

Bishop sees need for more embracing response to Venez. migrants

Bishop Francis Alleyne OSB issued the following statement on Wednesday:

"I was a stranger and you made me welcome" (Mt 25:35)

A number of our neighbours from Venezuela are making their way over the border into Guyana as one of the ways of dealing with harsh conditions in their country. A significant portion of these migrants have connections in Guyana being Guyanese or descendants of Guyanese who crossed the border in the opposite direction in the 1970s and 1980s when faced with

economic and security challenges at home. These, as they return to their roots, can find a place and a sponsor and assimilate into Guyana culture with some ease.

But there are those who do not have the links or language and venture into the unknown within Guyana's borders vulnerable and often desperate where, sad to say, they are at the mercy of and frequently exploited by border officials, "employers" and landlords.

The people of Israel looked back on their time in Egypt and remembered what it was like to be unsettled, exposed and

powerless and made it a point always to give welcome to the wayfarer and stranger *"You shall not wrong a stranger or oppress him, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt"* (Ex.22.20). This text is worthy of recall in today's reality of migrants among us.

Evidence shows that when countries catered to migrants by protecting them, assisting them with language, guiding them to dwellings, training and jobs it was beneficial to the country and the newcomers.

Evidence also shows that when the effort was not reserved to State ([please turn to page 2](#))

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Making Music in Central Rupununi: Pray, Practice, Participate, Praise



People from 23 villages in the South Pakaraimas, Central and South Rupununi participate in a workshop on Music and Liturgy at St. Ignatius Catholic Church, May 11th-13th (photos: Fr. Edwin Anthony SJ)

By Bro. Joel Thompson SJ

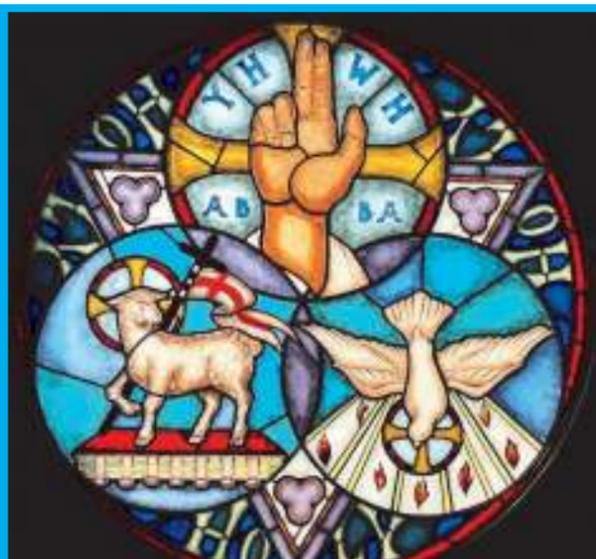
One cannot find anything more religious and more joyful in sacred celebrations than a whole congregation expressing its faith and devotion in song. Therefore the active participation of the whole people, which is shown in singing, is to be carefully promoted – (Instruction on Music in the Liturgy §16, Vatican II)

A good homily and good music/a good choir are often the two

criteria by which many evaluate their experience of a Mass or Service. While these are indeed important elements of the Liturgy, the Church has always placed an even greater emphasis on the active participation of the whole people of God. We do not come to the liturgy as mere spectators to evaluate others or ourselves, but as people who pray with our whole minds and hearts. Is this often our experience? How

do we use our gifts and talents within the Liturgy?

From May 11th-13th, approximately 80 people from 23 villages in the South Pakaraimas, Central and South Rupununi participated in a workshop on Music and Liturgy at St. Ignatius Catholic Church. The workshop was facilitated by Bishop Francis Alleyne OSB, Joel and Justin Thompson and Father Edwin Anthony SJ. ([please turn to page 7](#))



TRINITY SUNDAY

Bishop's Engagements

Sunday May 27th

15:05 hrs – Return to Guyana

Friday June 1st

16:00hrs – Guyana Council of Churches Meeting

Saturday June 2nd

09:00hrs – Retreat with AEC Youth Assembly 2018 delegates



✠ Francis Alleyne OSB



Caricom's position on Venezuela

Dear Editor,

I thank you for this issue (May 11th) of the *Catholic Standard*. I especially appreciate the headlined article on the plight of our Venezuelan brothers and sisters. The article underscores the solidarity we should

have for our Caribbean brothers and sisters. Too bad CARICOM's position is not that well articulated.

God bless!

**+Archbishop Donald J. Reece,
 Archbishop Emeritus of Kingston**

EDITORIAL

The power of courtesy

"Be known for your courtesy: It alone can make you worthy of praise. Courtesy is the best part of culture, a kind of enchantment and it wins the goodwill of all, just as rudeness wins only scorn and universal annoyance.

"When rudeness comes from pride, it is detestable; when from bad breeding, it is contemptible. Better too much courtesy than too little. ... Treat your enemies with courtesy and you'll see how valuable it really is. It costs little but pays a nice dividend: Those who honor are honored."

The quote by Spanish Jesuit Baltasar Gracian was written over 300 years ago. Although it is centuries old, it speaks especially to our times.

Courtesy is the will to give others room — and space. It avoids oppressive closeness, embarrassment and the sting of painful circumstances.

During my ministry, most divorces I witnessed resulted in one spouse restricting the space of the other. No longer was there breathing room to live together peacefully. Restrictions had choked the life out of their marriage. An open atmosphere that encourages mutual sharing and uplifts the human spirit was nonexistent.

Theologian Father Romano Guardini further points out, "Courtesy requires time. In order to exercise it, we must stop and wait; we must make a detour; and we must be considerate and defer our own affairs." Patience and courtesy go hand in hand.

Little, if any, time is allowed in our "deadline media age" to have decent conversations. In some talk shows, it is common to see a person interrupted in mid-speech and to hear ideas flying here and there and never land. Some consider this good old-fashioned bantering. A closer look often reflects rudeness for the sake of rudeness and dialogue with no true discourse.

Courtesy's ultimate purpose is making life beautiful. Why say this? It is because dignity is at its heart. When we act dignified, graciousness is at its best.

St. Paul lists another essential dimension of courtesy in encouraging us: "Anticipate one another in showing honor" (Rom 12:10). In other words, continuously be on the alert to promote the goodness and talents in those you meet.

There is the saying: "You can attract more bees with honey than vinegar." Would that those who influence our society use courtesy's power to sweeten our life more. How wise the Psalms are in using the image of honey to symbolize a community in harmony.

By Father Eugene Hemrick. ❖

Candidates for Toshao should debate

Dear Editor,

"Modernity" and outside influences have had inevitable entry into Indigenous communities in Guyana since time immemorial. And in the words of Marshall Sahlins "a culture as an anthropological concept is never static for its always in contact with another hence always in transformation". In this context Indigenous culture is no exception where its in constant contact with the outside world that impacts and generates a reconfiguration of it.

These outside influences or so called "invented traditions" into indigenous cosmivision have over the years contributed in shaping our peoples psyche, which to an extent eroded the local culture where it made most of us believe that what comes from the outside is better than what we possessed for generations.

Globalization also has its impact in every corner of society and Guyana is no exception. In this country we copy the lifestyles from the American culture, with the television shows, and the debates of presidential candidates during the national election campaign. Given this reality from the hegemony of globalization to minority cultures and copying American culture in Guyana, this system has a repercussion on indigenous culture that is undergoing a constant reconfiguration from dominant ones.

In the interior most the indigenous villages are introduced to activities that are not of indigenous culture such as the beauty pageant which we seem to adapt to well as part of local culture.

Editor, given this reality during these weeks of elections for Toshaos across the country comes this question, what if there be Toshaos debates in indigenous communities across Guyana? Why, because it would be great to have and to hear the contesting Toshao candidates who are vying for the leadership in their respective villages in the future. Most importantly it would be something good for the villagers to hear the contestants' blue prints for the development of their communities so that they can convince villagers to vote for the best candidate of their choice.

The debates can be a great platform to showcase the intellectual prowess of our Toshaos in indigenous communities. A place where Toshaos can show to the villagers how erudite they are and influenced from their circumstances such as how conversant they are in the local

language and culture of their people. It would be important to know that our leaders are great speakers in public, sober-headed and persons who can display critical thinking skills, good interpretation of written texts and discourses, including their readiness and ability to question things that they don't clearly understand from powerful forces vis- à- vis external influences that try to control them with party politics of "modernity" and polarize indigenous communities.

Editor, in most indigenous communities there are Secondary Schools, and these promote annual debates among themselves and with other schools in the Region. Thus, most communities are very familiar with debates and so it should not be difficult to arrange debates among Toshaos in the future. With perhaps the assistance of the Secondary schools in the hinterland that can introduce this "positive erudite outside influence" for Toshaos which can have a great impact in indigenous communities in Guyana.

Medino Abraham

May crowning at Plaisance



The traditional May crowning of the statue of Our Lady in parishes across the country took place at Saint John the Baptist Church in Plaisance last Sunday, when six-year old Mariangel Sobers placed the crown on this beautifully decorated statue of Our Lady during the morning Mass. ❖

Venezuelan Migrants (From Front Page)

agencies but supported by the population, the benefits were even more.

Guyana is confronted with the new reality of migrants and drawing on its reputation for hospitality can shape this new reality in such a way as to release a wave of new life for all. The Church with its rich tradition of Gospel and social teachings ought to be, along with others, on the front of this new wave. ❖

All of Chile's bishops offer resignations after meeting pope on sex abuse



Bishop Juan Ignacio Gonzalez Errazuriz of San Bernardo, Chile, and Auxiliary Bishop Fernando Ramos Perez of Santiago, Chile, at a press conference in Rome May 18 announcing that every bishop in Chile offered his resignation to Pope Francis after a three-day meeting with him at the Vatican. (CNS/Paul Haring)

Every Catholic bishop in Chile offered his resignation to Pope Francis after a three-day meeting at the Vatican to discuss the clerical sexual abuse scandal.

The stunning move, announced on May 18, comes after the Chilean bishops spent three days in Rome, meeting with the Pontiff, to discuss the sex-abuse scandal in their country.

In announcing their willingness to resign, the Chilean bishops said that they had offered freely to step down and had left their future status "in the hands of the Holy Father," allowing the Pope to decide which bishops should be removed. The bishops thanked the Pope for his "fraternal correction" and offered their apologies to the victims of sexual abuse.

The unprecedented mass resignation follows a series of events that caused mounting tensions within the Catholic Church in Chile: the 2011 conviction of Father Fernando Karadima, a highly influential priest, on abuse charges; the Pope's 2015 decision to promote Bishop Juan Barros, a prelate with close ties to Karadima; and the Pope's own public statements that criticism of Bishop Barros was based only on "unfounded allegations of leftists."

The controversy reached a peak in January, when the Pontiff visited Chile, and responded to questions by saying that he had never received evidence of wrongdoing or negligence by Bishop Barros. That public statement by the Pope was called into question when one of Karadima's victims revealed that he had sent a letter to

Pope Francis, explaining the bishop's negligence; the letter was reportedly hand-delivered by Cardinal Sean O'Malley.

In answer to increasingly urgent questions, Pope Francis commissioned Archbishop Charles Scicluna, formerly the Vatican's top sex-abuse prosecutor, to investigate the situation in Chile. After receiving a lengthy report from Archbishop Scicluna, the Pope issued an emotional apology for his handling of the matter, acknowledging "serious mistakes." He then arranged personal meetings with some Chilean sex-abuse victims, and summoned the Chilean bishops to Rome for a thorough discussion.

In a letter made public at the conclusion of this week's three-day meeting, the Pope thanked the Chilean bishops for their willingness "to cooperate in all the short-, medium-, and long-term changes and resolutions that we must implement." He urged them to return home with a new commitment to build a "prophetic Church, capable of putting at the center what's important: the service to her Lord in the hungry, the imprisoned, the migrant, the abused."

However, in a longer letter, which leaked to the press after the meeting, the Pope used much stronger language to denounce the "absolutely reprehensible things that have happened in the Chilean Church," citing not only sexual abuse but "unacceptable abuses of power" and a loss of "prophetic vigor."

In this longer letter the Pope revealed that Archbishop Scicluna's report had uncovered clear evidence of "grave negligence" among the Chilean bishops, as well as evidence that some bishops had covered up abuse and put

pressure on Church officials to do the same.

"No one can exempt himself and place the problem on the shoulders of the others," the Pope wrote. "We need a change," he said. While acknowledging that the removal of some bishops would be a positive step, he wrote: "I insist, it's not enough."

The dramatic resignation by the entire Chilean Catholic hierarchy leaves Pope Francis in a position to write his own conclusion to the story. The most urgent question, clearly, is which resignations the Holy Father will choose to accept, and which Chilean bishops will be allowed to continue in ministry.

However, the resignations also raise new questions about how the Holy See will handle complaints about bishops' negligence in handling sex-abuse charges. Under the guidance of Pope Francis, the Vatican created, then quietly dissolved, a special panel that would have tried bishops on such charges. Instead, the Vatican announced that accusations of negligence would be weighed by existing bodies, primarily the Congregation for Bishops. The Chilean mass resignation could skirt that process, and set no precedent for the handling for future cases in which bishops are accused of negligence.

Also, the resignation of Chile's active bishops leaves unresolved the status of one prominent retired prelate: Cardinal Javier Errazuriz, the former Archbishop of Santiago, who remains a member of the influential Council of Cardinals. Cardinal Errazuriz—who did not attend this week's meetings in Rome—has been charged with working to silence report by Karadima's accusers. ❖

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A Christian Perspective on Social Issues



Re-visiting Domestic Violence (Part 1)

By GHK Lall

Unfortunately, there still may be occasion to revisit and write again (and then again) about the domestic violence disease raging in this land. Make no mistake, as alarming as this may sound, it is accepted by many as a social disease with no letup in sight. In view of the surging incidents of this national embarrassment of horrors inflicted, a contagion is clearly at work, and with not many encouraging lights to bring hope.

In the false lulls fostered by an absence of news reports that alarm, there would be this now characteristic surge of horrors that tumble over each other to seize the attention of the public. It seems an uphill struggle, as the usual approaches yield meager fruit. The police are reported to have been sensitized and trained on how to respond appropriately and timely, how to overcome an eternity of cultural distance and scorn, and how to be vigorous, or empathetic, or conciliatory, as the circumstances require. It does not seem to have made much of a difference. Most police stations have female officers on duty, and who have been identified to take the lead in handling such developments, and yet pain and humiliations continue without any enduring absence.

Religious institutions have done their part and are actively engaged in parish and community outreach through various activities ranging from the educational to counseling to comforting. They have pointed to scriptures, provided leadership, and even introduced some rethinking of roles and responses when violence flares and endangers. The energies are shared and efforts continuing, but there has to be the equivalent of mental shrugs or throwing up of hands in despair. And still, there can be no resignation to the inevitable, of the sense of being involved in a losing battle with the tide arrayed powerfully against; the search for peaceful grounds has to continue, if only for the quality of worship and fellowship in the congregation, particularly the smaller more isolated ones. There is testing all around, and not only for those directly impacted by the explosions of rage and reckless disregard for life and limb, for family, and even for self.

In a world where almost every incident of note (road rage, racial slurs, police brutality, or unacceptable words, postures, and deeds) can be caught instantaneously on camera, it is a reflection of the careful distance and studied disconnect that with all the ugly examples of domestic violence in this society, there is little of the brutality that makes its sorry way into the public's view. Where a great many

have cellphones, and almost all such instruments come equipped with cameras, there is only blankness to show for all the battering, and only silence for all the screams now snuffed out forever. All are shamed; but almost all are still not concerned enough to be involved. There is consolation in looking the other way, and in seeing and hearing no evil.

To be sure, it is a precarious and perilous step for the outsider, no matter how near, to venture into the treacherous uncertain waters of domestic strife, domestic torments, and domestic heat. There could be the not unreasonable apprehension of personal harm, accusation of personal bias and, on occasion, inferences of ugly personal motives. Why take the risk, when the irrational nature of the aggressor may be well known from experience or observation? Why step into situations that are thankless undertakings, and with no upside? Why intervene to defuse and soothe, when the battered (usually women) are culturally and environmentally conditioned to forgive, to forget, and to forge still another promised new beginning in what might be a hopeless situation? Hope does spring.... Peer influence, environmental weight, family wisdom and reputation, and fear of the future might all conspire to render the victimized and shattered weak and indecisive, fatally so, when danger lurks.

Far too often, whether within extended families, in the middle of police action, or during court proceedings, the warring parties in hard domestic disputes reconcile. Despite an unending series of sharp troubles and painful memories, there is the inexplicable; the only two persons rejoicing at the time are abuser and victim. Those who alternately pushed, cajoled, or mediated feel betrayed; it is part of the pain and price; they shrink away and stay away when the next fateful storm arises. That could be the final one from which there is no return. Sometimes, the court document - decree nisi, legal separation, or order of protection - that ends the relationship is worth neither the ink nor paper used up in the process. The sad record is that these patches do not hold. Then there are only the lingering questions as to who should have done more, and what more could have been done. A mind is a terrible thing to waste; and so, too, is a life. (*Cont'd next week....*) ❖

Christians, Muslims need to cooperate, not compete, Vatican says in Ramadan message

(CNS) -- A competitive attitude between Christians and Muslims fosters the belief that religions are a source of tension and violence, not peace, said Cardinal Jean-Louis Tauran.

"It is important that we Christians and Muslims recall the religious and moral values that we share, while acknowledging our differences," said the cardinal, president of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue.

"By recognizing what we hold in common and by showing respect for our legitimate differences, we can more firmly establish a solid foundation for peaceful relations, moving from competition and confrontation to an effective cooperation for the common good," he said in a message to Muslims.

The annual message was for Ramadan, which began May 16, and Eid al-Fitr, the feast marking the end of the monthlong fast, which will be on or around June 15 this year. The Vatican published the message May 18.

Titled, "Christians and Muslims: From Competition to Collaboration," the message expressed appreciation for "the great effort by the Muslims throughout the world to fast, pray and share the Almighty's gifts with the poor."

The importance of the month was an opportunity to share some thoughts about relations between Christians and Muslims and the need to move from competition to collaboration, the cardinal wrote.

"A spirit of competition has too often marked past relations between Christians and Muslims," he said, adding

that "the negative consequences of which are evident: jealousy, recriminations and tensions."

"In some cases, these have led to violent confrontations, especially where religion has been instrumentalized, above all due to self-interest and political motives," the message said.

This kind of "interreligious competition" hurts the image of religions and their followers, "and it fosters the view that religions are not sources of peace, but of tension and violence," it said.

To prevent and overcome such negative consequences, the cardinal wrote, it is key for Christians and Muslims to recognize what values they share and show respect concerning legitimate differences.

Working together for the common good should include assisting those most in need, allowing both sides "to offer a credible witness to the Almighty's love for the whole of humanity," the message said.

"So that we may further peaceful and fraternal relations, let us work together and honor each another," Cardinal Tauran wrote. "In this way we will give glory to the Almighty and promote harmony in society, which is becoming increasingly multi-ethnic, multi-religious and multicultural." ❖

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Pope's Intentions

June Monthly Intention:

Social Networks

That social networks may work towards that inclusiveness which respects others for their differences. ❖

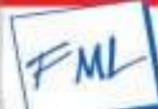


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Sunday Scripture

May 27th -The Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity, Year B



THREE IN ONE

FIRST READING Deuteronomy 4:32-34; 39-40

The Lord is God indeed, in heaven above as on earth beneath, he and no other.

Moses said to the people: "Put this question, then, to the ages that are past, that went before you, from the time God created man on earth: Was there ever a word so majestic, from one end of heaven to the other? Was anything ever heard? Did ever a people hear the voice of the living God speaking from the heart of the fire, as you heard it, and remain alive? Has any god ventured to take to himself one nation from the midst of another by ordeals, signs, wonders, war with mighty hand and outstretched arm, by fearsome terrors – all this that the Lord your God did for you before your eyes in Egypt?"

"Understand this today, therefore, and take it to heart: The Lord is God indeed, in heaven above as on earth beneath, he and no other. Keep his laws and commandments as I give them to you today, so that you and your children may prosper and live long in the land that the Lord your God gives you for ever.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 32

Response: *Happy the people the Lord has chosen as his own.*

1. The word of the Lord is faithful and all his works to be trusted. The Lord loves justice and right and fills the earth with his love. *Response*
2. By his word the heavens were made, by the breath of his mouth all the stars. He spoke; and they came to be. He commanded; they sprang into being. *Response*
3. The Lord looks on those who revere him, on those who hope in his love, to rescue their souls from death, to keep them alive in famine. *Response*
4. Our soul is waiting for the Lord. The Lord is our help and our shield. May your love be upon us, O Lord, as we place all our hope in you. *Response*

SECOND READING

Romans 8:14-17

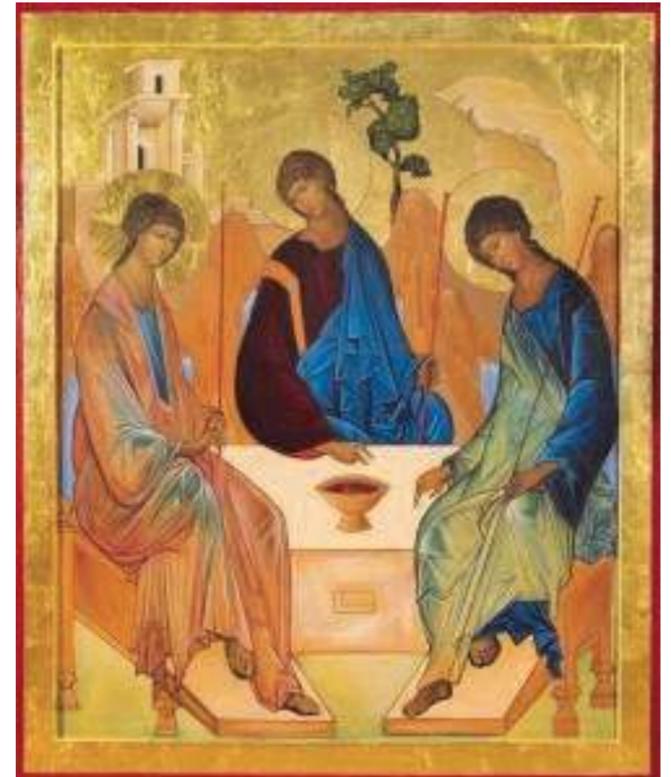
You received the spirit of sons, and it makes us cry out, "Abba, Father!"

Everyone moved by the Spirit is a son of God. The spirit you received is not the spirit of slaves bringing fear into your lives again; it is the spirit of sons, and it makes us cry out, 'Abba, Father!' The Spirit himself and our spirit bear united witness that we are children of God. And if we are children we are heirs as well: heirs of God and coheirs with Christ, sharing his sufferings so as to share his glory.

Gospel Acclamation

Apoc 1-8

*Alleluia, alleluia!
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
The God who is, who was, and who is to come.
Alleluia!*



GOSPEL

Matthew 28:16-20

Baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

The eleven disciples set out for Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had arranged to meet them. When they saw him they fell down before him, though some hesitated. Jesus came up and spoke to them. He said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, make disciples of all nations; baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commands I gave you. And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time." ❖



By: The Diocesan Stewardship Council of Guyana

On this Sunday, the week after Pentecost, we celebrate The Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity in the Church. We have celebrated this particular weekend in the Church for more than 700 years. Depending on your age, you may recall St. Pope John XXIII who organized and oversaw Vatican II. Interestingly, it was Pope John XXII (1316-1364) who made this celebration official in the Church.

We consider the Holy Trinity to be one of the great mysteries in the Church. It is the mystery of the identity of God.

Who is God? God is one God in three Divine Persons — the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Whether we are aware of this consciously or not, this is something each of us acknowledges in a number of ways, especially when we go to Mass. Every time we make the Sign of the Cross, we are making a statement about the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

That statement is made often. At minimum it is made when the celebrating priest opens Mass with a sign of the cross. Just prior to the Gospel Reading we do an older version of the sign of

the cross by making a small cross on our forehead, our lips, and our chest. The priest concludes the Mass with a blessing, and we all make a Sign of the Cross.

There are so many other times before, during, and after Mass when we make the sign or the cross, and there may be other times in our daily lives when we do it. Pope Francis has said, "Every time we make the sign of the cross, we draw closer to God." Perhaps we should do it even more often. ❖

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

Gospel Reflection



By Fr. Michael Barrow SJ

The last thing Jesus said when saying goodbye to his apostles before ascending into heaven was: "Know that I will be with you always; yes, to the end of time." On the face of it, that is rather strange thing to say when going away - obviously meaning that he would be with them in a completely different way. Earlier on Jesus had said, "It is for your own good that I am going away because unless I go the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you."

I have noticed sometimes that when I am separated from someone important to me, I find I put into words my affection for them more in a letter or even an email than I do when I am with them. Sometimes also when a person goes away or misses a celebration, they say "I will be with you in spirit". But Jesus meant far more than that.

After two or three years with him, Jesus' close friends had come to know him so intimately that his presence and love were the most important things in their lives. It must have been wonderful to see Jesus and hug him. But the disadvantage was that in that way they saw him as a wonderful human being like the rest of us, though the most important person in the world. But Jesus is much more than that. He is God. He is the source of all my real life, so much so that his physical presence would be something of a barrier to my real intimacy with him. His presence in our lives is more than anything that can be expressed physically. He is closer to me than I am to myself. "I live; yet not I, but Christ lives in me." ❖

Social Cohesion is rooted in respect for diversity, recognises plurality

-President says at opening of SDA Convention



President David Granger said that social cohesion rests on a foundation of religious and cultural liberty, a recognition of the plural character of the nation and the promotion of greater respect for others. He also noted that the church has a vital role to play in fostering friendly relations among the faithful by working to ensure social cohesion, particularly in the plural societies, which exist in most, if not all, Caribbean jurisdictions. The Head of State made these remarks at the Central Seventh-Day Adventist (SDA) Church, where he declared open, a five-day Public Affairs and Religious Liberty Workshop and Convention under the theme "Peaceful coexistence: the challenge for diversity".

"The Church in the Caribbean has a vital role to play in ensuring peaceful coexistence by safeguarding the right to religious freedom and by fostering respect towards all. The Church, by recognising all races, religions and cultures, has a sacred mission to reach out to the marginalised and excluded... Caribbean societies have managed to enjoy relative social harmony among its diverse peoples because of two main factors, respect for each other's human rights and recognition of our religious and cultural diversity..." he said.

Speaking to the theme of 'peaceful coexistence', the President explained that social cohesion, which has been a key area of focus for his Administration, is rooted in respect for the racial, religious and social groups in society, particularly of minority groups. This respect he said, expands the space for diversity by accepting differences so that all can see themselves as equal members of society. It is for this reason that the Government designated special days to celebrate and pay homage to various ethnic groups that make up the Guyanese society. "Social cohesion is concerned with combating exclusion and marginalisation and creating a sense of belonging for people, regardless of their race or religion... Social Cohesion helps to promote respect for differences among various social groups. It acknowledges that, left unattended, those differences could threaten mutual trust, weaken people's sense of belonging and degenerate into antagonism and hostility," President Granger said.

Recognising the cosmopolitan characteristic of the Caribbean region owing to its colonial history, the Guyanese Head of State called on the church to continue to coexist peacefully and to strive to better respond to the challenge of diversity. He added that

Caribbean Christians can contribute to the construction of socially cohesive communities among their ethnically diverse peoples.

The President reminded the congregation of the rights and freedoms to which every Guyanese citizen is entitled under the Constitution with regard to religious freedom. "The Constitution proscribes discrimination and vilification on the grounds of religion. Constitutional protection of the right to religious liberty ensures that persons do not feel marginalised or vilified because of their religion," he said.

Similar sentiments were expressed by Chairman of the Inter-Religious Organisation (IRO), Pastor Ronald McGarrell, who said that for humanity to be happy and coexist peacefully, the struggle of modern ideologies, cultures and races must be overcome by interreligious understanding and spiritual harmony. "We must respect the traditions of other religions and to do everything we can to prevent conflict and discord," he said.

Meanwhile, President of the Caribbean Union Conference of SDA Church, Dr. Kern Tobias said that diversity is one of the world's greatest challenges in the 21st century, but noted that the SDA church can offer a peaceful model for coexistence.

The Convention, which concludes on the Sabbath on Saturday, was organised by the Caribbean Union Conference of SDA Church, the Public Affairs and Religious Liberty Department and the Caribbean Religious Liberty Association. It has attracted the participation of SDA missions from St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, St. Lucia, Suriname, Grenada, the Leeward Islands and Barbados.

Minister within the Ministry of Health, Dr. Karen Cummings also attended the event. ❖

Guardian Angels SSVP opens craft/piety shop



From Devi Diaram

The Guardian Angels SSVP conference was very pleased as they opened their Piety/Craft Shop last Sunday, May 20th, which was funded by England and Wales. The project was blessed by Father Anthony De Souza SJ after the Sunday morning mass and snacks were distributed to parishioners. Funds

raised from this project will be utilised to assist the poor and needy in the community.

This project was discussed with the president of the Superior Council in Guyana, Mr. Winston Play-

ter; treasurer, Mr. Dwane Lopes; and Mr. John Wild of an SSVP conference in the UK with which the Guyana SSVP is twinned.

The UK conference approved and provided the financing for the project.

The local body would like to express its gratitude to Mr. Wild and others in the

UK for reaching out to brothers and sisters in Guyana.

Special thanks are also extended to Brother Winston Playter Superior Council President of Guyana, for his continued support and to the Vincentians of Guardian Angels SSVP, who worked tirelessly to put this all together.

The SSVP is one of the oldest lay societies in the Catholic church all over the world and is the largest Catholic Charity in Guyana.

It was formed in Paris (France) in 1833 by Fredrick Ozanam.

The basic function of the society worldwide is caring for the poor and the needy, irrespective of religion, tribe, age, colour or other sentiments.

God bless you all !!! ❖

Catechists in ongoing formation



From Nafeeza Rodrigues

The continuation of the ECHOES of FAITH PLUS Catechists' formation program was facilitated by Mrs. Angie Sukhai from the evening of Friday May 18th to the evening of Sunday May 20th. It was a packed weekend programme but well worth it.

The discussions were great and we all learned a lot from each other. Catechists shared their sentiments of unhappiness with the discontinuation of "Encounter", which was a service of Eucharistic adoration and which was something that young people looked forward to being involved in.

We are always reminded that our call to this Ministry of Catechesis is a vocation, an inner call or the voice of the Holy

Spirit who will certainly expect a positive response from us in order to furnish us with the necessary gifts to deliver the message. As Catechists, we must always utilise opportunities provided to us as they will help to deepen our knowledge of our faith as well as build techniques and skills for sharing our faith. We must be able to adapt easily so as to deliver a more effective and productive programme to our adults and children in the various age groups as we communicate our rich Catholic traditions.

A Catechist who completes the Echoes of Faith Plus formation program will surely experience a process of spiritual growth and will gain an overview and a deeper understanding of the

major doctrinal themes contained in the Catechism of the Catholic Church. We will also learn the practical skills of teaching effective catechetical sessions. We want to ensure that what we teach is sound. We also want to make no mistakes in ensuring that our children are engaged meaningfully in activities that will capture their interest and will have a positive impact in their lives along with a great longing to learn more.

So, my sisters and brothers please let us be involved and make use of all opportunities like this one, as one will never know when another opportunity will arise. Let us be reminded that the Church is depending on us to deliver glad tidings and great joy in our classrooms, homes or wherever Catechesis takes place.

I was actually very disappointed with the poor attendance from Catechists at this last session as I would have imagined a much larger group. This left me with such a sad feeling as I would not for one moment want to believe that this is a true indication of the level of emphasis we place on matters of this nature.

May the Holy Spirit guide us, energise us and continue to sustain us! ❖

Music workshop in Central Rupununi (From page 1)



Although the workshop mainly focused on the teaching and learning of new hymns, the role of musicians as 'music ministers' within the Liturgy was encouraged and outlined. Bishop Francis emphasized that as people of God, our dignity or worth is not something that can be earned or lost but an integral element of being human (cf. Psalm 8:5). Worship then, is really worship - a place where we give glory and thanks to our creator.

The key sections of the workshop focused on how to learn hymns, techniques for guitarists, the

singing of the responsorial Psalm, learning unfamiliar hymns in the hymnal, and brushing up or correcting those hymns which are known but which over time, have acquired 'interesting' variations from the set score. The end of the workshop coincided with adult Confirmations at St. Ignatius Church on the Feast of the Ascension. This provided an opportunity to use the new songs learnt over the weekend at the Sunday Liturgy.

Participants expressed their appreciation for the initiative and asked that similar workshops be

held regularly in Region 9. One important suggestion for future workshops is to focus on reading and understanding music since it was recognized that this would make learning hymns and appreciating musical styles easier. Being a music minister is a joyful and prayerful experience which requires practice and dedication.

As St. Augustine reminds us 'those who sing [well] pray twice'.

Might the Lord be calling you towards greater participation in this ministry? ❖

Journeying with the Word of God



MAKING THE WORD OF GOD YOUR OWN

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

1st Reading: Moses reminds the people of the close and loving relationship God established with them and of the obligations and blessings that flow from such a relationship.

2nd Reading: We have become children of God and co-heirs with Jesus his Son, because of the Holy Spirit dwelling in us.

Gospel: In his last appearance to his disciples, Jesus commissions them to preach the Gospel to all people and promises to be with them to the end of time.

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

1. The love of God the Father calls for a response from his children. How would you say you have been trying to respond to God's faithful love?
2. St Paul tells us that the Spirit brings us into close intimacy with the Father. What does this say about the kind of relationship we should have with God?
3. Making disciples of all nations is the mission of the Church. What part do you see yourself playing in carrying out of this mission?

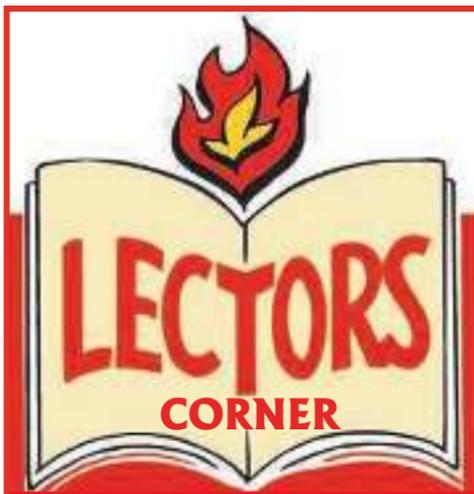
Step 3: *Accepting the message of God's Word in your life of faith.*

Our Christian spiritual life is all about relationships: the relationship of ourselves as human being with God, as children with a parent. Such a life requires activity and practice to deepen our relationship with the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit in whose life of love we participate. Prayer is the most obvious way we can do this.

Step 4: *Something to think & pray about*

1. Reflect on what you need to change in your life as a response to a Father who loves and cares for you unconditionally.
2. We are called to be there for others. Think of a time when you felt the need to be there for someone. What was the occasion? Why was your presence needed? How did it make you feel?
3. Care-givers sometimes find that their presence is all that is needed. Why do you think this is so?
4. What strength do you draw from the fact that Jesus promises to be with you always? ❖

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



Proclaiming the Word of God

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

May 27th: The Most Holy Trinity (B)



"Baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

The Word This Week

When the Church celebrates the Feast of the Most Holy Trinity, it is an attempt to summarise the whole mystery of our God into one day. This is not just a "theological feast" but a feast which should speak to us of this simple fact of faith: the Father loves us, has revealed that love in his Son, and has called into a relationship sustained by the Spirit. It is our joy that, as baptised members of the Church, we can somehow share in that divine life and love which is the Trinity~ becoming children of God. God has chosen us, and we are his own people, just as he chose the people of Israel long ago. The mystery of the Trinity is not meant to make this more difficult - on the contrary it is to clarify and summarise all that our faith is about:

that we are children - with the Son, in the power of the Spirit - of the one Father.

Notes for Readers

First Reading: Deuteronomy 4:32-40.

Although the Lord freed his people from slavery in Egypt, they still needed constant reminding of what this meant: here we see Moses in full spate, putting before the people the drama of what God did for his own people. As we listen to this today, we proclaim that this God is our God, who has chosen us. The first paragraph is a lengthy rhetorical question - a device used to engage the listeners and make them think. It builds up hugely to the beginning of the second paragraph, and the central declaration of today's readings: "The Lord is God indeed ... he and no other." This is what the reader should aim for. Start off gently, but insistently. Pause briefly after each question, to allow it to "settle in". Allow the more dramatic words their full weight, without going over the top. Especially use the list half way down: "...by ordeals, signs, wonders, war with mighty hand and outstretched arm, by fearsome terrors..." Find a tone of utter confidence for the central declaration, and then almost fade away slightly. Above all, proclaim this reading with confidence.

Second Reading: Romans 8:14-17.

This is a very dense little exposition of Trinitarian theology - but don't let that put you off! Given the feast we celebrate today, focus in your mind on three words: "Spirit", "Father" and "Christ". Read through this short passage with your mind fixed on those words, and see Paul's meaning coming out clearly. He is talking about a relationship which has been established by God, bringing us close as children. Allow the first sentence to stand quite simply and boldly: especially stress "...son of God". Mentally underline the words "the spirit of sons...", and think carefully about how to 'cry out', "Abba, Father!". ("Abba" is the Aramaic for Father - it is a very close and familiar term, almost like our "Dad".) Be careful with the words "heirs": it's not a familiar word in general conversation and could easily be lost - move slowly and emphatically over it. Watch "coheirs" even more carefully, for the same reason. The last line is full of wonderful promise: be aware that the reading ends on the word "glory", and modulate your voice accordingly.



June 3rd: The Body and Blood of Christ (B)

"This is my Body. This is my Blood."

The Word This Week

The key to today's readings is the word "Covenant". A Covenant is a solemn and binding agreement between two parties, which

establishes the way in which each party will behave towards the other. It establishes rights and duties, and forges a new relationship between two people or groups of people. In the Ancient World, a Covenant was always sealed with a sacrifice and a meal: the sacrifice brought divine blessing on the covenant, and the meal sealed the relationship between the participants. In the Covenant that God forged with his people in the Old Testament, it was expressed very simply: God said, "You will be my people, and I will be your God." God would remain faithful to the people, and they were to remain faithful to God (this is where the commandments come in). This Covenant was sealed in its greatest form on Mount Sinai, as we hear in the first reading. When the Old Covenant had been broken beyond repair, God sent his only Son to establish a New Covenant: the sacrifice and meal of this New Covenant is Calvary and the Last Supper, where Christ is both priest and victim and altar. When we eat and drink this sacred meal at every Mass we are renewed in the New Covenant and the relationship with God, because Calvary and the Upper Room are present once more and the New Covenant is sealed for us anew.

Notes for Readers

First Reading: Exodus 24:3-8

This is one of the central passages of Scripture in the Old Testament. The "blood of the Covenant" which is sprinkled by Moses over the altar and the people is what seals the relationship between God and the people. Blood is a symbol of life, and the Covenant itself is a promise of life and prosperity. As a reader you must approach this reading carefully. Much of it will be strange and unfamiliar to the congregation, and there are many words and phrases which may well not be understood ("ordinances", "holocausts". "immolate"). Read everything as carefully as you can, telling the story of what Moses and the people said and did. The key to understanding comes at the end, when reference is made to the "blood of the Covenant." This should make both reader and listener think of the words of the Mass: "This is the cup of my blood, the blood of the new and everlasting Covenant." This reference will help to link this reading in with the other readings and with the feast.

Second Reading: Hebrews 9:11-15

This reading links everything together: the sacrifices and priesthood of the Old Covenant (the blood of bulls and goats) and the role of Christ as Priest and Victim of the New Covenant. In reading this, always remember that it is a present reality: at this very Mass, we will once again have the blood of our great High Priest on our altar, as the "perfect sacrifice" which gains our "eternal inheritance". Spend some time with this reading to understand what the author is getting at - your understanding will help others to understand. ❖

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



E-Standard

There will be a new platform for the electronic version of the Catholic Standard which will be incorporated into the newly re-designed website of the Diocese.

We are expected to go live at the beginning of June 2018 and will offer free viewership to all interested persons during the month ending June 30th.

Interested persons will just be required to fill out a short sign up form and will have access. Please look out for the link in next week's Catholic Standard.

The new format will enable the E-Standard to be easily viewed on any mobile device.

A new payment structure and small increase in subscription rates will become effective from July 1st, 2018. Subscribers may now choose to pay \$1,000 (US\$5.00) per quarter, \$2,000 (US\$10) per six months or \$4,000 (US\$20) per annum.

Subscribers will pay the rate of the current subscription up to June 30th, 2018. Those who have not yet paid for 2018 will be invoiced at the current subscription rate of \$1,500 (US\$7.50) for six months - January to June 2018 and at the new subscription rate of \$2,000 (US\$10) for six months from July to December 2018. Invoicing will commence soon. Subscribers abroad (United States, Canada etc.) may find it more practical to pay at least an annual subscription.

Subscriptions may be paid as follows:

Georgetown - All Saints Piety Shop, Croal street and Pollard Place (next to the Catholic Life Centre). Tel. 225-7556 or email allsaints@rcdiocesgy.org

Rest of Guyana - Through any parish office, priest in Guyana or family member or friend traveling to Georgetown.

- For current subscribers: Kindly send your name and the payment.
- For new subscribers: Kindly send your name, email address, telephone contact and the payment.

Abroad (United States, Canada etc.) - please email the Piety Shop Manager at: allsaintsmanager@rcdiocesgy.org for details.



Children's Page

The Holy Trinity



Dear Boys and Girls,

Today is a special day in the church called Trinity Sunday. Trinity means three. The Bible says there is "One God and Father of all," but God is made up of three persons – the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. That is what we call the Trinity. When we make the Sign of the Cross we say "in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit". When someone is baptized the priest says, "I baptize you in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit." When you hear those words – Father, Son and Holy Spirit – we are talking about the Trinity – one God in three persons.

As simple as that sounds, the Trinity is hard to understand. It is a mystery to us - something we can think about and wonder about. People have used many, many different things to try and help explain what the trinity is. Think of a hard-boiled egg. As you probably know, the egg is made up of three parts. The first part is the shell. When you peel it, the next part you see is the egg white. If the egg is then cut in half, what do you see? Right! You see the yellow yolk. The egg has three parts – the shell, the white, and the yolk – but only ONE egg. Similarly, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are three persons but only ONE God!

Jesus said, "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you." Jesus wants us to tell everyone we meet about his love for them and share with them what he has taught us in the Bible.

Dear Father, help us to obey the command that you gave us to go and make disciples. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen. ❖

THE HOLY TRINITY



Colour in the letters with a star (*) to reveal the 3 person of the Holy Trinity



J _____ agreed

to meet the apostles on a



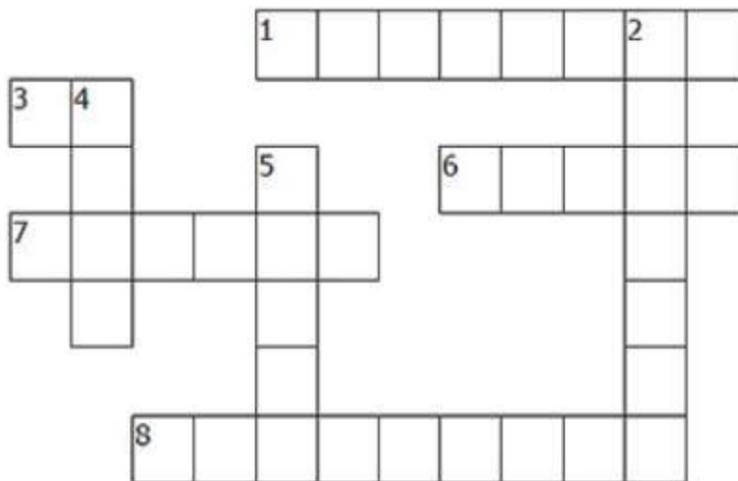
m _____. He said to them,

"Go, make disciples of all _____ n _____

and baptise them in the name of the

F _____ and of the S _____ and of the

H _____ S _____.



ACROSS

- 1. Giving instructions to a group of students
- 3. The opposite of stop
- 6. The planet on which we live
- 7. The place where God lives
- 8. Followers of Jesus

DOWN

- 2. Groups of people living in a certain area; countries
- 4. To follow the commands, rules, or guidance
- 5. The Son of God

EARTH	TEACHING	GO	HEAVEN
JESUS	DISCIPLES	OBEY	NATIONS

E	C	O	M	M	A	N	D	S	E
H	R	T	E	A	M	N	E	Y	E
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R	M	S	P	I	R	I	T	H	A
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F	A	T	H	E	M	E	E	B	U
B	U	N	E	V	A	E	H	L	O
A	N	D	A	M	M	O	C	A	M

MOUNTAIN	AUTHORITY	HEAVEN
EARTH	BAPTISE	NAME
HOLY	SPIRIT	TEACH
OBSERVE	COMMANDS	END



Life is not about how far we can go, how high we can jump, or how much weight we can carry. Life is about experiences, friendships, family, and the memories they create. So, why do so many people fear old age when the years that go by enrich us? No matter how old we may be, we should always be full of life, even more so than when we were young.

Even though our bodies are not as young as they used to be, we will never change our amazing friends, our wonderful lives, the things we've seen, the lessons we've learned, and our loving family for less gray hair or flatter stomachs.

With age we become more merciful and less critical towards ourselves. Over the years we've become our own best friends.

We no longer get angry with ourselves for eating the last cookie or chocolate, for not tidying our bedroom, or for buying fast foods. We can enjoy the treat, the mess, and the joy of not cooking for a change. We've earned it.

We've seen so many dear friends and family leave this world too early, before they could understand the freedom that comes with old age.

It's nobody's business if we choose to read all night, sleep until noon, and then spend the rest of the day on the computer or the kindle. We'll dance to our own favourite music from the 50's and 60's, and if we choose to cry over a lost love, we will.

We'll travel as much as we can, now that we are retired, and walk down the beaches in our bathing suits that stretches over our bloated bodies, and abandon ourselves to the mercy of the waves if we choose, to the pity-

The Joy and Significance in Aging



By Chris & Noelma Lam

ing stares of onlookers who will eventually get old too.

As the years go by, it is easier to stay positive. We care less about what others think of us. We no longer doubt ourselves. We've earned the right to make mistakes and do some things that others will think are odd.

We know that we forget sometimes, but some parts of our lives should be forgotten. At the end of the days we usually remember the important things.

We've suffered heartbreaks. How can we not, when losing a loved one or a close friend, or seeing our child ill and suffering from pains that we are helpless to ease. But broken hearts give us strength, understanding, and compassion. An unbroken heart is callous and hard, and will never feel the joy of imperfection.

We've been blessed with enough years for our hair to turn gray and much thinner (Chris), and for the laughter of our youthful days to become deep lines on our faces. We are

so fortunate. So many others never get to laugh this much, and so many never live long enough to turn gray.

Yes, we like being old. We feel so free. And we love the persons we've become over these long years. We see happy and contented people when we look in the mirror in the mornings. We're content with ourselves.

We don't get to choose whether we grow old or not, but we do get to choose how we think about it. Luckily, several inspirational figures have given us their views on this by leaving behind some wise words that are surely worth noting. Here are some of the best quotes about aging that have left us feeling positive about it all!

* Age is a question of mind over matter. If we don't mind, it doesn't matter.

* Growing old is mandatory. Growing up is optional.

* Age is not about how old we are, but how many years of fun we've had.

* At age 20 we worry about how others think of us. At age 40 we don't care about how others think of us. At age 60 we discover that they haven't been thinking about us at all.

* We get old and we begin to realise that there are no answers - just stories.

* Age is whatever we think it is. We are as old as we think we are.

* Old age isn't so bad when we stop to think what the alternative might have been.

* Beautiful young people are accidents of nature, but beautiful old people are works of art. ❖



Trinity Sunday

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Mind Puzzler Corner

Our Last Brain Teaser was:

A man is found dead with a cassette recorder near one hand and a gun near the other. When the police came in they immediately pressed the play button on the recorder. They heard: "I have nothing else to live for. I can't go on. Then the sound of a gunshot." After listening to the tape the police knew that it was not a suicide, but a murder. How did they know?

Answer: If it was a suicide, the tape would not start at the beginning.

This Week's Brain Teaser:

I travel a lot, and meet both the rich and the poor,
 But nobody knows where I am going next.
 I'm invisible, but you can see what I do.
 Who or what am I?

Look for the Answer next week

TitBits

-- This Week's Reflection:

We often let the little frustrations of each day stop us from appreciating life in the present moment. But, as we grow older, we learn to detach ourselves from the drama and the chaos we once engaged in when we were much younger. As we age, we become more humble about life and are less willing to spend our time on vain things. Now that we're in the winter of our lives, we've learned to appreciate all that God has blessed us with over the years.

God Bless You! Have a Great Week!

-- This Week's Bible Question:

Q. Who ate a book which tasted as sweet as honey, yet made his belly bitter?

-- This Week's Teaser:

Q: What duck walks on two legs?

-- Today's Bible Verse:

Those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint. - Isaiah 40:31.

-- Today's Marriage Tip:

I try once a day to tell my wife that I love her. She does the same for me.

-- Humour:

A man saw a group of little boys sitting in a circle with a dog in the middle. He asked them what they were doing with the dog.
 Little Johnny said, "We ain't doing nuthin' to the dog. We're just tellin' lies, and the one that tells the biggest one gets to keep the dog."
 The man told them that he was very shocked; that when he was a little boy, he would never have even

thought of telling a lie.

Little Johnny said, "Give him the dog, fellas."

-- A Card Hallmark Would Never Print:

If you ever need a friend... Don't send for me - buy a dog.

-- This Week's Truism:

A fake chick wants a man who got it all, a real woman will help her man get it all.

-- Signs Found at Church:

This is a Ch__CH. What is missing?" --
 ----- (U R)

-- Answer to Bible Question:

John - see Revelation 10:10
 Then I took the little book out of the angel's hand and ate it, and it was as sweet as honey in my mouth. But when I had eaten it, my stomach became bitter.

-- Answer to Teaser:

All ducks walk on two legs! ❖

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INDEPENDENCE Viewpoint by Vibert Parvatan

"National progress is the sum of individual industry, energy, and uprightness, as national decay is of individual idleness, selfishness, and vice" -Samuel Smiles

On the 26th May, 2018 the people of Guyana observe the fifty-second anniversary of Guyana's Independence.

Anniversaries normally allow persons not just to celebrate, but to look back at the past in order to understand the present and plan for the future.

Some Guyanese who experienced the colonial days will be inclined to identify those areas in which progress was made and in a similar manner point to other areas in which things may not have changed for the better. The younger folks may be quite content to observe changes during the post independence period.

The Golden Arrow Head blowing in the wind has significance for the people of Guyana. They know that is their National Flag which flutters outside international organisations such as the United Nations, and in different countries where Guyana has its embassies.

As we look back at the years gone by, it seems that the struggles of our fore-fathers and the meaningful contributions of political leaders, who fought for Independence, are not always recognised and appreciated. What was their vision? Their dreams may have been to give dignity, self-respect and upliftment and prosperity to the Independent Nation.

The yoke of colonialism would have been regarded as an impediment to progress. Being master of our own destiny would have been seen as a big step forward. Constitutional Independence was regarded as a catalyst for the emergence of patriotic Guyanese who would stand firmly with their heads held high alongside persons of other nationalities.

In looking back there would be recognition of positive developments in some fields of human endeavour.

Not surprisingly and disappointingly the conclusion may be formed by some that in some cases valuable time was lost, and progress impaired. The old adage **"United we stand; divided we fall"** must have been forgotten by so many who share responsibility for what is taking place in Guyana. The question may be asked whether the national slogan **"One People, One Nation, One Destiny"** has been applied in day-to-day relationships.

Can we with sincerity say that there is National Unity? And what of National Pride?

Maybe Guyanese are still not learning from the past and they are prepared to repeat the errors which retard progress.

Anniversaries are times for stocktaking and Guyanese should ask themselves where do they want the country to go? How the goals could be achieved? And what they are doing to assist in building the land of their birth? If they have no goals they will drift with the tide. That will be a most inappropriate position. In the pre-independence period, Guyanese who could have afforded it, travelled to foreign lands to further

their education, obtain specialised skills and return to the land of their birth.

In post-independence period, as is applicable to some other developing countries, they go to reside in foreign lands and grasp every opportunity to take their relatives with them. Of the tens of thousands who emigrated, many still have their hearts in the land of their birth. When Guyanese leave they do so with sadness and they hope and pray to eventually return when things improve. They are still looking forward to doing so.

On this anniversary it behoves us to cast away the bitterness, prejudice and other barriers which divide our people and make Guyanese vulnerable to those who selfishly exploit situations to the detriment of the good of the country.

As William Ralph Inga observed:-

"There is no law of progress. Our future is in our own hands, to make or to mar. It will be an uphill fight to the end, and would we have it otherwise?" Let no one suppose that evolution will ever exempt us from struggles. "You forget," said the devil, with a chuckle, "that I have been evolving too". ❖

Ascension youth host elegant evening for elderly



By Leon Suseran

The youth and parishioners of the Church of the Ascension, New Amsterdam really planned and coordinated a beautiful event aimed at pampering the senior folk among them. The evening called 'Elegant Spice' was held last Saturday at the Parish Hall, Pope Street, New Amsterdam and saw the attendance of elderly folk from the Missionaries of Charity, Dharam Shala, Good Samaritan Home and other seniors from the area and parish. The elderly folk sat, chat, danced, and were entertained with music and served good food.

Speaking with the Catholic Standard, youth leader Rebecca

Jotis said, "the event was basically for the seniors, as young people, we thought they play a vital role in being witnesses and builders of the paths we tend to follow today," she said. "We honour them by creating this evening of elegance to remind them that age is just a number," Jotis added. She also noted that they "deserve much more than they are offered here today."

Speaking more about the actual evening, Jotis added that they were each given a candle, "which signifies the light of Christ, the flame reminds us of the blazing love God has for his people." She continued by saying that the 'Elders set goals and standards that young Christian persons

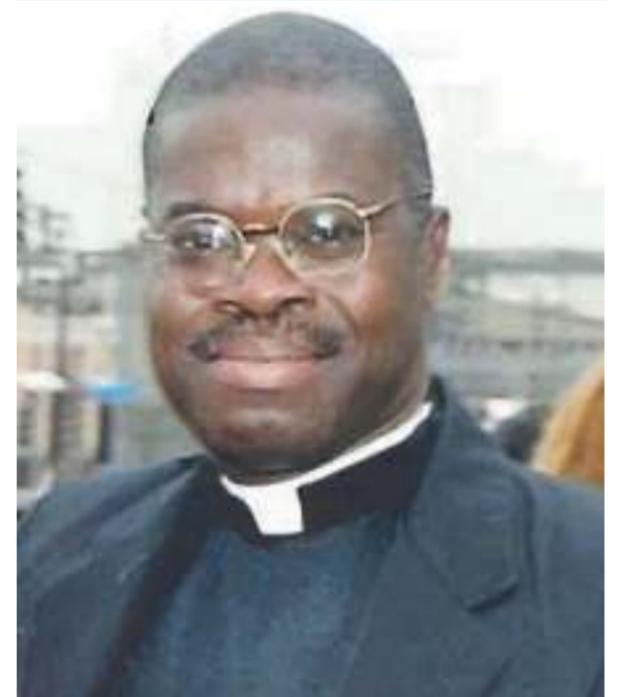
should wish to follow, they have made mistakes in their lives but not at the cost of educating us and showing us the right path, they guide us and they prevent us from hurting ourselves and others,' the youth leader said.

The parish youth group 'Laudato Si' planned and coordinated the event.

Jotis thanked Laveeda Persaud, Cindy Nawbatt, Camila, Margaret Samuel, Sherylin Lalta, Camille Ready, Ravi and Natasha Persaud and Stephen Persaud for their unwavering support and hard work put in to make the night's proceedings a success.

She also lavishly praised parish priest, Fr. Tony D'Souza SJ. ❖

Paul Jervis 35 years a priest



Heartiest congratulations are extended to Monsignor Paul Jervis on the 35th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood.

From the priest and parishioners of St Pius X Church. ❖

Happy 52nd Independence Anniversary!



**GUYANA
May 26th
1966 - 2018**

Oscar Romero and Pope Paul VI to be canonized Oct. 14



Pope Paul VI and Archbishop Oscar Romero pose together in an undated file photo. Photo courtesy of Oficina de Canonizacion de Mons. Oscar Romero.

(CNA/EWTN News) Following a meeting between the Council of Cardinals and Pope Francis Saturday, the Vatican announced that Bl. Pope Paul VI and Bl. Oscar Romero will be canonized together on Oct. 14, 2018.

During an ordinary consistory May 19, Francis decreed that the two blessed will be canonized alongside four others.

As expected, the canonizations will take place during the 2018 Synod of Bishops on the topic of young people, the faith and vocational discernment, which is set to take place Oct. 3-28, 2018.

The Vatican had announced March 7 that Pope Paul VI and Archbishop Oscar Romero would be canonized following the recognition of a second miracle through their intercession.

Born Giovanni Montini in 1897 in the town of Concesio, Italy, the future Pope Paul VI was ordained a priest at the age of 22. He served as Archbishop of Milan prior to his election as Bishop of Rome in 1963.

As pope, he oversaw much of the Second Vatican Council, which had been opened by Pope St. John

XXIII, and in 1969 promulgated a new Roman Missal. He died in 1978, and was beatified by Pope Francis Oct. 19, 2014.

Pope Francis himself unofficially confirmed the news of Paul VI's canonization during his annual meeting with the priests of Rome Feb. 17.

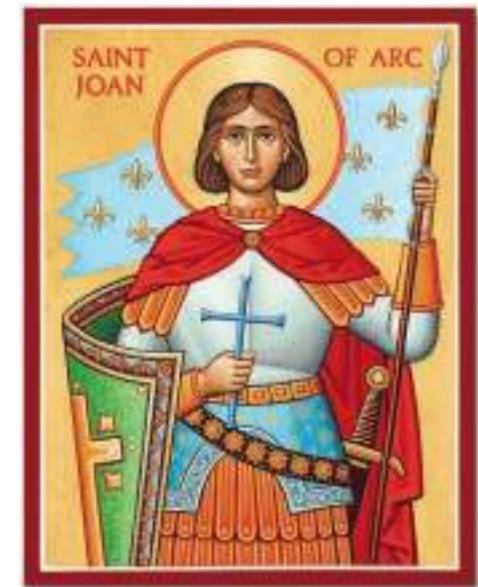
Apart from his role in the council, Paul VI is most widely known for his landmark encyclical *Humanae Vitae*, which was published in 1968 and reaffirmed the Church's teaching against contraception in wake of the sexual revolution. This year marks the 50th anniversary the historic encyclical.

Both miracles attributed to Paul VI's intercession involve the healing of an unborn child.

Bl. Oscar Romero, who was beatified by Pope Francis May 23, 2015, in El Salvador, was the archbishop of the nation's capital city of San Salvador. He was shot while celebrating Mass March 24, 1980, during the birth of a civil war between leftist guerrilla forces and the dictatorial government of the right.

An outspoken critic of the violence and injustices being committed at the time, Romero was declared a martyr who was killed in hatred of the faith for his vocal defense of human rights. ❖

Saint of the Week



May 30th: St. Joan of Arc (1412-1431)

Burned at the stake as a heretic after a politically-motivated trial, Joan was beatified in 1909 and canonized in 1920. Born of a peasant couple in France in 1412, Joan was only 12 when she experienced a vision and heard voices that she later identified as Saints Michael the Archangel, Catherine of Alexandria, and Margaret of Antioch.

During the Hundred Years War, she led French troops against the English and recaptured the cities of Orléans and Troyes. This enabled Charles VII to be crowned as king in Reims in 1429. Captured the following year, she was sold to the English and placed on trial for heresy and witchcraft. In the end, she was condemned for wearing men's clothes. The English resented France's military success – to which Joan contributed.

On May 30th 1431, she was burned at the stake and her ashes were scattered in the Seine River. A second Church trial 25 years later nullified the earlier verdict, which was reached under political pressure.

Remembered by most people for her military exploits, Joan had a great love for the sacraments, which strengthened her compassion toward the poor. Theologian George Tavard writes that her life "offers a perfect example of the conjunction of contemplation and action" because her spiritual insight is that there should be a "unity of heaven and earth." ❖

Bishop confirms 24 at Brickdam Cathedral



By Joshua Van Sluytman

Pentecost, which was celebrated last Sunday, is often called the birthday of the Church. It is the day that the Holy Spirit came down on the apostles in the upper room, the day when we remember the very first confirmation.

It was therefore very fitting that on this day we celebrated the Sacrament of Confirmation of twenty-four young adults from the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, the mother church of our Catholic Diocese.

Through the laying on of hands and

anointing with chrism by Bishop Francis Alleynes OSB, these young people were sealed with the Holy Spirit. They received the fullness of the gifts of the Holy Spirit, became full members of the Catholic Church and received the graces that they need to be adult followers of Christ.

Those who celebrated this milestone in their faith were: Kyle Amsterdam, Lennie Cains, Dominic Chan-A-Sue, Jaden Defreitas, Julius Douglas, Alesandro Gamell, Zafraz Khan, Odit Rodrigues, Kelvin Simon, Jonathan Sookram, Tariq Williams, Deshawn

Wint, Chelsea Aguilar, Angelia Balam, Lee Choo-Shee-Nam, Emily Deagrilla, Kendia Defreitas, Mariah Gomes, Jyotishma Henry, Miriam K. Lam, Cynthia Ramasran, Reah Small, Emily Williams and Jewel Holder.

Bishop Francis in his homily encouraged the candidates to continue to pray so that they can be at peace and be filled with the capacity to have courage, wisdom and understanding.

The choir set the tone for the day leaving many filled with joy and filled with the Holy Spirit.

(Photo by Joe Ramjohn). ❖

On the Lighter Side

