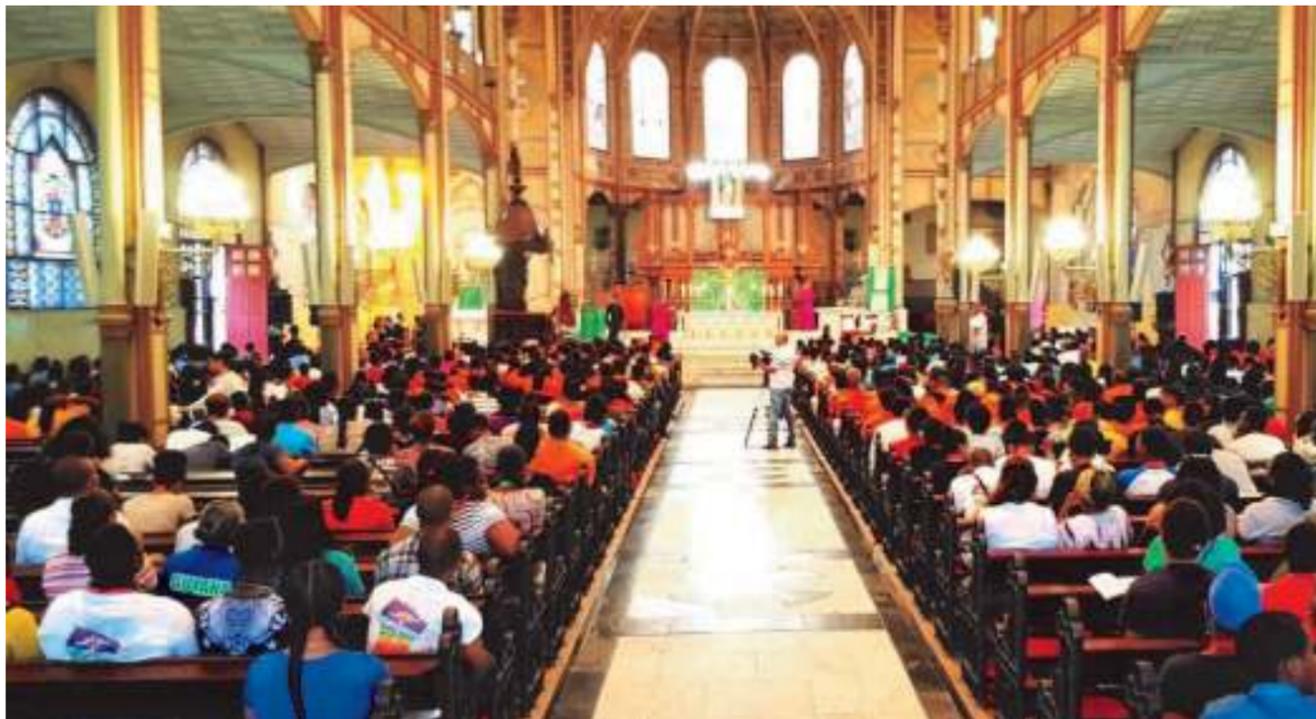


Pope Francis to young people of the Caribbean: “Look to your roots”



AECYA 2018: Mass at the Saint Louis Cathedral, Fort-de-France, Martinique, July 13th. The Guyana delegation is near the lower left of the photo (photo: JCJ 2018 Martinique Facebook page)

The future cannot be understood without reflecting on the past and on the history and traditions passed on to young people from parents and grandparents, Pope Francis said.

"It's from your roots that you will get the strength to continue.

None of us -- neither you nor me -- were manufactured in a laboratory; we have a history, we have roots. And everything we do, the results we achieve, the beauty we create in the future, all comes from those roots," the pope said in a video message released July 15.

The pope's message was sent to young people of the Caribbean attending the July 10-23 youth assembly sponsored by the Antilles bishops' conference. The conference's theme was focused on transforming the family in the Caribbean ([please turn to page 11](#))

Marian Academy still the school of choice



Marian Academy's 19th Prize giving Ceremony. Photo: Ronald Chang Yuen. ([please see article on page 11](#))

INSIDE

Editorial: Sweat and Spirituality - [p2](#)

Letters to the Editor - [p2](#)

CCJ Barbados ruling 'step in the right direction' – T&T Archbishop Gordon - [p3](#)

A Christian Perspective on Social Issues - [p4](#)

Sunday Scripture - [p5](#)

Gospel Reflection - [p6](#)

East Coast Altar Servers gather at B/V - [p6](#)

Bishop Alleyne joins AECYA delegation - [p6](#)

Journeying with the Word of God - [p7](#)

'Auntie' Enid Cheong dies at 93 - [p7](#)

Venezuelan bishops say country is going in 'suicidal' direction under Maduro - [p7](#)

Lectors Corner - [p8](#)

Children's Page - [p9](#)

Rest vs. Chores - [p10](#)

The end of an era: St Rose's High is demolished - [p12](#)

Aishalton community working together to tackle main road - [p12](#)

Saint of the Week - [p12](#)

On the Lighter Side - [p12](#)

Bishop's Engagements

Wednesday July 18th to Monday July 23rd

Attend AEC Youth Assembly 2018 in Martinique

Tuesday July 24th

12:30hrs - Return to Georgetown

Thursday July 26th

11:00hrs – Travel to Lethem

Friday July 27th to Sunday July 29th

Sacrament of Confirmation, Rupununi



✠ Francis Alleyne OSB



Parishes should increase awareness of Bishop's letter on Catholic Culture

This week I especially enjoyed Bishop Francis' article describing the culture of the Catholic Church in Guyana, and what the future could be if we all commit to the mission as Jesus' first disciples. For many who question the "raison d'etre" of the Catholic Church in Guyana, mostly those parishioners who are

frequenting other churches, this article is on point and timely.

Perhaps all the parishes should post this article in their churches to remind the faithful of why they chose to be baptized Catholic in the first place.

Prayers and blessings from Canada!

Donna Joy Tai

EDITORIAL

Sweat and Spirituality

As a culture, we are fascinated by sports. Hundreds of millions of people tune in to watch the Super Bowl, World Cup, Olympics and other sporting events. Even among those who aren't athletically inclined, names like LeBron James, Tom Brady and Usain Bolt are as much pop culture icons as they are athletes, and the allure of watching them compete is undeniable.

Additionally, sports have long been viewed as a unifying and welcome distraction from the trials of life. Earl Warren, former chief justice of the U.S Supreme Court, famously said, "I always turn to the sports pages first, which records people's accomplishments. The front page has nothing but man's failures." While on its surface this seems to be a ringing endorsement for athletics, it does beg a further question: What exactly are these athletes accomplishing? Isn't it, after all, "only a game"? Is there any real value to these pursuits beyond serving as a temporary distraction from what can at times seem to be a depressing world?

I believe that to answer this question we need to ask another: What is it about sports that is so intriguing? As a Christian as well as an athlete, I have become convinced that sports reflect certain truths about the purpose for which we were created in a very real and tangible way, and the lessons we learn while "playing" can go a long way in helping us to grow in the spiritual life.

The Olympic motto is "Citius, Altius, Fortius" which is Latin for "Faster, Higher, Stronger." But I think just as important as what it does say is what it doesn't say. It doesn't say "Faster, Higher, Stronger than those who you're competing against"; just "Faster, Higher, Stronger." I will be the first to admit that I have lost sight of this truth more than a few times. It is easy to measure yourself by looking at those around you, but an athlete's true competition isn't against his opponent, or even the clock, but rather himself.

For this reason, I would argue that we don't really turn on the Olympics to watch athletes compete against each other. Rather, we want to see them push themselves, to be the best version of themselves and to achieve something beyond what even they thought was possible. Furthermore, we are captivated in a particular way ([please turn to page 4](#))

Pope Francis' encouraging message of hope

Dear Editor,

Speaking with a friend of mine recently, we lamented that with all the extremely negative and much more than that, the horrific news that we see, read about, and hear daily, nay hourly, it is difficult not to find ourselves sucked under a flood of despair.

It then occurred to me that we Catholics, and indeed the world, are fortunate to have Pope Francis as head of the Church at this time, leading and encouraging with a message of hope. A message that says: take care of the earth and each other.

Inspiringly, too, he is pointing the way in his encyclical *Laudato Si'* and

the upcoming Pan-Amazonian Synod. This can have particular impact for us here in Guyana, since we as part of the Amazon Basin can play an integral part in preserving the world's largest reserve of flora & fauna and freshwater.

Joan Collins

'Auntie Enid' had a thirst for the Eucharist

Dear Editor,

I am grateful to God for Ms. Enid Cheong (Auntie Enid), especially for her unceasing support in my ministry. Through prayer and friendship she has won many hearts. Although I am saddened by her passing from this earthly journey, her memories will remain with me. She has impacted me in two aspects, namely, friendship and her thirst for the Eucharist.

Each of us has 'relationship circles' where the innermost circle represents our own self and then right outside it we have intimate or loyal friends and then we have familiar friends and then we have acquaintances and then outermost are danger zone friendships.

Over the years we shift friends and family from one circle to the other. It is natural for us to be friends with someone but not all will be our intimate friends. Some events might send some our intimate friends or

family right outside into one of those circles depending on the relationship. I am glad to say that I have many friends and family in my inner circle of relationships with whom I can share my struggles and joys and vice versa.

Auntie Enid is one of those who joined my inner circle of relationships about 3 years ago. This was possible through Ms. Pat Pierre with whom I used to visit the sick at public hospital. After our visit to the hospital, we would take a break at Auntie Enid's home and get my advice, wisdom and support from this great woman. I will truly miss this lovely time of rejuvenation. I urge us all to make sure that we support each other so that our goal must be to join the inner circle of relationships and not merely acquaintances.

The Eucharist was truly a source and summit of Auntie Enid's life. I had the privilege of taking the Eucharist for her many times at her home.

There wasn't a low point in her life as long as she had her Eucharist. She was the beloved of the Eucharist. She truly believed that Jesus has come to her home when the Eucharist was brought to her. She cherished the Communion service and she had composed a Thanksgiving prayer in which she expressed her gratitude to God for all the people in her life.

Her love for the Eucharist has given me strength. I am sure this has been the experience of priests and ministers who took Communion to her. She longed for the Eucharist and when she got it she highly rejoiced.

I appeal to each of us that we also may value the Eucharist in our lives. It is a privilege to welcome Christ into our lives. Let us be joyful for we have the Eucharist in our churches. I believe that the Eucharist is the heart of the Church without which Church won't survive very long.

Fr. Jerri Dias SJ

Church always facing challenges

Dear Editor,

Greetings. In my contribution to my faith, I would like to make a few comments on the behaviour carried out in the Catholic Church which I find very disturbing or should I say very disgusting.

Our Church is known by history as the longest serving entity in the Kingdom of God. Hundreds of so-called Christian churches came after and try to pull it down but they couldn't. Why? Because the Saviour himself promised, "Upon this rock I will build my Church and the gates of Hell shall not prevail against it." He also said "I will be with you always."

Churches come and go but the Catholic Church is still standing there. She stands alone for what she believes. She survived for over 2000 years, she admits her faults, she corrects her errors, she repairs her damage, she overcomes her persecutions.

Before the bible came in quantity the Catholic Church had possession of it, because it was her forefathers who sat down and put it together. It came all the way from Hebrew to Greek, to Latin. It was through the teachings and traditions of the Church that millions of souls were saved although they hadn't a bible in their hands.

Hundreds of saints were anchored in it including the late Mother Teresa

whom the world cannot deny as our present-day saint.

What is disturbing and also disgusting is the corruption that is taking place in the different parishes here now especially coming from some priests (not all of them.) Some priests tend to lean their ears to listen to evil gossip that tears communities apart, they even take sides. How can a priest stand in front of a congregation and tell them how to live and share the love of Christ when they themselves show favour to some members and show prejudice to others? How can they caress the sacred host in their hands and yet have division in their hearts?

(continued on page 4)

CCJ Barbados ruling 'step in the right direction' – T&T Archbishop Jason Gordon



but was a barbaric form of revenge. "It does not act as a deterrent for violent crimes in society—in fact, it supports the very act which took a life. We cannot teach respect for life by taking life. The mandatory death penalty left no room for a judge to consider mitigating circumstances. It did not allow for conversion, mercy or forgiveness."

In 2016, the bishops of the Antilles Episcopal Conference (AEC) appealed to politicians and citizens in the region to abolish capital punishment and embrace a restorative justice approach to crime and violence.

A restorative justice approach, they believed, focuses on holding the offender accountable in a more meaningful way and helping to achieve a sense of healing for both victims and the community. "It embraces socialisation, rehabilitation and reconciliation, rather than retribution and vengeance," the release said.

In his release, the archbishop highlighted that successive popes, including St Pope John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI called for the abolition of the death penalty, encouraging nations to work instead towards a just means of punishment and public order.

Archbishop Gordon acknowledged a "growing movement" worldwide to abolish the death penalty, with many countries taking into consideration moral and social implications as well as alternatives such as restorative justice, which seeks to give the perpetrator an opportunity to take responsibility for his/her actions, to show remorse and to be rehabilitated. In the region, the charge is being led

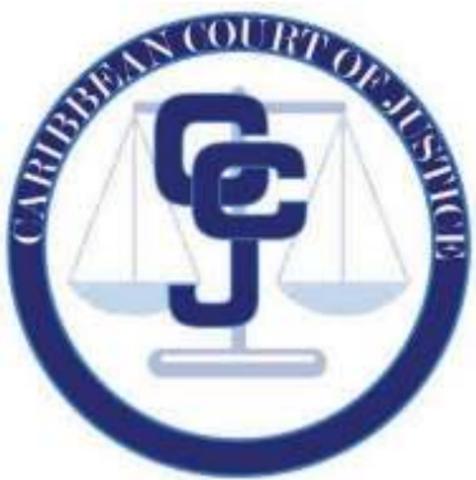
by the group known as The Greater Caribbean for Life.

The archbishop concluded that there has been increasing concern about the level of violence in society, especially incidents ending in death. He believed that these demonstrate the diminishing respect for life and the need for all societies to promote integral development of their citizens so they can become the best version of themselves.

He added, "The application of sound traditions and values, including love and respect for our neighbour, can help to rebuild a just and peaceful society, where conflict does not end with the taking of a life and where disagreement does not destroy but can strengthen relationships."

This, Archbishop Gordon affirmed is not "a lofty deal" as every person, every family, every faith leader and every policymaker has a role to play to promote the value and dignity of life, this wonderful gift from God.

(From Catholic News of T&T) ❖



Upcoming Events

Saturday July 28th Holy Spirit Parish Jumble Sale

Holy Spirit Parish will be holding a grand Jumble Sale on Saturday July 28th in the Parish Hall from 6:00 am. Please come and support.

July 30th – August 2nd Diocesan Junior Youth Camp

Please see page 4.

Saturday, August 4th Meadowbank Fair

Our Lady of the Mount parish presents its Annual Fundraising Fair on Saturday August 4th from 15:00 hrs to 19:00 hrs on the church lawns, Meadowbank. Great prizes to be won / Lots of food and drink on sale / Music by Popular Sound. Admission:\$100

August 17th-19th Laudato Si Environmental Camp

The Laudato Si Guyana Group invites persons ages 14-35 to register for **Environmental Camp 2018** to be held at Camp Kayuka from August 17th-19th. Registration costs \$3,000 and the registration deadline is Aug. 13th. Interested persons may email us at laudatosiguyana@gmail.com or send us a message on Facebook @ Laudato Si Guyana.

August 24th - 26th Diocesan Senior Youth Camp

Please see page 4. ❖



Please let us know of upcoming events by emailing us at: catholicstandardgy@gmail.com under the heading "Upcoming Events" or call 226-2192.

The Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese of Bridgetown, Archbishop Jason Gordon of Port of Spain has welcomed the recent decision by the Caribbean Court of Justice which declared as unconstitutional and a violation of the right to life, the mandatory death sentence for a conviction of murder in Barbados.

The CCJ judgement related to the consolidated appeal cases of Jabari Sensimania Nervais and Dwayne Omar Severin who have been convicted of murder.

In a release, the archbishop noted that the CCJ's decision is "a step in the right direction" but does not remove the death penalty from the laws in Barbados, so there is still some work to be done.

He said, "Every life is a precious gift from God. We are all created in the image and likeness of God and thus have inherent dignity. The taking of one life does not therefore justify the taking of another."

Archbishop Gordon commented the death penalty did not provide justice

John Fernandes Ltd.
GROUP OF COMPANIES

24 Water Street, Georgetown Tel: 227-3344, 227-3350, 227-3363, 226-8843, 225-6294, 226-1506
Fax: 592-226-1881, 592-227-3360 Email: sales@jf-ltd.com

Where Experience is Always at Your Service

FLEX GYM

**Aerobics,
Weight Training**

151 Thomas St. Kitty
Tel: 226-7735

PATRICK'S TAXI SERVICE

A Service You Can Trust

226-8524, 226-6770,
223-5400, 225-6969 Manager: 660-0018

Taxi for all occasions - 24/7 Reliable Service

118 Cowan St., Kingston, Georgetown
patrickstaxi@yahoo.com

MODERN OPTICAL SERVICE

316 Middle St., N/C/Burg,
Tel# 226-1082

*For comprehensive eye examinations,
contact lenses and solutions*

General Services Offered

For your every service need, including:
Computer repairs, Handyman services, A/C installation, Security Camera installation, Electricals, Fire Alarm installation and much more.

Contact Roderick at (592)623-5906
roderick.vansluytman@gmail.com

A Christian Perspective on Social Issues



By GHK Lall

Real role models - the few wait- ing and worthy of imitating: (Part IV)

The determined self-taught, self-propelled sometimes (sometimes) make it through the devil's workshops that are always on the hunt for new apprentices and ready followers. Unfortunately, the survivors are too few; their likelihood of staying the course and chances of emerging from the clutches of the wicked too poor. It is at this juncture that the sheltering harbor of caring church leaders and brethren are crucial; too frequently these are caught up in their own controversies and pressures, which reduce them to distracted part-time comforters. They are not enough to fill the crying need for bodies exuding love, hearts manifesting compassionate interest, and spirits devoted to the constancy of clean servant-hood. More are needed.

Letters · Letters · Letters · Letters · Letters · Letters · Letters

They encourage us to go to confession. What can such a priest tell us? How can I tell him my minor fault when he has a major one?

The behaviour of some of these priests causes people to have a low opinion of the Catholic Church. They damage the reputation of the good ones. When they err, they are consoled that they are only human. That's no excuse. When Jesus prayed for his disciples he said, "Father they are in the world but not of the world". That prayer should stand out for priests now. It should apply to all religious male and female.

I wonder if the authorities are aware of what is happening in all of our parishes, about the corruptions and prejudice that are taking place in certain parishes. I wonder.

Thank you, yours in Christ,

Edwin Lynch

Editor's note: *Scripture, which as you say, "Hundreds of saints were anchored in," is full of advice on correcting a brother/sister who may have done wrong. Matthew 18: 15 – 17, "If your brother sins, go and show him his fault in private; if he listens to you, you have won your brother. "But if he does not listen to you, take one or two more with you, so that by the mouth of two or three witnesses every act may be confirmed..." We urge that the writer consider raising these concerns with the Jesuit Superior, the Vicar General or the head of the church in Guyana. "The wise of heart," says Solomon, "will receive correction" (Proverbs 10:8).* ❖

EDITORIAL: Sweat and spirituality (From Page 2)

by team events, in which the athletes sacrifice for something bigger than just themselves: their teammates. But even in individual events, the Olympian never really competes alone. Despite what might appear to be the weight of the world on his shoulders, he is urged on by his countrymen, and it is clear that his sacrifice of sweat and blood is for something bigger than himself.

The same is true in the spiritual life. It is easy to compare ourselves to those around us. But as Christians we are told to "... be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect," not "try to be a little better than your neighbour." We are called to be the best version of ourselves, doing everything within our power to grow in holiness. The true

The tough few that somehow find the time and energy to mentor and lift up are too few. They usually lack resources, but they still try, they are there. They may lack tools and talents, but theirs are hearts of gold and filled with the simple zeal that is best described as Christ-like. It is enough, if only one is rescued from the beasts roaming and raging to devour the innocent and the unwary, the weak-willed and the foolish, too. This dwindled band of stalwarts, whenever and wherever they can be found is precious and priceless. Their stories and their dedications are rarely public; laboring through giving and sharing occurs in the shadows, with success that comes painfully slowly, after many false starts, and the loss of many younger ones believed to have held promise. Yet the toiling to personify the teachings and ideals of Jesus continue undeterred. These are the ones that help the children come to Jesus (Mt 19:14), these hazy solitary Christian figures that strive to live what was practiced in days now long gone by. The role models of today who learned at the feet, and from the guiding hands of the genuinely grand of yesteryear give now. Here are the real role models - simple, dignified, unruffled, many times poor citizens-giving now, through mentoring, encouraging, correcting, supporting, forgiving,

measure of holiness is not relative to others, but whether we strive for holiness every day.

And just like the Olympian, we cannot do this on our own. We have teammates: our family, friends and community, for whom we are called to sacrifice. We also have countrymen, although instead of being united by a flag or geography, we are united to them as co-heirs of the kingdom of God. Some of these countrymen are still here on earth with us, but others are the saints in heaven interceding for us and urging us toward salvation. And if we allow these cheers to change our lives, our reward will be far greater than gold.

(From the Catholic Spirit). ❖

championing, and uplifting. This is what is there to latch on to for both immature and mature; and whether young woman in trouble or young man in a hurry, and tempted and left on his own.

This is who and what is there; it is not much. But like the proverbial mustard seed of scriptural fame, there is that untapped potential for growth, that power to spread and soar through heavenly grace. These role models trust; they seek to make others believe through the eyes of faith that all is never lost; that no matter the circumstances there is the golden rule and that righteous path always waiting for those daring enough to rely upon the spiritual through surrender. No more is necessary, nothing else can compete, all can overcome the challenges and trials that wrench. And this brings the helpers and those in need of a helping hand to where all roads lead: to Jesus.

When all else fails, when there is nothing left and no one else, there is Jesus himself, who must be the starting point; this is nonnegotiable. He stands as the perfect and immaculate role model: waiting to welcome with the warmth of his love. There is a problem though: he just might be too distant in the mind of the lost and weary; too unfathomable in the immediate concerns and inner turmoil that burdens. Too often, the alternative is the wrong turn taken, through disregarding the cautionary note found in Ps 146: 3-5 (ISV), "Do not look to nobles, nor to mere human beings who cannot save." As many have found to their lasting peace and serenity, there is but a single way, one perfect source on which to depend,

one road to travel (Jn 14:6). All too often getting to this point takes too long and arrival too late; regrettably, for those who are too far gone by the wayside, this does not happen at all.

Caring Christians concerned at the ongoing decline in values and the impact of a destructive environment on both young and old, work against the odds and a near overwhelming tide of resistance; but they do work incessantly at being real role models by endeavoring to pluck from the grasp and save the few willing to listen and to be molded. They remember Elijah and Elisha, Paul with Timothy, and those women of scripture such as Eunice and Lois, who stand as lights to the way forward for those trapped in the grimness that is today's Guyana. There is still hope for those willing to live through faith. ❖

Edwards & Co. Accountancy and Tax Consultancy

We provide the following services:

- Tax Compliances
- Payroll services and NIS Remittance and Calculations
- Issuing and Renewal of Work Permits
- Bank Proposals
- Consultations
- Preparation of Income, Property and Corporation Tax Forms
- VAT Calculations and Filing

321 East Street, N/C/Burg

Tel: 226-6592, 643-8833, 645-8539

Email: johnedwards10@live.com

The Diocesan Youth
Office presents

Youth Camp 2018

Theme: "Rebuilding Our Catholic Culture with
Humility & Service"

Venue: Camp Kayuka

Juniors (13 to 16 yrs old) : 30th July - 2nd
August

Fee: \$4000

Registration closes 23rd July

Seniors (17 to 30 yrs old) : 24th - 26th August

Fee: \$3000

Registration closes 20th August

For more information please contact Youth Office on

231-8833/ 642-8866 or email us at

rcyouthguyana@gmail.com

Sunday Scripture

July 22nd - Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 23:1-6

The remnants of my flock I will gather and I will raise up shepherds to look after them.

“Doom for the shepherds who allow the flock of my pasture to be destroyed and scattered – it is the Lord who speaks! This, therefore, is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says about the shepherds in charge of my people: You have let my flock be scattered and go wandering and have not taken care of them. Right, I will take care of you for your misdeeds – it is the Lord who speaks! But the remnants of my flock I myself will gather from all the countries where I have dispersed them, and will bring them back to their pastures: they shall be fruitful and increase in numbers. I will raise up shepherds to look after them and pasture them; no fear, no terror for them any more; not one shall be lost – it is the Lord who speaks!

“See, the days are coming – it is the Lord who speaks – when I will raise a virtuous Branch for David, who will reign as true king and be wise, practising honesty and integrity in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel dwell in confidence. And this is the name he will be called: The Lord-our-integrity.”

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 22

Response: *The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.*

1. The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures
where he gives me repose.
Near restful waters he leads me,
to revive my drooping spirit.
2. He guides me along the right path;
he is true to his name.
If I should walk in the valley of darkness
no evil would I fear.
You are there with your crook and your staff;
with these you give me comfort.
3. You have prepared a banquet for me
in the sight of my foes.

My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup is overflowing.

4. Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me
all the days of my life.
In the Lord’s own house shall I dwell
for ever and ever.

SECOND READING

Ephesians 2:13-18

Christ Jesus is the peace between us, and has made the two into one.

In Christ Jesus, you that used to be so far apart from us have been brought very close, by the blood of Christ. For he is the peace between us, and has made the two into one and broken down the barrier which used to keep them apart, especially destroying in his own person the hostility caused by the rules and decrees of the Law. This was to create one single New Man in himself out of the two of them and by restoring peace through the cross, to unite them both in a single Body and reconcile them with God. In his own person he killed the

hostility. Later he came to bring the good news of peace, peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near at hand. Through him, both of us have in the one Spirit our way to come to the Father.

GOSPEL

Mark 6:30-34

There were like sheep with a shepherd.

The apostles rejoined Jesus and told him all they had done and taught. Then he said to them, “You must come away to some lonely place all by yourselves and rest for a while”; for there were so many coming and going that the apostles had no time even to eat. So they went off in a boat to a lonely place where they could be by themselves. But people saw them going, and many could guess where; and from every town they all hurried to the place on foot and reached it before them. So as he stepped ashore he saw a large crowd; and he took pity on them because they were like sheep without a shepherd, and he set himself to teach them at some length. ❖



By: The Diocesan Stewardship
Council of Guyana

Most are familiar with the scriptural quote from Psalm 23, “The Lord is my shepherd. There is nothing I shall want.” This passage serves as the Responsorial Psalm on this 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time because it supports the other readings with two key ideas: that we must place our trust in the Lord, and that we inherit life from our Good Shepherd, Jesus Christ.

At the time St. Paul was writing his Letter to the Ephesians (our Second Reading), Paul was under house arrest in Rome and awaiting trial. He was allegedly accused by the Jews of taking a Gentile into a temple. Therefore,

part of Paul’s statement, “For he (Christ) is our peace, he who made both one and broke down the dividing wall of enmity, through his flesh, abolishing the law with its commandments and legal claims,” is saying essentially the Lordship of Jesus is greater than any difference you may feel you have with others — that Jesus is our Saviour and our Shepherd.

In the Gospel Reading from Mark, the idea of shepherding lies at the heart. “When he (Jesus) disembarked and saw the vast crowd, his heart was moved with pity for them, for they were like sheep without a shepherd;

and he began to teach them many things.” In other words, He began to feed them with the Word of God. That is what we do during this part of our Mass; we hear Holy Scripture. These are the Words of the Lord. He is our shepherd. We are His sheep.

As always, Jesus teaches us a valuable lesson about stewardship through today’s readings. To the Lord, the needs of others were more important than His own. When we share our time, our talents, and our treasure, we are not only following our Good Shepherd, we are also living His Gospel call to shepherd others by giving of ourselves. ❖

Gospel Reflection



By Fr. Michael Barrow SJ

CAN A GOOD SHEPHERD TAKE A HOLIDAY?

When Jesus had sent the apostles out preaching for the first time, they came back excited but exhausted, so much so that Jesus said they needed to go away for a rest. When they got there, they found that the crowds had guessed where they were going and were waiting for them. Immediately Jesus saw the needs of these people, he reached out to them "at some length." What did the apostles feel then? It would depend on how they felt about the people. Was it work or was it family? Jesus loved those people and his attitude was such that he couldn't help responding to them, because for him they were family.

Bringing up a family can be hard work, but it's not the same as the job you do to earn your living, however much you may enjoy your work. In a family you don't get weekends off, even though sometimes you get exhausted and wonder how you will cope. The bit of the gospel that tells us how Jesus was going to take a break but sacrificed it because of people's needs is not meant to be an instruction for us about whether we should take time off. The gospel was simply telling us of Jesus' loving attitude to them. Parents do sometimes need a break away from the children, not to neglect them but to have more energy to take care of them.

The extent to which we are to be like Jesus the Good Shepherd, depends on our attitude to people in our lives. Our love for our immediate family is more obvious. But there are other people who may be said to be the sheep we are to care for. We can take them for granted or value them for themselves as Jesus did. ❖

East Coast Altar Servers gather at B/V



Photo taken at the B/V parish hall July 7th shows the participants with some of the parents who were present.

On Saturday July 7th, twenty-eight young people, some Altar Servers others intending to be, gathered at St. Peter's church at Beterverwagting on the East Coast for two hours of basic formation and a 'getting to know each other' session, all in a very joyful spirit.

They came from the several churches along the East Coast.

The session opened with a prayer, followed by the introduction to each other. This was followed by Group sessions, where questions were put to the groups, these were: 'What inspired you to become an Altar Server?', 'How do you feel being an Altar Server?', 'Do you get the support of your parents and others?' and 'How do you plan to be a better Server?'.

A short clip of how to serve at the Mass was then shown. The session ended with Mass in the Church.

The programme was organized by Father Paul Chemparuthy SJ. He was assisted by Mr. Francis Canzius who coordinates the 13 Altar Servers at B/V. Also present was Fr. Joseph Raj SJ, the parish priest.

After Mass everyone sat down for a delicious serving of snacks. ❖

Aishalton community working together to tackle main road

In the indigenous community of Aishalton, South Rupununi, which is mainly Christian like other villages in Guyana, having proper roads is a problem, especially during rainy seasons like the current one. In May to July annually, the rain and the movements of heavy vehicles make the road almost impossible to traverse.

Most indigenous communities depend on the government do road repairs for them which is a good and expected thing. But that doesn't mean that these communities should always depend totally on government authorities to assist them, when they too have a part to play in the development of their communities.

A good road is a very important element in the livelihood of the people of Aishalton. It is vital for comfortable travel, and especially for their vehicles (which are very costly to repair) to remain undamaged.

The Indigenous culture in Guyana is

blessed to also have 'a community spirit' where they are known to cultivate their farms collectively. It was common for them to be working together also in the earlier days to build their first church buildings and the first schools. This community spirit of working together to build physical structures such as church buildings made the people feel ownership of those things and would therefore embrace them.

Aware of this great gift, the residents of Aishalton organized a village activity to fix the road which was in a deplorable state.

According one villager, "this initiative is a good way to maintain the indigenous culture of the 'Christian community spirit' of working together to do something as significant as repairing the road in Aishalton, like this. I hope our example can be replicated in other indigenous communities when they read about it

in the *Catholic Standard*".

Last Monday, July 16th, about 60 persons - men and women - came out to take part in a village undertaking to repair a section of the road in Aishalton. They fetched rocks and sand to fill the bad parts on the road. Thank God the weather was favourable, where the sun came out bright and hot that day to dry the place.

Those who turned out to work were also given snacks and lunch provided by the Village Council.

All went well for the road works that day. The only concern the villagers shared was about the heavy trucks which regularly traverse the road, going to the mining area in Marudi. When these heavy vehicles pass they usually damage the roads and the bridges in the area. However, the village has plans to meet with the truckers to discuss the matter and hopefully get them to assist in some way. ❖

Bishop Alleyne joins AECYA delegation

From Joshua Van - Sluytman in Martinique

The spiritual head of the Diocese of Georgetown, His Lordship Bishop Francis Alleyne OSB arrived in Martinique on Tuesday July 17th to meet the young ambassadors of his flock at the Antilles Episcopal Conference Youth Assembly 2018 (AECYA), where he was a co-celebrant at the mass celebrated by His Eminence Cardinal Felix.

Bishop Francis will stay in Martinique until AECYA 2018 ends, and will then return to Guyana with his youth ambassadors who so wish to transform the lives of families in the Caribbean, but more so Guyana. The Guyana delegation in Martinique will thereupon return with ideas to improve family life in the Church. ❖



'Auntie' Enid Cheong dies at 93



Very active and long serving member of the Catholic Church and Sacred Heart parish in particular, Ms. Enid Cheong died last Sunday night at the St Joseph Mercy Hospital at the age of 93.

She had been a member of the Sacred Heart parish for a long time - since her family moved from Morawhanna in the North West District to Georgetown when she was 10 years old.

She often described with great feeling the debt she owed the Sisters of Mercy who were her teachers both in the North West and at Sacred Heart School.

Perhaps that is why she was so deeply involved in a number of Catholic enterprises.

For many years Ms. Cheong was a member of the Friends of Saint Paul's Seminary Committee. Although that was more than 40 years ago for now Vicar General Terrence Montrose, he still has very fond memories of her at that time.

Along with being secretary to Bishop Benedict Singh for many years, Ms. Cheong also held the post of Treasurer of the Central Committee of the Ladies of Charity from 1982 until recently.

She was also chairperson of the Sacred Heart Parish Council for six years; was in charge of that church's feeding programme also for six years; and was also a Minister of the Eucharist there since 1984.

Ms. Cheong was due to be buried on Saturday July 21st from Sacred Heart Church.

The Catholic Standard Limited extends its deepest sympathy to the relatives and friends of Ms. Enid Cheong. ❖

Venezuelan bishops say country is going in 'suicidal' direction under Maduro

(CNA/EWTN News) The bishops of Venezuela on July 11 issued a scathing critique of the country's political leadership, calling for greater respect for basic needs and rights.

Since Nicolas Maduro succeeded Hugo Chávez as president of Venezuela in 2013, the country has been marred by violence and social upheaval.

"Attitudes of arrogance, authoritarianism and abuse of power, as well as the constant violation of human rights, are accumulating on their actors a rejection that future generations will claim," the bishops said in a statement at the close of their plenary assembly.

"It is suicidal to continue stubbornly insisting on a path of self-destruction that will turn against its promoters," they said, stressing that the Church does not endorse acts of revenge or retaliation, "but neither does it promote impunity for crimes that threaten life and fundamental rights."

The United Nation's human rights office said in June that Venezuelan security forces carried out more than 500 extra-judicial killings amid purported crime-fighting efforts between July 2015 and March 2017.

The bishops' statement, "Do not be afraid, I am with you," offers an overview of the political and humanitarian crisis plaguing the country and their reaction as pastors.

The bishops said the future of the nation is at stake, and the situation is becoming "increasingly more serious."

Citing "monstrous hyperinflation" as a key reason for much of the country's crisis, the bishops noted that the quality of life for the majority of Venezuelans, which was "already extremely precarious, is deteriorating day by day."

Added to shortages in food, healthcare supplies, public services such as water and electricity, which were already a cause for serious concern, are problems with personal safety, employment, the circulation and sale of cash, and problems with public transport.

With most methods of public transport disappearing from the streets, citizens have created their own means getting around, packing themselves into overflowing truck beds or holding onto cage-looking structures on the back of large lorries, causing an increase in traffic accidents and deaths.

Poor economic policies, including strict price controls, coupled with high inflation rates, have resulted in a severe lack of basic necessities such as toilet paper, milk, flour, diapers and medicines.

In their statement, Venezuela's bishops pointed to the ongoing political crisis the country is facing, saying the primary cause for their woes is the national government, "for putting its political project over any other consideration, including the humanitarian."

They also criticized the government for "erroneous" financial policies, for its "contempt for productive activity and for private property and for its constant attitude of placing obstacles in the way of those who want to resolve some aspect of the current problem."

The government is playing the victim in both internal and external ways, they said, explaining that this is "nothing more than the confession of their own inability to manage the country. One cannot pretend to resolve the situation of a failed economy with emergency measures such as food bags and bonuses."

Elections held in May, which many Venezuelans, including the

bishops, protested as illegitimate, has only cemented the current government's hold on power, rather than leading to legal and democratic presidential elections, they said, noting that the boycott by high numbers of the population is a "silent message of rejection" toward a regime that seeks to impose "a totalitarian ideology."

Calling Venezuela's National Constituent Assembly "illegitimate," the bishops said the entity violates "the most sacred rights of the Venezuelan people: the fundamental freedom to elect their own leaders in a fair electoral competition" without manipulation or favoritism.

Bishops said they live under a "de facto regime" which does not live by the constitution, and stressed the need for national leadership which puts people and ethics at the center, rather than power, control, or the pursuit of "petty interests."

They also pointed to the growing Venezuelan diaspora throughout the world, mostly in neighboring Latin American countries, who risk trafficking and often struggle to integrate into their new countries. The United Nations Refugee Agency recently estimated that 5,000 Venezuelans emigrate daily.

Addressing the Venezuelan armed forces, bishops urged them to be faithful to their oath before God and homeland to "defend the constitution and democracy, and not to be carried away by political and ideological bias."

They also advocated for greater solidarity on the part of parishes and ecclesial institutions in keeping with the Church's social doctrine, despite the difficulties. The Church community, they said, is called "to promote a structural change in favor of the transformation of our society." ❖

Journeying with the Word of God



MAKING THE WORD OF GOD YOUR OWN

Step 1: Look at today's Readings prayerfully.

1st Reading: The prophet Jeremiah has harsh words for the leaders who have betrayed their trust. For the victim of this betrayal, however, there are powerful words of hope.

2nd Reading: The Cross of Christ breaks down barriers and those who have been separated are brought together.

Gospel: Even though they are tired and in need of rest, Jesus and his disciples welcome and care for those who come to them.

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

1. The shepherd is a powerful biblical image of a caring person. What similar image would be more suitable to our culture?
2. Notice that one of the cost of their mission was that the disciples did not have time to eat. What would you say is the price of discipleship today?
3. Sheep are animals known for their blind following of the herd. Why must you make sure that you don't become like this?
4. "An act of kindness is judged, not so much by its importance, but by the interference it causes in the life of the one who does it." What do you think this statement means?

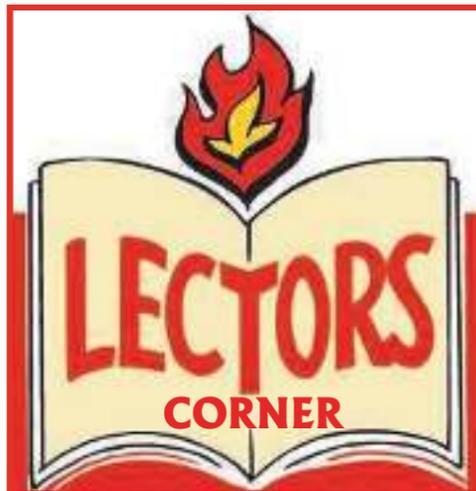
Step 3: Accepting the message of God's Word in your life of faith.

A Christian who doesn't care about others is like a lamp that doesn't give light. We are all capable of caring even though it is a fact that caring is not always easy. All that is required is a warm and open heart. When we care we are accepting the challenge of living the Gospel, knowing that people and things can change.

Step 4: Something to think & pray about

1. Think of yourself and the relationships you have with others. Would you consider yourself a compassionate person? How would you recognise a truly compassionate person?
2. Being a caring person has a price. We can suffer for being nice. There must be a time for rest. Jesus knew this and this is why he invited the apostles to come away to rest. There is a good lesson here for us all.
3. Pray for the strength to be a caring person and the ability to know when you need to get away from it all. ❖

[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

July 22nd: Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)



"They were like sheep without a shepherd."

The Word this week

"Sheep without a shepherd." This is the simple theme of today's readings. It is interesting that Jesus' reaction to the crowd is one of pity – as he sees their great thirst for his teachings. This is, in a sense, a clear fulfilment of the prophecy we hear in the first reading, where God promises a true shepherd who will care for the people of Israel. Shepherding is a particularly suitable image of God's love and care. The dependency of the sheep on their shepherd, their wandering and drifting without someone to guide them, is also a suitable image of the people God loves. Our own age also displays sheep without shepherds - a great wandering crowd, seeking something, but not knowing what they are seeking. It is to this flock that the present day followers of Jesus are sent as shepherds.

Notes for Readers

First Reading: Jeremiah 23:1-6

This is the sort of thing we expect from prophets - denunciation and condemnation. Be careful not to get too excited by it - especially the first word, "Doom!" It is a serious charge

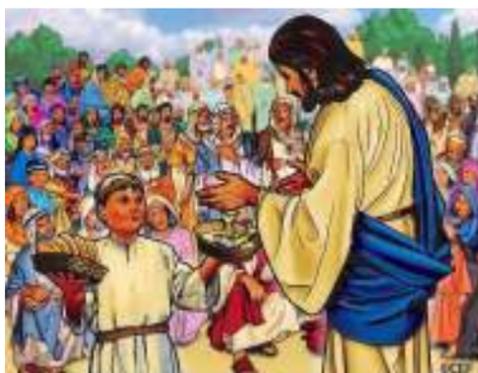
that God is levelling against the "shepherds of Israel", so the tone should be one of seriousness. Note the repetition of the phrase "It is the Lord who speaks!" These words do not come from Jeremiah, but from God. The tone should soften gradually, from hard seriousness at the beginning, to a gentler, more tender tone when God talks about gathering his flock again. Enjoy in particular the simple words, "no fear, no terror for them any more." Then, when the text moves into shorter lines (indicating a type of poetry), the tone should change again, becoming one of great hope and promise, as God, through the prophet, promises the ideal King to rule over the twin kingdoms of Israel and Judah.

Second Reading: Ephesians 2:13-18

Saint Paul is here writing to a community of Christians who had formerly been pagans; the distinction is between them and those who were formerly Jews. The reconciliation that Paul is talking about here is that between these two groups, to create a "New Man", the Christian. All Christians, whatever they were before, form the single Body of the Church. All of this may merit a brief introduction to this reading - simply giving this context; otherwise it might be too obscure. As you read, take your time and be careful with the various phrases. Paul is speaking very clearly (once you understand the context.) Watch the very first line: it would be very easy to jumble up all the short words that appear: be slow and emphatic: "...you / that used to be so far apart from us / have been...". Also be careful with the phrasing in the sentence beginning "This was to create one single New Man / in himself / out of the two of them // and / by restoring peace through the cross,/ to unite them both..." The last sentence is very awkward (and a good example of bad English!). Practice it out loud until you are sure it makes sense!



July 29th: Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)



"Jesus gave out as much as was wanted to all who were sitting ready."

The Word this week

For the next five weeks we take our leave of Saint Mark's Gospel (since it is not long enough to fill the year) and

read Chapter Six of Saint John's Gospel. This is the famous "Eucharistic Discourse" and begins with the miracle of the feeding of the five thousand. A line of the Psalm gives the meaning of today's readings: "The eyes of all creatures look to you (O God) and you give them their food in due time." Our God is the God who provides for his people; the prosperity and fruitfulness of our earth and the mysterious cycles of nature ensures that all have what they need - and have some left over. The actions of Elisha and Jesus are in a sense prophetic: many would say that there is not enough food in this world to go round, just as the two sets of disciples complain that there is not enough for the hundred or the five thousand. But the prophetic action states that this is not true: God provides what is needed. This might prompt us to think about the unfair and unequal distribution of the fruits of the earth: the miracle is a sign of the Kingdom of God - what God wants the world to be like. Perhaps we should take the message of the miracle to heart this Sunday and think about the multitude that still sits in hunger in our world today.

Notes for Readers

First Reading: 2 Kings 4:42-44

A very simple and straightforward account. Just note the pronunciations: the 'i' in 'Elisha' is pronounced as "eye", and Baal-shalishah is pronounced as it is written. Watch the different tones of the different speakers, and make something of Elisha's emphatic repetition of his instruction, "Give it to the people to eat." The final words "...as the Lord had said" can be read with a tone of wonder at the miracle that has occurred.

Second Reading: Ephesians 4:1-6

This very familiar reading is at once powerful and simple. Paul explores the theological theme of unity ("one God, one Lord, one faith...") as related to the idea of the community living together in peace and love, as a united body. This is one of those readings (often from Saint Paul) that can be read directly to the congregation in Church, as though Paul himself were talking to those in Church. This comes out in the very first sentence, when Paul says "I, the prisoner in the Lord, implore you to live...". If you can look up at your listeners at this point, it will engage them in their listening to these words. Consider the practicality of Paul's appeal: realise that he is pleading with people to live in charity, selflessness, gentleness and patience. Save a special emphasis for the words "Do all you can...": this is a special plea - the climax of Paul's list - and so there should be a special emphasis in the reader's voice when you come to this line. From here comes the list of the examples of unity, with the frequent repetition of the word "One". Make something of this, leaning slightly on the word each time it appears. ❖

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



Synod for the
AMAZON

Prayer for the Synod for the Amazon

All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures.

You embrace with your tenderness all that exists.

Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty

Fill us with peace, that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one.

O God of the poor, help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth, so precious in your eyes.

Bring healing to our lives, that we may protect the world and not prey on it,

that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction.

Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain

at the expense of the poor and the earth

Teach us to discover the worth of each thing,

to be filled with awe and contemplation,

to recognize that we are profoundly united with every creature as we journey towards your infinite light.

Bless your Church which is here in Guyana

that we may listen attentively to the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.

Bless our Holy Father Pope Francis

Our own Bishop Francis

And all the bishops of the Amazon, That together we may prepare well for the coming Synod ❖

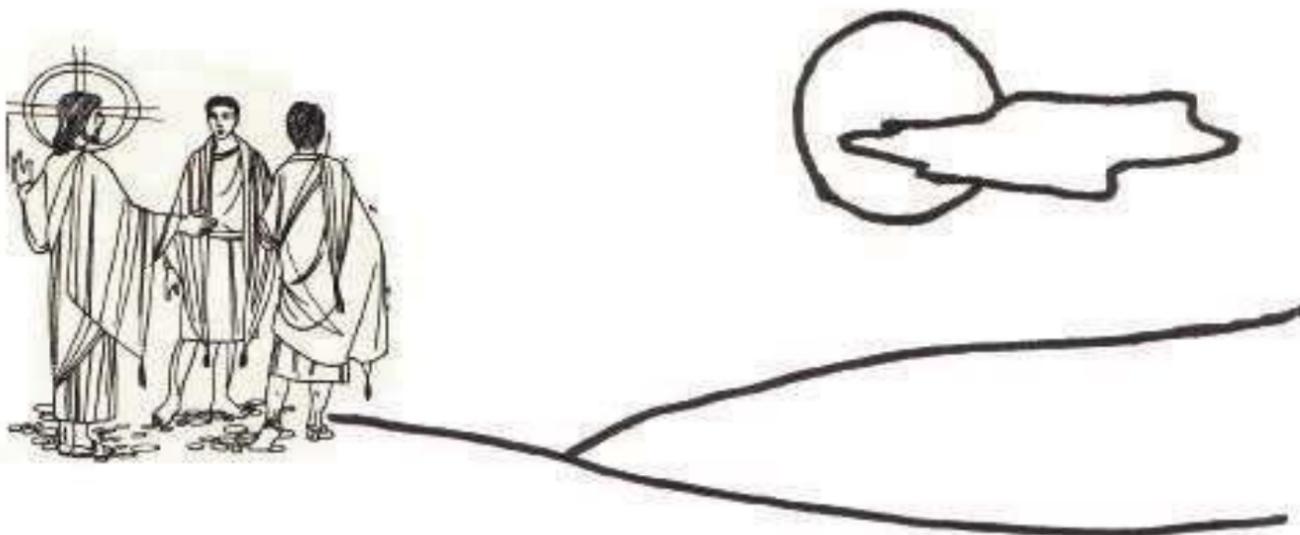


Children's Page

Dear Girls and Boys,
 In our gospel reading today, we see that Jesus and his disciples had been working very hard. They had been travelling from town to town teaching and preaching. The Bible tells us that they were so busy that they didn't even have a chance to eat. Jesus could see that they were tired, so he said to them, "Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest." So they got in a boat and went away by themselves to a quiet place. But guess what? When they got there, they looked out and saw a great crowd of people waiting for them. It would have been an easy thing for Jesus to say to the crowd, "You all go on your way. We are tired and need some rest. Come back some other time." But Jesus didn't do that. He looked at the crowd and " he took pity on them because they were like sheep without a shepherd." When Jesus saw that they were like sheep without a shepherd, he was moved to action. Remember what Jesus said about himself? "The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep."
Father, we thank you for sending Jesus. We are thankful that he never leaves us wandering, lost and alone, without a shepherd to guide us. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen. ❖

THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD

When the 12 apostles came back from preaching they were tired. They went with Jesus to rest. But many people still came to listen to Jesus!



Jesus took pity on the crowd because they were like sheep without shepherd.

HE STARTED TO TALK TO THEM

Draw more people in the crowd listening to Jesus.

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

- | | | |
|----------|----------|--------|
| APOSTLES | PLACE | BOAT |
| MANY | TOWN | ASHORE |
| LARGE | REST | CROWD |
| SHEEP | SHEPHERD | TEACH |



Jesus is the...

7 15 15 4

19 8 5 16 8 5 18 4

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	

Gospel People followed Jesus everywhere! He said that they were sheep looking for a shepherd.

We found this article on the Internet and would like to share it with you. We are not necessarily in agreement with everything, but decided to share it in its original format. It is a bit long so we'll share the second half next week.

The Number one Argument Among Couples is, without doubt, Rest vs. Chores

Why do many women resent men and feel frustration that borders on anger when they relax? And why do men choose to rest while their partners work hard around the house? We will soon explore the answers to these questions in depth, but first we must understand that although there are many other issues many couples argue about, such as sex, money, raising children and even minor things such as the position of the toilet seat, with resting vs. chores is the biggest "barrel of explosives" among them.

If a man really wants to get on his wife's nerves, he should just lie in bed on a Friday or Saturday afternoon. These moments of rest are something that men love and most women loathe or rather become angry at the men who enjoy them. Therefore, a great deal of friction is created, but despite its relative insignificance, (We mean, what's a nap?) it still has a significant influence on the relationship.

Of course, we can't generalize about all men and women, and there are always exceptions. If you've read this far, you can probably relate to what you read and now want to understand why this is and how you can change it. For a start, we invite you to look at the topic from two different perspectives. Continue reading to find

Rest vs. Chores



By Chris & Noelma Lam

out why women feel frustrated and angry when men rest, and why men rest when women expect them to help:

Men's and women's different perspectives

As we've already said, most men like to relax and most women respond with great frustration. This is a classic case where both genders have contradictory world views that can lead to many a shouting match. So what is this point of view?

For men, home is a refuge from work and the various pressures they face in all other environments. Home is where they come to relax after they've "earned" this right, and they feel it is their right to just chill out. But is this really true? When a man enters his home, he doesn't see a system in chaos. He doesn't see the dishes in the sink, the dishwasher that needs to be fixed, the faded colour of the walls or the broken chair to be replaced. What he does

see is a long, soft sofa or comfortable armchair in front of a TV - he seeks out the perfect spot to rest and recharge his batteries.

Women, on the other hand, coming home from work, see a basket filled with dirty laundry that promises a morning when the children will have nothing to wear, an empty refrigerator meaning another evening eating a quick and unhealthy dinner, unpaid bills that could turn into trouble, dust in the corners of the room mocking their cleaning efforts and other signs of things about to get out of hand. Even a woman who worked herself to the bone all day long will feel frustrated, stressed and disappointed in herself if she returns to a dirty house in the evening. For many women, this scenario represents a very realistic world view, which some women are aware of and others are not.

So who's right and who's wrong?

The answer to this question is no-one, but this doesn't prevent women from becoming frustrated when there are things to do around the house and their partners have already made a beeline for the sofa. This leads to men from feeling they're being nagged all the time. Of course, there are always exceptions, but this is the case among many couples and unfortunately, it is impossible to ignore the differences in men's and women's mentalities. The best way to solve such problems is to come to an understanding of each other's perspectives. So let's try to present this situation from a feminine perspective in a way that a man will understand, and vice versa. ❖

(To be continued next week)

TitBits

-- This Week's Reflection:

What Are You Thankful For In Your Spouse?

In the hustle of day-to-day living it can be easy to take your spouse for granted, yet it is so important to slow down and take time to recognize the value your spouse brings to your marriage and your family.

"Absence makes the heart grow fonder," rings so true. For a friend of ours, the physical absence of her husband due to his frequent work-related travel provides regular opportunities to reflect on what her spouse means to her. Not only does she miss her husband's physical presence when he is gone, but she becomes more conscientious of the depth of their emotional and spiritual connection as a married couple, which enables them to remain close when miles separate them. God Bless You! Have a Great Week!

-- This Week's Bible Question:

Q. Who was Jonah's father?

-- This Week's Teaser:

Q: What's detail?

-- Today's Bible Verse:

Repent and be baptized, in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven. - Acts 2:38

-- Today's Marriage Tip:

Today we remember the lives lost to abortion. The family is the "sanctuary of life." Pray with your family for an end to abortion and for those grieving a child lost to abortion.

- Humour:

Awhile back the Churches' finances were a little tight, and the priest took some extra time to emphasize the importance of everyone giving generously of their tithes and offerings. He challenged the people to give enthusiastically because the Bible says, "God loves a cheerful giver."

While the collection baskets were being passed around to gather the offering, little Johnny quickly slipped

off his neck tie and placed it into the offering plate as it went by him.

His mother was absolutely mortified. "What do you think you're doing, Johnny?" she asked him.

"Father just said to put your ties in the basket and do it joyfully," Johnny replied. "I love that man."

- A Card Hallmark Would Never Print:

I saw your face as you walked by, - But then I saw a better guy.

-- This Week's Truism:

If a relationship has to be a secret, you shouldn't be in it.

-- Signs Found at Church:

Let us help you study for your final exams.

-- Clever Word Play:

A thief who stole a calendar got twelve months.

-- Answer to Bible Question:

Amittai. - see Jonah 1:1
Now the word of the LORD came to Jonah the son of Amittai."

-- Answer to Teaser:

De end of de dog. ❖

Pope's Intentions

July Monthly Intention:

Priests and their Pastoral Ministry

That priests, who experience fatigue and loneliness in their pastoral work, may find help and comfort in their intimacy with the Lord and in their friendship with their brother priests. ❖

Classifieds

BECK WELDING MACHINING & MARINE PARTS REPAIR

Specialists in:

- Re-grinding of Crankshafts
 - Re-boring & re-sleeving of Engine Blocks
 - Re-surfacing & fitting inserts in Engine Heads
 - Repair and fabrication of machinery parts.
- 3 Princess & Ketley Sts., Tel# 225-6272

ABRAMS PHOTO WORLD

We specialize in: Video Recording, Video Editing, Digital photographs, Designing & Printing, Laminating, Tent Rental and much more. Contact Romeo on Tel# (592) 643-4558.

Handyman Service

Any job handyman service available including:- Tiling, plumbing, carpentry, painting, lock installation, joinery and repairs, the weeding of lawns and parapets, painting, cleaning of yards and drains.

Contact: Jabaun at 693-9548 or Keron at 617-2346

Our prices match our service. We are willing to negotiate.

Mind Puzzler Corner

Our Last Brain Teaser was:

If there is a boat full of people, how is there not a single person on board.

Answer: Everyone on the boat is married.

This Week's Brain Teaser:

If you have three, then you have three.

If you have two, then you have two.

But if you have one, then you have none.

What is it?

Look for the Answer next week

M.K & E ELECTRICAL & VARIETY STORE

DEALERS IN ALL TYPES OF ELECTRICAL MATERIALS

85 POLLYDORE (DURBAN) ST, LODGE, G/TOWN

TEL/FAX: 231-8430

mke.electrical_variety_store@yahoo.com

Allan DeJonge
Refrigeration & Air Conditioning Consultant Services
147 FIFTH & ALBERT STS.
Tel: 231-4470; 623-3726

REPAIRS & PARTS FOR SALE

MODERN OPTICAL SERVICE

316 Middle St., N/C/Burg,

Tel. 226-1082

For modern designed frames, glasses, plastic and photochromatic lens

JOHN'S GARDENING SERVICES

We do Weeding, Mowing, clearing leaves, watering plants & landscaping

"We offer the best service"

CONTACT JOHN: 698-6276



Marian Academy still the school of choice

Marian Academy has a long waiting list, a good tradition has been established, and the children have realized that their outward behaviour is a reflection of the character within. Along with consistently excellent academic achievements, a wide variety of sports and co-curricular activities it has become the school of choice.

This was revealed by headmistress of the school, Ursuline Sister Marie Harper when she gave her annual report on July 6th last in the presence of parents, members of staff, students, special invitees and others at the 19th Annual Prize Giving Ceremony for the Primary Department.

Sister Marie was happy to report that the school did exceedingly well at the recent National Grade 6 School Assessment Examinations. The results showed that of the 57 students who sat the examination, Marian gained a 91% overall average grades.

12 or 21 % students scored between 95 -98.2 % of the total marks, while 28 or 49% students scored 90- 94%.

In terms of a comparison between Marian Academy's and the national results: at Marian Academy, the Mathematics average is 88.7% while the national average is 38%, English average is 93% while the national is 60%, Social Studies is 92.5%, national is 46% and Science is 91% with the National at 46%.

In order to stimulate healthy competitions which also served other purposes, the usual House competitions took place in the areas of Academics, Spiritual Formation, and Skills Development. There were the Spelling Bee, Religious Education Quiz, and Marian Academy Quiz Competition.

Marian Academy also enjoyed another excellent year of engaging, exposing and challenging its students through sports and co-curricular activities. There were also other external competitions which brought the school success. These were mentioned in a separate report on sports.

This year the young lads of Marian reached the finals of the PEE-WEE football tournament for the second time in the short history of the game finishing this time as the runners-up.

Chess enjoyed a banner year, culminating with several students representing Guyana at the Inter Guiana Games for Chess in Suriname.

Once again the National Squash team for Junior CASA (Caribbean Association Squash) is rife with Marian Academy Student Athletes, ten of whom will be playing in the Junior Caribbean Area Squash Championship which was held in Jamaica last week.

A STEM club was started by the students in the Secondary. The Club didn't do many in-school activities during the initial period, due to exams, but the main leaders continue to be very active, gaining experience in activities outside of school as part of the STEM Guyana network.

A Staff Health Programme was also started this year to aide teachers in maintaining a healthy physical and mental state of being. Many staff members are taking advantage of this.

After visits from members of the GIA Key Club and the Guyana Archery Association it is hoped that two new clubs would be on offer for the new school year.

The Marian Academy also has its Environmental Club which is

educational in nature. One of the club's aims is to offer students proper environmental tools to minimize the negative impacts that presently harm our environment.

The school continued with its annual Valentine Blood Drive. This year it collected 417 units, surpassing all the other years.

Christmas Donations for the less fortunate showed the generosity of students and the parents. Marian was able to extend this generosity to hundreds of children, to many families and institutions.

The school also continued with their Lenten sacrifices which was sent to Venezuela to assist with a feeding programme for children in Venezuela. This was managed by the Ursuline Sisters and their collaborators who worked there.

Through all of these activities pupils have learnt lifelong values which will help them to become citizens who know what it is to serve others.

Sister Marie ended her report by thanking the Parent Teachers Association and each stakeholder for their unrelenting support and expressed the hope that they will continue to support small and big endeavours.

Gratitude was also expressed to all the members of Staff – teachers, clerical, support staff and ancillary staff for all they do to make Marian Academy what it is.

On September 14, 2018 Marian Academy will celebrate its 20th Anniversary.

A complete week of activities is planned to mark this important milestone. ❖

In Memory



In Loving Memory of Jennico Fitzpatrick

Born: May 2nd

Died: July 18th 2017

When a loved one has to part from you, you will never, ever understand why it has to be.

Everyday we think of you,

Everyday we need you and are longing to see that face and to hear that voice.

Those hardworking hands have gone to rest now.

But the memories you left us will never fade away.

No one or no words can ever replace you, for you will always be that special someone in our lives and in our hearts.

*Remembered always by your wife
Camla, son Anthony and
grand-daughter Angelique.*

Pope Francis to young people "Look to your roots" (From Front page)

in accordance with "Amoris Laetitia" ("The Joy of Love"), the pope's apostolic exhortation on marriage and family.

Young people of the Caribbean received the video message from Pope Francis on Sunday, as they gathered for the opening of 6th Antilles Episcopal Conference Youth Assembly.

Twenty-five young Guyanese are participating in the event.

The Pope's message is given in full below:

The challenges of transforming

I greet with affection, you young people who want to transform the Caribbean family. It's a big job, eh! You obviously have courage and want to get involved. So go ahead!

It's a challenging issue. And you're young. But I do wonder: are you young people, or young people who have grown old? Because if you are young people who have grown old, you cannot do anything! You have to be youthful young people! It takes all

the strength of youth to be able to change things. And the first thing you need to do is check to see if you have made yourselves too comfortable. It's not a good thing if you have. You need to make it uncomfortable for those who have made themselves too comfortable, and get involved.

You want to change things, you want to move forward. You have taken seriously the indications of the Post-Synodal Exhortation on the Family, and you want to move ahead with transforming the family of the Caribbean. You want to transform it today for tomorrow: working in the present to build the future. And today, if you want to understand the present, you must know how to describe it, how to understand it, in order to face tomorrow. To make the journey from today to tomorrow, you need the teaching on the family, and you can find it in the Chapter Four of the Exhortation: the heart of it is there. Study it, examine it, and you will have the guidelines you need to move forward.

Referencing our roots

Alright for today and tomorrow: but we also need yesterday. We can't imagine tomorrow without considering yesterday. We can't contemplate the future without reflecting on the past. You are getting ready to transform something that has been given to you by your predecessors. Your history comes from yesterday, your traditions come from yesterday. You have roots. And this is what I want to focus on for a moment: you can't do anything in the present, or in the future, if you are not rooted in the past, in your history, in your culture, in your family; if you don't have deep-seated roots inside you. It's from your roots that you will get the strength to continue. None of us, neither you nor me, were manufactured in a laboratory: we have a history, we have roots. And everything we do, the results we achieve, the beauty we create in the future, all comes from those roots.

A poet concludes his great poem with this verse: "Everything the tree produces, derives from what it is beneath it". You too, always return to your roots, refer to your grandparents

and your parents. Talk to them. And then bring it all with you into the future. That is transformation: when there are roots, then you have the strength to transform the family. It is a transforming tension. We cannot transform without tension.

The eternal strength of love

I told you how the heart of Amoris Laetitia is in Chapter Four. How to live love. How to live the love of the family. Discuss Chapter Four with one another. You will find a lot of strength there to go forward and to transform things. And don't forget something else: love has a strength all its own. Love has its own strength. And love never ends. St. Paul says: "Faith and hope will end when we are united with the Lord, but love will continue with Him". You are transforming something that is for all eternity. This own strength of love that will remain forever.

You have a lot of work to do! Keep going. May God bless you. I pray for you, and I ask you please do not forget to pray for me. Goodbye. ❖

The end of an era: St Rose's High is demolished



The long life of one of the most enduring contributions of the Catholic Church and the Ursuline Sisters to Guyana is coming to an end. The 19th century wooden structures on Church Street, which housed the first Saint Rose's High school had fallen into a state of disrepair and will soon cease to exist.

The complete demolition of the edifice began on July 9th and is expected to be completed by next week.

This is being done to make way for a new replacement structure which, according to Mr. Kenrick Thomas, Chairman of the Board of Governors of St. Rose's High School, will incorporate many aspects of the original school building design. The new school

will also integrate in it the design of the Marian and other wings on the property including retention of the green space courtyard area, a unique feature of the school.

The first Ursuline sisters arrived in then British Guiana in 1847. Within four days of their arrival, St. Rose's, a Secondary School for Girls, began with three students.

In 1869 a large three-storied school, with a dormitory for boarders, was constructed.

Later, in 1925, another three-storied structure was built to accommodate over 500 young ladies enrolled in St. Rose's. This structure abutted St. Rose's School and contained a fine auditorium with graded floor and stage. It was the largest of its kind in Georgetown for many years.

This building also housed the St. Agnes Primary School for many years, until 2014.

All children, regardless of religious persuasion, race, or language, were accepted at St. Rose's.

The Ursuline Sisters continued to provide high-quality education until 1976 when St. Rose's, and all other schools, became state controlled

According to Mr. Thomas, the design process of the replacement structure was conducted with the input of the Board of Governors, who consulted all relevant stakeholders, including the Nuns of the Convent who gave their no objection to the entire process along with contributing during the feedback phase of the design process.

Saint of the Week



July 26th: Sts. Joachim & Anne

In the Scriptures, Matthew and Luke furnish a legal family history of Jesus, tracing ancestry to show that Jesus is the culmination of great promises. Not only is his mother's family neglected, we also know nothing factual about them except that they existed. Even the names of Mary's parents -Joachim and Ann - come from an old tradition going back to the second century.

The heroism and holiness of these people, however, is inferred from the whole family atmosphere around Mary in the Scriptures. Whether we rely on the legends about Mary's childhood or make guesses from the information in the Bible, we see in her a fulfillment of many generations of prayerful persons, herself steeped in the religious traditions of her people.

The strong character of Mary in making decisions, her continuous practice of prayer, her devotion to the laws of her faith, her steadiness at moments of crisis, and her devotion to her relatives—all indicate a close-knit, loving family that looked forward to the next generation even while retaining the best of the past.

Joachim and Anne—whether these are their real names or not—represent that entire quiet series of generations who faithfully perform their duties, practice their faith and establish an atmosphere for the coming of the Messiah, but remain obscure.

[\http://www.americancatholic.org/features/saints/saint.aspx?id=1088 & <http://www.salfordliturgy.org.uk/julysaints.htm>]

Aishalton community working together to tackle main road



Villagers working to repair a part of the main road in Aishalton. (Photo: Medino Abraham). [Please see page 6](#)

On the Lighter Side



EweTube