

KINGDOM REVELATOR

|||| CATHOLIC MAGAZINE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE ■ ISSUE 109

**LOVE YOUR
ENEMY**

**WHY SHOULD I
BE GOOD TO
OTHERS?**





*Mother Mary,
pray
for our
readers.*

KINGDOM
REVELATOR

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E-mail us at:
editor.kingdomreveator@gmail.com

FOR ALL INQUIRIES:
inquiry@kingdomreveatorusa.org

BILLING:
billing@kingdomreveatorusa.org

OUR MAILING ADDRESS:
KINGDOM REVELATOR USA
P.O Box 22,
TECHNY, IL 60082-0022

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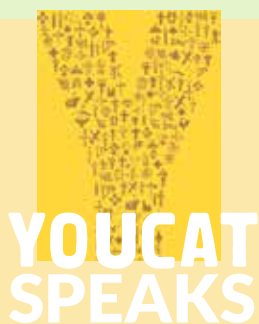
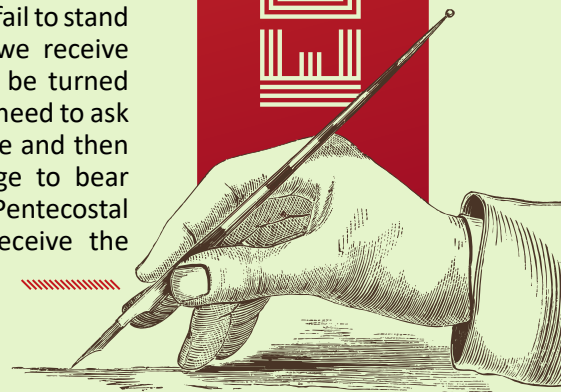
Jesus asked His disciples to remain in Jerusalem until they were clothed with the power of the Holy Spirit for a reason. In the Gospel of Luke chapter 24:49 we read, “I am sending upon you what my Father promised, so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.” Even though the disciples had spent three years with Jesus, had watched Him perform many miracles, which eyes had not seen, nor ears ever heard before, and yet during His Passion they had abandoned the Lord.

Jesus forgave them their unfaithfulness and appeared to them several times after His resurrection. When Peter decided to go fishing, the others joined him, such was their weakness in trusting in the Lord’s promises. But after they received the Holy

Spirit, it was a different story altogether. After the Pentecost, none of the disciples turned back from professing their faith in Jesus, instead faced persecution and death with extraordinary courage and conviction. Jesus knew their every weakness, hence His firm instruction to them to stay in Jerusalem until they received the Holy Spirit.

Similarly, too often after experiencing miracles in our lives, we often fail to stand the test of faith. But once we receive the Holy Spirit, our lives will be turned around. In every situation we need to ask the Holy Spirit to be our guide and then we too will have the courage to bear witness boldly. We need a Pentecostal experience to be able to receive the crown of life.

EDITORIAL



What happens in diaconal ordination?

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255: In diaconal ordination, the candidate is appointed to a special service within the sacrament of Holy Orders. For he represents Christ as the one who came, “not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many” (Matthew 20:28). In the liturgy of ordination, we read: “As a minister of the Word, of the altar, and of charity, the deacon will make himself a servant to all.”

The original model of the deacon is the martyr St Stephen. When the Apostles in the original Church of Jerusalem saw that they were overwhelmed by their many charitable duties, they appointed seven men “to serve tables”, whom they then ordained. The first mentioned is Stephen: “full of grace and power”, he accomplished much for the new faith and for the poor in the Christian community.

Over the centuries the diaconate became merely a degree of Holy Orders on the way to the presbyterate, but today it is once again an independent vocation for both celibates and married men. On the one hand, this is supposed to reemphasize service as a characteristic of the Church; on the other hand, it helps the priests, as in the early Church, by establishing an order of ministers who take on particular pastoral and social duties of the Church. Diaconal ordination, too, makes a lifelong, irrevocable mark on the ordained man.

He gave me New LUNGS



Christena Jose, from Australia, testifies about the miraculous healing in her son's life.

I am writing this testimony to glorify our Lord, Jesus, who has worked an amazing miracle in my second child, Aiden's life through 'Anointing Fire Catholic Ministry's intercession ministry. When Aiden was 18 months old, he had a viral infection with a cold and a cough. After a few days, he was struggling to breathe. We took him to the hospital where he was diagnosed with asthma.

Since then, every year he used to get an asthma attack with viral infections that are usually seasonal, especially during winter. When he was old enough to go to kindergarten, he used to take many



days off due to severe asthma attacks. He was prescribed steroid medication to manage his symptoms.

In 2022, from the month of May until July, he had multiple asthma attacks which never happened before. Aiden was so sick most of the time that he missed many days of school. As a parent, it was heartbreaking to watch him struggling to breathe and vomit after each meal or a drink. We used to pray and cry to the Lord to heal our child. Many others used to pray for Aiden too.

I am a member of AFCM Australia, and I used to participate in the Way of the Cross prayer at 12 noon whenever I was free. One day I requested prayers for Aiden. The next day when it was time for the Way of The Cross prayer, I joined online. I was so sad and was praying to God about Aiden's asthma attack, which seemed to be getting worse at that time.

I requested prayer support from all those who gathered on that day. Everyone prayed for Aiden's healing. The leader gave a message he received from the Holy Spirit. He asked me to pray Romans 5:5 "Hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us", for Aiden's healing.

“

But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed.

Isaiah 53:5



I was asked to recite this Word of God 1000 times. My husband and myself took that Word of God into our hearts and our whole family sat around Aiden praying this Word of God. The next day we witnessed a miracle - Aiden was healed from his illness. For the next one and a half years he had many viral infections, but he never had any severe asthma attacks. It was a moment when we were touched by our Jesus. I still remember, Aiden used to pray to Jesus when he was little..."Dear Jesus, you have good lungs, so please give me good lungs so that I can breathe properly." And God literally gave him good lungs.

After his healing, Aiden's teacher saw me and said, "Aiden comes to class regularly now and seems less sick these days." I shared my experience with his teacher and she was deeply touched by his miraculous healing.

I still thank God for His healing and for all the blessings He has given to our family. Thank you, Lord.



Compassionate and Loving



Fr Simon Ellis, Parish Priest of St Margaret Mary Church, Erdington, UK, reflects on the parable of the Good Samaritan.

An expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he said, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?” He said to him, “What is written in the law? What do you read there?” He answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind and your neighbor as yourself.” And he said to him, “You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live.” But wanting to vindicate himself, he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” Jesus replied, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. Now by chance, a priest

was going down that road, and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan while traveling came upon him, and when he saw him, he was moved with compassion. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, treating them with oil and wine. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper and said, ‘Take care of him, and when I come back I will repay you whatever more you spend.’ Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands

of the robbers?" He said, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise." (Luke 10:25-37)

A Man for Others

The words 'compassion' or 'take pity on someone' are either on the lips of Jesus Himself or are applied to Him, as the evangelist describes many of the scenes in the four gospels. The word compassion comes from a Latin root, 'cum-patior,' which means a willingness to suffer with

someone. Jesus placed inestimable value on every single person, as is so patently obvious as we when reading the Gospels. 'Greater Love no man has than to lay down his life for his friend'. Think of what Jesus did for us on Good Friday. The parable of the Good Samaritan is one example of how much Jesus values each one of us. Jesus in every sense, is 'A man for others.'

Perhaps we should in our imagination place ourselves in this parable.

and yet it was a Samaritan who showed compassion, took pity on this injured Jew, and not only helped him, but went beyond ordinary courtesy and got him into an Inn and covered his expenses. To what extent can I call myself a follower of Jesus if I am not willing, when I am able, to help someone in distress? We should often examine our basic Christian attitudes to other people. Where do we stand?

Prayer:

O Lord help me to understand the answer Jesus gave to the question "who is my neighbor?" about a man on the road who needed help, about those who refused it and the one person who gave it. Make me more sensitive to the feelings of those I meet at home, in a shop, on a bus, or in a crowd; and more aware that, whether I know them or not, the nameless, the angry, the anguished, all people everywhere are loved by you. You identify yourself with each one of my neighbors. Teach me to see you in them. No man or woman, girl or boy is really a stranger, unless I choose to make them so. If I choose to make them so, then I make myself a stranger to you. O Lord, help me. Amen

"To what extent can I call myself a follower of Jesus if I am not willing, when I am able, to go to help someone in distress?"

Knowing myself, if I had been there what sort of character traits would I have shown? Would I have been like the priest who passed by on the other side? Would I have been like the Levite who also passed by on the other side? The Samaritans were hated by the Jews



Love Your Enemy



Nimia Joseph, from Wolverhampton, UK, shares her thoughts on the inspiring journey of Bishop Mar Mari Emmanuel.

In a world often fraught with challenges and uncertainties, the story of Mar Mari Emmanuel stands as a testament to resilience, faith, and unwavering determination. Born Robert Shlimon on July 19, 1970, in Haditha, Iraq, Emmanuel's journey has been marked by trials, transformations, and a steadfast commitment to his beliefs.

Growing up in Baghdad amidst a devout Christian family, Emmanuel's early years were shaped by the rich tapestry of his Assyrian heritage. However, at the age of fifteen, his family

made the difficult decision to flee Iraq, seeking refuge from the turmoil engulfing their homeland. Settling in Sydney, Australia, he embarked on a new chapter of his life, navigating the complexities of adaptation and cultural assimilation.

His path to spiritual leadership was not without its twists and turns. After a successful career in banking, he heeded a higher calling, embracing his faith wholeheartedly. In 2009, he was ordained a priest, marking the beginning of his journey towards becoming a beacon of hope for countless individuals around the world. In 2011, his commitment to serving his community reached new heights when he was ordained as a bishop in the Ancient Church of the East. His passion for spreading the message of compassion, tolerance, and unity resonated deeply with congregants, earning him a place of reverence and admiration. Yet, his unwavering dedication to his

principles often led him down a challenging path.

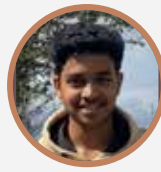
Through his online Gospel messages, his voice reverberated far beyond the walls of his church, reaching millions through social

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*“Love your enemies
and pray for those
who persecute you.”
Matthew 5:44*

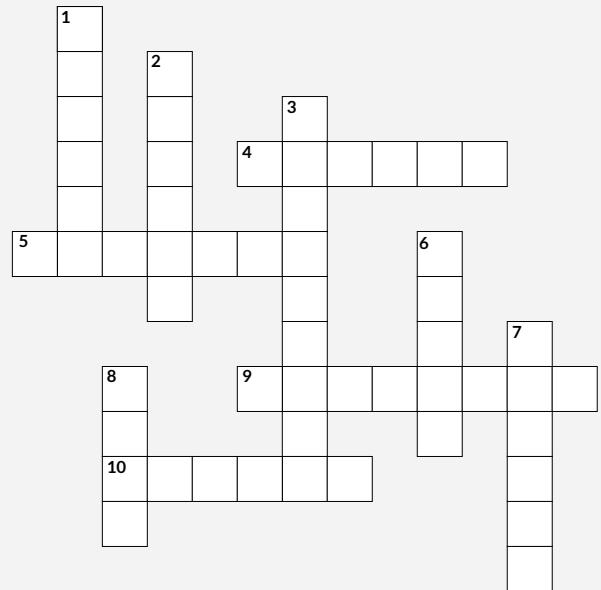
media and online platforms. His sermons, delivered with conviction and compassion, touched the hearts of individuals from all walks of life, offering them solace and guidance in turbulent times.

His journey, however, was not without its trials. In April 2024, he became the victim



By Heinz Sony,
Luton, UK

CROSS WORD



of a senseless act of violence, enduring a brutal stabbing during a live-streamed sermon. Despite suffering grave injuries, his response was one of remarkable grace and forgiveness. In the face of hatred and intolerance, and religious extremism, he chose love, extending forgiveness to his assailant and urging others to follow suit. His messages resonate with the teachings of Jesus, "You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.' But I say to you: Do not resist an evildoer. But if anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also" (Matthew 5:38-39).

As he continues to recover from his injuries, his unwavering spirit serves as an inspiration to youth around the world. His message of resilience, compassion, and unwavering faith resonates deeply in an era defined by uncertainty and division.

To the youth of today, Mar Mari Emmanuel's story offers a powerful reminder that adversity is not an obstacle, but an opportunity for growth and transformation. In the face of adversity, let us draw strength from his example, embracing the power of forgiveness, resilience, and unwavering faith. For in the darkest of times, it is the light of hope and love that guides us towards a brighter tomorrow.



Across

4. King _____ threw Daniel into the lions' den.
5. The father of the prophet Samuel.
9. The first king of the northern kingdom of Israel after the division.
10. The prophet who confronted King David about his sin with Bathsheba.

Down

1. The mountain on which Elijah challenged the prophets of Baal.
2. River _____ is where Naaman was healed of leprosy.
3. The mother of King Solomon.
6. The queen who visited Solomon to test his wisdom.
7. The island where John wrote the Book of Revelation.
8. The name of the place where Jesus performed His first miracle.



Fozy Jose, from Canada, shares how she experienced the saving power of Christ in her life.

MY REFUGE AND FORTRESS

During my teenage years I had believed that there was a supernatural power that controlled all the actions of man, but I was not fully convinced until I went to the Divine Retreat Centre in Kerala in 1994 to attend a spiritual retreat during my grade 10 summer holidays. It was a residential retreat for seven days, the first two of which I felt fully lost because I couldn't comprehend the wonderful talks that were given by various evangelical ministers, priests and sisters. During the retreat I witnessed people experience the love of God and being transformed but I was still perplexed and began to ask God, "Help me to understand your teachings. If you are present here, I too want to experience who you are, why am I here and what would you like me to do?"

There were multiple sharing sessions during the retreat in which the Word of God was discussed. In one of the sessions, I was struck when I heard this verse - Isaiah 49:16 "See I have inscribed you on the palms of my hands; your walls are continually before me." Slowly I started to understand the preachers, which gave me a sense of calmness within my mind. Then something amazing took place in the retreat hall, which was packed

with hundreds of people. There was a paralyzed lady in a wheelchair sitting near the front row of the hall along with her family. Suddenly, I heard a loud bang, thunder and lightning which shook the hall and then there was a loud scream from the front row of the hall. I saw people praising God, clapping hands and this paralyzed lady stood up and walked towards the altar. The lady testified that Jesus came to her and asked her if she wanted to be healed, in response to which she replied, "Yes my Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner." Instantly her wheelchair was pushed off, and she heard a voice say, "Walk". She said she believed that Jesus would heal

her because she knew she was His daughter. The Lady walked in Faith without any assistance towards the Altar to testify and glorify Jesus among the crowd. The lady said that she had been paralyzed from the waist below after a car accident 18 years ago, and in her suffering, she pleaded with Jesus the Saviour to have mercy upon her affliction. I cannot deny what I saw and what I heard, and this miracle changed my entire perspective about who God is.

Throughout these years of my conversion and growing in faith in Jesus, I was taught to be resilient, patient and to be serene even in the most difficult situations that I have encountered. This gift of faith that has been infused in me was not by my merit but by the abundant mercy of God. "He saved us not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the waters of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit" (Titus 3:5). God has blessed me immensely to the point that He saved my life from a major car accident in 2010 and healed me from a grave illness that could have altered my life forever.

I have grown up seeing my parents giving the utmost importance to observing Sunday as the Sabbath day, abstaining from meat every Friday,

The desire for God is written in the human heart, because man is created by God and for God and God never ceases to draw man to Himself.

having great devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary, actively participating in the activities of the Church and participating in communal gatherings with parish members. They went on pilgrimage 2-3 times a year to far-off churches in thanksgiving for the graces received and to pray for various intentions for the family. They always attended the annual spiritual retreat conducted by the church. During Lent and Advent, their motto was, "Let's not eat anything tasty; instead, let us give it to those who are less fortunate than us." In fact, if any family member faced any kind of adversity, they would double down on the Holy Rosary, read Holy Scripture, offer Holy Masses for the Holy Souls in Purgatory and recite the Way of the Cross. I always observed that most of the time the adversity, sickness or affliction would be resolved

fully. If something did not get resolved, my parents would say, "Let us surrender this problem to the will of God and He will give us enough grace to endure the suffering."

Now, what is Faith? Hebrews 11:1 says, "Now Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the convictions of things not seen." According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, the desire for God is written in the human heart, because man is created by God and for God, and God never ceases to draw man to Himself. Only in God will he find truth and happiness (Chapter 1 Man's Capacity for God). This is absolute truth because it is stated in scripture, Genesis Chapters 1 and 2. Sadly this truth has been denied and trampled upon in this secular world where very few believe and accept the Good News.

God's love is unconditional. He wants to dwell in everyone's heart and that is why He gave His only begotten Son Jesus Christ for the salvation of mankind.

Psalms 33:4-5 states, "For the Word of the Lord is upright, and all his work is done in faithfulness. He loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of the steadfast love of the Lord." God is perfect and blessed in Himself. However, in a plan of sheer goodness, He freely created man to make him share in His blessed life. For this reason, in every time and in every place, God draws close to man, He calls man to seek him, to know him, to love him with all his strength. He calls together all men, scattered and divided by sin into the unity of his family, the Church.



WHY SHOULD I BE GOOD TO OTHERS?



Seena Jijimon, from Wolverhampton, UK, ponders over the need to be good to others.

My 8-year-old nephew asked his mom, “Why should I be good to others? My friends don’t behave in the same way to me or to others!” She struggled to answer him convincingly.

The same question is asked in the Bible; “If you are righteous, what do you give to Him; or what does He receive from your hand (Job 35:7)?” The answer follows in verses 8-9, “Your wickedness affects others like you, and your righteousness, other human beings. Because of the multitude of oppressions people cry out; they call for help because of the arm of the mighty.”

Every sin that I commit affects others like me. If those who are affected by my sin cry

out to God the Almighty, He would have to intervene to help those who are in need. Job 35:5-6 tells us, “Look at the heavens and see; observe the clouds, which are higher than you. If you have sinned, what do you accomplish against him? And if your transgressions are multiplied, what do you do to him?” In other words, just as heaven and the clouds are higher than us, God is far beyond our imagination. Our sin doesn’t affect Him in any way, but it will affect other human beings and they, or their witnesses will cry out to God and then the Heavenly Father will not keep quiet.

The Cry of the Oppressed

We see this in Genesis, Chapter 4, verses 10-12,



when Cain killed his brother Abel: ‘And the Lord said, “Listen; your brother’s blood is crying out to me from the ground! And now you are cursed from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother’s blood from your hand. When you till the ground, it will no longer yield to you its strength; you will be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth.”’ By his sin against Abel, Cain

was cursed on earth and the ground would no longer yield to its strength, regardless of how hard he worked.

In Exodus 3:9-10, God said to Moses, “The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt.” When the Israelites cried out

in their misery to God, He intervened to bring them out of Egypt, and the Egyptians had to pay the price.

Forgiveness in Christ

In the New Testament, we see Jesus crying out to the Father, in Luke 23:34, “Then Jesus said, ‘Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.’” Jesus was praying for his oppressors, knowing that their sins would bring upon them the punishment they deserved.

Those who are in Christ, even if they sin due to human



Jesus will intercede for them to the Father, just as He did on the Cross.



weakness, they have the opportunity to repent and come to Him. He will intercede for them to the Father, just as He did on the Cross. As it says in Hebrews 12:24, “You have come to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.”

Our sins and omissions can only incite God’s wrath, but if we repent, confess our sins and seek God’s mercy, the Blood of Jesus, which once purchased our redemption, will continue to beseech the Father to forgive us.

Pope St Eusebius 31st Pope



By Henoch Sony,
Luton, UK



Early Life

Eusebius was born in Greece in the third century. Very little is known about his early life. But he joined the Roman clergy and was elected as Pope.

Papacy

Eusebius was the 31st Pope of the Catholic Church. He was elected on April 18th 310. He served as a Pope for a very brief and four difficult months. He strongly opposed readmitting lapsed Christians who had renounced their faith without proper penance. He helped the Church throughout the crisis and trials of its earliest years. Eusebius was a victim of the Decian persecutions which were very severe during his period as Pope.

Later Life and Contributions to the Church

As one of the Church's founding Popes, Eusebius led the Church through its difficult formative years and persecutions in the Roman Empire. He was venerated for his defence of ecclesiastical discipline despite the prosecutions he faced. His view was opposed by a faction of Christians in Rome under the leadership of Heraclius.

Legacy

His unwavering fight in support of the Church teachings on penance for his apostates, against imperial opposition eventually led to his martyrdom. His unwavering leadership made him one of the venerated early martyr Popes who established Christian foundations. He died on 17th August 310 in Sicily, Italy. His feast day is celebrated on 17th August.

Blessed Zeferino Namuncura

Shino Merin John,
Finland



Early Life

Zeferino Namuncura was born on August 26, 1886, at Chimpay, a small town in Argentina, the sixth child of Rosario Burgos and Manuel Namuncura. His father was the Mapuche Chief of the Araucanian-speaking Indians of the Argentine Pampas. This tribe was particularly known for its fierce resistance to encroaching European domination.

As a youngster, Zeferino enjoyed the peaceful rural settings and lifestyle of his native people. He especially enjoyed riding his steed over the wide expanse of his native land, wandering freely on the pampas for eleven years.

At the age of eleven, his father sent Zeferino to Buenos Aires, to Pius IX Salesian School, in the hope that someday he would be able to lead and protect his people. There, he showed himself to be an excellent student and a choral musician. He enjoyed his studies and sports, performed card tricks for his classmates and taught them archery. The family spirit in the Salesian school engendered in him a love for Don Bosco.

Later Life

The spiritual dimension of his life grew, and he began to yearn to become a Salesian priest to evangelize his people. He chose Dominic Savio as a model, and over a period of five years, through his efforts to adapt to a totally new culture, he became

“Jesus, please protect my brothers of the prairie. If they do not love You, it is because they do not know you.”

Bl Zeferino Namuncura

another Dominic Savio. He was exemplary for his piety and charity in his daily duties, and for his self-sacrifice. Manuel, his father, wanted him back home to serve as an interpreter and secretary when he finished his studies. However, Zeferino was already enthusiastic about becoming a Salesian priest.

Zeferino loved the Blessed Mother so much that the Rosary became his favorite devotion, and he would often be found praying it before the Blessed Sacrament. His desire to convert his people to the true religion increased.

At age sixteen, he was accepted by Bishop Cagliero SDB as a candidate for the priesthood in the Salesian Society at Viedma, the center for the Vicariate Apostolic, to begin his Latin studies. Because of his poor health, the Salesian bishop decided to send him to Italy to continue his studies in a more appropriate atmosphere.

Death

He studied so hard that he was second in the class. But tuberculosis, an illness not diagnosed in time, perhaps even because he did not complain about it, became life-threatening. He lost weight alarmingly and seemed to be often in pain. On March 28, 1905, he was taken to the hospital in Rome where he bore his cross of suffering heroically, while constantly praying the rosary for his people. This saintly seminarian died on the morning of May 11, at the age of 18, surrounded by several of his Salesian brothers who were praying for him.

Veneration

He was buried in Rome, but in 1924 his remains were returned to Argentina and placed in the chapel at Fortín Mercedes, in the southern part of Buenos Aires, where crowds of pilgrims came to venerate him. The devotion to Zeferino, the saintly young Mapuche, known popularly as The Lily of Patagonia (“El lirio de la Patagonia”) became widespread in Buenos Aires and throughout Argentina.

Miracles attributed to his intercession were recognized and he was beatified on November 11, 2007, by Pope Benedict XVI. His feast day is celebrated on 26th August.



FERTILE SOIL OF THE HEART



Seminarian Joseph Siraj, from India, shares lessons from the parable of the Sower.

In the tranquil setting of the seashore, Jesus delivered profound truths through parables to the eager crowd gathered around Him. Among these narratives, the Parable of the Sower (Matthew 13:3-19) resonates with timeless wisdom, illuminating the condition of the human heart and the reception of divine truth.

As Jesus recounted, a Sower ventured forth, scattering seeds upon various terrains. Some

seeds fell by the wayside and were devoured by birds; others found shallow ground and withered under the scorching sun. Some nestled among thorns, choked by worldly cares, while the seeds sown on fertile soil flourished abundantly, yielding bountiful harvests.

Jesus explained that the seed represents the Word of God, while the terrain depicted the various conditions of the human heart. Seeds falling on the hardened path were quickly snatched away, picturing an unreceptive heart. The rocky soil allowed for some initial growth, but the lack of roots caused them to wither under trial, mirroring a shallow, spiritually immature heart. Seeds that fell among thorns became choked by worldly distractions and desires, as God's truth was crowded out by competing priorities. But the fertile soil represented a heart cultivated to receive the Word of God wholeheartedly, allowing it to take deep roots and produce a bountiful spiritual harvest.

A Call to Introspection

This metaphor invites profound introspection: In what condition is the soil of my heart currently? Is it hardened and closed off to God's truth like the path? Shallow like rocky ground, unable to withstand life's difficulties? Overrun with thorns of worldly anxieties and temptations? Or have I intentionally prepared and nurtured fertile soil within, ready to receive the life-giving

seed and bear lasting spiritual fruit?

Consider the servant in the tale of the faithful king, who, amidst the allure of gifts and distractions, remained steadfast in his loyalty. The king periodically distributed provisions along the journey—sweets, spices, jewels. Each pause lured some servants aside with its enticements until only one remained solely devoted to following the king. Recognizing his unwavering commitment, the wise king appointed him prime minister.



*"I have hidden
your word in
my heart that
I might not sin
against you."
(Psalm 119:11)*



This servant's singular focus on his king is a powerful analogy for our spiritual journey.

Embracing the Word with Receptive Hearts

Similarly, in our spiritual journey, we encounter diverse responses to the Word of God. Some hear but fail to grasp its significance, allowing the enemy to snatch it away.

Others receive it eagerly but falter when faced with life's adversities. Yet, those who embrace God's Word with a receptive heart, nurturing it through adversity, bear abundant fruit, enriching their lives and those around them.

Let us, like the faithful servant and the fruitful seed, cultivate hearts receptive to divine truth and resilient to life's trials. When trials and setbacks do come, may we be deeply rooted in the truth necessary to sustain us, and in our heart soil carefully cultivated by faith so that the Word implanted within may yield an abundant harvest of Christ-like spiritual fruitfulness.

The Loving Gaze of Our Heavenly Father

For it is through the Holy Scriptures that our Heavenly Father gazes upon us with boundless love, conversing with and pouring His very life into those whose receptive hearts await His voice. In the sacred Scriptures, we discover the loving gaze of our Heavenly Father, inviting us into communion with Him and guiding us along the path of eternal love.

May we eagerly receive the Word of God, allowing it to take root deeply within us, transforming our lives and bearing fruit that glorifies our Heavenly Father. In this journey, let us strive to be the fertile soil that nurtures the seeds of divine truth, yielding a harvest that blesses and enriches not only our souls but the souls of those around us.



The Sword of the King of Kings



Sonia Sony, from Luton, UK, reminds the readers that the Word of God is living and active.

In the First book of Samuel in the Old Testament, we see a conflict between Saul, the King of Israel, and David, the future king of Israel. While David was on the run from Saul, as he reached the priest Ahimelech at Nob, he realized that he didn't have a weapon for self-protection. He asked for a spear or a sword for protection. Ahimelech gave him the sword of Goliath which was kept there after David had used it to kill him. For this sword to have been kept there, must have been very special: the power of God truly was at work when David killed Goliath. This was clearly known to David; that's why he said, "There is none like it; give it to me" (1 Samuel 21:9).

From the descendants of King David, Jesus was born in Bethlehem as the King of kings to reign over the kingdom which has no end (Luke 1:33-34). He who came to rule us, will lead us to eternity and

to prepare us for the final judgment, because He is the King of kings and the Lord of Lords (Revelation 19:16). He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is called The Word of God (Revelation 19:13).

David requested the sword because he knew the power it held for self-protection. Using this sword, David cut off Goliath's head, hence he knew its power. Christian life is a continuous

"Indeed, the Word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart." (Hebrews 4:12)



battle, good against evil. Nothing should be above God in our hearts. Whenever we put materialistic things above God, we find ourselves in conflict with God.

Armor of God

Today we are in a continuous battle between good and evil. Jesus gives us the Word of God as the sword to fight this battle. Whatever situation we are in, God sees us. He can help us in our time of need. So let us hold fast to the sword, which is the Word of God, to keep the strength of our soul: "Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God" (Ephesians 6:17). Use this sword of the Spirit to fight the battles for the redemption of our soul. In fighting our battles, the sword is our most effective weapon.

Jesus warned His disciples to be strong and remember His word to be courageous during this hardship and to hold fast onto them. This sword is the Word of God that must be used. Therefore, let us prepare ourselves to live in God's Word as there is "none like this"!



May the Strength of God guide us.
 May the Power of God preserve us.
 May the Wisdom of God instruct us.
 May the Hand of God protect us.
 May the Way of God direct us.
 May the Shield of God defend us.
 May the Angels of God guard us.
 – Against the snares of the evil one.
 May Christ be with us!
 May Christ be before us!
 May Christ be in us,
 Christ be over all!
 This day, O Lord, and forevermore.
 Amen





Liya Benny, from Southampton, UK, reflects on what every birthday reminds us as a Christian.

The Religious Significance of Birthdays

Birthdays are often celebrated with joyous gatherings, gifts, and well-wishes, marking the passing of another year in a person's life. However, beyond the secular festivities, birthdays hold a deeper religious significance that connect us to our spiritual roots and the divine plan for our existence. Birthdays are a time to pause and reflect on the journey of life that God has ordained for each of us. In the Christian tradition, a birthday is not merely a commemoration of age; it is a celebration of life, a thanksgiving for the blessings received, and an opportunity to look forward with hope to the path that lies ahead.

Biblical Perspectives

The Gift of Life

The Bible does not explicitly mention the celebration of birthdays, but it does offer verses that reflect on the nature of life and God's role in each person's birth. Psalm 139:13-14 expresses the intimate involvement of God in our creation: "For you created my inmost being you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made." This verse reminds us that every life is a divine gift, intricately fashioned by God's hands. Another scripture comes from Jeremiah 29:11, which offers reassurance of God's plans for us: "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Birthdays can be a time to reflect on this promise and to consider the direction and purpose that God has ordained for our lives. As Christians, we believe that life is a

precious gift from God. Each year that passes is a testament to His grace and mercy. A birthday, then, becomes a moment to honor this divine craftsmanship, to acknowledge that we are indeed a wonder of God's creation

Saintly Wisdom on Life's Milestones

Saints throughout history have offered insights into the value of life and the importance of marking its milestones with gratitude and reflection. St Augustine of Hippo once said, "Let your old age be childlike, and your childhood like old age; that is, so that neither may your wisdom be with pride, nor your humility without wisdom." This quote encapsulates the idea that with each passing year, we should grow in both wisdom and humility. St Augustine reminds us that wisdom should be accompanied by humility. As we celebrate birthdays, we can reflect on the balance between knowledge and childlike wonder.

Pope Francis, known for his emphasis on humility and service, has also spoken on the nature of life's gifts: "Genuine love is demanding, but its beauty lies precisely in the demands it makes." As we celebrate birthdays, we are reminded of the love that God has for us and the call to respond to that love through our actions and choices. Pope Francis emphasizes that true love requires effort and sacrifice. Birthdays can be an opportunity to express love and kindness to others, just as God's love is demanding yet beautiful.

The Spiritual Significance Insights from Saints and Priests

Saint Faustina tells us, "A humble soul does not trust itself, but places all its confidence in God." St Faustina encourages us to trust in God rather than rely solely on our own abilities. Birthdays remind us of our dependence on divine grace.

St John Chrysostom says, "Let no one mourn that he has fallen again and again: for forgiveness has risen from the grave!" St John Chrysostom's words remind us that God's forgiveness is always available. Birthdays can be a time



to seek forgiveness and renewal.

St Catherine of Siena teaches that, "Nothing great is ever achieved without enduring much." Through St Catherine of Siena, we learn that greatness often requires perseverance and endurance. Birthdays can be a time to reflect on our life's journey and the challenges we've overcome.

Celebrating Birthdays in a Beautiful Way

In celebrating a birthday the Christian way we embrace the joy of life as a divine gift, marking the occasion not with mere festivity, but with heartfelt gratitude to God for His blessings and providence. It begins with a moment of prayer, thanking the Creator for another year of life and seeking His guidance for the days to come. The celebration is an opportunity to reflect on the love of Christ, to share our testimony of faith with loved ones, and to extend His grace through acts of kindness. Whether it's through charitable giving, volunteering, or simply spreading kindness, we honor the day by embodying the teachings of Jesus, who came not to be served, but to serve. Thus, a Christian birthday is less about the passing of time and more about the timeless grace that sustains us through each year.

In conclusion, while birthdays are a time for celebration, they also offer a moment for spiritual reflection. They remind us of God's ongoing creation, His plans for our future, and the love that surrounds us from above and from those we share our lives with. As we mark each year, let us do so with a heart full of gratitude for the divine gift of life!



CROSSWORD ANSWERS

Across : 4. Darius 5. Elkanah 9. Jeroboam 10. Nathan

Down : 1. Carmel 2. Jordan 3. Bathsheba 6. Sheba 7. Patmos 8. Cana



FRIENDS OF YOUTH

Anointing Fire Catholic Ministries

About Us

Friends of youth is a community under AFCM UK started to pray and work for the revival of Youth and the universities.

Since Youth are tomorrow's church, our aim is to bring all the youth closer to God by building the bridge of prayer between Jesus and the youth.

Contact us

Saramma - +44 7838 942077

Jibin- +44 7546 597395

Jessy- +44 7864 672573

Pray as though everything depended on God. Work as though everything depended on you."

St. Augustine of Hippo

What we do!

It is a community in each locality, with minimum of 5 or 6 members in each area, adopting a university of the local area, praying for the revival of the university and the Youth by doing

Jericho prayer around the university

-Daily intercession prayers for the universities, and for all youth retreats..

Conducting university missions,

Helping and organising one day convention for the youth "Door of Grace" in each local area..

POPE'S *Voice*

"Human rights are not only violated by terrorism, repression or assassination, but also by unfair economic structures that creates huge inequalities".

Pope Francis



GLOBAL CATHOLIC NEWS



BL CARLO ACUTIS ON THE PATH FOR CANONIZATION

Vatican: Pope Francis recognized a second miracle attributed to the intercession of Carlo Acutis and approved the promulgation of canonization to finalize the process of making him the first Millennial saint. Acutis, who died of leukemia in 2006 at the age of 15 and has been called "the patron saint of the internet", had a particular devotion to the Eucharist and one of his projects was an internet site for eucharistic miracles. He inspired many, including his own parents, with his piety, his love of Jesus, and his kindness and generosity.



ZIMBABWE DIOCESE REBUILDS DAM IN RESPONSE TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Zimbabwe: A Catholic diocese in Zimbabwe has rebuilt its own dam as part of faith-based responses to water challenges brought by climate change. The Diocese of Gweru in the country's low rainfall Midlands province says the Holy Cross Dam, reconstructed at the beginning of this year, will go a long way toward reviving long-abandoned agriculture projects. The Holy Cross Dam is one of many such projects being undertaken by the Catholic Church across the country in response to climate change and the desire to boost food production among low-income communities.

YOUNG PEOPLE LOVE THE CHARTRES PILGRIMAGE

France: The pilgrimage to Chartres gathers each year thousands of pilgrims from all ages and nations, since 1983 in what has been called one of the most attended events in France. A record number of 18,000 pilgrims from around the world took part in the 62-mile walk this year. Mainly attended by devotees of the Traditional Solemn High Mass in the traditional Roman rite in the Cathedral of Chartres. The Paris Chartres Pilgrimage is a three-day walk from Notre-Dame de Paris to Notre-Dame de Chartres, approximately 60 miles.

G K CHESTERTON'S 150TH BIRTHDAY



England: Gilbert Keith Chesterton, a convert to the Catholic Church was born May 29, 1874. He was a professional journalist, which he originally understood as a vocation and later lamented was becoming a trade. Chesterton was convinced by the truth of the faith, persuaded as it were by the approach of Aquinas. He saw the Church

from outside before he came inside. Hence his well-quoted observation that the Catholic Church is "larger on the inside than it is on the outside."

KANNADA BECOMES 53RD LANGUAGE OF VATICAN MEDIA

India: Vatican News adds Kannada as the 53rd language which provides coverage of Papal, Vatican, and Church news, offering the Gospel Proclamation in the mother-tongue of 35 million Indians. The initiative arises from collaboration between the Dicastery for Communication and the Archdiocese of Bangalore, in the Indian state of Karnataka. 93 years ago, Pope Pius XI entrusted Guglielmo Marconi with the task of building Vatican Radio in order to bring hope to the world. Today, new technologies offer us many opportunities to bring the Good News to our wounded world.

Anointing Fire Catholic Ministry America.
P.O Box 290274
Davie FL 33329-0274.
www.kingdomreveinatorusa.org

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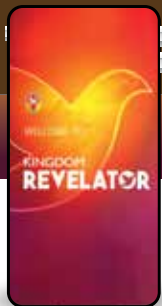


In the Sacred Heart, every treasure of wisdom and knowledge is hidden. The Heart of the Lord Jesus is the starting-point of the holiness of each one of us. From the Heart of the Lord Jesus let us learn the love of God and understanding of the mystery of sin. Let us make acts of reparation to the Divine Heart for the sins committed by us and by our fellow men. Let us make reparation for rejecting God's goodness and love. Let us draw close each day to this fount from which flow springs of living water. Let us cry out with the Samaritan woman "Give us this water", for it wells up to eternal life."

-Saint Pope John Paul II

"He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed".

(1 Peter 2:24)



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