

**KINGDOM**

# REVELATOR

|||| CATHOLIC MAGAZINE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE ■ ISSUE 90

**MY EXPERIENCE  
WITH GOD**

**THE PRISONER  
OF LOVE**

**MY VOCATION  
IS LOVE**

**VACATION  
WITH JESUS**



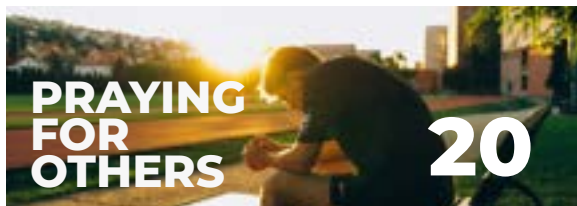
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Pray for our Readers

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# YOU CAT SPEAKS



## Why do the sacraments belong to the Church? Why cannot anyone use them however he wants?

**175: Sacraments are Christ's gift to his Church. It is her duty to administer them and to protect them from misuse. [CCC 1117-1119, 1131]**

Jesus entrusted His words and signs to specific men, namely, the apostles, who were to hand them on; He did not hand them over to an anonymous crowd. Today we would say: He did not post His inheritance on the Internet for free access but rather registered it under a domain name. Sacraments exist for the Church and through the Church. They are for her, because the Body of Christ, which is the Church, is established, nourished, and perfected through the sacraments. They exist through her, because the sacraments are the power.



## Editorial

Salvation is for all. When God banished Adam and Eve from paradise for their disobedience, He just didn't banish them from His sight; He first clothed them with garments of skin (Genesis 3:21), and promised them a savior (Genesis 3:15), thus portraying God's unfathomable love for mankind.

When Jesus came, people saw the true nature of God in Him; He was always forgiving, loving, compassionate and full of mercy, and in so being Jesus drew people to Himself without much effort. As the followers of Christ today, we are called to walk in His footsteps, bear witness to His teachings, and be Christlike. This is the call of a Christian. Are we bold enough to let our lives reflect St Paul's proclamation of faith where he says, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel; it is God's saving power for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek" (Romans 1:16).

No matter how big a sinner we are, be assured of God's forgiveness; He is the one who will rejoice over a repentant sinner and reward us with eternal life. God, who did not withhold His only Son from us, does not take joy in seeing us perish. He called us to be His children in faith. "But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children (Galatians 4:4-5).

Jesus showed us how to walk in complete obedience to His Father's will. God promised life everlasting in return for obedience. Are you willing to follow in obedience to the will of God, even if the path is rocky and there is endless suffering in your life? This is the challenge for the committed Christian.



MY VOCATION  
IS LOVE





*Jubia George, from Cardiff, UK, ponders on the teachings of St Therese of Lisieux.*

**A**nyone who knows me well knows just how much of an impact St Therese of Lisieux has had on my faith. She is my best friend. In fact, our friendship is very deep, and it is difficult for me to explain the closeness I feel towards her as my dearest friend and constant encouragement.

There is one thing that St Therese penned during the last months of her life here on earth, in what would later become her autobiography 'A story of a Soul', that has captured my heart a lot recently. St Therese said, "Jesus my love. At last, I have found my vocation. My vocation is love. In the heart of the Church, my mother, I will be love...". I cannot describe the emotions that I experience when I ponder these sweet words. My heart cries out with Therese here. Yes! Jesus my vocation is love! My vocation is to love you and the Church! My vocation is to be love in the Church! In my life, I am called to love because that is what you created my heart for!

### Supreme Call

This is a vocation open to all of us. It is a call given to every person here on earth but in a particular way to those who have the privilege of calling themselves sons and daughters of God. Let's ponder our calling to the vocation of love for a moment. God is love and from this love, which exists in the Holy Trinity, the entire universe was created. God loved us much that He chose to create us to experience the beauty of a little planet called 'Earth' in the universe. God loved us from all eternity, and even though we separated ourselves through sin, He sent His only Son to die on the

cross for us. God continues to love us so that we can continue to come to Him, despite our constant failings, because of the sacrificial love of Jesus. How magnanimous is this reality! How blessed are we! Don't you see, we should all be exclaiming with joy that our God is Love!

When we are loved by someone, what do we naturally do in return? We love! When we experience the touch of God's love, how can we not love Him in return? It is love that we are called to give in return. In my heart enveloped in God's love, I am compelled to exclaim that my vocation is Love!

As faithful Catholics, we are all eager to do many things in our churches. This is very true of me too, and it is a good thing. Of course, we should use our energies and gifts for the building up of God's kingdom, but ... first comes love! In everything that we do,

we should do it because we love God. Our priority is Jesus and our relationship with Him. In every moment of our lives, we must be loving Jesus. In our hearts, we must always examine whether we are loving Jesus enough! We must be able to say with a full heart, "Jesus I love you!"

### What Happens When You Are in

### Love?

Your mind is full of your beloved and you think about that person all the time. You speak about your beloved to everyone you meet. You take the initiative and make the effort to do things for your beloved. This is the 'vocation of love' that St Therese describes. It is the deep love of Christ that should be the center of our lives and it is through this love that we should become love to others and to the world. When we love Jesus, we cannot help but be love in the world.

So, let this be our constant prayer, "Jesus my love ... my vocation is love. In the heart of the Church, my mother, I will be love".

“  
**My beloved  
is mine  
and I am his.**  
Song of Solomon 2:16



# Vacation with Jesus



*Lydia Bosco, from USA, shares the profound presence and love of God she enjoyed during her recent vacation.*

Have you ever invited Jesus on a vacation with you?

**W**e go on holidays with our loved ones, right? How awesome it would be to have our beloved Jesus with us during our vacation! I invited Jesus with us during my recent trip to the beach and I'd like to share my encounter with the Lord through nature during that trip. I was aware of His presence all throughout the long journey and when we reached the beach, I felt the profound presence and love of my Father.

The ocean seemed to reflect God's great love for us, so wide, so deep, immeasurable, always alive and bubbling with joy. "That Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the holy ones what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be

filled with all the fullness of God” (Ephesians-3:17-19). The wind, the sky, the sun, the moon, the stars, the trees, flowers, birds ... oh how beautifully and with great thoughtfulness our Father created this house for us - His children. Through the song of birds, the whispering of the wind, and the drizzling of rain, God is saying to us, “My child, you are not alone. I am beside you.”

I hope I have at least a drop of God’s love in my heart! The gushing tides from this ocean of love are His embracing hands. Oh yes! His loving hands swirled around me and hugged me and wanted to draw me to the innermost depth. His breath of cool breeze surrounded the entire place. Yes, the breath of the Holy Spirit, kissed me through and through.

The sun seemed to me like the eyes of God. Who can escape from His sight? Scripture tells us, “No creature is concealed from him, but everything is naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must render an account” (Hebrews 4:13). So is the sunlight which peaks through everywhere. I wondered whether the clouds are angels guarding over us and floating on the blue sky, which is the mantle of Mother Mary, embedded with shining stars, wrapping around

us, protecting the entire world and always interceding for her children. “The heavens are telling the glory of God, and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.” (Psalm19:1)

Our God is present everywhere, His presence fills the world. Nature is filled with God’s life. Of course, the omnipotence of the creator cannot be compared with His creation, even though creation depicts its Creator. The plants and birds obey their Creator. He created the

“

**How beautifully and with great thoughtfulness our Father created this house for us - His children.**

”

plants, birds, animals, and humans. It is He who gave life to all. So, all are our brothers and sisters in Christ, and the presence of plants, birds and animals is wonderful and nourishing to us. Thirst for our Lord’s presence and He will shower rain from above. Let the rain from above wash away the pain in our lives. John 1:3 tells us that through Him all things were made.

God’s creation resembles Him in one way or other, and God provides for them. This realization made me wonder, do I resemble my Creator, who is my God? Am I aware of and believe in my Father’s providence? Genesis 1:27 says, “God created mankind in his image; in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.” We can resemble our God through the graces He provides us. Pope St John Paul II said, “The body is a sacrament. A sacrament is a visible sign in

which invisible graces flow.” By this, the great Pope meant that the body is a visible sign of the invisible mystery of God. Philippians 1:20 tells us, “It is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be put to shame in any way but that by my speaking with all boldness Christ will be exalted now as always in my body, whether by life or by death.” Like the

Apostle Paul, we too can reflect and exalt Christ in us with great hope. Invite Him everywhere you go; to work, shopping, a ride or a walk; allow Him to be your closest friend. Let Jesus come with you and you will be certain to have an encounter with Him. If you haven’t yet done so, invite Him and you will be able to experience His presence during those moments.

■ ■ ■



# THE PRISONER OF LOVE

*Rosemary Joy, from Birmingham, UK, shares her insight about the love of Christ we often fail to realise in our lives.*



**H**ave you ever loved someone who didn't love you back? If you have, you might understand the sentiments of Jesus better. Because Jesus, who has made Himself a prisoner of love in the Eucharist, often finds that people fail to see His great love and give nothing in





return. How many times have we received Jesus in the Eucharist and not even talked to Him? How many times have we been 'too busy' to visit Jesus in the tabernacle for even five minutes? He is waiting for us 24/7, hoping that we will visit. But most of the time, He is left disappointed.

## Seeking Company

Remember how during Jesus' agony in the garden, all He asked for from His disciples was to stay awake with Him, to keep Him company. I'm sure there have been times in our lives when all we've wished for is to have someone to sit with us in our pain. Likewise, all Jesus wants from us is for us to simply sit in His presence. His Heart is constantly being wounded by the sins that we and others commit. Our company consoles the wounded heart of Jesus. We don't need to worry about articulating long prayers. We don't need to worry about being distracted. Jesus understands our weak human nature. Just being there with Jesus in the Eucharist is enough. This will bring unimaginable joy to Jesus' Heart, because He longs for us so deeply. "My child give me your heart" (Proverbs 23:26). Isn't it amazing how the God who holds the whole universe in His hands wants to hold your heart in His hands?

## The Little Saint

Every time we receive Jesus in the Eucharist, we become one with Him. The blood of Jesus flows through our veins. There is nothing more intimate than this. But is our heart a welcoming place for Jesus to enter into? From the age of five, the young Saint Dominic Savio started

preparing his heart in anticipation of when he would receive Jesus for the first time in the Eucharist. Dominic would sit in the first pew at church and imagine that his heart was a room and wondered how to make it the best place for Jesus, his best friend, who would visit him on the day of his First Holy Communion. This little saint had the eyes of faith that allowed him to understand the truth that many intelligent people of the world fail to see - the truth that Jesus truly comes into our heart every time we receive Him in the Eucharist and that He longs to be welcomed with love.

## Jesus in the Eucharist

If we could hear Jesus in the Eucharist talking to us, I would imagine that He may say something along these lines:

"My dearest child, I love you. I long to be with you. It was for you that I left my throne in heaven and came down to earth.

It was for you that I was beaten, insulted, spat on and crucified. But

I wanted to do even more out of love for you. I wanted you never to be alone so I allowed myself to become a piece of bread so that I can dwell within you. Do you see my love? I know that you have so many things going on in your life, but I promise you that if you find time for me, everything else will fall into place, as it should. Participate in Holy Mass and when you receive me in the Eucharist, talk to me. Talk to me like you would to your best friend. Ask me to heal the wounded parts of your heart. And visit me in the tabernacle, even if five minutes is all you can spare. I'll always be waiting for you, as your prisoner of love."

**I wanted you never  
to be alone so I  
allowed myself to  
become a piece of  
bread so that I can  
dwell within you**

# HE KNOWS!



*Geenu Kunnengode, from Chicago, USA, dwells on the beauty of God's creation.*

Recently I happened to read a research paper on strokes. As I read through it, I was reminded of how complicated the workings of our internal organs are. Each organ, big or small has a very important role to play. It almost feels like there is a sophisticated factory inside each one of us that works 24/7 that enables us to thrive. Do I stop and think now and then, if the carotid arteries and the vertebral arteries that supply oxygen to the brain are still doing their job? Or do I periodically check to see if my heart is still beating? No. I get up every morning and go about my busy life. How often do I stop and thank God for His constant care in making sure every cell in my body is doing its job?

Psalms 139 is a beautiful testimony of our creation. King David through this Psalm reminds us how precious we are to our Daddy in Heaven. My Heavenly Father took so much care in creating me. He wrote great plans for my life. That plan might not be always rosy; as a loving Dad who cares for his children, He allows storms in my life to help me stay focused.

The other day after a thorough cleaning, I was emptying the vacuum

cleaner. I saw there was a bunch of hair stuck in the roller. I sat down on the floor and carefully started pulling those hairs out. It was an unpleasant task for sure! But I started wondering from whose head these hairs fell off. Kind of crazy, ha! It could be mine or any of my family members. How come I can't match the hair to the head? I cannot do a simple thing as identifying my own hair that fell off from my head. Then I started thinking of what Jesus said. "Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered" (Luke 12:7). This gave me a sudden burst of courage and confidence, knowing that my Heavenly Father is in control of my life.

Whatever our state of life is; smooth or stormy, bright or bleak, remember that nothing happens in our lives without God's knowledge!

You formed my inmost being;  
You knit me in my mother's womb.  
I praise you, because I am wonderfully made;  
wonderful are your works!  
My very self you know.  
My bones are not hidden from you,  
When I was being made in secret,  
fashioned in the depths of the earth.  
Your eyes saw me unformed;  
in your book all are written down;  
my days were shaped, before one  
came to be. (Psalms 139:13-16)



**MEET THE  
POPE**

# POPE ST SOTER

## TWELFTH POPE



*By Henoch Sony,  
Luton, UK*

### EARLY LIFE

Pope Soter was the 12<sup>th</sup> Pope of the Catholic Church. He was born in 119 AD in a small town Fondi, Lazio in Italy to Greek parents. The name Soter derived from the Greek word (soter) is means savior, or deliverer.

### PAPACY

Pope Soter succeeded Pope Anicetus. His Papacy lasted for about eight years from 167-174 AD, and was succeeded by Eleutherus his deacon. He performed a number of charitable deeds throughout his papacy. He spoke out against Christian persecution, particularly those that occurred in the Middle East. One of the letters Pope Soter wrote during his papacy remains because St Dionysus of Corinth kept a piece of it in another letter he wrote. The letter also described the Pope as a good and faithful man who cared deeply for his people.



### LATER YEARS AND CONTRIBUTION TO THE CHURCH

Pope Soter declared marriage as a valid sacrament only if it was blessed by a priest. This meant that the only binding marriages in Italy at the time were those who exchanged vows in front of a priest.

Pope Soter, like other popes of the time, was forced to oppose the Montanist movement. This movement began in Asia Minor, but by the early second century, it had spread to Rome. He is also known for formally inaugurating Easter as an annual festival in Rome.

He established an annual event for this commemoration and invited all Christians to participate. Soter believed that his decisions on marriage and Easter would directly challenge Montanist believers. The pope thought those men were misguided in their thinking and even wrote a book condemning the heretics.

### LEGACY

He died in Rome, Italy, about the year 174 AD. Despite being identified as a martyr, there is no historical evidence to support this. According to tradition, he was one of several early popes who were martyred for their Christian beliefs. According to a 1969 revision of the General Roman Calendar, there is no proof that he or Pope Caius were martyrs. Both are still considered saints and martyrs by the Church, with Soter being known as Pope Saint Soter. His feast day was traditionally marked on April 22nd, the same day as Pope Caius.

# MY EXPERIENCE WITH GOD



*Habel Sabu, from Brisbane, Australia, shares his testimony about attending the School of Evangelization retreat for Preteens.*


**T**he retreat had already begun when we arrived on campus that evening. I was filled with excitement and curiosity as we entered our first Mass. Thereafter, we moved on to the retreat's opening session. My friends and I walked up to the teenager's area, but we had to go to the preteens' since we did not belong there. "All our steps are ordered by the Lord; how then can we understand our own ways," says Proverbs 20:24. We located the preteens' session and made ourselves comfortable there. I learned of all the beautiful things the Lord was doing for His children. As the meeting progressed, several claimed to have felt Him touch them, while others said that the Lord gave them hugs. But as the session progressed, I could not help but feel that I had not

experienced the Lord.

However, we had a class dedicated to learning about the Lord the following day. There were few opportunities for us to praise and worship. We also had confessions during this time. Row after row, we entered the confessional (in this case the hall). Because it was our first confession, my friends and I were quite anxious. We proceeded to the priest's room in complete silence and made our confessions. I sat down once again and felt clean. A tremendous weight was lifted from me. In Psalms 32:5, it says, "Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide from my iniquity; I said, 'I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,' and you forgave the guilt of my sin."

I could feel the Lord relieving





me of the weight of my guilt. At that time, the minister asked every one of us whether we had any experiences. I expressed to them how I felt pure in my heart. "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God" (Matthew 5:8). I noticed that I was paying closer attention than usual to the sermons the rest of the day. I was focused. When the third day dawned, we were concentrating more on worship and praise. During the session, there was Holy Mass. Another session of praise and worship was conducted. However, I was still unable to feel or see God. Many individuals left after the third day to return home.

They were in my community for three days, so it hurt to

see them go. After that, we had dinner in the hall. The entire group from parents to preteens reunited for the first time in three days. I pleaded to God that night to at least allow me to see Him for a little period. I used the gift of tongues during the praise and worship time. I stopped speaking in tongues as soon as I realized, I was doing so. I was able to see the Lord at another point in the praise and worship. I also saw a strip of blue light from His heart

***"Then I  
acknowledged  
my sin to you,  
and I did not  
hide from my  
iniquity; I said, 'I  
will confess my  
transgressions to  
the Lord,' and  
you forgave the  
guilt of my sin."  
Psalms 32:5***

pointing in one direction. Another red strip was pointing in the other direction. He was approaching me; the water was rippling with each step He made. This made me think of the time in Matthew 14:25 when Jesus walked on water.

There was a lot of happiness at the end of the day. The priest asked the choir to begin an action song. The ministers joined in the actions as well. As the music kept changing, everyone eventually started to dance. From adults to young children, all were having an enjoyable time. Everyone had already entered the hall as Sunday morning drew near. The Priest led a prayer for us as it was the final day of the retreat. During the day we had more joyful times. There was much singing, dancing, and laughing. Throughout this time the Lord was with each family. The Lord shielded all of us during the retreat and ensured our safety. He kept us safe, and He touched many lives. As declared in Psalms, 3:3 "But you, O Lord, are a shield around me, my glory, and the one who lifts up my head."

A portrait of Blessed Alberto Marvelli, a young man with dark hair, wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and dark tie. The portrait is set against a dark, textured background that resembles a splash of paint. The name "BLESSED ALBERTO MARVELLI" is written in large, bold, brown letters across the bottom of the portrait.

# BLESSED ALBERTO MARVELLI

*Patron of road safety  
and construction activities*

*By Shino Merin*

## Early Life


Alberto Marvelli was born in Ferrara, Italy in 1918 as the second of six children to Luigi Marvelli, a bank employee and Maria Mayr, who was very active in catholic charity. Growing up, Alberto was especially influenced by his mother, who was the 'Good Samaritan' of the Marvelli family and always kept the house open for the poor.

In June 1930 the Marvelli family moved to Rimini and Alberto began to attend the Salesian Oratory and Catholic Action group in the parish, where his faith was nurtured and sustained, increasing his awareness of his call to holiness.

## His Later Life

As a teenager, Alberto observed a daily schedule of spiritual exercises, including half an hour of meditation, half an hour of spiritual reading, attendance at Mass, recitation of the rosary, and the recitation of the Angelus at noon. A frequent communicant, he went to confession weekly.





As a young person, Alberto was a keen athlete, and loved, sports, the outdoors and biking. At the age of 18, he was elected as the Italian Head of the association of Catholic Action at a time when Adolf Hitler ordered the assassination of its members in Germany in the early 1930s.

In June 1942, he graduated as a civil engineer from the University of Bologna and began working with Fiat in Turin. He did his military service in Trieste and succeeded in bringing many of his friends to Mass.

### Death

During the Second World War, he became an apostle among displaced persons and a real source of providence for the poor. His family was forced to move to Vergiano due to the devastating bombing raids. But he got on his bike and returned to Rimini to help the wounded, risking his own life in the process and he never ceased to serve the poor and wounded.

After the Nazi invasion of Italy, Marvelli learned of Jews and Italians being shipped off to concentration camps. He was able to release many of the people before the trains left and saved their lives. He is known to have given even his bicycle and the shoes off his feet to those most in need. He also gave out food to them as well as mattresses and blankets for their comfort.

After the war, Alberto was closely involved in the reconstruction of his hometown. He became a town councilor, opened and volunteered in a soup kitchen for the poor, and started a cooperative for construction workers. St John Paul II called him 'the engineer of charity'.

He was an electoral candidate for the Christian Democrats but was killed on the evening of 5<sup>th</sup> October 1946 when a van belonging to the armed forces struck him on a dark road as he cycled to a polling station for an election meeting at the age of 28. Despite his death, people still voted for him, and he won the election.

### Veneration

Marvelli's reputation for holiness and his faith led to the cause for his beatification and Pope John Paul II beatified Marvelli in 2004 in Loreto.

His heroic life of charity has been a true inspiration for many, and his exemplary holiness has become a model for laity involved in politics. His feast day is celebrated on 5<sup>th</sup> October.

***“My program of life is summed up in one word: Holy.”*** Blessed Alberto Marvelli



# Making Diamonds



*Regin Varghese from USA, examines the life of Joseph in the Bible and the various trials he had to undergo before emerging victorious.*

**M**ore than a hundred miles deep inside the earth's fiery furnace, the extreme heat and pressures sculpt one of the prized rarities of this earth – diamonds. Similarly, the enormous trials and burdens that one undergoes in the fiery furnace of life when combined with the grace of God and our trust in the divine refiner, can sculpt one into something

precious for all eternity. In Genesis, we come across the story of Joseph, a man who underwent a lot of trials. "The archers fiercely attacked him; they shot at him and pressed him hard. Yet his bow remained taut, and his arms were made agile by the hands of the Mighty One of Jacob, by the name of the Shepherd, the Rock of Israel" (Genesis 49:23-24). Joseph turned out, shining like a royal diadem in the hand of the Lord for all eternity.

## Joseph - The Dreamer

God revealed Joseph's calling for greatness in his dreams. He once dreamt of eleven sheaves of wheat belonging to his brothers bowing down to his sheaf of wheat. At another time, he dreamt of eleven stars, the



sun, and the moon, bowing to him. In his naivete, Joseph revealed these messages to his family but ended up bearing their ire. His brothers excluded him and looked for an opportunity to hurt him. Once they almost murdered him, but God turned events such that they sold him as a slave instead. In the span of a few hours, Joseph's life plummeted from the envied position of being his father's favorite son to that of a captive slave being dragged off across the parched desert into a foreign country.

In Egypt, Potiphar, "his master, saw that the Lord was with him and that the Lord caused all that he did to prosper in his hands" (Genesis 39: 3). He set Joseph as overseer of his entire house. But adversity struck again as his master's wife falsely accused Joseph of a crime he never committed. Joseph was humiliated and locked up in prison. But here too, "the Lord was with Joseph and showed him steadfast love; he gave him favor in the sight of the chief jailer. The chief jailer committed to Joseph's care all the prisoners who were in the prison, and whatever was done there, he was the one who did it" (Genesis 39:21-22).

## Joseph - The Prisoner

With a quick stroke of His divine brush, God freed Joseph from prison, and he rose onwards and upwards until he became the second in command in the whole of Egypt. Pharaoh said to Joseph, "You shall be over my house, and all my people shall order themselves as

you command; only with regard to the throne will I be greater than you" (Genesis 41:40). God's wisdom "descended with him into the dungeon, and when he was in prison, she did not leave him, until she brought him the scepter of the kingdom and authority over his masters" (Wisdom 10:13-14). Joseph finally went on to see God's promise fulfilled when his "brothers came and bowed themselves before him with their faces to the ground" (Genesis 42:6).

## Joseph's Rise to Power

But Joseph's sufferings extended far beyond these visible trials. Great also were the battles he had to win within himself. In his cold dark cell, where thick despair could snuff out all hope, Joseph sheltered the flame of God's promise to him - that his life would not end in defeat and prison. The flood waters of temptation and humiliation rushed hard against the banks of his integrity and character. He had to withstand the supreme test of loving his brothers despite their actions and effects on his life. He

went beyond forgiveness, just like Jesus who said "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing" (Luke 23:34); Joseph was able to see his perpetrators as innocent, saying "And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life" (Genesis 45:5). He could have let go and flowed down the river of hatred and self-pity, blaming them for his circumstances, but he clung on to God's truth. He was in a foreign land with no training in its ways, but he rose to be its governor because he knew that "I can do all things through Him who strengthens me" (Philippians 4:13). Joseph was able to see his Maker's hand weaving beautiful patterns despite the adversities he encountered and the actions of those who hurt him.

## Final Reward

All of us here in this valley of tears have our share of trials and sufferings. But we can rest in the hope that the mightier the struggle, the greater will be the rewards in eternity. Each person we forgive, each act we do with love, each sacrifice we make, and each time we accept things in our life as God's will, we are being carved into something beautiful by His hands. Our reward may or may not be revealed in this world, but it sure will be revealed to us in the next. We are a people journeying through this life, which is very small compared to the inheritance that is being prepared for us. So, let us hope, pray, and persevere in doing good till our last breath and get that crown of life!

***"For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal."  
(2 Corinthians 4:17).***

# THE BOY WITH THE FIVE BARLEY LOAVES AND TWO FISH



*August Paul, from Houston, USA, reflects upon the lessons we can learn from the boy in the Gospel.*

**T**here is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish; but what good are these for so many?" (John 6:9)

I am amazed whenever I think of the little boy in this Gospel passage about the multiplication of the five loaves and the two fish. There was a multitude of people, and they all were hungry, but this boy, while he was hungry, shared his five loaves and two fish (which he was saving for himself) to feed everyone gathered to listen to Jesus! Jesus fed the multitude (they had not eaten all day) with the bread and the two fish that the boy had brought.

It is rather astonishing that the boy surrendered his food to the disciples. He was hungry; he could have kept it for himself, but he gave it to Jesus without any clue of what Jesus was going to do with this small amount of food.

## Offering Ourselves

The boy sets an example for each one of us to make a similar kind of surrender, offering, or gift to the Lord in our daily life; for Him to perform miracles of multiplication of our offerings. Now, how do we respond when the Church provides us with various opportunities to bring our offerings to the Lord?

During the Holy Mass, the Church gives us the opportunity to surrender, gift and offer whatever we have to our Lord, in other words, to imitate this boy. During the offertory, right after the Proclamation of Faith (Creed), let this passage of the boy and his five loaves and two fish be a reminder and encouragement for all of us to bring our offerings to our Lord, even though we don't have any clue what the Lord will do with them.

It is not just our material or financial offerings (important as they are) that we could take to our Lord during the Mass but also make an offering of our sorrows, sicknesses, shortcomings, helplessness, loneliness, weaknesses, financial burdens, misunderstandings, and so on. At the the priest requests, "Pray my brothers and sisters, that my sacrifices and yours may be acceptable to the Father almighty." At the moment of that prayer, our sacrifices and offerings will be united to the sacrifice of our Lord in the Mass,



the same sacrifice of our Lord Jesus Christ on the Cross at Calvary.

At the Mass, during the Eucharistic prayer, the priest takes the bread and wine in his hands and in offering them to the Lord he consecrates them, and they are transubstantiated into the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. When we lift up and surrender our small sacrifices to the Lord, He will perform His miracle on them by transforming them into graces. The Lord will restore an abundance of graces of healing, consolation, care and support, in our lives and those of our families, our neighbors and all the needy ones.

## Graces in Return

The Lord always accepts the small gifts we offer Him unconditionally. It could be a broken friendship; the Lord will give you the grace of divine friendship enabling you to

reconcile with that person. It could be the hardship or challenges you face in your studies; the Lord will give you the grace of deliverance from unwanted things in your life such as the overuse of

***Our justification comes from the grace of God. Grace is favor, the free and undeserved help that God gives us to respond to His call to become children of God, adoptive sons, partakers of the divine nature and of eternal life. (CCC 1996)***

media, addictions, unwanted friendships and so on. He will fill you with divine wisdom so that you will be able to prioritize your responsibilities. It could be your financial burden; the Lord will bless you with the grace of acceptance so you will be able to manage with what you have

or help you to overcome that situation in another way.

If you are ready to end your enmity with someone in your life, the Lord will give you the grace of forgiveness and the grace to forget all the wrongdoings of your enemy and fill your heart with divine love so that you will be able to forgive and love them unconditionally. If you offer your anxiety, the Lord will return the grace of trust and perseverance.

The Lord says: “No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draw him” (John 6:44). He also said, “For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by my Father” (John 6:65). Every Mass we attend is a divine call from the Lord and an opportunity to unconditionally surrender our struggles to Him, no matter how little or big they are, and to receive in return, heavenly blessings and graces in abundance!



# PRAYING FOR OTHERS



*Renju Ann Mathew, from Brisbane, Australia, offers some tips to pray effectively for others.*

**W**e often get prayer requests from others to pray for themselves or for someone they know - friends, family, church, community, work or from those in the places where we associate daily.

How should we pray for other people? We should also look at how we pray for ourselves. Jesus has taught us a perfect prayer - the Lord's prayer in Matthew Chapter 6. We know that the Lord's prayer contains petitions about God's purposes and glory, as well as petitions for human needs. When we look at our personal prayer, it should include thanksgiving, lots of personal petitions

and requests for today, tomorrow and the years to come concerning our worldly needs. When we get a prayer request from a friend or acquaintance, we may resort to our template of prayer, giving priority to the current issues that the friend might be facing.

Let us look at a section in the Bible where Paul prays for others. Paul opens our eyes through a different window to prayer and gives us a model when praying for others. Paul was in prison when he wrote the letter to the church in Ephesus. The Bible records that Paul knelt in front of his heavenly father. Kneeling is an important posture in prayer when coming before the Father as a child; it is also a posture of surrender





***Christ just does not want to be a visitor but wants to dwell in our hearts. Do we make him an occasional visitor?***



and humility. Paul addresses the Holy Trinity in these verses. Ephesians 3:14-19 says, “For this reason I bow my knees before the Father from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.”

Let us look at the core aspects of Paul’s prayer for the church in Ephesus.

## **Strengthened Inner Being**

When we pray for others and submit petitions about their worries, we ought to pray that the person is strengthened in their inner being. Paul prays for the inner person rather than the outer being and its desires. We often get carried away by the suffering of the visible body and forget the spiritual needs of the inner man. Always pray for

the soul or the inner man who lives on after the earthly body perishes. The worries, needs and demands of the flesh are ongoing till the day the body stops working. The physical weaknesses can be overcome by a strong inner man. In our prayer for others, we ought to pray for the inner man or soul of the person to be strengthened. A strengthened soul is well-equipped to combat the battle the outer man faces.

## **Christ Dwells in Their Heart**

We ought to pray that the person prepares their heart for Christ to call it home. Christ just does not want to be a visitor but wants to dwell in our hearts. Do we just make Him an occasional visitor? What are our hearts filled with? How do we keep our hearts pristine to make it a home for Jesus? Leading a holy life is impossible without the help of the Holy Spirit; we need to respond to the conviction of the Holy Spirit when He reveals those unwanted thoughts and action. Go to confession and repent to the Lord. This comes through the help of the Holy Spirit when we yield to Him. We should pray the same for others when we pray for them.

## **Rooted and Grounded in Love**

The third aspect that we need to pray for is that the person is anchored in the love of God rather than on the things of the world. If one is rooted and grounded in the love of God, they will flourish and produce long-term fruits that not only provide God’s love in their lives but also to people around them. To bear good fruit; the ground the roots thrive in, the water and the light it receives must be derived from God’s love. When

things do not work in our favor, our roots, if not grounded in God’s love, may start withering or falling apart.

## **Experience God’s Love in Full Measure**

Pray that the person may be encouraged to explore the breadth and the length, the height and the depth of God’s love that goes far beyond knowledge - become kind souls or big-hearted people, compassionate and open to the Truth. This is an experiential level of knowledge of Christ about the magnitude of God’s love for us. Just like the saints who have experienced the love of God to its full extent, we pray for others to experience God’s love in all its dimensions.

## **Filled with All Fullness of God**

We should pray for the person to be filled with the fullness of God thereby providing the person with the strength to sail through their storms no matter how difficult they are. We need to empty ourselves, come to God in full surrender and pray for the love of God to overtake and take control completely.

These insights into prayer that Paul has shown us in his Epistle to Ephesians, give us a broader and more Christ-centred approach to prayer. This prayer not only strengthens the person that we are praying for, but also us praying for them. This will help us to build our inner strength, allow our hearts to be worthy for Christ to dwell in, root ourselves in God’s love, and finally to be filled with the fullness of God. Let us strive to achieve these insights in our life and incorporate them into our prayer life.





# WORD SEARCH



By Heinz Sony, Luton, UK

Z A N N O X R M R S V U Z H U C I K S O M N T Y  
E K Z R G C Z X H E J H P R U X M I W Y T Q F Z  
K Z O B H M P U V I Y J E Y B L C D C T I B M T  
O O Q P G Z R D Y Q Q Z T Y D N Z L E A H P A R  
B U J Z W F K Z V T T I E C A Q P X E H Z U E I  
W R H M S Y X A Q W C J R R I U O N Y R A M C K  
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K A K C J N S U A K G S R B R E N D A N L U K E  
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U B T O O E H I X U N L O D U V K L O Q O M D E  
D M X J L Z Z D Y R M E O C L A Z A H X M A X R

**Find the following names of the Saints in this Word search**

James  
Louise  
Catherine  
Lucy  
Felicity  
Joan  
Raphael  
Gabriel  
Michael  
Brendan

Bridget  
Patrick  
Ann  
Rose  
Francis  
Peter  
Paul  
John  
Luke  
Mark

Matthew  
Vincent  
Nicholas  
Jude  
Teresa  
Therese  
Elizabeth  
Joseph  
Mary



# POPE'S *Voice*

*"Jesus teaches us another way: Go out. Go out and share your testimony, go out and interact with your brothers, go out and share, go out and ask. Become the Word in body as well as spirit."*

Pope Francis



## GLOBAL CATHOLIC NEWS

Compiled by Smitha George

### SYRIAC MONASTERY REOPENS AFTER 100 YEARS

Turkey: The Syriac Catholic Monastery of St Ephrem in southern Turkey has been reconsecrated, a century after it was requisitioned by the state. Mardin, was an area which was once the heartland of Syriac Christianity. Founded in 1881, the Syriac monastery was seized by the Turkish army during the First World War. It briefly returned to the



Church after the war ended, before being transformed into a military hospital in 1922. In more recent times, it had served as a prison and a warehouse.

### CHURCH BURNED, PRIESTS, NUN KIDNAPPED

Cameroon: Gunmen set a Catholic church on fire and kidnapped five priests, one nun and two lay people in western Cameroon, where a civil war has been raging since 2017. Cameroon has been embroiled in a civil war known as the 'Anglophone Crisis' in which armed separatists from the Anglophone regions of the country in the Northwest and Southwest have taken part in an uprising against government forces. Both sides have been accused of atrocities, including the murder and torture of civilians. The conflict has killed thousands and displaced as many as 500,000 since 2014.



### TOTAL ABORTIONS DECREASED BY 6% IN THE USA

USA: More than 10,000 unborn babies are alive today because of the Supreme Court's decision to overturn Roe v. Wade, a new report by a pro-abortion group suggests.

Society of Family Planning's reported that there were 5,270 fewer abortions in July and 5,400 fewer in August after the court's June 24 ruling. In the two months after Dobbs, the number of women getting abortions decreased by 10,670 or 6%, the group reported. If those numbers were to continue, more than 60,000 lives could be saved from abortion in one year alone.



### VATICAN, CHINA RENEW AGREEMENT ON APPOINTING BISHOPS



China: The Vatican announced it has renewed its agreement with China on the appointment of bishops. The "provisional agreement," forged in 2018 and renewed in 2020, has been extended for another two years, the Vatican announced on October 22<sup>nd</sup>. In the past four years only six bishops have been named and installed under the terms of the agreement. Many dioceses are still without bishops or have very elderly bishops, he said, but the process is continuing.

### POPE PRAYS FOR UNITY OF CHURCH AS HE CELEBRATES ANNIVERSARY OF VATICAN II



Vatican: The Second Vatican Council was the universal Catholic Church's response to God's love and to Jesus' command to feed His sheep, said Pope Francis while celebrating the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the council's opening. The council reminded the church of what is 'essential', the pope said: "a church madly in love with its Lord and with all the men and women whom He loves," one that "is rich in Jesus and poor in assets," a church that "is free and freeing." Pope Francis presided over the Mass on October 11<sup>th</sup> in St Peter's Basilica, where the council was held in four sessions from 1962 to 1964.

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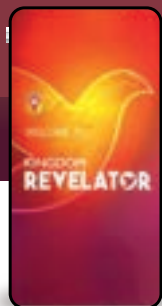
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***"There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death."  
(Romans 8:1-2)***

***"Awaken! Remember that God comes! Not yesterday, not tomorrow, but today, now! The one true God, "the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob", is not a God who is there in Heaven, unconcerned with us and our history, but he is the-God-who-comes."***

*(Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI)*



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