

KINGDOM REVELATOR

|||| CATHOLIC MAGAZINE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE ■ ISSUE 80

SEARCHING GOD
IN THE MIDST OF

SUFFERINGS

I AM THE LORD WHO

HEALS YOU

MAKE
YOUR **LIFE**
A TESTIMONY TO
HOLINESS

BEARING WITNESS





Mother Mary,
Pray for our Readers

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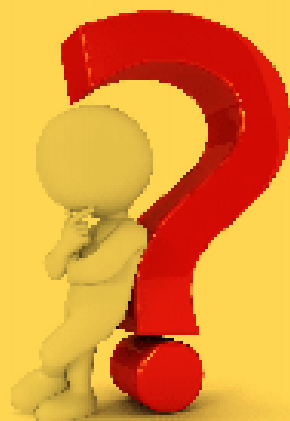
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What does it mean to say that Jesus Christ is at the same time true God and true man?



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77- In Jesus, God really became one of us and thus our brother; nevertheless, he did not cease to be God at the same time and thus our Lord. The Council of Chalcedon in the year 451 taught that the divinity and the humanity in the one person Jesus Christ are united together “without division or confusion”. [CCC 464-467, 469]

The Church grappled for a long time with the problem of how to express the relation between the divinity and humanity in Jesus Christ. Divinity and humanity are not in competition with each other, which would make Jesus only partially God and only partially man. Nor is it true that the divine and human in Jesus are confused. God took on a human body in Jesus; this was no mere appearance (Docetism), but he really became man. Nor are there two different persons in Christ, one human and one divine (Nestorianism). Nor is it true, finally, that in Jesus Christ the human nature was completely absorbed into the divine nature (Monophysitism). Contrary to all these heresies, the Church has adhered to the belief that Jesus Christ is at the same time true God and true man in one Person. The famous formula, “without division or confusion” (Council of Chalcedon) does not attempt to explain something that is too sublime for human understanding, but rather draws the boundaries, so to speak, of the faith. It indicates the “line” along which the mystery of the person of Jesus Christ can be investigated.

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Editorial

Those relationships to which we devote much time and effort flourish and blossom. So, if we really want our relationship with God to grow, then we need to spend quality time with the Lord. Without spending time in prayer and having a one-to-one time with God, it will be difficult to grow into a deeper relationship with our maker. No matter what our achievements are in this world, if we fail to grow as a child of God, our lives will be like a house built on sand. It is meaningless to wish for a long life, and then to give so little care to living it well.

Every day after the Holy Mass, Pope John Paul II prayed for Cuba, which was a communist country. In 1998, when the Pope visited Cuba, President Fidel Castro came along with his two sisters, knelt down before him and asked for his blessings. Castro was someone who wouldn't bend the knee to any super-power or political leader, but he bowed before the holiness of this pope. On the passing of Pope John Paul, Castro commented that it felt like his best friend had passed away. If we are witnessing any changes in Cuba today, it is due to the prayers of this Holy Father. He believed in the power of intercessory prayer, so he made sure to spend time in prayer.

After feasting from the heavenly banquet in every Holy Mass, we have a chance to become more Christlike. It's worth pondering how many of us try to be another Christ in our daily life.

MAKE YOUR **LIFE** A TESTIMONY TO **HOLINESS**



Ainish Philip, AFCM International Youth Coordinator from USA, shares the extraordinary life of AFCM Youth Minister, the late Joel Jijo.

As I write this, my heart and mind vividly recalls the moment I received a phone call that shook me to the core: one of our best co-workers from the USA ministry had gone missing in the waters. This disturbing news so touched the hearts of many AFCM members across the world that they were drawn to come together and pray. God answered their prayers when

the rescue team retrieved his body after four days. Joel Jijo had died a heroic death after rescuing one of his friends who was drowning. I asked the Lord why this had to happen to such a holy young man who only lived 22 years on this earth. The Lord replied to me through Psalm 116:15, "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His faithful ones."

Two weeks before he went to be with the Lord, Joel attended a retreat where he shared with me how he wanted to evangelize more and bring many more youth to Christ. Truly he passed on from this world to the other, saving not only his friend's physical body but also his soul.

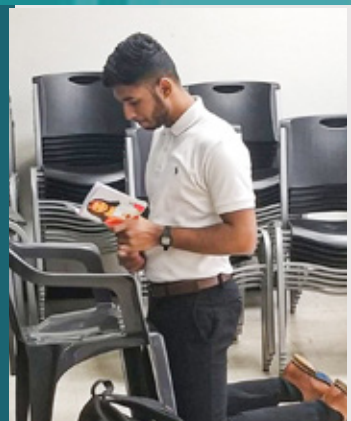
I remember the day a young Joel, who was only 16 years old at the time, expressed an interest to join Anointing Fire Catholic Youth Ministry. I saw this very humble yet child-like desire in him to serve Jesus. From the beginning of Joel's ministry, it was evident that he was filled with a love and passion for Jesus. He had a remarkable interest in reading and memorizing Bible verses and delving deeper into the Scriptures. When he began working in the youth ministry, I noticed that he possessed a spiritual maturity far beyond his years. I felt as though I was ministering with an adult due to the importance he gave for prayer and God's Kingdom. In fact, his deep spirituality challenged my spirituality as his spiritual mother. He had a deep desire for evangelization which stemmed from a burden for souls. He travelled to many states within the US and to other countries to preach the Gospel of Christ. During retreats, Joel would approach many youth who struggled with their faith and would bring them back to Christ through his powerful preaching and prayers.

In fact, he was always ready to preach the Gospel. This readiness came from an everyday reading of Scripture, Catechism of the Catholic Church, St Faustina's Diary, The Imitation of Christ, and

other spiritual literature. The three main topics that he would preach about were the love of the Father, Repentance, and Holiness. The power of his preaching ministry came from his constant dependence on the Holy Spirit, participation in daily Holy Mass and weekly confessions. He would also pray for many hours in front of the Blessed Sacrament. In fact, his parish priest mentioned that his confessions were full of repentance and preparation. He was determined that there should not even be a speck of sin in him. He used simple methods of evangelization, like wearing a crucifix around his neck all the time. He would always have the Bible and a Rosary in his hand. I still remember him kneeling down in front of me asking for a spiritual blessing, and this was his norm in front of all priests and spiritual elders. He would constantly look for spiritual growth and was always open to receiving spiritual corrections. Many times, during retreats, Joel paid attention to simple roles like taking out the trash, cleaning the floors, and making tea for everyone. I never saw him waste his time. He was physically and spiritually active, always running and eager to make the most of his time. His deep humility brought about a spirit of obedience and faithfulness even to the smallest of things like praying the team prayer on his knees while no one was watching. One great quality he possessed was to never speak negatively of people. He was never jealous of anyone, rather he uplifted the spirits of everyone around him.

Although he was in college and maintained a full-time job, he

never used that as an excuse to compromise his spiritual life. He was always ready, even in his busiest days, to serve Jesus with a smile. Even during times of Covid, he was always present at Zoom retreats, coordinating everything and willing to do the maximum for the Lord. God blessed him with an extraordinary grace to balance his family, parish, school, work and ministry life.



Joel was just an ordinary young man with an extraordinary goal set towards sainthood.

Joel trusted in the plan of God wholeheartedly. His favorite Bible verse was Jeremiah 29:11, "For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope." This reminds me of an incident in 2017 when Hurricane Harvey hit Houston and Joel's house was flooded. Instead of despairing, he encouraged his family members to trust in the plan of God, while he helped to rebuild the house from scratch.

Continued on page 18



I AM THE LORD WHO HEALS YOU



Jennifer Joseph, from Bengaluru, India, shares how God intervened in her father's life and worked a miracle.

It is the Lord's nature to heal. Jesus showed us the heart of God, that He is a healing Lord, and He heals us in His mercy. "He sent out his word and healed them and delivered them from destruction" (Psalm 107:20).

God heals in different ways:

► By natural means — you get a cut and it just heals itself.

► By medical means — you go to the doctor or take some medicine.

► By prayer — when there's nothing else but prayer.

But let us understand this clearly, it is God who does the healing. I have tasted His unconditional love in every step of my life. My parents were married in 1986. They were blessed with two children, my brother and myself. My father slipped slowly into alcoholism and was a chronic alcoholic by the time he retired in 2015. Over the years our family has been through thick and thin, but it

became tough for us to cope with our dad's alcoholism. After his retirement, things went from bad to worse for our family because my father refused to stay away from alcohol, which in turn led to various health complications. He also stayed away from prayer and the Word of God. My mother was emotionally traumatized, but she always faced every challenge with utmost patience and courage in the Lord. The unrest at home continued for some time. Suddenly our world came crashing down when my father was admitted to the hospital in October 2020, following four

seizure attacks that resulted in him having a stroke.

He was on the ventilator for 12 days. There was absolutely no hope. Either it would result in paralysis or death. The doctors urged us to give them permission to do a tracheostomy, which may result in the loss of the voice, but it was our last hope to save his life. The doctors were skeptical, as his lungs were infected with pneumonia, his liver was fully damaged due to alcoholism and smoking, and he had multiple infections in the brain. But all through this horrific journey, we knew God has His ways of answering our prayers. God clearly promised me, "He will call out to me and I will answer him I will be with him and honor him, with long life will I satisfy him and show him my salvation" (Psalms 91:15-16).

"Heal me,
O Lord, and
I shall be
healed; save
me, and
I shall be
saved; for
you are my
praise."

(Jeremiah 17:14)

On the 12th day, to our amazement and by God's grace he was able to speak when he was taken off

the ventilator. He continued to make immense progress and had a miraculous recovery over the next 21 days. During those 21 days, my mother, my brother and I were in the hospital, which at that time had a large number of Covid patients, many of whom were in ICU along with my father. Our God, however, was our consolation throughout and brought us back home, keeping us always in the shadow of His wings.

Today, my father has made a full recovery and is no longer an alcoholic. He is a loving dad, a caring husband, and a much-loved grandfather. He is healthy, walking and talking, only because Jesus loves him. We have witnessed this with our own eyes. All glory and praise to God our Father who preserves our lives!! Amen!



PLACES FROM THE BIBLE

By Stacey Illikal from USA

MOUNT CARMEL

Mount Carmel is a mountain located in north-western Israel. The name Carmel comes from the Hebrew word Kerem, which means "vineyard or garden", which reflects the beauty of the mountain even in ancient times. The mountain begins on the Mediterranean coast in the northwest part of

Israel at the south shore of the Bay of Acre. At its highest point, Mount Carmel reaches over 1,700 feet above sea level.

Mount Carmel is a holy mountain which the Egyptians of the 16th century BC considered as a high place and a center for idol worship. An outstanding incident

related to Mount Carmel is in 1 Kings chapter 18, where it read about Elijah's triumph over the priests of Baal. After the prophets of Baal had failed, all the people of the mountain began to worship the Lord. "When all the people saw it, they fell on their faces and said, "The Lord indeed is God; the Lord indeed is God"" (1 Kings 18:39). Elijah built an altar in the name of the Lord, and God accepted his offerings by sending down fire.

The Carmelites, who are a Roman Catholic monastic order, built their monastery near the traditional site of Elijah's miracle, which was rebuilt in 1828. Nowadays, there are many wooden parts and parks on the mountain, including the Carmel Nature Reserve.



BLOOD OF JESUS



Sebastian Sales, from Manchester, UK, reflects on the devotion to the Precious Blood of Jesus in the Catholic Church.



The month of July is dedicated to the Blood of Christ in the Catholic Church. The feast of the Precious Blood of our Lord was instituted in 1849 by Pope Pius IX. Jesus said in John 6:54-56, "Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day; for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them." Through the worthy reception of the Body and Blood of Christ, an exchange is happening - Jesus takes my sins and its wages, which is death, and I receive eternal life. The Body and Blood of Christ cannot be separated.

Justified by His Grace

As we know from the Old Testament, life is in the blood, which means we cannot do a sacrifice of life without shedding blood. Romans 3:24-25 tells us, "they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward

as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith." Ephesians 1:7 says, "In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace."

St John Chrysostom, one of the early Church Fathers, says, "This blood, when worthily received, drives away demons and puts them at a distance from us, and even summons to us angels and the Lord of angels. This blood, poured out in abundance, has washed the whole world clean. This is the price of the world; by it, Christ purchased the Church."

"O blood and water that gushed forth from the heart of Jesus as a fount of mercy for us, I trust in you."

Diary of St Faustina -187



Reconciled to Himself

Jesus sanctifies all things through Him because all things are created through Him, with Him and in Him. "and through Him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross" (Colossians 1:20). Our inner consciousness may be impure due to the sinfulness of our own philosophies or ideology, but the blood of Christ washes and heals our inner consciousness, as we read in Hebrews 9:14, "how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to worship the living God!" The same we can see in 1 Peter 1:18-19, "You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish."

The Blood of Jesus gives us the courage to work for Him as attested in Hebrews 10:19, "Therefore, my friends, since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus." Jesus Christ heals and delivers us by the merits of His Precious Blood which He shed for us on the Cross.

Redeemed

St Mary Magdalen de Pazzi, the Carmelite saint, when in a rapture, saw 'every time a human being offers up the Blood by which he was redeemed, he offers a gift of infinite worth, which can be equaled by no other.' Inspired by her vision, St Mary Magdalen de Pazzi offered the Precious Blood fifty times for the souls of the living and the dead, and then God rewarded her with visions of the multitudes of souls that had been saved from perdition or delivered from Purgatory.

The Church Fathers promoted the devotion to the Blood of Christ which heals us physically, spiritually, mentally and as a whole. We receive protection from the evil one through the precious blood of Christ. Jesus loved us and freed us from our sins by His blood so that we may be made worthy of serving Him. It was poured out for our salvation and brought the grace of conversion to the whole world.

Spiritual Exercise

During the rest of this month, please repeat this short mental prayer all time while you go about doing your work - Lord Jesus Christ wash me with Your Precious Blood and fill me with Your Holy Spirit. 🙏🙏🙏

**"Precious Blood, Ocean of Divine Mercy:
Flow upon us!
Precious Blood, most pure Offering:
Procure us every Grace!
Precious Blood, the hope and refuge of
sinners:
Atone for us!
Precious Blood, the delight of holy souls:
Draw us! Amen."**

St Catherine of Siena

BEARING WITNESS



Seena Jijimon, from Wolverhampton, UK, ponders over how an ordinary man became an extraordinary man through the power of the Holy Spirit.

After Pentecost, we read in Acts 4:33, "With great power the Apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all." This grace was imparted to all the early Christians by the Apostles. We see an example of this in Stephen, one of the seven Deacons, who received the anointing of the Holy Spirit from the Apostles.

Acts 6:5 tells us that Stephen was already a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit. The anointing received from the laying of hands of the Apostles made him even more extraordinary. The Bible goes on to say that he was "full of grace and power, did great wonders and signs among the people." (Acts 6:8)

The Spirit of the Lord Rested on Him

When the people of the synagogue argued with Stephen, they could not withstand the wisdom and the spirit with which he spoke. Isaiah 11:2 says, "The Spirit of the Lord shall rest

on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord." Thus, the Spirit of the Lord rested upon Stephen. Wisdom and knowledge, the key attributes of the Holy Spirit, manifested in this ordinary man to make him extraordinary.

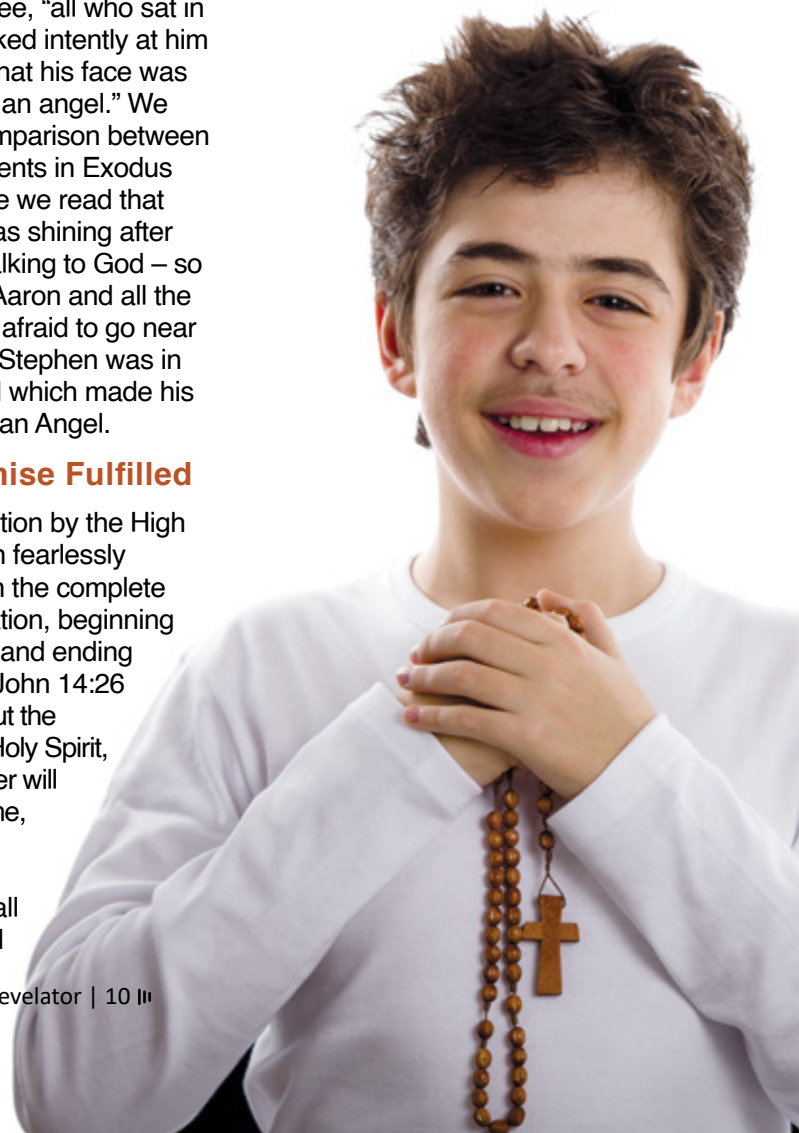
At the Council

When he was seized and brought before the council, they charged him with blasphemy. In Acts 6:15 we see, "all who sat in the council looked intently at him and they saw that his face was like the face of an angel." We can draw a comparison between this and the events in Exodus 34:29-30 where we read that Moses' face was shining after he had been talking to God – so much so, that Aaron and all the Israelites were afraid to go near him. Likewise, Stephen was in union with God which made his face shine like an Angel.

God's Promise Fulfilled

Upon interrogation by the High Priest, Stephen fearlessly responded with the complete history of salvation, beginning with Abraham, and ending with Jesus. In John 14:26 Jesus says, "But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said

to you." In Matthew 10:19-20 Jesus says, "When they hand you over, do not worry about how you are to speak or what you are to say; for what you are to say will be given to you at that time; for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you." We see these two promises being fulfilled in Stephen. He pointed out the arrogance and the hypocrisy of the Jewish leaders. He said that they are uncircumcised in their hearts



and ears and always opposing the Holy Spirit. He told them that their ancestors prosecuted the Prophets and now they had betrayed and murdered the promised Savior.

When they heard this, they became angry and ground their teeth. Stephen, filled with the Holy Spirit, saw a vision of Heaven and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. He witnessed the eternal glory that he was going to enter. When they stoned him, he was overwhelmed by the love of God with which he was able to forgive and pray for his enemies, just as Jesus did. Stephen surrendered his soul into the hands of the Lord saying, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit" (Acts 7:59).

“
**When they hand
 you over, do not
 worry about how
 you are to speak
 or what you are
 to say, for what
 you are to say
 will be given to
 you at that time
 for it is not you
 who speak, but
 the Spirit of your
 Father speaking
 through you.**
 ”

(Matthew 10:19-20)

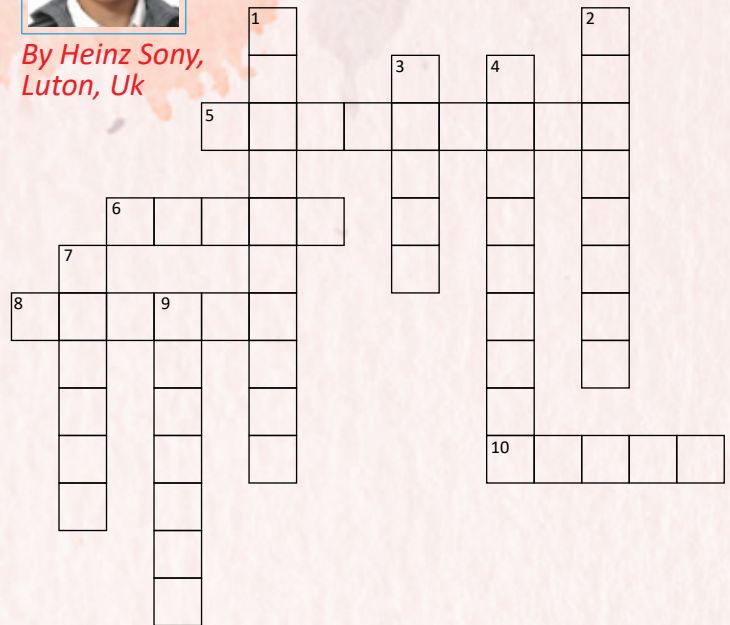
Martyrdom: The Great witness

Thus, the Spirit of God allowed Stephen to bear witness to the belief that Jesus suffered, died, and rose again for our salvation. "These are the ones who have survived the great period of trial, they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb" (Revelation 7:14).

CROSS WORD



By Heinz Sony,
Luton, Uk



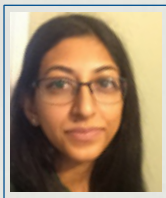
Across

5. Mother of John the Baptist.
6. Mary stayed with Elizabeth for ____ months.
8. What relation was Mary to Elizabeth?
10. John the Baptist ate locusts and ____.

Down

1. John lived in the ____.
2. How did John the Baptist die?
3. Which animal's skin did John wear?
4. John's father's name.
7. John baptised in river ____.
9. What was John 'not worthy to untie'?

A Season For Everything



*By Riya Peruvellil,
a Psychology
student from
Birmingham, UK.*

My dearest Child,


Do not delay when you are hurt, do not delay, but pray to me and I will heal you. I will bind up your broken heart. I will stitch all those broken pieces together. I will heal your inner wounds with my precious blood.

I will refine you like silver. I will purify you like gold. Like an ice sculpture, like a Potter with his clay, I will chisel away your sharpness. I will remove your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. I will make everything new. The old has gone, and the new has come. A newness... a freshness inside your spirit. I will prune you and remove every branch that bears no fruit. I am the true vine. I am who I am.

You feel as though no one understands you. You feel abandoned and alone. I leave the ninety-nine for one lost sheep. I will fight for you; all you have to do is be still.

I have a season and timing for everything. Trust in me. Trust in my timing. I know the desires of your heart. I may not always give you what you want, but I will always give you what you need. Be patient, my child. Good things are worth waiting for...however long it takes.

I will not expose my plans until its time. I work in mysterious ways. I am a God of surprises. I will work my wonders when you least expect it. Then you will look up



and whisper... "That was you God."
Loyalty...Trust...Faith.

Hold onto me. Even when you don't feel my presence, even when you feel like I'm not listening. Little do you know. I'm working behind the scenes. I'm working at the roots. I'm working on some things you can't see right now. For all things happen for the good.

A mustard seed is the smallest of all seeds, but when it sprouts and grows it becomes one of the biggest trees. You're only seeing your current situation, but I have your life mapped out for you – I have a bird's eye view. This pain is just temporary. I have to crush you before I can build you. I need to know how faithful you are to me. I will bless you in abundance. I may take something away from you, but I do all things for a reason, for a greater purpose. You may think you have lost, but you have grown in so many other ways, and in so many different aspects.

I work all things for your good. Turn your prayer requests into praise reports, praise even before you receive, because I know how everything will end. With me you can do all things, because I will strengthen you. Even when you feel weak, I will put a power inside of you, a spirit inside of you that no one can defeat. A light, a fire, a zeal that cannot be put out no matter how hard the enemy tries.

With me, you are a fighter...a conqueror. With me, you will be victorious. Do not worry about anything, instead pray about everything, and you will see

miracles when you call out to me. Whatever you ask for in prayer in my name, it will be given to you. I may not give you something, but that is because I'm either protecting you or I have something bigger and greater plan for your life. Mind-blowing plans! Place everything in my hands and eventually, you will see my hands in everything.

Instead of constantly asking to be blessed, be the blessing! Smile. Live each day like it's your last day on earth. As long as you are still breathing you have a purpose on this earth. Make each and every moment count. If you were coming to me today, would you come into my kingdom? The only hood you want to receive is Sainthood. Remember that!

To everything, there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: A time to be born, a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted. A time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up. A time to get, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away. A time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak. A time to love, and a time to hate, a time of war, and a time of peace. Trust in my timing. I will not fail you or forsake you.

Love you once again,

The King of Kings, The Lord of Lords

Your Heavenly Father xx

THE MAN FROM THE BALCONY



*Sr Aurora Braganza,
Mission Sisters of Ajmer,
India, shares how a
dream helped her to
choose her vocation.*

I had a dream prior to my year ten in which I saw Jesus passing in front of my house. I was a bit confused, so I told my grandma who told me not to tell anyone, warning me that if I did, I would not see Jesus again in my dream. So I did not tell anyone, not even to my parents. After a few days, I saw Jesus again in the same costume, in white and red clothes sitting on my neighbor's balcony and literally calling me. I was excited. After finishing High school, I was planning to continue my studies. In fact, a proposal had come for me, but I was not interested. I studied at St Anne's Convent School, but somehow, I was not keen to join St Anne's congregation as they were engaged in education.

My Parents were very sociable, helping many people in our village, especially the poor of other faiths, and they were very self-sacrificing. They lived a very simple life. I happened to attend one vocation camp in old Goa. Around 15 Sisters from different congregation spoke of their way of life. Sr Marian, belonging to the Mission Sisters of Ajmer, spoke on the life of the Mission Sisters. What touched me was the missionary work of our founder, Henry Fortunatus Coumont. Sr Marian told how the congregation caters to the poor, needy, helpless people and how we ought to continue this mission, which is the mission of Jesus.

I was overwhelmed. I met Sr Marian after the camp and expressed my desire to join them. Sr Marian visited my house. My mother refused to





send me, and my father was working on the ship. In those days there were no mobile phones, and I could not contact him on the ship. My elder brother John supported me and encouraged me, albeit with a heavy heart because my family had another plan for me. I began to ponder on the dream I had and began to feel very happy within me.

“
**I became His
feet, His hands
and His voice
for the least
and forgotten
of the society.**

”

I had many friends, but this handsome Jesus attracted me like no other. Finally, I joined the Mission Sisters of Ajmer. I tried to live every moment in union with Jesus throughout my five years of formation. In moments of pain and loneliness, I clung to Jesus alone and decided to follow Him closely in His mission by becoming His feet, His hands

and His voice for the least and forgotten of society. My authorities fully supported and encouraged me in my venture into this missionary work. Today I find a lot of fulfilment in continuing the mission of Jesus, and I do it with love and dedication.

I see in the poor - my own family. I am engaged in Prison Ministry. My Congregation encouraged me to study Law. These studies helped me to work more effectively for the upliftment of the poor by giving them my free service in the Labor and Family courts. I also take up cases of human right violations, as well as help the villagers in remote areas to get the government schemes. Besides all these, I do counselling in Mother Theresa's Home for the differently abled and for women prisoners. May Jesus whom I serve, touch the hearts of many young people to follow Him closely in His mission.

It's been 30 years since I joined this mission and I can say that I'm never tired because I draw all my energy from Jesus through my personal prayers and meditations. It is my lifeline and through this daily encounter with Jesus, I am energized with a lot of innovation to do every day something new for the poorest of the poor.



MEET THE POPE

SECOND POPE POPE LINUS



By Henoch Sony,
Luton, UK

EARLY LIFE

Pope Linus, one of the earliest Popes of the Catholic Church, was born in Volterra, Tuscany in Western Italy to parents Herculanius and Claudia. He travelled with Paul to Rome and was with him till he passed away. Some claim that he was converted to Christianity after listening to the speech of Saint Peter.

PAPACY

Linus' term of office, according to the papal list that follow St Irenaeus, lasted for twelve years. Jerome dates Linus' reign from 67 - 78 A.D. Early church records claim that Peter and Paul picked Linus as the next leader, thus becoming the second Pope and the successor of St Peter. Some records indicate that he served during the time of Emperor Nero and was in Rome when Nero set fire to the city.



CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE CHURCH

The Liber Pontificalis relates that Linus issued a decree in conformity with the ordinance of St Peter that women should have their heads covered in church. Paul's First Epistle to the Corinthians (11:5) may be the actual source of this rule. Liber Pontificalis also reports that Linus himself ordained 15 Bishops and 18 priests. One manuscript claims that it was Linus who first ordained the celebration of the Mass to commemorate the Lord's passion.

LEGACY

In Catholic tradition Linus is listed as an early saint but is not designated as a martyr. The feast of Saint Linus is celebrated on September 23rd, the date of his death as per the Liber Pontificalis. Some sources assert that Linus after his death was buried in the Vatican beside St Peter.

PRESENCE OF JESUS IN THE HOLY EUCHARIST



Joyal Joseph, a medical student from Bulgaria, reflects on the real presence of Jesus in the Holy Eucharist.

I remember the first time I was to receive Jesus in the sacrament of Holy Communion. After a long two-month period of preparatory classes about the Holy Eucharist, I can claim it was one of the best experiences in my life, a time when I had been the holiest and most innocent at a very young age. Perhaps you remember yours too!

Awaking from Slumber

Unfortunately, like so many others, as the years progressed, I became ignorant believing the sacrament to be just a routine church ritual and forgot the power of what the spiritual reality is.

A few years later I was at a retreat attending it without much interest. During the Holy Mass when the priest was praying over the bread and wine with his hands stretched over them, I saw what was like the outline of a man standing transposed over the priest blessing in the same way. You might say it was an illusion, but I know what I saw. I believe the man whom I saw was my Lord Jesus, and that experience aroused me up from the long slumber and the ignorance

I had about the presence of Jesus in Holy Mass.

During the Holy Mass when the priest was praying over the bread and wine with his hands stretched over them, I saw what was like the outline of a man standing transposed over the priest blessing in the same way.

Intimate Conversation

On the night Jesus was betrayed, Jesus took the bread, gave thanks and blessed it and gave it to His disciples saying, 'This is my body'. We know that Jesus' words are truth and life, they are eternal, transcending time and space. Whenever the priest blesses and repeats the Lord's words, it literally becomes His body and blood. Saint Faustina's diary recounts numerous times when Jesus intimately conversed with her, especially during the Holy Communion. Likewise, during communion, we have

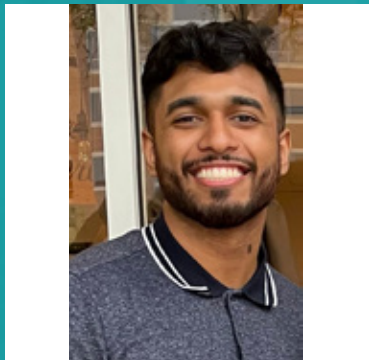
the same privilege of hearing the voice of Jesus. Communion is the moment to receive the Holy Spirit's inspirations and the supernatural peace of Jesus that surpasses all understanding.

Being Transformed

In the Bible in 2 Corinthians 3:18, it says, "And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit." Here the word of God says that when we behold the glory of God in the Holy Eucharist, we are transformed from one degree of glory to another. Another way to spend time with Jesus is visiting Him in the Blessed Sacrament in Adoration.

During the pandemic, when churches were closed people around the world had been watching live streams of Eucharistic Adoration. Some of my friends, during their study hours, had the live streaming of the Blessed Sacrament. What a privilege it is to have the abiding presence of Jesus with us always!

His personal life was strikingly notable. As a child, his parents ensured that he knew the importance of incorporating his faith into his daily life. In his mother's eulogy, she affirmed with confidence that to this day she is unable to find any fault in the way he lived his life and the choices he made. Oftentimes, his parents would converse with each other about how their child was so set apart. His parents shared how humble he was; never answering them back or questioned them, but rather submitting to deep obedience and love. Regardless of how independent he became; he would always ask permission from his parents before making any decisions.



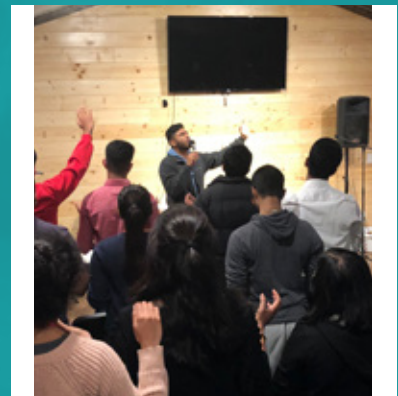
His mother recalls how he was like a friend to them, often hugging and kissing them and taking them out for long drives. He loved his parents so much that he chose a University that allowed him to stay at home. He would cook meals for them and take care of his little brothers. He would help them complete homework assignments and school projects. He would call

his grandparents back in India every single day no matter how busy he was. His mother also shared how he would never miss a personal prayer or family prayer. In fact, he seldom slept on his bed! He would sleep on the floor as an act of mortification for all the youth who are away from Christ.

Although he was in college and maintained a full-time job, he never used that as an excuse to compromise his spiritual life.

Joel was just an ordinary young man with an extraordinary goal set towards sainthood. After his last retreat at Nashville, Tennessee, he helped a group of friends to pursue Exodus 90, a spiritual program that involves resolutions like reading the Bible every day, receiving the Holy Eucharist as often as possible, reducing the use of social media, abstaining from alcohol, minimizing partying, taking cold showers, and helping others. On the day he went missing, these friends were with him. They had accepted a new way of living for Christ. On their journey that morning, Joel was talking to them about Heaven and Purgatory. Surely in the last moments, as he was rescuing his friend from

the water, Joel made his final journey to Heaven. He lived what he preached. As I write this, I can't help thinking what a powerful young missionary we lost here on earth, but my heart rejoices in that he is in Heaven doing much more than he could do for souls here on earth. All of us here at Anointing Fire ministry will surely miss him greatly, but what is the message that we want to take from his life? Jesus Christ is the Lord and Savior of our lives. To follow Him is worth giving up everything and the reward for all that we undertake here on earth is eternal life with Jesus. Let Joel's life and death remind us to run for Jesus and be found faithful, for His Kingdom. "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith" (2 Timothy 4:7).



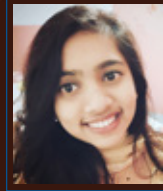
Let us pray that we too, catch the fire and receive the same grace that Joel Jijo had, to run after the heart of God and live a life centered on holiness. A great mission awaits our generation, will you respond? Be Holy! Be on Fire! ▲▲▲

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

Across : 5. Elizabeth 6. Three 8. Cousin 10. Honey

Down : 1. Wilderness 2. Beheaded 3. Camel 4. Zechariah 7. Jordan 9. Sandals

Do you love Mother Mary?



Jubia George, from Cardiff, Wales, dwells on the role of Mary's maternal love towards mankind.

Jesus gave us the most precious gift of His blessed Mother while He was upon the Cross. When Jesus saw His mother and the disciple there whom He loved, He said to His mother, "Woman behold your son." Then He said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into His home (John 19:26-27).

Let us ponder this for a moment. Just how amazing must Mary have been that Jesus gave her as a mother to all of us!

Before, by yourself, you couldn't. Now, you've turned to our Lady, and with her, how easy!

St Josemaria Escriva

When Jesus looked down from the cross, He saw John standing there. In John, Jesus saw an ache and a

helplessness in understanding God's will. Jesus knew that the only way to soothe this ache was a maternal love that is strong and faithful. Aren't we all like John? How many times do we feel helpless and struggle to understand God's plans? On that day, Jesus saw in John, the face of each one of us. Thus, Jesus gave us His mother to guide us in our spiritual journeys. Mary is full of grace. She is God's beloved. Jesus loved her dearly and she was the handmaid of the Lord. She knew the heart of Jesus. Mary knows what it is like to submit to God's will.

We need to turn to our mother. Let her guide us. Let Mary teach us how to love her Son since she knows the Heart of Jesus. She lived her life for Jesus. She was a courageous woman who stood by the Cross and went through all the agony that a mother could undergo. From Bethlehem to Calvary, she was a true companion to our Lord. Her apparitions around the world show us that her mission did not finish at the foot of the cross, but her

job continues today in a powerful way. I can assure you; our dear mother will never let us down. Trust in her care and she will guide you towards heaven.

We are all learning and growing. I am by no means perfect, but I hope that I can be a better daughter of God. Through Mary to Jesus. Are you ready to love God a bit more and let Christ turn your life around too?





SEARCHING GOD IN THE MIDST OF SUFFERINGS

*Dafni Beula, from
Tamil Nadu, India,
encourages the readers
to find meaning in their
adversities.*

We all have burdens in our lives and have endured suffering and pain. Some will suffer the pains till the end, while others will somehow get rid of their suffering at the very beginning. Now the question is - have you ever gone

through your pain till the end? Have you ever praised God even in the midst of all pains and suffering?

If you ever think that God is not working in your life, especially in your suffering, then this is for you. Today the Lord said to me, "I have need of your sufferings to rescue souls" (Diary of St Faustina 1612). The Bible tells us, "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me" (Mark 8:34). To be a follower of Christ,

we must go through sufferings and bear them patiently. The Catholic Church sees sufferings as an opportunity to follow the example of Christ and believe that it is a part of God's plan. When failures or trials befall, some deny God, and some say that God does not work in their lives. In such situations, here are the things we should remember:

Have Faith

We know that "For truly I tell you, if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say



to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you" (Matthew 17:20). If you have only a little faith, your sufferings, pains, and failures will be moved away from you. Do not fall into the temptation of denying God or losing your faith when sufferings still exist in your life. Be faithful in God that He is able to do great things.

Hold Onto His Promises

My Parish Priest once advised us, "We should be like a little

monkey that clings to its mother when it is faced with trouble." Just as a little monkey has faith in its mother, so should we hold onto God when troubles come. We need to hold on to His promises, which means, His words. We should get into the practice of reading God's Word daily. As a child, I used to see my grandmother always reading the Bible and would wonder if she ever got tired of reading it! However, now I wish to become like her and lead a faithful life. His word will always bring solutions to our problems and will guide us in the dark. We should not just read the Bible but meditate on it. It will work in our lives, give us strength, and work miracles. This will help us to get closer to God.

Trust in God

The last step is to trust in God that He is able to do great things. In order to trust God completely, we need faith. Trusting God is not about ignoring our feelings or ignoring reality. It does not mean pretending that everything is ok when it isn't. Trusting God means living a life of belief in and obedience to God even when it is difficult. So have faith and trust in God. This will help you to search for God in the midst of all pain. Never forget that He is the one who is holding you. "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness" (2Corinthians 12:9).

I also want you to know that through your sufferings, you will know the truth about everything. There might be

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SUFFER MUCH
FOR THE LOVE
OF MY SPOUSE."**

St Mary Magdalen de'Pazzi

people in your life who say, "I love you" or " I will share your pains," but when you go through hard times they vanish. In such times, God wants you to know how much He loves you. When there is no one else to look after you, He will be there to hold you and tell you that He will never leave you. There is no one else who could love you in this world, like Jesus.

Follow these steps in your life, then the victory will be yours with the love of the Lord. Always have this prayer in your heart, "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path". (Psalm 119:105)



ST ALOYSIUS GONZAGA

PATRON SAINT OF CATHOLIC YOUTH, TEENAGERS,
CHARITY WORKERS, AIDS CAREGIVERS AND AIDS PATIENTS.



By Shino Marin John
from Finland

Early Life

St Aloysius Gonzaga was born in 1568 to a powerful aristocratic Italian family. He was the oldest of seven children and grew up in a castle. His father, Ferdinand Gonzaga, the Marquis of Castiglione, was a compulsive gambler. His mother was quietly devout and pious, committing him to the Blessed Virgin during a difficult childbirth, and wanted him to be a priest.

As a son of a princely family, Aloysius grew up in royal courts and army camps. His father wanted him to be a military hero. At around age five he was sent to a military camp for training. He grew up amidst the violence and brutality of the Renaissance in Italy and witnessed the murder of two of his brothers.

Spiritual Experience

Aloysius experienced a profound spiritual quickening at the age of seven and realized that politics

and military exploits were not his calling. At the age of eight, he was sent to Florence, along with his younger brother Rodolfo, to serve at the court of the Grand Duke Francesco I de' Medici and to receive further education.

Here he began to suffer from a kidney disease and while resting, he read about the lives of saints. He also read other spiritual books and prayed. This created in him a desire to be a missionary and this desire began to grow and take root in his heart. He took a private vow of chastity at the age of nine. By the age of 11, he had begun teaching catechism to poor children, fasting three days a week, and practicing great austerity.

Religious Life

Aloysius encountered many saints in his lifetime. He received his first Communion from St Charles Borromeo and studied under St Robert Bellarmine. Much to the displeasure and anger of his father, Aloysius decided to become a Jesuit. His family wanted him to be a Diocesan priest, but he did not yield to

their wishes. At 18, he signed away his legal claim to his title and his family's lands to his brother and entered the Jesuit order.

Later Life and Death

Never in good health, he suffered from ailments like skin disease, chronic headaches, insomnia and kidney disease, yet Aloysius managed to successfully complete his studies. It is said that later that year, he had a vision in which the Archangel Gabriel told him that he would die within a year. In 1591, a plague broke out in Rome. Aloysius volunteered to work in the hospital opened by the Jesuits. Having devotedly cared for plague victims, he died shortly afterwards at the age of 23, with the name of Jesus on his lips. Not only did he bathe and care for the sick, but he did his best to tend to their spiritual needs as well.

“IT IS BETTER TO
BE A CHILD OF
GOD THAN KING
OF THE WHOLE
WORLD!”

ST ALOYSIUS GONZAGA

Sainthood

He was canonized on 31st December 1726 by Pope Benedict XIII. In 1729, Pope Benedict declared Aloysius to be the patron saint of young students. Numerous miracles have been reported through his intercession. St Aloysius' outstanding quality was his radiant purity. His feast day is celebrated on 21st June. ▲▲▲

POPE'S *Voice*

"Worshipping is stripping ourselves of our idols, even the most hidden ones, and choosing the Lord as the center, as the highway of our lives." Pope Francis



GLOBAL CATHOLIC NEWS

Compiled by Smitha George

ATTEMPT TO INTRODUCE ABORTION ON DEMAND UP TO BIRTH FAILS



England: An attempt to introduce abortion up to birth in England and Wales have failed. Pro-life group said that the failure of an attempt to introduce abortion on demand up to birth

in England and Wales marked "a major victory" for the unborn child. Many Health Professionals objected to this bill saying that they are responsible for the care of both women and their babies throughout pregnancy and childbirth so it would be very difficult for them to work in a health service where the lives of these babies could be ended for any reason up to birth.

'LOURDES NIGHTS' TO DRAW PILGRIMS TO FRENCH SHRINE



France: The Sanctuary of Our Lady of Lourdes has launched a series of events to draw pilgrims back to the shrine as pandemic restrictions ease. The event, called "Lourdes Nights," will be held at the shrine in

southwestern France throughout July and August. It will include a recital of songs from the hit musical "Bernadette de Lourdes" on Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays, as well as a daily torchlight procession and night Mass. Around 85% of pilgrimages were cancelled last year due to the pandemic.

CHURCH LEADERS WELCOMES CONFIRMATION OF PAPAL VISIT



Slovakia: Preparations are underway in Hungary for the International Eucharistic Congress, where Pope Francis is due to preside at the closing Mass in September. Hungarian Cardinal Péter Erdő spoke with the Vatican about the gathering, which

he views as a sign of hope for Hungary amid human misery. Pope Francis will be visiting the neighboring Central European countries in September too. Slovakia is a nation of 5.5 million people bordering Poland, Ukraine, Hungary, and Austria and an estimated 62% of the population is Catholic.

US OLYMPIAN TAKES HER CATHOLIC FAITH TO TOKYO GAMES



America: US Olympic gymnast Grace McCallum never travels without her rosary and a special cross from her grandmother. The McCallum family values the power of prayer and believes that prayer makes a significant difference in Grace's gymnastics. Her Mother Sandy said prayer is "one of those areas that we say, 'Keep her in focus, keep praying' because it really does make a difference."

Image Credit: www.google.com

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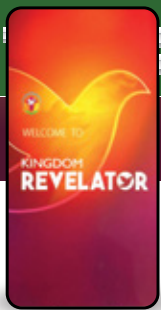


“Live by the Spirit, I say, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh.”

(Galatians 5:16)

“Occupy your minds with good thoughts, or the enemy will fill them with bad ones. Unoccupied, they cannot be.”

St Thomas Moore



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