



June Dedicated as the Month for Families Theme: A Call to be Holy

Family month will be celebrated in the month of June (June 1-June 30, 2018) in the Diocese of Belize City & Belmopan.

THE LORD BE WITH YOU! EL SENOR ESTE CON USTEDES! HUMALAN ABUREMEI!

In the eyes of God, life is not to be lived alone. In his unconditional love for the human person, God made a suitable partner for the man. God made woman to be man's company in life. From the two the family is created. "Therefore, a man leaves his father and mother and clings to his wife and the two become one flesh." Scripture continues to say that God gave the first family the instruction to be fruitful and to multiply. In obedience to God's word, our first parents became fruitful, multiplied and filled the earth with their offspring.

We say that we are children of God and that is who we are because everything we have comes from the author of life. We move, we live and have our being because of him who is the way, the truth and the life. This means then that all of us are members of the family of God.

As members of God's family we are baptized and He gives us the name Christian. Through this Baptism we are meant to be one because we have one God, we share in one Baptism and we all have the same name: Christian. Our family name Christian calls us to be a follower of Christ. A follower of Christ then means that we walk in the footsteps of Christ; that

we follow his lead; that we put into practice what we have been taught by him.

A follower of Christ, a Christian does not sit and have others serve him/her. A follower of Christ, a Christian does not live by oneself and for oneself. The follower of Christ, the Christian, lives life by word and by action. That is the way of life Jesus taught his family and this is the way He wants his family to live. Pope Francis told the story about adding water to the beans in the pot, to 'stretch it' so that everyone can get something to eat.

As I observed the actions of people in our beautiful country Belize, the actions of people in our homes and communities, I realized that we were living in a dog eat dog world; we were living in a 'survival of the fittest' world. We walk right over one another in order to get what we want, not what we need. To me, I believe that in the eyes of God, these actions do not reflect the teachings of Jesus to us. These actions of ours do not reflect the spirit of family to me. By the way we use the word family so loosely that it has lost its true meaning. When it is convenient to me; when I am in dire need; when I need to borrow money, I see you and call you family. If you have nothing to offer me, I have nothing to do with you. As a matter of fact, I don't even see you or know you. As members of God's family, our presence to each other is enough and must be cherished. How beautiful were those days when neighbors going to the market did not

see it a bother to check in on one another or to bid a hearty good morning to one's neighbor.

I have observed enough attacks on this human family that God has given to us. I have observed above all the disrespect we show this family. I have seen the abusive ways we treat this family. Again, it is all about me, my life and I do anything and everything I want to do with my life. Is this really my life, my breath? Did I give life to those people born into this country, into our homes we live in? For many Catholic Christians life/living is about me.

To me, Bishop Larry, I am nothing in this world without God. This life, to me, is not about me, but about God and what He desires for me in this world. Have we not learned from the Holy Family, from Jesus, Mary and Joseph? Each member of this Holy Family gave a firm 'fiat,' 'yes!' to God when they were called to live life. Each member of the Holy Family did not focus on living life and doing their own thing. Look at what we have as a Church because of their choice to be generous to God! The Bishop of Assisi, Italy says it clearly: "The Church must divest herself...of a very grave danger, which threatens every person in the Church, everyone: the danger of worldliness."

It is this worldliness that has made us reject one another; it has made us disowned one another; it has made us ignore and hate one another. It is this worldliness that has turned us into cheaters and thieves in order to have things our

way. It is this worldliness that has made us live only for ourselves. It is this worldliness that has made us rationalize, to our benefit, whatever evil we do to each other. To this I ask of you the question. Is this why we have been sent to this world, to this earth? Is this the spirit of a Christian Family?

We have a God who is not only omnipotent (all powerful); He is also omniscient (all seeing, all knowing). I believe, as I meditate and pray about the lifestyles we lead today in Belize and seeing the deliberate way we are destroying the family, I could not help but have us make an 'about turn' and to go back to our true purpose: to live as God's family. The way we have been living for the past years is living as 'my own family.' When the family is your own family, you do nothing for God; you baptize your children at your own time; you make sure that you never buy clothes appropriate for God's house; you find it so easy to harm your sister/brother over legacy/family inheritance.

My call to you today is that this is the day God has been waiting for, the Kairos, the opportune time for us named Christians to give God his turn to make our families truly God's family. We have had our turn and what is the end result? Says Scripture, "Unless the Lord builds the house, in vain do the builders labor." This is what we have been doing: trying to build a family and have a family spirit without God. Again, I say it: A life without God, is no God at all. Don't even try to disprove this truth. Pastor Castillo says it in his Garifuna Song: "I have tried everything this world has to offer and nothing has truly satisfied my life. When I tried the Lord God, I found everything."

I dedicate this month of June, 2018, FAMILY MONTH! I believe that it is now time for us as a family to truly dedicate ourselves to God, to give God a chance. We will do everything God wants for our families. Like the song that says, give peace a chance, we in Belize are now saying, give God a chance. From this day forward, I don't want to hear us speak: I cannot do without my coffee in the morning or, I cannot go to work without my stockings, or, I cannot imagine my life without my cell phone. I now want to hear: We cannot do without our God, or, we must pray every day before we leave for work, or, we must make it to Mass every Sunday. He who has formed us and made us his family invites us at every Mass to his Holy Table of the Eucharist. Let this Holy Food be the strength for our families; may this Holy Food be that who unites us and who shares his home with us.

Know that the Holy Family will always intercede for us who have truly given God a chance. If God is for us, who can be against? May the blessing of God, our Father come upon us, Father, Son and Holy Spirit! Amen! Itara Lan!

**+Lawrence S. Nicasio
Bishop of Belize City and
Belmopan**

John Paul II Junior College Receives International Recognition

April 20, 2018

John Paul II Junior College (JPIIJC) in Benque Viejo, recently received a donation of more than one hundred and fifty books from The Atlas Network. The school was featured on the Atlas Network's website which includes

477 partners in 92 countries (79 in Latin America and the Caribbean). The books were made available for students as a means of advancing the mission of the college in teaching the liberal arts. Titles include *Self Control or State Control*, *Realizing Freedom*, and *The Morality of Capitalism*.



Atlas Network sent more than 150 books on free markets, individual liberties, and classical liberalism to students at the John Paul II Junior College in Benque Viejo del Carmen.

John Paul II Junior College is the only liberal arts college in Belize, with a curriculum that includes the classical trivium (grammar, logic, rhetoric), philosophy, and theology for all students. The college uniquely has courses in Latin and an Outdoor Leadership Adventure. Majors in Liberal Arts, English, and Business Administration are available. It is accepting applications for the 2018-2019 school year (www.jpilbelize.org; +(501) 670-2040). It also welcomes donations from those wishing to support the college.

Sir Anthony Fisher, a hero of the Battle of Britain who was knighted by Queen Elizabeth II in 1988, founded the Atlas network to promote the principles of a free society and the "worldwide freedom movement."

JPIIJC looks forward to further collaboration with the Atlas Network in order to make for a better Belize.

Ad Limina Visit to Rome

April 16, 2018

BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHRIST

Dear Friends,

The Lord be with you! Greetings from Rome, the Eternal City!

The Ad Limina visit started today, Monday, April 16, 2018. It started off with 1 Cardinal and 19 bishops of the Caribbean and Belize in attendance. We did a four-block walk to the St. Peter's Basilica in St. Peter's Square from our dorm, DOMUS ROMANA SACERDOTALIS at 6:45 a.m. for our 7:15 a.m. Mass at the tomb of St. Peter situated in the basement crypt of the Basilica. We cleared security and were escorted into the sacristy to vest for Mass. As we walked into the huge sacristy, a parade of priests walked past us, each carrying a chalice, paten and linens, heading to designated side altars in the Basilica to celebrate Mass for visitors and guests. Along with each priest was an acolyte to serve the Mass. We, the bishops of the Caribbean, were assigned a separate part of the sacristy for us to vest. By 7:10 a.m. we were already in line to process to the altar at the tomb of St. Peter. As shepherds of the Church, like St. Peter, our first activity was to pay our respect to St. Peter and at the same time asking for his intercession for us to be good shepherds of God's people. At this Mass, Bishop Gabriel Malzaire, Bishop of Dominica and president of the Antilles Episcopal Conference (AEC) was the main celebrant and I was one of the con-celebrants, along with Archbishop Rivas the Archbishop of St. Lucia. Despite the visible presence of other tombs of popes in the crypt area, we focused on the Mass offered to St. Peter. After Mass we all took a close-up look at the tomb of St. Peter, the first Pope. We all recited the profession of faith, as we re-committed ourselves to walk in the footsteps of Peter in good and challenging times.

Mass at the tomb was over at 8:00 a.m. We then returned to DOMUS for an 8:15 a.m. breakfast. I took a little time to look around the Basilica, had a few photos taken of me in the Basilica by my brother bishop from Suriname, Karel Choennie.

Our next scheduled activity was set for 10:30 a.m., our visit and audience with Pope Francis.



Bishop Lawrence Nicasio meeting Pope Francis.

Again, we walked the four-block uneven cobble stone street to the entrance of the building where we were to meet Pope Francis. Of course, lots of Swiss guards along the path. We cleared security and we were led by a tour guide through one hallway to another; from one floor level to another.

Since the Pope had a couple visiting with him, we had to wait for about 20 minutes and then moved to the foyer of the room where Pope Francis was. Within a few minutes, a bishop came out the door, greeted us in English, informing us that Pope Francis was inside waiting to receive us. He also explained the protocol that Pope Francis required when people come to greet him. The slim built bishop in full bishop's regalia stated: "To greet the Pope requires no kissing of his ring and no kneeling," adding that in the words of Pope Francis, "It is only to God that one should kneel." We then followed the bishop inside.

I was nervous but very excited. We formed a line and we all went into this huge beautiful meeting room, and there in the middle of the room was Pope Francis with his hands stretched out to shake hands with each of us. My turn came and I told Pope Francis my name and then said: "The entire Church in Belize sends you greetings" He then said to me, "Thank You." He then, with my hand still in his, asked, "How is Kalenga?" I responded saying, "He is doing good and is getting ready to go to Belize for his farewell Mass." There was no need to say where Archbishop Kalenga, Papal Nuncio to Belize, was transferred to because Pope Francis knew of Kalenga's transfer - to Pope Francis' old Diocese in Argentina.

White padded chairs were provided to each of us to sit on after greeting the Pope. The Pope then took his seat and we all sat in a circle staring at him and him staring at us. The Pope gave us some house rules, pointing us to the bathroom and some bottled water that was placed on a small table for us to drink during the audience. Even though we had with us our own cell-phones, we were not allowed to take pictures. The Pope had his own assigned photographers. Pope Francis took the lead in the conversation to welcome us and to express his joy at seeing us bishops of the Caribbean. Our president, Bishop Gabriel Malzaire, gave a beautiful presentation on our behalf, expressing our desire to be with him, the Pope, and to be instructed by him.

During the audience, I was struck by the energy with which Pope Francis spoke. He spoke with passion about this Church we belong to. He mentioned that the Church is like a river and as people in this river, based on our level of involvement in this Church, we swim on different sides of the river. To the Pope, it did not matter on which side of the river you are swimming. What matters most is that you are in the river swimming. Very profound message!

Over 10 bishops in the group, including myself, were given an opportunity to ask Pope Francis a question. The questions ranged from young people in the Church, few vocations, divorced Catholics, married women deacons and more. On my part, I spoke to the Pope in Spanish asking: "Santo Padre, la iglesia y el país de Belice están bien nerviosos estos días por el caso entre nuestro país Belice y nuestro vecino Guatemala, un caso, si decidieron la gente de los dos países mandar este caso al Corte Internacional de Justicia, va a afectar la vida de la gente y la iglesia

continues on page 3



Pope Francis met with the Bishops of the Antilles Episcopal Conference (AEC) on April 16, 2018, who were on their Ad Limina visit to Rome. The Ad Limina visit refers to the obligatory visit, every five years, by the ordinaries (bishops) of dioceses to the Holy See.

The Christian Herald

Published monthly (except July and August) by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Belize City & Belmopan

148 North Front Street, Belize City /// P.O. BOX 1823 /// Tel: 223-7183 Ext. 28

Email: chrherald@yahoo.com // chrherald@hotmail.com

ASSISTANT EDITOR: Mr. Ruben Wong

CHILDRENS' FEATURE: Sr. Consuelo Burgos, S.A.C.

Printing: The Reporter

147 Allenby/West Sts., Belize City

Statement by The Antilles Episcopal Conference Concerning the Situations in Suriname and Venezuela

The Bishops of the Antilles Episcopal Conference at their Annual Plenary Meeting held in Rome from April 23-26, 2018 issued the following statement:

SURINAME

We, the Bishops of the Antilles Episcopal Conference express solidarity with the people of Suriname at this difficult stage of their history, as they await the verdict of the Court on the matter of the December 8,1982 killings.

● AD LIMINA

(... from page 2)

en Belice. Por favor rece por nosotros.” Even though, there present, at the right side of the Holy Father was an interpreter, he looked at me and showed me that he understood everything I had said. The Holy Father then joined his hands as in prayer and assured me of his prayers for a good resolution of our situation.

One challenging question to the Holy Father came from one of the archbishops inviting the Holy Father to come pay a visit to the Caribbean and see where we live. We all supported that question, to which the Holy Father smiled and commented that there are so many islands and countries, indicating the challenge that would come with such a visit. We had done a two hour audience with the Holy Father. By now he was grabbing for his cup of water that was next to him on the floor and we were also sipping on our water. We concluded with the Holy Father, prayed the Regina Caeli and other prayers and he gave us his apostolic blessing. The Holy Father called his photographers and asked them to take a picture of us in a semi-circle that we had formed around him. The bishop who had led us into this meeting room came rushing into the room, as he realized that our audience with the Holy Father had ended. Being the first one at the end of the semi-circle during the picture taking, I then led the line to receive a nice gift, well wrapped, from Pope Francis.

As we received our gift, we were escorted out the meeting room into the foyer and then led through the hallways again, down several wide stairways until we got to a ground floor where Swiss guards were guarding the entrance to the outside courtyard. The door to the outside courtyard, which was opened at the time, was quickly pulled shut for security because Pope Francis’ motorcade was driving through. Not that any of us would have harmed the Pope, but it was standard procedure. At 12:30 p.m. we departed from the Papal Palace, hoping beyond hope, that the Holy Father would have invited us for lunch with him.

We returned to DOMUS for lunch full of joy and peace after having shared in a visit of a lifetime with Pope Francis, the Vicar of Christ, our Santo Papa.

Servant of Christ,
+Lawrence Sydney Nicasio

It is a deep concern of many leaders in Suriname and the international community that the result of this case may bring social unrest regardless of the verdict.

In our concern for justice and peace in the region, we ask CARICOM and the international community to accompany the Government and the people of Suriname during this difficult time. We call for a process to ensure that this impasse becomes an opportunity for reconciliation among all parties involved and the nation as a whole.

While we acknowledge the legitimate authority of the Court to adjudicate in this matter, we believe there is a need to also express our concern for order, stability and harmony in the nation in the short and medium term.

We pledge solidarity with Bishop Choenie, the Christian Council and the Inter Religious Council. We support their efforts to bring peace and reconciliation to Suriname. We pray that Almighty God will guide the leaders, the families of victims, the Judiciary and the Government of Suriname towards a path of Justice,

Peace and lasting Reconciliation for the people of Suriname.

VENEZUELA

We have also noted the worsening humanitarian situation in Venezuela. The political problems there have resulted in scarcity of food, medicine and basic necessities. It has led to a stream of refugees to neighboring countries. These countries are not equipped to deal with such calamities.

We therefore urge the international community, especially CARICOM, to help seek a lasting solution to the political impasse in Venezuela. We ask our people to be generous to the refugees and provide them with the essentials, such as food and shelter. We stand with our brother bishops in Venezuela as they discern the way forward for the Venezuelan people. We regret that innocent lives, especially of children, are at stake through undernourishment and the degeneration of medical and educational facilities.

May Our Lady of Coromoto keep her Venezuelan children under her mantle.

Eulogy for Sr. Mary Mercita Cannon, R.S.M.

The following Eulogy was delivered by Ms. Lois Barber at the Mass of Thanksgiving for the life of Sr. Mercita Cannon, R.S.M. on Tuesday, April 24, 2018 at Holy Redeemer Cathedral, Belize City.

Sr. Mercita was born on December 6, 1934, in Providence, Rhode Island. She entered the Sisters of Mercy on September 8, 1952 in Cumberland, Rhode Island and made Perpetual vows of Poverty, Chastity, Obedience, and the Service of the Poor, Sick and Uneducated on September 16, 1958 at the Motherhouse of the Sisters of Mercy in Cumberland, Rhode Island.

Sr. Mercita received all her education in Rhode Island and taught in several schools in Rhode Island.

Sister came to Belize as a well-prepared elementary school teacher in 1962 just after Hurricane Hattie had devastated the country. She served for three years at St. Catherine Elementary School, 26 years as Std. 6 teacher at Holy Redeemer School, and 12 years as Religion teacher at St. Catherine Academy.

Sr. Mercita was truly a servant leader. She

continues on page 4



Sr. Mercita Cannon, RSM

JUNE DEADLINE

FRIDAY, MAY 25

Maya Island
air

At Maya Island Air, we always believe that the ability of an airline is to build and maintain customer loyalty. We strive to provide exceptional services on the ground and in the air.

1 1/4 Miles Philip Goldson Hwy.
Belize City, Belize

PHONE (501) 223-1686
www.rencobattery.com

RENCO

HEAVY DUTY BATTERY

GETTING BELIZE STARTED SINCE 1960
SELLING BATTERIES SINCE 1960

Fr. Sean J. McGrath, Former Pastor of St. Ignatius Parish, Passes On

Since we are travelers and pilgrims in the world, let us ever ponder on the end of the road, that is of our life, for the end of our road-way is our home (St. Columban, 8th sermon).

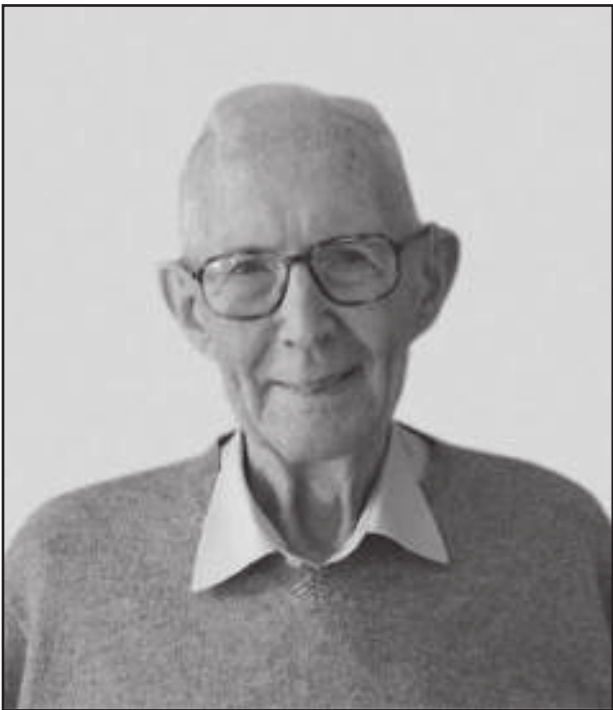
May 1, 2018

It is with deep sorrow that we at St. Ignatius Parish announce the death of one of our beloved former pastor, Fr. Sean Joseph McGrath. Fr. Sean was our pastor from 1986-1996. He died on April 27, 2018 and was laid to rest on May 1, 2018. Our parish and community mourns his passing. May his beautiful soul rest in peace.

Sean Joseph McGrath was born on June 15, 1930 at Killen, Coalisland, County Tyrone, Northern Ireland. Educated at Aughamullan Public Elementary School and St Patrick's College, Armagh, he entered St Columban's, Dalgan Park, County Meath, Ireland, in September 1948. He was ordained priest on December 21, 1954.

Fr. Sean's first twenty years were spent in pastoral work in Mindanao, Philippines. He worked mainly in Ozamiz City and in Iligan City. In the latter he established the new parish of Corpus Christi in Rosario Heights, Tubod, and built a huge, modern church there. In his years in Iligan he displayed his extraordinary creativity. He was always open to trying new ways of involving his parishioners and had a particular gift for raising funds for the many projects of the parish.

After twenty years in the Philippines he spent



Fr. Sean J. McGrath
(15 June 1930 - 27 April 2018)

ten years doing promotion work in the District of Britain. Fr. Sean was in charge of the London house and in 1979 became Superior of the District. He was always a cheerful extrovert who

made friends easily, remembered names and was a gifted fundraiser. All these qualities helped make him very effective in promoting mission.

When the Columbans opened a new English-speaking mission to Belize in 1986 Fr. Sean was one of the first to volunteer. His companions elected him as spokesperson of the mission unit. Conditions were difficult but he was happy to be back in a new environment, working out of St. Ignatius Church in Belize City. He organized raffles in order to raise funds for the parish projects including the building of a new rectory. The mission to Belize ended in 1996 when the Columbans lacked manpower to continue there and Fr. Sean was assigned to the USA.

In the United States Fr. Sean's gifts were employed very successfully on behalf of projects in the Columban Region of the Philippines. He was delighted to be back working with Filipinos and he encouraged them to help with the education of the new Filipinos seminarians and with other projects. He worked happily in the USA until his health began to deteriorate and he returned to Ireland and to the nursing home at St. Columban's, Dalgan Park, in 2014.

Always full of energy, good humor and creativity, Fr. Sean will be remembered among Columbans and his numerous friends in so many different countries. May he rest in peace.

[A Memorial Mass celebrating the life of Fr. Sean Joseph McGrath was held at St. Ignatius Church in Belize City on Wednesday, May 9 at 6:00 p.m.]

EULOGY (... from page 3)

served our God and this nation with distinction and humility. She was an artist and generous with her time and talent. For years she taught art and hand printed the name of the graduates on the S.C.A. and Holy Redeemer School diplomas.

She also had a keen sense of humor that opened up the toughest and most obstinate students in her classes. She would listen and respond to them with compassion and heartfelt sympathy. She could go where others were, to meet them and walk with them through their pain and difficulties.

Sister was authentic and sympathetic. She cared about her students' well-being and problems, doing the best she could to help them find workable solutions to them, or creative ways to live with things that could not change.

Sr. Mercita was straight forward and committed to the task of being a Catholic teacher in Roman Catholic Schools. Her clarity about what she needed to do and how she could help her students attain both spiritual and intellectual acumen are noted in the many women and men she taught. St. Catherine Academy posted a blog in Facebook concerning her illness and asking for prayers. Over two thousand past students responded with promises of prayers.

Long ago Sr. Mercita understood and practiced the great virtue of inclusivity as she pulled in those

on the fringes to become and be the best they could be at the time. She also loved this earth and all its creatures: the frogs on the verandah, the lizards in the yard, the turtle in her room, the love and care she gave to her Shih Tzu "SCA" that she received as a gift from the students and staff of St. Catherine Academy at the time of her retirement all testify to this. She was a loving person and a delight to her Sisters. For the past 10 years, Alzheimer's disease

has progressed in Sr. Mercita.

We loved you through your pain and sufferings and kept you here by the sea and people you loved and served so well. With pain in our hearts and confidence in God's mercy we commend you to that wonderful God you loved and served so well. Rest in peace, dear one. Rise in glory for the bridegroom has uttered his final call: "COME" on Saturday, April 21, 2018 at 4:45 a.m.



New Parish Council elected for St. Francis Xavier Parish, Corozal.
Left to right: Adrain Mai (Chair), Lizbet Tzib, Modesto Cano, Elaido Pena, Feliciana Westby, Elvia Vega and Neri Espinoza. Fr. Kino, Pastor, stands in the back.

Hand in Hand Ministries 350th House Blessing

Hand in Hand Ministries completed construction of its 350th home in Belize, in one of the most impoverished areas, Jane Usher Extension, Port Loyola Extension area, for a single mother of three children.

Going into our 16th year of existence in the country of Belize, many lives have been transformed and many more are seeking our help. With God's grace we will be able to touch more lives and give hope to the hopeless.

This single mother and her children had been living in an overcrowded house with other families and faced challenges such as: not much privacy and having to share their sleeping quarters. She also does not have the needed finance to be able to rent or own a home of her own. Her children, two boys and one girl, needed their own space and this single mother sought assistance to create a more decent environment to grow her children in. She applied to Hand in Hand Ministries for a home and qualified to be assisted. This mother now have a safe and comfortable place to raise her children! This home was



This single mother and her children are the recipients of a home from Hand in Hand Ministries. (see additional photo on page 12)

made possible for this single mother and her children through the courtesy of Vincentian Academy in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth of Bardstown, Kentucky. A team of volunteers came to Belize and along with the new

owner, built the home in three and a half days.

If you would like to get involved or want to sponsor a home, please send us an email to maggie@myhandinhand.org or contact us via (501) 610-2602.

Reflections on the Sunday Gospels for May/June

By Sr. Jean Martinez, SSF

SUNDAY, MAY 13

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

Acts 1:1-11; Psalm 47:2-3, 6-9; Ephesians 1:17-23; Mark 16:15-20

“GO ... PROCLAIM” (MARK 16:15): Jesus instructs his apostles in Acts 1:4, to remain in Jerusalem until the Holy Spirit has baptized them. While the apostles anticipate a political kingdom, Jesus confers witness “to the ends of the earth” (vv. 6, 8).

The celebratory spirit of Psalm 47 is infectious. “All people clap your hands, shout to God with cries of gladness, for the Lord ... the awesome, is the great king over all the earth” is irresistible (v. 2). Let “God mount his throne to shouts of joy” (Refrain).

Ephesians 1:18-19 is profound: “May the eyes of your hearts be enlightened that you may know what is the hope that belongs to his call, ...the riches of glory... the surpassing greatness of his power for us who believe.” May we believe.

Not deterred by the unbelief of his disciples in Mark 16:15, Jesus commissions them to “Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature.” He promises them facility in languages, protection from “deadly things” (vv. 17, 18). Jesus ascends and the disciples “went forth and preached everywhere” even to Belize (v. 20)!

May 13: HAPPY MOTHER’S DAY!

SUNDAY, MAY 20

PENTECOST SUNDAY

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, CATHOLIC CHURCH

Acts 2:1-11; Psalm 104:1, 24, 29-31, 34; 1 Corinthians 12:3b-7, 12-13; John 20:19-23



“HE BREATHED ON THEM” (JOHN 20:22): Strong winds and tongues of fire in Acts 2:1-11 descend on the disciples anointing them to proclaim (v. 4). Everyone hears the disciples speak in their own language. Do you hear the gospel in your language?

Psalm 104 is exultant in the refrain: “Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.” Stanza one is redolent in praise for God’s greatness and his manifold works. With the third stanza we pray that “the glory of the Lord endures forever.”

First Corinthians 12 zeros in on the Holy Spirit as the center for “different kinds of spiritual gifts” and “different forms of service [in] the same Lord,” etc. (vv. 4-5). Gifts given to individuals benefit all and all “drink of one Spirit” (vv. 7, 13).

With unparalleled determination, Jesus equips his disciples to continue his ministry in John 20:19-23. Repeatedly breaking into their sadness he reassures them with messages of “Peace be with you,” and a mandate (vv. 19, 21). “Then he breathed on them [his] Holy Spirit” (v. 22). The disciples are also happy to see Jesus.

SUNDAY, MAY 27

THE MOST HOLY TRINITY

Deuteronomy 4:32-34, 39-40; Psalm 33:4-6, 9, 18-20, 22; Romans 8:14-17; Matthew 28:16-20

“GO, MAKE DISCIPLES” (MATTHEW 28:19): Moses singles out actions of God in Deuteronomy 4 that favor the Israelites: “hear the voice of God,” “take ...nation for himself ... with terrors in Egypt,” etc. (vv. 33, 34). The lesson is to “know and fix in your heart that the Lord is God in the heaven and there is no other” (v. 35).

In its affirming tone, Psalm 33 describes the word of God as “upright” and “trustworthy” (Stanza one). He creates with his breath. His eyes are on those who fear him and “The earth is full of his kindness” (vv. 6, 9, 20).

Without mincing words, Paul reminds us in Romans 8:14-17 that we “did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back on our fear. [Rather we] received a spirit of adoption” (v. 15). “We are children of God and joint heirs with Christ” (v. 16).

Jesus meets his 11 disciples on a mountain in Galilee in Matthew 28:16-20, where they “worshiped but [still] doubted” (v. 17). Undaunted, Jesus announces with confidence, “All power in heaven [is] given to me” (v. 18). He also commissions them to “Go, and make disciples of all nations,” that “he will remain with them ...” (vv. 19-20).

SUNDAY, JUNE 3

THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD

Exodus 24:3-8; Psalm 116:12-13, 15-18; Hebrews 9:11-15; Mark 14:12-16, 22-26

“BROKE IT, GAVE IT ...” (MARK 14:22): A vote of confidence hides in the response of the Israelites to Moses in Exodus 24:3-8: “We will do everything that the Lord has told us” (v. 3). Moses seals the covenant with the ritual of blood (v. 8).

Verse 12 of Psalm 116 is haunting: “How shall I make a return to the Lord for all the good he has done for me?” With the refrain I say, “I will take up the cup of salvation” and bring God’s great mercy to all I meet even when I walk on the job.

As high priest and “mediator of a new covenant” in Hebrews 9, Jesus enters “into the sanctuary with his own blood and not with the blood of goats and calves” (v. 12). Jesus offers his death so that we may receive “the promised eternal life” (v. 15).

With directions from Jesus in Mark 14, two disciples go into the city and “found all as he had told them” to prepare for the Passover (v. 16). Jesus wants to eat this meal with his disciples. While they eat, he “took bread ... bless ... broke it, [and] gave it to them” (v. 23). “After singing a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives” (v. 26).

St. Joseph, Belize City Parish Happenings

■ OUR “NIGHTS AT THE MOVIES” held during the Lenten Season were well attended. Several religious movies were shown. The usual snack of popcorn graced the nights at the movies.

■ OUR PASTOR, FR. NOEL LESLIE, gave a special lecture on the Exultet during Holy Week.

■ THE TRADITIONAL STATIONS OF THE CROSS through the neighborhood was held on Good Friday.

■ OUR EASTER VIGIL was well attended this year. The “clapper” summoned the people to worship and the pealing of our Joy Bells at the “Glory to God” added much to the festive occasion. The church was appropriately decorated for this wonderful celebration of the Lord’s resurrection. Three persons were baptized and one was received into the church at the Easter Vigil.

■ OUR PARISH WAS REPRESENTED at the Pastoral Workshop held on April 7 at Holy Redeemer Parish in Belize City.

■ THE CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES attended their third and last Saturday Workshop on Saturday May 5.

continues on page 7

Our Lady of Guadalupe Co-cathedral, Belmopan Parish Happenings

■ THE HOLY WEEK SERVICES was well celebrated at the Co-cathedral. The entire parish gathered to celebrate the beginning of Holy Week with the traditional blessing of palms and procession. Palm Sunday Mass was celebrated by the Rector Fr. Jordan Gongora in various languages. It was a solemn and beautiful celebration.

Parishioners gathered on Holy Monday to

continues on page 8



Agents For: Bunzl/Koch Processing Supplies; Escocesa: Brooms and Brushes; Hormel: Spams, Chili, Pepperoni; Dinty Moore Stews; Chi Chi's Salsa; House of Tsang Sauces; Amazing Taste Seasonings

MEATS

MINIMART

DISTRIBUTORS

CONSTRUCTION

TWO LOCATIONS

23 Albert Street West, Belize City

Tel: 227-3622 • Fax: 227-8116

Email: southsidegroupbelize@gmail.com

3B Shopping Center, Belmopan

Tel: 822-0034 • Email: southsidemeats_bmp@yahoo.com

www.facebook.com/southsidemeatsbelize

www.facebook.com/southsidegroupbelize



The Children's Corner

with Sister Consuelo Burgos, S.A.C.

Hello Boys and Girls

Guess what Boys and Girls, the month of May is here and it is a special month for our Blessed Mother and all our Mothers. On this special month all ages - young, middle and old show great love, respect and appreciation to our Mother.



Discuss the virtues of Mother Mary and see if they are also in your mother. How can you develop those virtues in yourself? What other virtues do you find in your mother, teacher and other special people?



Fill in the flowers with your mother's special virtues. If you need more flowers, draw them in and write her virtues. Give your Mom that special card. Color it neatly and make it special.

On Mother's Day we use our creativity and give mom a surprise by giving a gift, visiting or taking her out for dinner or some other celebration, praying the rosary as a family or anything different you can come up with.

May is the month we spend some time in reflecting on the life of Mother Mary and all Mothers. Mother Mary is a role model for all mothers. She was humble, prayerful and thoughtful. The same can be said of our mothers. Mothers are very thoughtful, always thinking of the welfare of their family especially for you boys and girls. Like other Mary they are the light that shows their children the way to prayer and to have a relationship with Jesus.

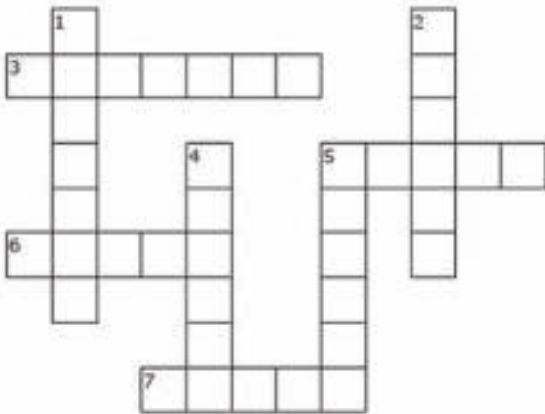
I know many mothers try to begin their day with a little prayer. Mother Mary was always there for her Son; even at the foot of the cross she persevered to the end to be with her Son. Boys and Girls Mom are beautiful women who will be there even in the time of trials. They will be at your side. When you become adults and leave your mother's house, you will return for that motherly hug and embrace that you received as a child and your mom will be there for you. It is difficult to understand a mom's love for her children because mom is always there for you whether you hurt, insult or neglect her. She waits for you to return like the story of the prodigal son. This is what we call unconditional love. Aren't mothers super, super, super special mothers, boys and girls? They will take up for us and stand by our side to mend whatever is broken. So boys and girls, mothers are great models of God's unconditional love for us.

On Mother's Day we salute all mothers and Mother Mary for being exemplifiers of strength, holiness and perseverance. Together we say, "Happy Mothers' Day! We love you all so very much!"

For Big Boys and Girls

An Angel Visits Mary

You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. Luke 1:31 (NIV)
Puzzle is based on Luke 1:26-38



ACROSS

- 3. To be joined together as husband and wife
- 5. A heavenly being; a messenger for God
- 6. The son who was born to Mary
- 7. A very young person especially between infancy and youth

DOWN

- 1. The name of the angel who appeared to Mary
- 2. A young unmarried woman; a maiden
- 4. The man to whom Mary was engaged to marry
- 5. To be filled with fear

JOSEPH	MARRIED	AFRAID	VIRGIN
GABRIEL	CHILD	ANGEL	JESUS

Happy, Happy, Mothers' Day!

Become A Youth Ministry Member in Your Parish or Community



Our Catholic Bishop mandated the Diocese to institute a Youth Ministry for all parishes countrywide through the Integrated Pastoral Communications Plan (IPCP), with core functions to respond to the needs of young people in the parishes and wider community, with the intention to empower young people to live as disciples of Jesus Christ, to encourage them to have responsible participation in the life, mission, and work of the catholic faith community and most importantly, to foster a total personal and spiritual growth.

To accomplish this goal, the IPCP team contacted a group of individuals with commitment and vigor who formed a committee which consists of the Lay Ministry and Youth Ministry. The committee’s primary objective is to assist with the creation and maintenance of a Youth Ministry in all parishes countrywide.

“The bishops’ pastoral priority is the New Evangelization, with the purpose of the pastoral plan for communications being to foster a theology and spirituality of uniting the Antilles Episcopan Conference (AEC) region. The Integrated Pastoral Communications Plan, therefore, plays a key role in creating the framework for all commissions (at both the diocesan and AEC levels) to act in a coordinated way towards the fulfillment of the mission and priorities of the AEC bishops.” (NWBC #51)

The IPCP will require our Commissions to work in collaboration and will facilitate a new model of church that will work across different commissions with a common objective to achieve the Church’s mission. It also requires the effective use of communication tools to reach all our Catholics. THE IPCP is based on three values for its success: COLLABORATION, COMMUNION and COMMITMENT.

The committee has undertaken a pilot project in the phases of research and design. The project is presently in the implementation stage that entails recruitment of young persons. The committee therefore calls on all young persons between the ages of 14-29 years old to join a Youth Ministry within your parish or community. The Youth Ministry will promote fun and exciting activities while exploring and strengthening your personal growth with Jesus Christ.



CATHOLIC YOUTH MINISTRY
REGISTRATION FORM

Basic Information

Name: _____ Age: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

School: _____ Gender: _____ Attending Parish: _____

Parent(s)/Guardian Name: _____ Contact No: _____

What would you hope to gain by being a member of a Youth Ministry? _____

“Train up a child in the way he should go, and he will never depart from it.” Proverbs 22:6

Please read the following

It is the intention of the Catholic Youth Ministry (CYM) that any communication to youth member(s), is also sent to parents. Some communications may be sent to parents only or in some cases communication may be sent to youth member(s) only especially if email address and cell phone numbers for parents are not given. Text and Email messages to the youth member(s) and parents are the primary means of communicating CYM information and notifications. Text messaging is the most effective way to communicate therefore, a valid cell phone number and email address are essential for each parent and youth member(s).

All Catholic Youth Ministry activities are subject to photographs and video recordings for the purposes of recording the event, and/or for recognition of the participants, and/or for promotional activities.

☐ I acknowledge the above statements and I also acknowledge that my child’s picture may be taken as part of Catholic Youth Ministry activities. Names of persons in such pictures will not be used without specific permission.

☐ I hereby grant permission for publication of group photos (two or more persons) taken at CYM ministry events.

☐ I hereby grant permission to include student phone number, address, and email address on a catechist roster.

☐ I also understand that my child and our family should attend Mass on Sundays.

☐ I understand that I must respect the CYM code of conduct, leaders, and other youth members.

Submit all forms to your respective school(s), attending parishes or youth ministry leader(s).
EMAIL US AT: catholicyouthsbelize@gmail.com or oroscosteph2002@yahoo.com, you can also call 601-3072.

Marriage God’s Way- A Reflection

By Stanley & Maureen Ermeav
Marriage and Family Life Ministry - DPLC

Before we begin our reflection, we would like to applaud Bishop Larry Nicasio for honoring Marriage and Family Life in his Pastoral Letter and for calling on pastors to celebrate the sacrament in each parish during the month of June.

Let’s start our reflection with a prayer based on a Bible passage that we believe embodies God’s design for marriage and can help us re-focus when we fail to live our marriage God’s way:

Loving God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, when You instituted marriage, before sin existed on this earth, the love and intimacy You blessed Adam and Eve with truly reflected Your intimate love for them and the heart of their relationship with You and each other (Genesis 2:21-25). This, we believe, is our model for marriage, our Sacrament and our sign.

Everything God does is perfect. It cannot be otherwise. Marriage, as God instituted it, is perfect and remains perfect **even after the effects of sin**. Our problem with marriage is not marriage, but the effect on us of sin - which was instituted by the “Snake,” a liar to the bone (John 8:44), and pridefully embraced by Adam and Eve and every one of us since, to this very moment.

Sin infects all our relationships, first and foremost with God. This could have been our deplorable fate if God had chosen to write us

off, but He didn’t. With the same intimate love He blessed Adam and Eve when He instituted marriage, God made His Son suffer the fullness of sin in our place in order to restore us to fullness of relationship with Him (Romans 8:14-17). As a result, if we receive God’s blessing of intimate love in our marriage, we can work this love until the world sees Christ’s love for His Church in our love for each other (Ephesians 5:32).

A story is told about Mother Teresa when she was comforting a dying old man. The man asked her: “This Jesus that you talk about ... is He like you?” Mother Teresa answered: “Well, I try to be like Him.” The old man said: “Then, I will be His follower” and shortly after He died.

God is the first to love. He is THE INITIATOR. In marriage, God invites us to enjoy His kind of intimate love. We love because He first loved us (1 John 4:19). We receive His love as a blessing to us and expand it as a blessing to others. In marriage, the more fully we receive God’s intimate love, the more fully we experience love and intimacy. That’s just the way it is. **We can choose every day** to believe in marriage God’s way, enjoy intimate love as spouses every day and be a credible sign of God’s love to others. **God has enabled it. We can do it ... if we really want it more than anything else.** It’s that simple.

An intimate relationship with God is our source of intimate love in marriage. An intimate relationship with God enables us to overcome the effects of sin we each bring to our marriage

and enjoy intimate love as His blessing to ourselves and to others. Experiencing love and intimacy in marriage is as much the fulfilment of a yearning God has put in our hearts as it is His calling to us to be a blessing to others. **Marriage is bigger than any two of us. God instituted marriage to be a sign of His love. How we need to keep this in mind as spouses.**

In our next two reflections, we will discuss spiritual intimacy in marriage followed by relational intimacy.

● ST. JOSEPH (... from page 5)

■ A SPECIAL THANKSGIVING MASS was celebrated at St Joseph Church on Sunday, May 6. This Mass was sponsored by the Belize Rosary Project marking nine years since the project was inaugurated, and the completion of visitations to all Catholic Schools in our country where devotion to our Lady and the praying of the Holy Rosary was promoted. The Celebrant of the Mass was Fr. Noel Leslie.

■ ST. JOSEPH along with the parishioners of St. Ignatius Parish mourns the death of Fr. Sean McGrath of the Columban Fathers. Fr. Sean resided briefly at St. Joseph (about a week) before moving to St. Ignatius. He spent his time at St. Joseph walking the neighborhood and visiting homes. He even attended the Our Lady of the Way Christmas Bazaar to learn about fundraising activities in our Diocese. May he rest in peace.

■ WORK WILL RESUME on our Auditorium during the Summer Vacation. Your financial support to this Project will be greatly appreciated.

● OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

(... from page 5)

reflect on the movie *The Passion of the Christ*. While on Tuesday a Lenten penance service was held. Fr. Quang Tran, S.J. from Belize City assisted Fr. Gongora with the confessions. On Holy Thursday the celebration of the Lord's Supper was meaningful, especially with the solemn transfer of the Blessed Sacrament to the altar of reposition. We also observed the ritual of the washing of the feet. All village missions also held a service with adoration until midnight. While the Good Friday services was well attended in the capital city, various communities in the Belmopan area gath-

ered to process from Las Flores Catholic Church to the Co-cathedral while reflecting on the Stations of the Cross through the streets of Belmopan. Upon arrival of the procession, Good Friday service was conducted.

Holy Saturday was also well attended. Parishioners seem to look forward to this beautiful celebration with the blessing of the fire and the many rituals within the service. We were blessed to have with us for Holy Week Fr. Carlos Donati, Secretary to the Apostolic Nuncio in El Salvador. Fr. Donati celebrated the Easter Sunday Mass in the Co-cathedral and in other villages.

■ OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE PARISH COUNCIL took a day to spend time in prayer and reflection. Many of the members gathered at Santa Familia Retreat Center for the day of recollection which was conducted by Fr. Gongora and Seminarian Michael Kemp.

■ DURING THE EASTER SEASON, many of our Catholic Schools prepared several students to receive the Eucharist for the very first time. St. Michael R.C. School students received first Holy Communion on April 25. Our Lady of Guadalupe R.C. School and Non-catholic School



Shrine of Our Risen Christ at the Co-cathedral in Belmopan.



Parish Council members gathered for faith sharing session facilitated by Seminarian Michael Kemp.



The new Lectors from Valley of Peace community along with Fr. Jordan Gongora.

students received first Holy Communion on April 29. On the same day students from Msgr. Romero R.C. School also received first Holy Communion. Congratulations to the boys and girls who received the Eucharist for the first time.

■ THE PARISH NOW HAS the ministry of lectors in the entire parish. Fr. Gongora instituted several persons as lectors on April 22, at Valley of Peace Catholic Church and St. Michael Catholic Church in Las Flores. All other villages will also get new lectors who were trained to carry out this ministry in their respective community.

■ THE PARISH IS ALSO PREPARING to institute persons for the ministry of ushers, bereavement ministry and improving the adult choir. A men's choir was recently formed. Seminarian Michael Kemp is assisting Fr. Gongora in this capacity. Parishioners are gladly responding to these ministers as they take up their role in parish life as baptized lay persons.

■ THE PARISH COUNCIL is organizing a Mother's Day Dinner/Dance to be held on Saturday, May 12 starting at 7:00 p.m. Proceeds from this fundraising are for the renovation of the parish hall roof.



Parish Council on Day of Recollection at Santa Familia Center.

Sacred Heart Parish, San Ignacio

Parish Happenings

■ MANY PARISHIONERS attended Palm Sunday services both in town and in the villages. A few attended the Chrism Mass at Holy Redeemer Cathedral. Holy Thursday Liturgy included the Foot Washing Ceremony. On Good Friday a good number were in attendance for Tenebrae Service and Good Friday service including the procession through the principal streets of our town. Finally, there was a record attendance at the Easter Vigil here at Sacred Heart Church.

■ OUR PARISH COUNCIL met in mid-April to finalize plans for the repair of the church roof at Sacred Heart Church. Other matters discussed were the upcoming Guadalupe Procession and activities for June being designated as the month for Marriage and Family Life.

■ WORK HAS BEGUN on repair of the church roof and is expected to take one week to complete. This is being done urgently before the rains come. In the meantime, morning Masses are celebrated in the nearby classroom of Sacred Heart Primary School.

■ LET US CONTINUE TO PRAY for each other as we journey through this Easter Season, may the Risen Jesus be in our hearts and homes. God bless.

St. Martín de Porres, Belize City

Parish Happenings

ANNUAL TEA PARTY AT ST. MARTINS:

■ THE 5TH ANNUAL TEA PARTY at St. Martin de Porres Church was a big success this past April, thanks to generous donors, parishioners and the St. Martins Parish Life Committee. The Parish Life Committee hosts a tea party once a year to raise funds and encourage socialization among the St. Martins community. This year, almost 175 people came to enjoy tea, snacks, games and conversation with friends from their church and neighborhood.

The tea party was held outside in the gardens of St. Martins. Guests enjoyed the fresh evening air while snacking on the foods donated by generous parishioners of St. Martins.

Those of you who went to the tea party may have noticed the new tablecloths! Every year, the parish life committee uses some of the funds raised from the previous year's tea party to purchase some items they can use for future events. Next year, the committee won't need to rent tablecloths and can save some money.

■ THE PARISH LIFE COMMITTEE is already back in the swing of things and busy working on planning their next event, the St. Martin de Porres Mayfair!

St. Ignatius Parish, Belize City

Parish Happenings

■ HOLY THURSDAY OR MAUNDY THURSDAY was celebrated at St. Ignatius with the washing of the feet. Twelve men were chosen from the congregation symbolizing the 12 Apostles. Fr. Lorenzo Echeverria, who played the role of Jesus, washed and kissed their feet, a sign of extreme humility.

■ THE PASSION TO SERVE GOD, penance, sacrifice, dedication, humility, love and patience may be some of the characteristics Fr. Lorenzo Echeverria Argueta, FMM started and continues with the re-enactment of the Living Passion of Christ.

Eight years ago, Fr. Lorenzo organized and started the Living Passion of Christ in San Ignacio which he did for three years. Thereafter, he was transferred to Orange Walk where he continued for another two years. He then came to Belize City as pastor of St. Ignatius Parish and St. John Vianney where he has just concluded his third year.

On Good Friday, the Living Passion of Christ started from St. John Vianney and ended with the Crucifixion in St. Ignatius School yard. This great spiritual event is very intense and is organized and directed by Fr. Lorenzo Echeverria himself who also played the main character, Jesus. This is a huge task to be undertaken not only because of his language barrier being Spanish, but as well as the different roles involved; it is very time consuming due to the many practices and also costly. Both St. Ignatius and St. John Vianney welcome this event since it was never done in the city before and the message of hope is to end the violence in Belize.

Thanks to all the participants from Orange Walk, Divine Mercy and Holy Redeemer as well as our own St. Ignatius and St. John Vianney Parishes. Special thanks also to Fr. Selvin Garcia for his kind assistance and support.

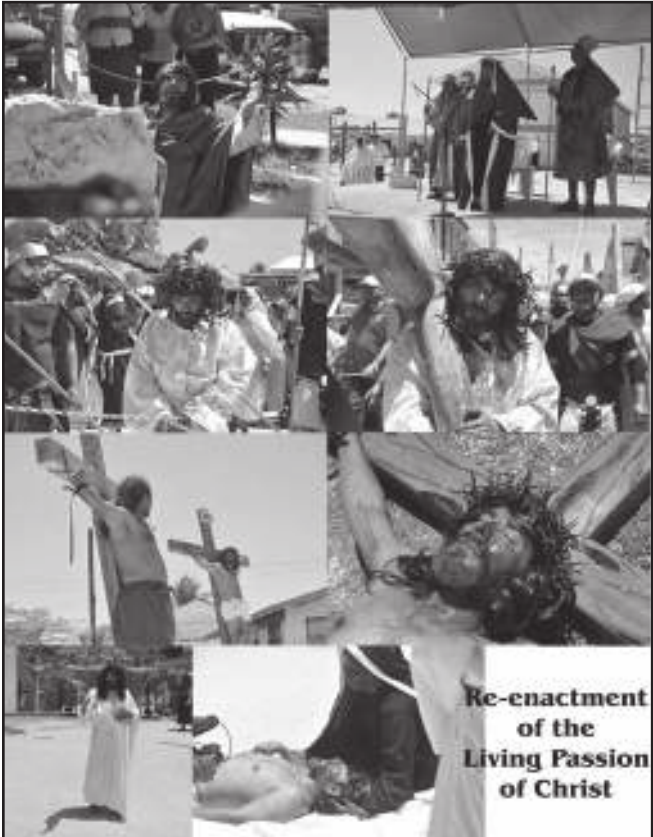
Anyone who would like to be a part of this great event in the future can contact Fr. Lorenzo Echeverria at St. Ignatius Parish for more information.

Gracias a todos por vuestra participación y mirada adelante para que sea más grande el año que viene. ¡Que Dios bendiga a todos ustedes!

■ HOLY SATURDAY EASTER VIGIL MASS started at 7:00 p.m. with the blessing of the Fire. Baptismal Water was also blessed.

■ EASTER SUNDAY MASS of the Resurrection was celebrated at 9:00 a.m. Jesus is alive! Our faith is born!

■ ON SUNDAY, APRIL, 15 some of St. Igna-



Blessing of the Fire on Holy Saturday.

tius School children received their First Holy Communion.

■ YOU ARE ALWAYS INVITED to Holy Hour at 6:00 p.m. every Thursday. Come and join us in prayers.



Students of St. Ignatius received their First Holy Communion.
see additional photo on page 10

NORTHERN FISHERMEN

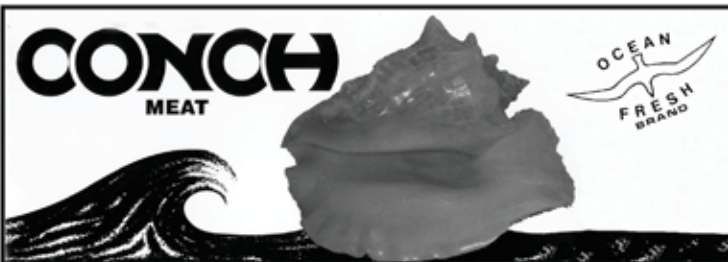
CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY LTD.

49 NORTH FRONT ST. ● P.O. BOX 647 ● BELIZE CITY

Phone : 224-4488, 224-4460 ● Fax: 223-0978

EMAIL: norficoop@btl.net

**From Our Sea
to Our Kitchens
at Home and Abroad**



**Producers & Processors of
Belize's finest seafood.**

‘Cry Out,’ Pope Tells Young People at Palm Sunday Mass

By Cindy Wooden

Celebrating Palm Sunday Mass with thousands of young people, Pope Francis urged them to continue singing and shouting “hosanna” in the world, proclaiming the lordship of Jesus and following his example of outreach to the poor and suffering.

The crowd that shouted “hosanna” as Jesus entered Jerusalem included all those for whom Jesus was a source of joy, those he healed and forgave, and those he welcomed after they had been excluded from society, the pope said in his homily March 25.

But others were irritated by Jesus and tried to silence his followers, the pope said. In the same way, people today will try to silence young people who continue to follow Jesus.

“There are many ways to silence young people and make them invisible,” the pope said. There are “many ways to anesthetize them, to make them keep quiet, ask nothing, question nothing.”

Pope Francis asked the young people “not to keep quiet. Even if others keep quiet, if we older people and leaders keep quiet, if the whole world keeps quiet and loses its joy, I ask you: Will you cry out?”

Gabriella Zuniga, 16, and her sister Valentina Zuniga, 15, were among the thousands in St. Peter’s Square. The sisters, students at Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, had participated March 24 in the local Rome “March for Our Lives,” calling for gun control.

The Palm Sunday Mass marked the local celebration of World

Youth Day and included the more than 300 young adults who, at the Vatican’s invitation, had spent a week discussing the hopes, desires and challenges facing the world’s young people and ways the Catholic Church should respond.

At the end of the Mass, they formally presented their final document to the pope; it will be used, along with input from the world’s bishops’ conferences, in drafting the working document for the Synod of Bishops in October, which will focus on young people, faith and vocational discernment.

In his homily, Pope Francis said that the Palm Sunday Mass, which begins with the singing of “hosanna” and then moves to the reading of Jesus’ passion, combines “stories of joy and suffering, mistakes and successes, which are part of our daily lives as disciples.”

The acclamation of the crowd praising Jesus as he enters Jerusalem gives way to the shouts of “crucify him” as Jesus’ suffering and death draw near, the pope noted. “It somehow expresses the contradictory feelings that we too, the men and women of today, experience: the capacity for great love, but also for great hatred; the capacity for courageous self-sacrifice, but also the ability to ‘wash our hands.’”

Pope Francis told the young people gathered in the square that in the face of such attempts to demolish hope, kill dreams and suppress joy, Christians must look to Christ’s cross and “let ourselves be challenged by his final cry.

“We have been saved by his cross, and no one can repress the joy of the Gospel,” he said. “No one, in any situation whatsoever, is far from the Father’s merciful gaze.” —CNS

Laywomen Among New Appointees to Vatican’s Doctrine Office

By Hannah Brockhaus
Catholic News Agency

On Saturday, April 21 Pope Francis named five new consultants of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, including three female academics and two priests.

The women are Dr. Linda Ghisoni, professor of canon law at the Pontifical Gregorian University; Dr. Michelina Tenace, professor of theology at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome; and Dr. Laetitia Calmeyn, lecturer of theology at the Collège des Bernardins in Paris.

The other two new consultants are Fr. Sergio Paolo Bonanni, professor of theology at the Pontifical Gregorian University, and Claretian Fr. Manuel Jesús Arroba Conde, dean of the Institutum Utriusque Iuris at the Pontifical Lateran University.

While a Vatican spokesman was unable to confirm whether laywomen have previously served as consultants, he did confirm for *CNA* that women have served as staff members at the dicastery.

The Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith is the Vatican department responsible for protect-

ing and promulgating the doctrine of the Catholic Church. It is headed by Archbishop Luis Ladaria Ferrer, S.J., and consultants include cardinals, bishops, priests, canon lawyers, and lay theologians.

Ghisoni has held a position within the Vatican since November 2017, when Pope Francis appointed her a sub-secretary and the head of the section on laity, for the Dicastery for the Laity, Family, and Life.

Ghisoni, 52, works as a judge at the First Instance Court of the Vicariate of Rome. In addition to teaching canon law at the Gregorian, she is a professor of law at Roma Tre University.

She is from the town of Cortemaggiore in the north of Italy and studied philosophy and theology at the Eberhard-Karls-University in Tübingen, Germany.

In 1999 she received a doctorate in canon law from the Pontifical Gregorian University, and in 2002 she received the diploma of Rotal Advocate at the Studium rotale of the Tribunal of the Roman Rota.

Since 1997 Ghisoni has held various positions at the Tribunals of First Instance and Appeal of the

Vicariate of Rome, including Notary, Defender of the Bond, Auditor and Judge.

She has also served as Judicial Counselor at the Tribunal of the Roman Rota from 2002-2009, and Commissioner of the Congregation for the Divine Worship and the Discipline of Sacraments for the Defense of the marital bond in causes for the dissolution of the marriage “ratum sed non consummatum” (ratified but not consummated).

Since November 2011, she has also worked at the Tribunal of the Roman Rota. From 2013-2016, she collaborated with the former Pontifical Council for the Laity in the field of specialist laity studies in the Church. She is married and has two daughters.

Dr. Michelina Tenace, 63, is from San Marco, Italy and a consecrated woman. After studying philosophy in France, she received a degree in foreign literature from Sapienza University in Rome and a doctorate in theology from the Pontifical Gregorian University with a dissertation on Vladimir Soloviev.

She now teaches theology at the Gregorian University, in-

cluding classes on spiritual theology, theological anthropology, the Council of Nicea, and Eastern Churches. She is also a staff member of the Ezio Aletti Study and Research Center, which supports Christian scholars and artists from Eastern Europe.

Tenace’s publications include numerous articles, as well as ten books, which have been translated into various languages. She was also named a member of the commission to study the female diaconate by Pope Francis in 2016.

Dr. Laetitia Calmeyn, 42, was born in Brussels in 1975 and became a consecrated virgin in the Archdiocese of Paris on June 23, 2013. She has worked as a palliative care nurse, a retreat organizer for youth, and a Catholic religion teacher, among other ministries.

Calmeyn received a bachelor’s degree in theology in 2002 from the Institute of Theological Studies in Brussels and a doctorate in theology at the Pontifical John Paul II Institute in Rome. Her dissertation was on theological principles and foundations of morality according to the work of Jesuit Fr. Albert Chappelle.

Since 2009 she has been a theology lecturer at the Collège des Bernardins in Paris.



PHOTO LEFT: Feast Day Mass at San Jose, Succotz, Benque Viejo held on May 1, 2018.



ST. IGNATIUS: Holy Thursday Washing of the Feet.

Members of the Society of St. Vincent De Paul Attend Annual Retreat

The Society of St. Vincent De Paul held its Annual Retreat on Saturday, April 21, 2018. The theme was “God’s Love” and our facilitator was Fr. Lorenzo Echeverria, FMM, who delivered a great message of God’s Love for us.

The retreat was fulfilling and gratifying and as Vincentians, we continue the work of our patron and founder to serve the poor and needy with love, hope and joy.

Vincentians from St. John Vianney, St. Joseph and St. Ignatius parishes attended.



National President, Ms. Marion Marsden, (2nd row far right) along with Fr. Lorenzo Echeverria, FMM and other members of The Society of St. Vincent De Paul.



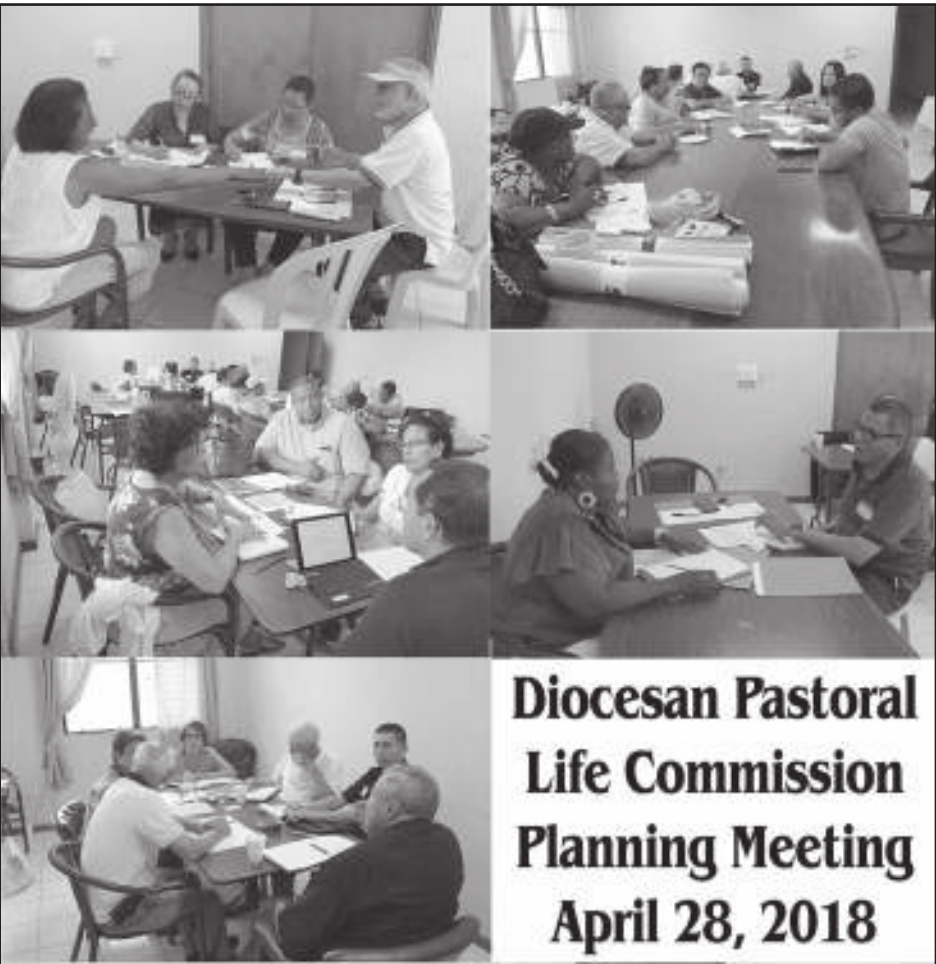
Members during a break at their annual Retreat held in Belize City on April 21, 2018.

Catholic Charismatic Renewal Movement Hosts Youth Mass


The Catholic Charismatic Renewal Movement held a Youth Mass on Saturday, April 14 at St. Ignatius Church in Belize City. Many Catholic School students participated either during the Mass or after the Mass during the Entertainment.

The Youth Mass was concelebrated by Fr. Scott Giuliani, SOLT from Divine Mercy Parish and Fr. Quang Tran, S.J. from St. Martin De Porres Parish. We thank all teachers who coordinated to bring our Catholic students from different levels together. It was indeed a wonderful celebration; we hope to continue reach out to our youths in our Catholic Church in the future. We know that our youths enjoyed the performances held after the Mass in the St. Ignatius School Yard. We thank all those who prayed and made sacrifices to support this effort as we embrace and encourage our Catholic youths to stand firm in their Catholic Faith.





Diocesan Pastoral Life Commission Planning Meeting
April 28, 2018





PHOTOS ABOVE AND BELOW: Good Friday in Benque Viejo.



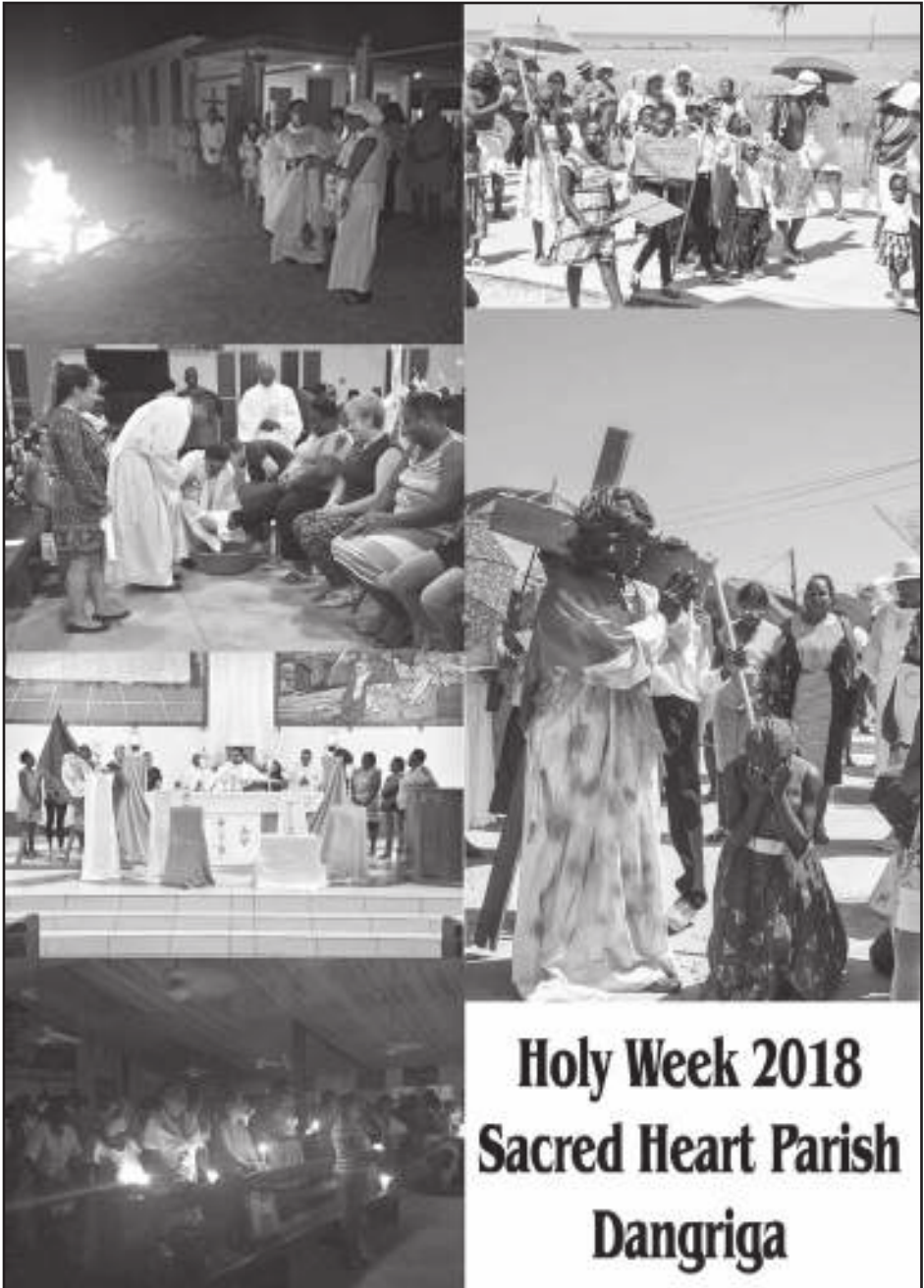
Missionaries who came to Belize in the month of March to serve the community and Catholic School in San Pedro, Ambergris Caye



Seder Meal at Divine Mercy Church, Belize City, on March 27, 2018.



HAND IN HAND MINISTRIES: Volunteers from the Vincentian Academy in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth of Bardstown, Kentucky came to Belize and built this home along with the new owner, a single mother of three children.



Missionaries who came to Belize to assist at Sacred Heart Parish, Dangriga during Easter along with Fr. Rodolfo Garcia, CssR, Pastor.

JUNE DEADLINE
FRIDAY, MAY 25