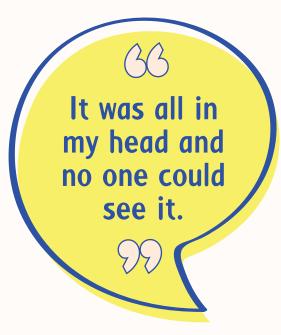
I always felt like no one cared about me because I was of no use. So, without having any purpose, I concluded that I was obviously good for nothing. I would tell myself to hide in the background and not come forward. I forced myself to be this shy, quiet person which I wasn't. While people these days write positive affirmations to increase their confidence daily, I used to write negative affirmations of myself until they became imprinted on my mind. Therefore, I had developed this mindset that I was not going to succeed in anything, so I should just give up. The voice in my head was always telling me that I am of no use, so I should just keep quiet and blend in with the crowd. This was my first response every time I was faced with a new challenge or activity, so I never pushed myself to do anything, losing my entire childhood to the toxicity of my mind. I was trapped by my own mind, because Satan had control over it.

Once, I was going to try something new when my dad said, "Why are you even bothering? You are probably going to give it up anyway!" He was right, I would have just given up like every other time. This was not my dad trying to push me down, but it was a deep hurt from not knowing how to deal

with my mentality. My mum used to tell me every day that I need to stop thinking like this and beating myself up, but I could not, because my mind was telling me otherwise. I used to get angry all the time, especially towards my parents because I had no control over my mind. This mental battle was an everyday norm for me.

A couple of years ago I went to a retreat led by Fr Soji Olikkal (Director of Sehion Ministries, UK) and his team. The team stayed at my house. I attended the retreat like every other retreat, that I had attended before. I was afraid of what everyone would think if I didn't go? On the last day of the retreat my friends encouraged me to go and pray with one of the lay ministers. I thought I would give it a try because, I had nothing to lose. During the prayer he said to me, "Why are you pretending to be happy in front of everyone?" I was shocked to say the least! He barely knew me or my family. Moreover, I was so good at pretending to be happy that there was no way he could have figured it out. He then proceeded to reveal many things about me, while I kept trying to figure out how he knew all this. Of course, the only answer was the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit was revealing all this because God knew I needed help. If I had kept following my destructive ways, I do not know where I would have ended up. Then before leaving, Fr Soji kept saying "You are filled with the grace of God". Initially I





thought, "Aw Father, you probably say that to everyone", but I truly felt it was for me, that God was speaking directly to me. It really hit me and I realized that I am part of God's plan, and that He loves me whether I accept myself or not.

Psalm 139:13-14 states, "For it was you who formed my inward parts, you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made." I was not a mistake. I am part of His wonderful plan; I am like no other and I should stop trying to be the person that I was not created to be. I decided to give my Lord a chance because I had

no other means to escape my mindset. Isaiah 43:4 says "you are precious in my sight, and honored, and I love you." Hence, in reality, God loves me the perfect way that He created me. I chose to ignore God all my life because Satan told me that I was not good enough the way I was.

After I took a step towards God and surrendered everything to Him, I had my 'Prodigal Son' moment. God came running to me and my mind was set free and filled with peace. I could finally think straight and know what it is like to be happy with life because I decided to give my mind back to the care of God and the Holy Spirit, where it should have been in the first place. Now, my entire mindset has changed. The sixteen or so years of damage, hurt and pain all vanished. Afterwards, I used to think, why did God desert me like that and let me be in pain? I realized however, that was my cross to carry, it was my lesson to learn. If not for my past, I would not have learnt and loved the presence of the living God or understood the power of the Holy Spirit. I was a vessel for God's glory. All I had to do was to accept God and surrender everything to Him. That's all it takes, to love God with all our heart and to accept all His plans, because He makes no mistakes. When the Holy Spirit is with us, we are unstoppable, and we can achieve anything. We will be given blessings we cannot even dream of. Simply believe in His power and everything else will fall into place!



am often approached by young people who begin our conversation with the phrase, "So I have this friend..." Many people want to reach out to others but are afraid of being labelled as 'judgy' or a 'shamer.' We want to be nice, helpful and convicted as Catholics - and sometimes it's confusing to figure out how all those can fit together.

Being a disciple doesn't mean telling others how to live their lives; being a disciple means walking with others on our shared journey to Heaven. Our love should permeate the joyful conversations as well as the difficult ones.

So how do we do this? Here are some tips to get you started on these tough topics:

1. Pray for healing for your own understanding of sexuality.

As Jason Evert says, "The world doesn't glorify sex; It fails to see its glory." In its proper context and at the right time, God wants us to say yes to sex. Know it, believe it, and live it.

2. Know your personal testimony of purity.

"Always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope" (1 Peter 3:15). How and why has God called you to practice the virtue of chastity? Be prepared to share this witness.

3. Words are important, but actions set the stage.

Show your friends your extreme love through service and sacrifice. This way, when you tell them you are speaking out of love, they know it's true because they've experienced it first.

4. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you.

This is the real secret weapon to all difficult dialogue in life. Only God knows when someone is in the mode to receive your message. If your friend is angry, having a bad day or over-tired, they might not respond well. On the other hand, in different circumstances, you could say the exact same thing and have very different results. If grace is flowing and the Spirit is moving, big things can happen. "But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything" (John 14:26). Don't force conversations. Pray hard, and often the Holy Spirit will open doors for tough discussions and then tell you when the doors are open. When this happens: game on. He will give you the words, if

you let Him.

5. Have a disposition of love before you even start the conversation.

Your friend will likely want to defend their actions and may feel judged. Make it your goal to be a witness of love. Be sure every word that flows out of your mouth points to compassion.

6. Know your stuff. Look for resources on whatever topic you are addressing.

Whether it is impure relationships, pornography, modesty, homosexuality, transgenderism, birth control or starting over, check out some solid truths on why we believe what we believe.



7. If you find yourself stumped, it's ok to say, "I'm not sure, but I will find the answer for you."

You don't have to know everything, but you can point others in a direction to find out more.

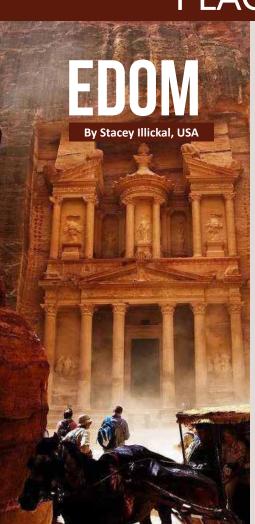
God's teaching on sexuality is all about love - even when it's hard. His teaching on friendship is all about love - even when it is hard. Real friends love each other enough to speak the truth. If you saw a group of blind people about to walk off a cliff you wouldn't hesitate to shout a warning. It wouldn't be because you thought you were better than them, but because you had a heart!

The Lord chose you for your friends, not as a critic but as a witness. He wants to use you to love them right where they are and also to draw them closer to Him. If you ask Him to help you love them like He does, expect Him to answer.

This article first appeared on www.womaninlove.org

 $\times \times \times$

PLACES FROM THE BIBLE



The name Edom is considered to be derived from Esau who had red hair all over the body like a mantle (Genesis 25:25, 25:30). Edomites are considered to be the descendants of Esau (Genesis 36:9).

Like the fraternal twins Esau and Jacob, the sons of Issac and Rebekah, Israelites and Edomites engaged in constant fight (Genesis Chapters 25-36). Edomites even stopped the Israelites from passing through their land even on their way to the Promised Land (Numbers 20:14-21). Aaron died on Mount Hor, near the Edom border.

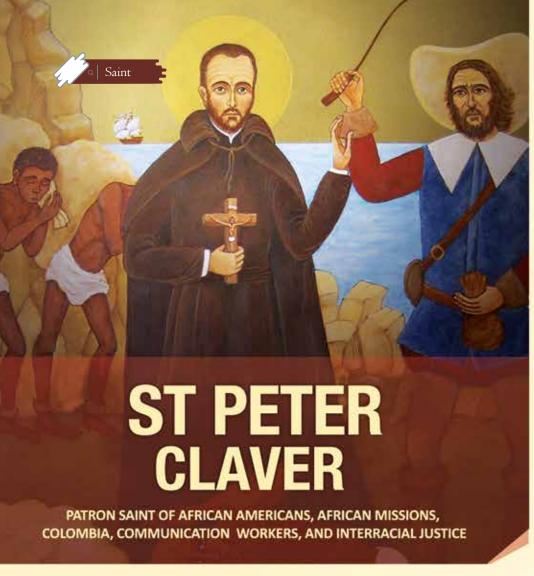
David was the first Israelite king to conquer Edom, but the Edomites revolted during the reign of King Joram. Years later Edom was conquered by Amaziah, and the country regained its independence in the days of Ahaz. Later in the 6th century Edom came under

the rule of the Babylonians (Jeremiah 27: 3-6).

Edom was condemned by the prophets, especially Obadiah. The destruction of the country was foretold by him. Edom ceased to exist as a country about 2000 years ago under the rule of the Roman Empire.

Located between the Dead Sea and the Gulf of Aqaba was the ancient land of Edom. It is currently the part of modern Jordan. Its ideal location on the trade route of that time and its copper mines helped it to flourish. The Book of Genesis chapter 36 gives an account on Edom and the formation of Edomites. One of the famous cities of Edom was Petra, which is currently a tourist destination in Jordan known as Rose Red city of Jordan. It has many buildings carved into its rocky mountain.

 $\ll \ll \ll$





Twelve-year-old, Mariya Kunnengode, from USA, shares the life of St Peter Claver.

Peter Claver was born in Spain in the late 1500's to Ana Corberóand Pedro Clavery Minguella. His family was prosperous although not much is known about his early life. He studied at the Jesuit College in Barcelona and entered the seminary in A.D 1602. When he was studying in Majorca, he was influenced by Alphonsus Rodriguez, the saintly doorkeeper of the college, who later became a saint himself. He encouraged young Peter to go to the South

He managed to baptize more than 300,000 slaves by 1651.

America as minister to the millions of slaves to.

In 1610, he arrived in Cartagena, Columbia, where thousands of African slaves were sold every month. He was ordained in 1616 as a priest and never returned home to see his family and friends. For the next thirty-eight years of his life, he met every slave ship he possibly could. Peter first begged for fruits, biscuits, or sweets to be taken to the slaves. He then went on board

with interpreters with his gifts as well as to care for the distraught and terrified captives. Claver would enter the holds of the ships and would not leave until every person received a measure of care. He also went into plantations, which employed slaves, to cater to their physical and spiritual needs. During those visits, he did not accept the hospitality of the plantation owners, instead stayed in the slave quarters. He would encourage the slave owners to give humane treatment to their captives. Peter gave short instruction in the Catholic faith and baptized as many as he could. He managed to baptize more than 300,000 slaves by 1651.

Claver lost his senses of taste and smell due to his long years of breathing obnoxious odors. He called himself the slave of the slaves. He also labored among the Spanish slave traders, attempting to convert them from their evil ways. In the later years of his life, he was too sick to leave his room. The ex-slave who was hired to care for him treated him cruelly, not feeding him for many days, and never bathing him. Claver never complained. He was convinced that he deserved this treatment. Claver wrote these words in the notebook he kept throughout his life: "I must dedicate myself to the service of God until death, on the understanding that I am like a slave."

It is said that Saint Peter

St Peter Claver died in the September of 1654. He was canonized in 1888 by Pope Leo XIII. His feast day is September 9th.

* * *



PROPHET BY Munnu Fenil from UK A PROPHET CALLING FOR TRUE REPENTANCE

WHO WAS JOEL?

Joel is one of the 12 Minor Prophets found in the Bible. His book consists of three chapters, all of which deal with themes of true repentance, the Day of the Lord and the establishment of a new Eden. Apart from the name of his father, Pethuel, nothing much is known about him in the Scripture. In the Book of Joel, we come across many quotes from other books, such as Amos, Obadiah, Isalah, Zephaniah, Ezekiel and Malachi, which indicates that Joel was a person who was well versed in the Holy Scriptures. Taking note of his references about Jerusalem and its surrounding area, it can be presumed that he was an inhabitant of Jerusalem.

A BRIEF HISTORY

Unlike other prophets, there is no clear indication of the time period of his existence. God wanted His people to have a spiritual renewal and come closer to Him. He wanted to pour out His Spirit upon them but, in order to receive the Spirit, the people needed to repent and change their ways. Joel was called to preach about true repentance and to prophesy about the Day of the Lord.

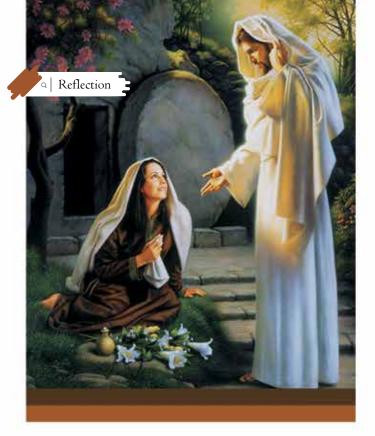
GOD'S MESSAGE THROUGH JOEL

Joel's core message is the importance of repentance. During Joel's time, people used to tear their cloaks as a sign of repentance, but through Joel God reminds us that true repentance must come from the heart followed by a real change a change of mind, attitude and actions, and not just mere symbolic actions. The final chapter of his book predicts the Day of the Lord - the final judgment followed by the establishment of a 'New Eden' filled with universal peace and prosperity. It gives hope to all that God is actively working His way in all our lives and will finally defeat evil. Through Joel (2:28) God gives a great promise, "I will pour out my spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions."

IS JOEL'S MESSAGE APPLICABLE TO 21ST CENTURY?

In this modern time, none of us really wants to take the blame for our sins; instead we try to blame the situations we find ourselves in. We tend to highlight the achievements of the modern world, while ignoring our depravity. If we want the world to be a better place to live in, we each need to be a better person first! A heart felt repentance can transform us into an entirely new person, who can then be a light to the world.

CROSS WORD ANSWERS Across: 2. Dove 5. Mark 6. Mercy 9. Nazareth 11. Synoptic 13. Godspell 14. Andrew 16. Fourteen Down: 1. God 3. Emmanuel 4. Forty 7. Zebedee 8. Three 10. Abraham 12. Capernaum 15. Four



MAGDALENE'S REWARD



Simona Nováková, from Slovakia, reflects on when we experience difficulties, do we give up easily or do we continue to seek the Lord until we find Him.

"They have taken my Lord, and I don't know where they laid him." (John 20: 13)

Recall the event when Mary Magdalene arrived at Jesus' tomb early in the morning on Sunday and saw that the tomb was empty. Imagine how frightened she must have been! She immediately ran to tell the disciples, who were greatly alarmed and ran to the tomb.

Let's look at the situation; Mary Magdalene ran to tell the disciples what had happened and probably ran back with them. The Gospel then says that the disciples returned home, but Mary remained at the tomb and wept. The disciples were certainly worried that they did not know where their Lord was, but they did not remain at the tomb.

Mary Magdalene could not return home; she stayed at the tomb. Her heart was completely broken and she couldn't imagine what she would do without her Teacher. She loved Him very much and that love didn't let her leave in peace. Even though the others had left, she stayed there. She was experiencing bitter moments of darkness. She sought Jesus with her whole heart and being, and the Lord appeared to her. "Now after he rose early on the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, from whom he had cast out seven demons." (Mark 16:9)

Seeking the Lord

Jesus is happy when we seek Him with all our strength, when our love for Him is alive and we are not lukewarm. He saw how desperate Mary Magdalene was, and He spoke to her. At first, she didn't recognize Him in her pain because she was in such grief and was enveloped in so much darkness, but He opened her eyes with His love and called her by name.

We, too, may find ourselves in a situation where we long to see Jesus. When we experience difficulties and do not see Jesus, do we give up easily? We forget that we live in Him, breathe in Him, and that He lives in us. Sometimes the Lord allows such moments to test us in love. Let us remember that whatever we experience, His Love is always greater than our weaknesses. He will always help us and fill us with the peace only He can give. Nothing can separate us from His Love, neither our weaknesses, nor our fear or affliction, because His Love is greater than anything; it is greater than ourselves, than our reason or understanding. His Love exceeds any knowledge.

Spread the Joy

Whenever we are distressed, let us ask Mary Magdalene to pray

for us. Think of the reward she got. When the Lord gives us such moments, it is to give us also a great reward. When Jesus called Mary by name, her torment ended instantly, and she no longer dealt with the anguish she felt before. She saw Jesus, heard him and felt His closeness. All she could remember was the joy she experienced in seeing the resurrected Lord. Jesus sent her to the apostles so that she would not keep that joy to herself. "Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.' (John 20:17)

Similarly, He will send us to others with courage, strength,

66

We forget that we live in Him, breathe in Him, and that He lives in us.



joy, peace and a heart full of His Love. At first we may be scared, hesitant, sorrowful or confused, but when we find Jesus, all those negative feelings disappear. All that remains is what we are all called to do. Therefore, let us not be afraid of such moments, because great joy accompanies them. If the Lord had not given us such moments, we would have no desire for Him and we would not know how much we need Him.

Prayer: Lord, give us the strength to seek you with our whole being. Give us the strength not to stay in the dark, but to call You with confidence. Please come to us Lord, as we know that You are merciful and that Your heart is always inclined to us.



"I will put my laws in their minds, and write them on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people." (Hebrews 8:10)

— YOU ARE INVITED TO -

EPHPHATHA FAMILY CONFERENCE 2019

(Residential Retreat in Malayalam)

Led By:



Fr XAVIER KHAN VATTAYIL

Fr SOJI OLIKKAL

TO BOOK A PLACE PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE: www.afcmuk.org REGISTRATION FEES

ADULTS: £ 225/-6 TO 16 YEARS: £ 125/-CHILDREN UP TO 5 YEARS ARE FREE



Aneesh (UK) +447760254700 Bijoy (UK) +447960000217 Silju (Ireland) +35340443996 Jijo (Netherlands) +31631639970 Sharath (Poland) +48579181271



Babu (UK) +447702061948 Biju N (Ireland) +447912182102 Simi (Germany) +491771804920 George (Switzerland) + 41789095085 Antochan (Ireland) + 353870698898

KHOCK! KHOCK!

"IT'S YOUR MOTHER!"

الا Kingdom Revelato



Jubia George, from Cardiff, UK, shares her experience whilst visiting the Shrine of Our Lady in Knock.

Ahh... Our Lady of Knock!
Have you heard of this
Marian apparition? To be
honest, I didn't until I watched
a programme on Shalom World
TV about two years ago, called
'Mary, my mother'. It is only
then that I understood the
reality of this apparition.

Each episode typically features a man who calls himself the 'miracle hunter'. He talks about the amazing apparitions that have happened throughout the history of our Catholic Church. I loved this part of the show, so I listened eagerly. This time, he mentioned an apparition that I was unfamiliar with. It was 'Our Lady of Knock' in Ireland. Since Ireland is very close to the UK where I live, my ears perked up. And let me tell you I was blown away at how magnificent and truly unique this apparition was. From that day onwards I wanted to visit this shrine so badly, and finally I did!!

That wasn't the only source of information I found about 'Knock'. In fact, Jesus continued to expose me to different videos and talks about Our Lady of Knock when I least expected them, and when I wasn't even searching for such information. For some reason Jesus does that a lot in my life.

Now, what makes this particular apparition very attractive is the fact that it is at heart 'a Eucharistic apparition'. 'What is that?' I hear you ask! A Eucharistic apparition isn't a Eucharistic miracle (when the Eucharistic host turns into real flesh and blood) but it is an apparition that points to the reality of the mystery of Jesus in the Eucharist. However, we refer to this apparition as 'Our Lady of Knock' because Our Lady is the central part of this apparition. She didn't come alone. like she normally does (as she did at Fatima and Lourdes) but she appeared with St Joseph (her spouse), St John the apostle, Jesus as the 'Lamb of God' and many angels.

Some of you, whilst looking at the image, may have had a light bulb flash in your mind. Does this seem familiar to

you? Have you pictured this scene somewhere in the Bible before? You may have guessed already, and yes, it is right out of the book of 'REVELATION'! Wow! Just wow!

If you look carefully, the Lamb is Jesus. Jesus is the Lamb of God who was sacrificed for our sins, the 'scapegoat' for all of humanity. He is on an altar with a Cross behind Him. This symbolises that sacrifice. Around the Lamb are angels with their arms extended

I could see this 'Lamb' looking straight at me!

towards Jesus as if to say, 'look there he is, there is your God'. They adore Him just as we read in the book of 'Revelation'.

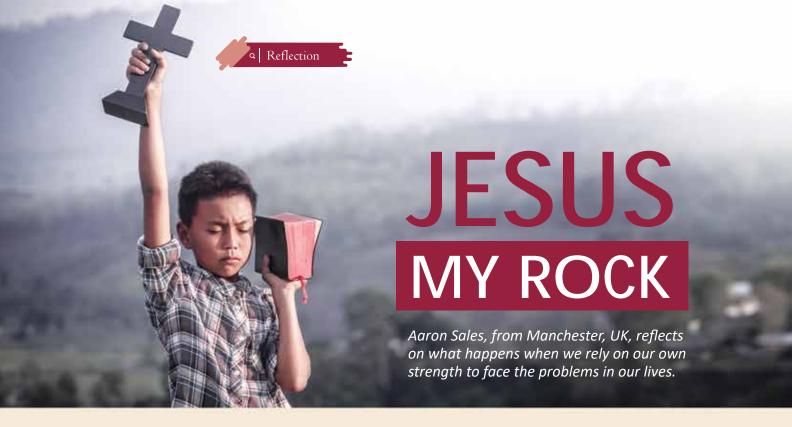
I have to tell you that when I stood for Holy Mass at that very spot where this apparition took place, I was mesmerized. When I repeated with the congregation, "Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy on us", I could see this 'Lamb' looking straight at me! Oh my, I can't explain the feeling!

St John was there! Why some may ask. The answer is simple. He wrote the book of 'Revelations'. He saw this vision right in front of him. That's also precisely the reason why he holds a book wide open in his left hand. Yet another interesting point is that the words written in that book, when translated, means the 'Alpha and the Omega'. Hence, he's telling us that this 'Lamb' is the beginning and end of all existence. Are you blown away yet? I certainly am, just by writing this!

Of course, the Lord would never disregard His mother! She appeared too in this apparition as the 'Queen of Heaven'. I mean, have you seen that crown? It's awesome! Unlike her previous appearances, she has her arms raised up towards heaven and not clasped in prayer. This shows how she too gives honour to her Son and to the wonder of God.

Now, let's not forget St Joseph; he was some man, wasn't he? What a humble man! He stands alongside his wife, but he is bowing a little towards her and his foster Son. He's acknowledging the womb which held the Son of God and the Lamb upon the altar, the mystery of God.

I'm still not over the excitement from having visited this shrine and I don't think I ever will forget just how beautiful 'Knock' was. What can I say; Jesus is amazing! Our God is truly amazing! His mother and His beloved saints are the best examples we could ever ask for. Just imagine the extent of God's love for us! He wants us to experience His reality; otherwise He wouldn't keep giving His Church all these treasured apparitions. $\times \times \times$



Hearers and Doers

We all know the story of the two houses: one built on rock, and the other built on sand (Matthew 7:24-27). We also seem to know the obviousness of the parable - if we listen to the words of Jesus, but do nothing about them, we're like the house that is built on sand. As soon as troubles come along, our foundation will be washed away, because we are not founded on Jesus. But if we hear the teachings of Christ and do them, we will be like the wise man who built his house on the rock, and no matter what troubles come our way, we will always stand strong. We all know this. We always think of the guy who built his house on sand as pretty stupid. I mean, if you had the choice of building a house on either rock or sand, what would you pick?

The Truth

In Luke's Gospel we read, 'When the river burst, immediately it (the house) fell'. This is what most of us do in our day-to-day lives. Instead of building our house on rock, we

build on sand. Why? Because we think we can stop the troubles, and worries, and problems in our lives by our own strength. The man builds on sand, not because he's stupid, but because he thinks he can stop the river. It works at first, but then there is a flood and his whole idea, purpose, strength, comes crashing down. We must build on Christ alone, putting all our focus on Jesus. As St James says in Chapter 1:23-25, if we are hearers of the word and not doers, we are like those who look at themselves in a mirror and going away, immediately forget what they were like. But if we become doers who act, we will be building our house on the rock. By our own merit we are not able

66

If you had the choice of building a house on either rock or sand, what would you pick?

99

to do anything, but through faith we can do all things.

Shield of Faith

In the letter to the Ephesians, Paul describes to us the whole armour of God. One of the things he mentions is the shield of faith 'with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one' (Ephesians 6:16). In battle, a soldier can try to use his sword to fight the enemies surrounding him, but he can do nothing against the little fiery arrows coming overhead. He would suffer severe burns. In the same way, if we try to fight the spiritual battle with no faith in Jesus, but rather in our own clumsy defences we will surely be defeated. Even the smallest arrow would injure us. That is why it is so important to raise our shields in defence, against the attacks of the devil! When we have a strong defence, not even the biggest attack can stand against us. When we have strong faith in Jesus, we begin to love Him with the most ardent love a creature could give the Creator.



"I do not believe in holiness without prayer, even though that prayer need not be lengthy or involve intense emotions."

Pope Francis



Compiled by Smitha George

GLOBAL CATHOLIC NEWS

MIRACULOUS CURE CONFIRMED AT KNOCK SHRINE

Ireland: The Catholic Church in Ireland has confirmed that a woman who was seriously ill with multiple sclerosis



experienced a complete healing of all her symptoms at Knock shrine in September 1989. The healing defied all medical explanation. The cure of Marion Carroll is the first officially recognized healing associated with Ireland's National Marian shrine since an apparition witnessed by 15 people there in August 1879.

POPE ANNOUNCES EXTRAORDINARY MISSIONARY MONTH

Vatican: During the Angelus Prayer on World Mission Sunday, October 22, 2017, Pope Francis publicly



announced to the whole Church his intention to designate an Extraordinary Missionary Month for October 2019 to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Pope Benedict XV's Apostolic Letter Maximum Illud. The theme for the Extraordinary Missionary Month is: "Baptized and sent: The Church of Christ on mission in the world". "Celebrating this month will help us first to rediscover the missionary dimension of our faith in Jesus Christ, a faith graciously bestowed on us in baptism. Our filial relationship with God is not something simply private, but always in relation to the Church," he said in his message.

POPE CELEBRATES MADAGASCAR'S 'LIVING SAINT'

Madagascar: Pope Francis on his visit to Madagascar celebrated a former student of his who is now called Madagascar's "living saint" for having changed the lives



of thousands of poor people. Pope Francis taught Father Pedro Opeka theology in 1968 while the Pope was completing his own studies for the priesthood. Over the last 30 years, an organization founded by Opeka has built homes for 25,000 people, 100 schools, six clinics and two football stadiums across the island nation. Opeka has also been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize.

'SECRET PREACHER' OF DACHAU CONCENTRATION CAMP BEATIFIED



Germany: Blessed Fr Richard Henkes, the German Pallottine priest who secretly preached in Dachau concentration camp was beatified on September 14. Blessed Henkes, spoke out against the Nazi

ideology and condemned the regime's crimes against human dignity. He was arrested by the Gestapo and imprisoned in the Dachau concentration camp, where he lived in the priests' barracks, did compulsory labour, and secretly studied Czech. He eventually became infected with typhus and died within a week, on February 22, 1945.

STUDENTS MIX FAITH AND ACTIVISM AT CLIMATE CHANGE RALLY

America: A few hundred Catholic school students from the Archdiocese of Washington took their cue, literally, from Pope Francis when they joined thousands of mostly young people at the climate



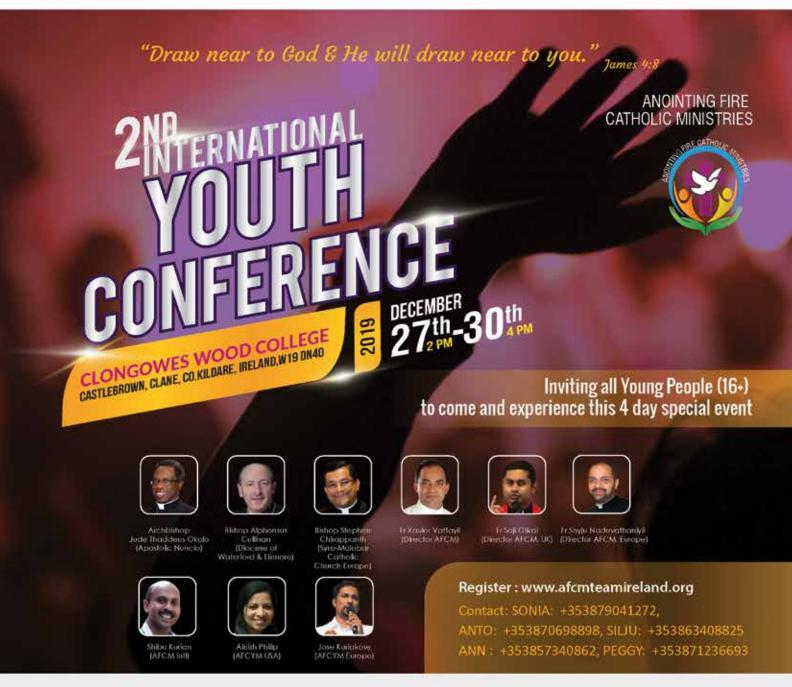
change march in Washington in September behind the banner with his words: "Hear both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor." The march, like dozens more that occurred around the country and the world on September 20th took place three days before world leaders planned to gather at the United Nations for a climate summit.

Kingdom Revelator USA P.O Box 22 TECHNY, IL 60082-0022 www.kingdomrevelatorusa.org



CATHOLIC MAGAZINE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

PUBLISHED BY: SEHION MINISTRIES UK



Disclaimer: Kingdom Revelator Magazine seeks to uphold the teachings and traditions of the Catholic Church and considers its sources reliable. Where possible the published data is verified, but its accuracy cannot be guaranteed. We have encouraged young people to submit articles and so the views of the writers may not necessarily reflect the views of the Editorial Board. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form without prior written permission from the Editor. Kingdom Revelator has been produced by Sehion Ministries, a Catholic Charity registered in England. Registered Charity Number 1153546.