

Guyanese Youths back from AECYA with faith enriched, deepened



Part of the Guyana delegation to AECYA 2018 in Martinique after the closing Mass ([please see page 7](#))

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Vacation Bible School at Fatima



The Family and Life Commission of Our Lady of Fatima Church held a very successful one-week Vacation Bible School from July 16th to 20th. The theme was "Lord Teach Us To Pray".

The children were taught bible stories, and activities such as

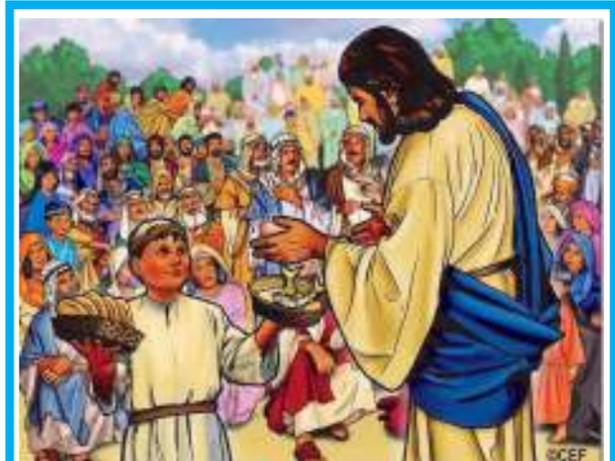
colouring pictures and making craft items based on the stories.

The activities ended with a Mass at which Fr. Marlon Inniss SJ officiated, followed by a mini-concert.

The children and teachers were presented with certificates of

participation, and gifts of school items were given to the regular attendees.

The Family and Life Commission wishes to say 'thank you' to all the donors of monetary contributions, snacks and other gifts, and to the teachers. ❖



The feeding of the 5000
 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

Bishop's Engagements

Sunday July 29th to Sunday August 5th
 Sacrament of Confirmation, Rupununi



✠ Francis Alleyne OSB



EDITORIAL

The only way to Peace

Jesus said to his first disciples, and to all future disciples, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give it to you."

But political leaders, governments, corporations and countless people seek the false and fleeting peace of the world which seduces the senses, minds and even souls into believing that having more stuff – including more weapons of war, more money for war, more training for war – will bring peace. To the contrary, this self-centered, materialistic, militaristic mentality and lifestyle only leads to personal emptiness, tense truces, war, and more war.

True and lasting peace, the peace our hearts are hungry for, the peace our world longs for, comes only from God. It is the "Shalom" – the right-relationship, serenity and harmony with the Creator, with ourselves, with each other and with all creation, best exemplified by the Father's incarnate Son – which Jesus himself offers to us.

But the reception of God's peace – the very indwelling of the Holy Spirit – requires the humility, trust and openness of a soul ready to attentively listen to God's word and faithfully follow in his footsteps.

But there always exists a tension between listening to and following the Holy One and listening to and following the evil one. The choice is ours.

"I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. Choose life, then, that you and your descendents may live, by loving the Lord, your God, obeying his voice, and holding fast to him" (Deut. 30: 19-20).

As is so much the case today, 100 years ago so much of humanity was bent on choosing death and the curse. Europe and beyond was embroiled in World War I which claimed approximately 17 million lives and caused untold destruction.

The era surrounding 1917 was one extreme persecution for the church. From Mexico to France, from Portugal to Russia the followers of Christ were under fierce attack.

In Portugal, the newly installed atheistic republic pillaged Catholic churches and convents. Legislation was passed suppressing religious orders, religious feasts and the teaching of religion in schools. Most bishops were exiled and many priests were imprisoned.

But in the midst of human sin and pain, the God of life always chooses to suffer with his people. He always gives us the strength and courage to persevere in faith. And when necessary, he sends his mother.

On May 13, 1917, near the town of Fatima in Portugal, the Blessed Mother appeared to three children saying "Please don't be afraid of me. ... I come from heaven."



Dear Editor,

The CCJ ruling has been handed down and that issue is finally settled. Now President Carter, obviously at the request of the US administration, has lost no time in

THE SUCCESSFUL LIFE

Viewpoint by Vibert Parvatan

"Let us recognise the beauty and power of true enthusiasm; and whatever we may do to enlighten ourselves or others guard against checking or chilling a single earnest sentiment."

- Henry Theodore Tuckerman

Having awakened to a New Day, how do we pass that day?

Would our thoughts be focused on memories and events of the past or dreams of the future which will demand our energies and positive approach, and in its fulfillment bring that beautiful feeling of satisfaction and achievement?

Too often the negative forces and difficulties dominate our thoughts leading to feelings of insecurity and frustration.

Yet, there are choices which we must make and one such option is to embrace each day with enthusiasm.

Enthusiasm to succeed and to be happy. In doing so, the pitfalls are not totally ignored, but the opportunities and rewards are clearly identified and strategies designed for purposeful living.

Success demands applying ourselves fully to the tasks and doing what is necessary with a determination to achieve. There must be enthusiasm

With a rosary in her hand, she requested that they pray and devote themselves to the Holy Trinity. And she asked them to "say the Rosary every day, to bring peace to the world and an end to the war."

The rosary is a beautiful and powerful heavenly gift. The Marian intercessory prayers are comforting. The mysteries centering on the life, death, resurrection and ascension of our Lord are awesome to meditate upon, and can lead the soul into a sublime contemplative experience of our peaceful God.

In praying the rosary and other prayers for peace we become more peaceful persons who are more willing to spread the peace of God – the peace the world cannot give.

By Tony Magliano, The Valley Catholic. ❖

Uncle Sam makes it crystal clear?

coming with the following message. "Gentlemen, the US government through EXXon Mobile has invested heavily in Guyana and we intend to ensure that a government which is as stable as a rock is in place in Guyana to protect and ensure the success of our investment. Now we are kindly asking you gentlemen to get your act together or we may be forced to use other methods. This is

the follow up to President Trump's Republic anniversary greetings in February in which he said the US is 'looking forward to working with you on the development of your natural resources'".

The greatest benefit, albeit indirect, that Guyanese might get from oil may not be the money!!

Hopeful Catholic

to realise our aspirations and dreams.

Enthusiasm to succeed is a propelling force which takes us along the path to achieving things that others may have considered beyond our reach and capability.

Successful people will often disclose the many barriers, real and imaginary and sometimes self-imposed, which they encountered.

The forces which kept them going were those of enthusiasm, confidence and determination.

It is a New Day and it will be unrealistic not to acknowledge the likely problems. To drown ourselves in those problems is destructive and restrictive.

That may overshadow the many beautiful things which this day and they days ahead may offer. Are you willing to tap the fountain of enthusiasm?

Do you recognise your natural talents and ability?

Are you prepared to perform at a higher level?

If the answer is yes, you are on the road to success and happiness.

Look around and recognise friends and colleagues who have acquired knowledge and have climbed the ladder to positions of influence which many persons may have initially thought to be unattainable.

Our future is in our hands notwithstanding the external factors which pose limitations and barriers. A key element is our state of mind and the mental picture we paint.

It is a New Day, the sun will rise and set as usual; the weather will vary, there will be new births and deaths. With the latter reminding us that time is marching on.

Yesterday has gone by and the experiences cannot be changed, but we have the opportunity of influencing the future and its impact on our lives.

It is not only desirable but it is necessary for us to be enthusiastic about life and living. Let us start the New Day with thanks to God for the gift of life and for the many blessings which we take for granted.

We appreciate our sight when we come across someone who is blind. We are thankful for the ability to speak when we meet the dumb.

We are grateful for the blessing of being able to walk when we encounter those who are incapacitated.

It is often by comparison we realise with joy and gratitude how fortunate we have been and the many good things around us.

It's a New Day which we need to accept with enthusiasm, knowing that the present is becoming the past as time is certainly going by and time brings all things in this earthly life to an end. Even life itself!

We have a duty and responsibility to ourselves to find that inner each, and with enthusiasm work towards those goals which will bring us happiness and allow us to make others happy.

Writing on the subject of "Energising Your Body" Robert Schuller observed: -

"Enthusiasm is the force of God himself energising you body." So, the zeal of the Lord, the enthusiasm that comes from our God-inspired faith, give us peak performance power! Most fatigue is the result of lack of faith.

Negative emotions such as worry, frustration, anxiety, fear, indecision, guilt, and depression are weights causing tremendous fatigue of the human spirit.

Make room for Jesus Christ. He saves you from all of these negative emotions – and inspires you to set goals. With Christ, positive emotions replace negative emotions. Weights become wings! When our Lord gives us exciting dreams and re-assures us of success, we become so energetic that the aging process is transcended by our strength – inducing faith.

Yes, look at some older people move fast, think fast, act fast when they are excited about life's possibilities! In contrast, young people who have no goals and are not caught up in a consuming project act old.

They move in slow motion and are tempted to draw upon chemicals for an unnatural high!

Our Lord comes and calls you to love him and be his minister of mercy in a suffering and morbid world.

Suddenly you've got exciting goals! You're enthusiastic. His strength flows through you. Your faith is your energy"

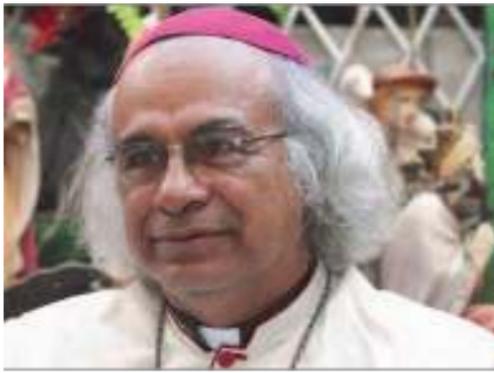
I share the view that we must energise our body and with enthusiasm face each day with this our earthly life.

Abandon the weights which fatigue the human spirit. Let us strive to realise the fulfillment of those beautiful dreams which we desire.

Make today a beautiful, happy and rewarding day which lays the foundation for the days ahead to be even better.

Be enthusiastic! ❖

Nicaraguan Cardinal calls on Catholics to 'put pressure' on Ortega regime



"Please put pressure on the government, urging it to show respect for the bishops, the priests and the population." This was the appeal issued via Aid to the Church in Need (CAN) by Cardinal Leopoldo José Brenes Solórzano, the Archbishop of Managua, Nicaragua.

The Cardinal also spoke about the difficult situation in Masaya, a town some 30 km south of the capital Managua, which has become a symbol of the opposition to the government of President Daniel Ortega and which since 6am local time Tuesday has been besieged "by over 1000 soldiers and police. So far no deaths have been recorded, but undoubtedly there will be numerous injured victims. The town has been submerged under a wave of bullets", the Cardinal stated.

A few hours previously Cardinal Brenes had called on the people of Masaya and the other areas under

siege to remain in their homes in order to prevent further casualties. "It is an extremely difficult moment for the whole country", he told ACN.

The clashes between loyalist and opposition forces have now been dragging on for months, while the Church herself has also been under attack. On July 9 the Cardinal was assaulted by paramilitary personnel in the Basilica of San Sebastian in Diriamba, along with his auxiliary Bishop José Silvio Baez and the apostolic nuncio, Archbishop Waldemar Stanisław Sommertag. On 16 July Bishop Abelardo Mata miraculously escaped an armed attack attributed to paramilitary forces. The repression by the Sandinista government of Daniel Ortega is now openly directed against the Church.

"Hearing the appeal by Pope Francis to be a "field hospital", many of our parishes have given shelter to those seeking safety and help to the injured", the Cardinal explained. "Undoubtedly this has not pleased the government. Just as it has not been pleased by our efforts in trying to dismantle these paramilitary groups."

At this extremely delicate moment, Cardinal Brenes addressed an appeal to the West, and to Catholics in particular, calling for the Ortega government to be reminded to show respect towards the Church and the Nicaraguan people. "At the same time, I in-

vite everybody to join in a chain of prayer and offer concrete support to our priests by offering Mass intentions.

"We are very close to the Church and to the Nicaraguan people, to whom we extend our solidarity and our prayers", said Regina Lynch, ACN's Head of Projects at its international headquarters in Germany. "In the next few months we will be visiting this country of Central America in order to strengthen our bonds of communion in prayer and our pastoral support." ❖

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Upcoming Events

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

Saturday August 11th
Youth Quake 2018
 Please see page 4

Sunday August 12th
St Pius X Parish Feast Day & Fun Day
 All are invited to St Pius X Church, West La Penitence on Sunday August 12th for their Feast Day Mass at **8:00am**, and then to the Fun Day after Mass.

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.

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A Christian Perspective on Social Issues



A cascade of calls to be Christlike

By GHK Lall

They came one after another: a cascade of calls to be Christlike. The calls originated with Pope Francis during his charge to the latest group of Cardinals during the installation proceedings in Vatican City during the last week of June. The quotes following are as extracted from the coverage of June 28 by *Reuters* that was captioned, "Serve the poor, shun 'palace intrigues' Pope tells new cardinals."

First, there was the call from the pontiff to serve "real people" including "those who are hungry, neglected, imprisoned, sick, suffering, addicted to drugs, cast aside." For certainty, this encircles a lot of bottom-of-the

barrel, and down and out brethren; people who could use a morsel of food, a moment of attention, and the healing medicines of care and compassion. These are real people with real needs and who could only benefit from the spiritualizing freshening of Christ.

It is debatable and to be measured as to how much difference might be made in aggregate by the more than a dozen new cardinals; but for those afflicted "real people" on the receiving end of humble gracious serving, it can be the world. A world of hope and possibilities to turn from a dark corner, start over somewhere and somehow, and resume human existence (however fragile) in the congregation of yearning striving people. As if to emphasize this realness, Pope Francis went on to urge the shunning of "palace intrigues" and avoid "useless wrangling about who is most important." The most important are those same outcasts identified earlier, and as embraced by Jesus during his earthly ministry. Whether new cardinal or new catechumen that message of concern is unchanging: Be Christlike.

Second, the Holy Father cautioned, "None of us should look down at others from above. The only time we can look down at a person in this way is when we are helping them to stand up." Let us

examine closely. To look down at others infers that this done from a height. Too often, that perch came through the self-importance of self-elevation and self-exaltation. There is too much ego that fuels too much self-interest to the expense of true Christian values, humility, and serving. The focus is on the self, instead of all the injurious issues and wretches crying for any kind of relief, including the momentary from the torments that plague the flesh and spirit. As a timely reminder, in one Gospel account (MT 9:36) Jesus looked at the state of the people before him and was "moved with pity" for them, such was the poorness of their condition.

To be Christlike is to prioritize what moved Jesus: the plight of the people. This is what Pope Francis exhorts. To live and exemplify fulltime the Christlike way is through being there for others in need, through the nearness of warm compassion. The higher the distance, the less may be the connection to, appreciation for, and dedication towards improving the lot of the suffering and downtrodden, those beaten down by the hard circumstances of life. "Helping to stand up" involves the intimacy of physical touch, or the close proximity that ties in some

bond, regardless of the manner or the degree to which such takes place.

In the third extract highlighted today, the Pope reminded the cardinals that "the only credible form of authority is born of sitting at the feet of others in order to serve Christ." Once again, there is the emphasis on that single word: serve. It starts with the willingness towards "sitting at the feet." It is a real humbling of self; the next step is to wash those feet-sore and weak, brittle and gnarled, sometimes scarred and oozing. Who wants to be first must go to the back and be last. Last starts at the bottom, from the feet. Grace comes from above and lifts all up, both washer and washed.

This is some of what Pope Francis was instilling to those fourteen new cardinals. Fourteen new leaders called to be true shepherds of Christ's flock, by caring for it and serving it. The words as contained in these excerpts were directed at the listening cardinals; but they have relevance and meaning for all Catholics everywhere, including Guyana. The message and subtexts are simple: serve; sacrifice self; surrender to the Christlike way. It is easy to say, "Lord, Lord..." It is infinitely more demanding to practice all that goes with calling the name of Jesus. Listen to the Vicar of Christ; he has it right. ❖

The Diocesan Youth Office and Family & Life Commission presents

YOUTH QUAKE 2018

Theme: 'Vocations - Building A Catholic Culture'

Venue: Marian Academy, Carifesta Avenue

Date: 11th August
Time: 7:30am - 4:30pm
Registration Fee: \$1000

NOTE: Registration closes 25th July

For more information please contact Youth Office on 231-8833, or email us at rcyouthguyana@gmail.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

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Sunday Scripture

July 29th - Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

FIRST READING

2 Kings 4:42-44

They will eat and have some left over.

A man came from Baal-shalishah, bringing Elisha, the man of God, bread from the first-fruits, twenty barley loaves and fresh grain in the ear. "Give it to the people to eat," Elisha said. But his servant replied, "How can I serve this to a hundred men?" "Give it to the people to eat," he insisted, "for the Lord says this, 'They will eat and have some left over.'" He served them; they ate and had some over, as the Lord had said.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 144

Response: *You open wide your hand, O Lord, and grant our desires.*

All your creatures shall thank you, O Lord, and your friends shall repeat their blessing. They shall speak of the glory of your reign and declare your might, O God.

Response

The eyes of all creatures look to you and you give them their food in due time. You open wide your hand, grant the desires of all who live. *Response*

The Lord is just in all his ways and loving in all his deeds. He is close to all who call him, who call on him from their hearts. *Response*

SECOND READING

Ephesians 4:1-6

One Body, One Lord, one faith, one baptism.

I, the prisoner in the Lord, implore you to lead a life worthy of your vocation. Bear with one another charitably, in complete

selflessness, gentleness and patience. Do all you can to preserve the unity of the Spirit by the peace that binds you together. There is one Body, one Spirit, just as you were all called into one and the same hope when you were called. There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God who is Father of all, through all and within all.

GOSPEL

John 6:1-15

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

Jesus went off to the other side of the Sea of Galilee – or of Tiberias – and a large crowd followed him, impressed by the signs he gave by curing the sick. Jesus climbed the hillside and sat down there with his disciples. It was shortly before the Jewish feast of Passover.

Looking up, Jesus saw the crowds approaching and said to Philip, "Where can we buy some bread for these people to eat?" He only said this to test

Philip; he himself knew exactly what he was going to do. Philip answered, "Two hundred denarii would only buy enough to give them a small piece each." One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said, "There is a small boy here with five barley loaves and two fish; but what is that between so many?" Jesus said to them, "Make the people sit down." There was plenty of grass there, and as many as five thousand men sat down. Then Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks, and gave them out to all who were sitting ready; he then did the same with the fish, giving out as much as was wanted. When they had eaten enough he said to the disciples, "Pick up the pieces left over, so that nothing gets wasted." So they picked them up, and filled twelve hampers with scraps left over from the meal of five barley loaves. The people, seeing this sign that he had given, said, "This really is the prophet who is to come into the world." Jesus, who could see there were about to come and take him by force and make him king, escaped back into the hills by himself. ❖



By: The Diocesan Stewardship Council of Guyana

Today's Gospel reading recounts Jesus' miracle of feeding the multitude. In a miracle that anticipated Jesus' miracle of feeding the multitude, as reported

in today's Gospel, Elisha commanded that a small amount of bread be served to 100 men, and Jesus promised that all would indeed be fed. Elisha trusted that promise, acted upon it, and saw the promise miraculously fulfilled. We, like most people, tend to forget the miracles our Lord can work in everyday life. If we trust in God and live as good stewards, what we accomplish is, in its own way, a miracle.

St. Paul beautifully sums up how our approach to living as Catholics and Christians should be. In today's Second Reading from his letter to the Ephesians, Paul urges us to live "with all humility and gentleness, with

patience, bearing with one another through love, striving to preserve the unity of spirit through the bond of peace: one body and one Spirit." Does that describe our parish community?

This cannot happen unless we have the same kind of trust that Elisha had, and which St. Paul had, as well. Paul also says in today's Second Reading, "I urge you to live in a manner worthy of the call you have received." This is stewardship at its core. We should not give of our time, talent and treasure because we want to earn God's love. He already loves us unconditionally.

Jesus knew full well what miracle He was about to perform, but He also saw

this as a chance to teach His Apostles, and also show us the way. Philip and the others had already seen Jesus perform many miracles, and there should have been no question in his mind about the divine resources Jesus had at His disposal. Yet Philip hesitated. It is human nature to be doubtful. Yet, as with Elisha, they all ate, and there was much left over. Through this miracle, Jesus is teaching us to trust Him and to do the same in our lives. And, by committing ourselves to a stewardship way of life, we can see our own gifts multiplied. And perhaps even perform our own modern-day miracles. ❖

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

Gospel Reflection



By Fr. Michael Barrow SJ

THE BREAD OF LIFE

The gospel this Sunday and all the Sundays in August is Jesus' teaching on Holy Communion, the Bread of Life. It may not be so obvious this first Sunday with the miracle of the feeding of the 5000, but it follows the usual pattern in St John's gospel. He starts with something natural and quite ordinary, like bread on a plate or water from a well or wind blowing in the trees. Then thinking about what these things do, bread keeping us alive, water washing us or making plants grow, wind which you can feel but can't see and so on, Jesus applies it to ourselves. When he talks about the Bread of Life, Jesus is saying that we need him just as we need food to keep alive.

If you notice, St John chooses his words carefully describing the miracle in the gospel, even using the opening words of the Consecration at Mass: "Jesus took the bread, gave thanks, and gave it out". Then after the people had eaten Jesus told his apostles to gather up any fragments that were left over, just as the priest gathers up any fragments that are left over after Holy Communion. By the time St John wrote this gospel 20 or 30 years after Jesus' ascension into heaven, the people would recognize the wording used at Mass which had developed by that time.

In the last sentence of this week's gospel Jesus realizes that people have missed the point, valuing him for offering free meals rather than spiritual nourishment. Gradually during the next four Sundays the gospel makes it clear what Jesus is offering, not ordinary bread but something much more wonderful. Until in the end many can't accept it and go away. Then Jesus asks, "What about you, do you want to go away as well?" ❖

'Auntie Enid' goes home to God



Ms. Enid Cheong, fondly known as Auntie Enid, who served the Roman Catholic Diocese and the parish of the Sacred Heart for several decades was fondly remembered during her funeral service on the morning of Saturday July 7th, at the Sacred Heart Church on Main Street.

The chief celebrant, Monsignor Terrence Montrose, described her as someone who has led many to God. "She was always happy to look after the poor and always inspiring. Many of us can do no better than to say I will

take a page out of her book" he said. The Vicar General got frequent, knowing chuckles from the congregation as he recalled fond memories of the much beloved 93-year old who lived a full life. He remembered his time at the seminary in the 1960s, when Sundays came around, he would be among the young seminarians who were eagerly looking out for the arrival of Aunt Enid. This was because she always brought a delicious meal which she had prepared and would serve to the seminarians.

Along with being secretary to Bishop Benedict Singh for over 15 years, Ms. Cheong also gave over 35 years of service to the Ladies of Charity, and held the post of Treasurer of the group from 1982 until recently. She was also on the management committee of the two homesteads run by the Ladies of Charity.

She was also chairperson of the Sacred Heart Parish Council for six years, was a founder member of that church's feeding programme also for six years, along with being a Minister of the Eucharist there since 1984. ❖

Laudato Si Youth hosts dinner in New Amsterdam



By Rebecca Jotis

On Saturday July 21st, the Roman Catholic Church of the Ascension group *Laudato Si Youth* hosted a dinner. The purpose was to energize relationships and strengthen the bonds of brotherhood and sisterhood amongst community

members at the beginning of the summer vacation.

The hostess was Mrs. Sharon Harris who stated that these were her kids. She became so connected to them and felt she owed them this very special evening of dinner and fun. She has enjoyed watching how the young people in our parish grow in faith.

Mrs. Harris is a vibrant and elegant catechist at our parish who always had a passion to reach out to young people. Mrs. Harris wished to thank all the following persons who assisted in making this event a success, including Margret Samuels, Jacqueline Henry, Joy Anthon, Tricia Williams, Roxanne Pahalad, Stephen Persaud, Sheryllyn Lalta, Rita dos Ramos and David Blair.

The Sisters of the Missionaries of Charity and others who supported in every way possible were also lavishly praised.

Special thanks also to Leon Suseran who is always ready and willing to give whatever he possibly can to group efforts and events.

On behalf of myself and all the other senior members we would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Mrs. Harris who is always looking over and encouraging our young people to grow in love, faith togetherness and hope.

All your hard work really paid off. Keep up the good works-- God bless. ❖

Fr Compton Meerabux SJ, 50 years a priest!



Heartiest congratulations to Jesuit priest Father Compton Meerabux who recently celebrated his 50th anniversary of priesthood, having been or-

dained on July 19th 1968. Fr Compton spent most of his priestly life teaching and in pastoral ministries. Today at the ripe age of 84 he lives at the Jesuit residence in Queenstown. ❖

Birthday Greetings to Fr Tony De Souza SJ from Victoria



The parishioners of the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Victoria, wish to extend Birthday greetings to Fr. Tony De Souza SJ, who celebrated his birthday on July 23rd. We pray that your day was a joyful one and that the

LORD bless you and keep you! The LORD let his face shine upon you, and be gracious to you! The LORD look upon you kindly and give you peace! We wish you happy days, peaceful moments and hope to see you again sometime. HAPPY BIRTHDAY FR. TONY! ❖

Journeying with the Word of God



MAKING THE WORD OF GOD YOUR OWN

Step 1: Look at today's Readings prayerfully.

1st Reading: The miraculous food which the prophet Elisha gives to the hungry was a sign of God's concern for his people.

2nd Reading: St Paul pleads with the Christians of Ephesus to live a life in keeping with the Gospel, which means placing special emphasis on the need for unity and harmony.

Gospel: Jesus has compassion for the crowd of hungry people and satisfies them miraculously with five loaves of bread and two fish.

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

1. "God does not ask us about our ability or inability, but about our availability." What does this statement say to you about the Christian life?
2. There is a hunger in many people that is greater than the hunger for food. What could such hunger be?
3. St Paul says that we have to preserve the unity of spirit by the peace that binds us together. What is this peace and how can we predict it?
4. Compare the attitudes of Philip and Andrew in the Gospel story. One is doubtful while the other is hopeful. Which should be the attitude of the Christian? Why?

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

We are all aware of the great shame and scandal of people dying of starvation in a world where so much is wasted. It is easy to feel powerless in the face of it all. Our Scripture readings today show that generosity is the answer to this great sin - generosity towards others who are not as fortunate as ourselves.

Step 4: Something to think & pray about

1. Reflect a while on your eating habits. How do you see food? Is eating an important part of your daily activities? Does the fact that there are so many hungry people in the world bother you? Do you enjoy eating alone or do you prefer company at this time?
2. Pray that God will protect you from adopting an attitude of thinking that God prefers you because you have food and is punishing those who have none.
3. Remember to say your prayer of thanksgiving before eating your meals. Why is this good to do? ❖

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

Guyanese Youths back from AECYA with faith enriched, deepened

From Roxanne Rose Douglas, Diocesan Youth Co-ordinator

The delegation of twenty-five youths from the Diocese of Georgetown to the Caribbean Bishops Youth Assembly (AECYA) returned safely from Martinique on Tuesday July 24th. They were accompanied by Father Carl Philadelphia; Diocesan Youth Co-ordinator Roxanne Rose Douglas; Ursuline Sisters Shelly Jhettoo and Nishi Kujor; Jesuit priest-in-training Joel Thompson; and Mercy Postulant Elizabeth Small. It was a life-changing, faith-strengthening experience for many.

Upon arrival in Martinique, we were warmly greeted and taken to our host families. The Diocese of Georgetown was hosted in the Northern part of the island by the community of Marigot.

The first week was spent with youths from parishes who took the roles of translators and tour guides. There were visits to historic sites, museums and island views.

We were entertained and invited to participate in cultural activities such as singing and doing the Bele' dance which is a part of Martinique's culture.

Over the past two weeks, youths also experienced the cultures of our diverse Caribbean in various cultural presentations from the over 760 young people from 16 dioceses who gathered for the event.

Our diocese also played its role in showcasing our Guyanese culture in the form of poetry, dance and the singing of "Beautiful Guyana" while we simultaneously showed a video supplied by the Department of Tourism of our people, structures and eco-tourism.

Our Catholic faith was also enriched in daily morning prayers and Mass which was led by the various dioceses in



Monica Campion from Lethem was in the troupe which performed an Amerindian dance during the Culture Night at the Assembly.

attendance. Adoration, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and the Stations of the Cross also formed part of our spiritual experiences. Some were done in French with traditional songs and dances.

The theme of the gathering was "Youth Transforming the Caribbean Family"

Each diocese did a presentation on an assigned chapter of *Amoris Laetitia* which is Pope Francis' letter on Love in the Family.

Father Matthew Raghbir from Trinidad and Tobago gave an

awesome and enlightening overview on the realities of families in the Caribbean which focused on our brokenness and looked at ways in which we are called to share the Ministry of Accompaniment with each other.

In the words of Archbishop Kenneth Richards at the closing Mass of the assembly, "It was perfect! Perfection does not mean everything will run smoothly, in life there will be ups and down, in these challenges we learn to focus: this is VIRTUE".

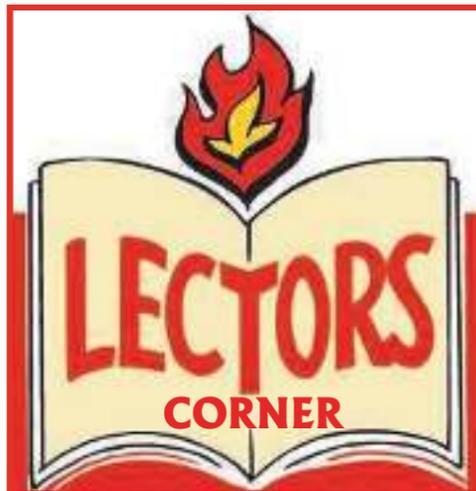
All participants have been given two immediate tasks on their return.

The first is to examine ways in which they can share the ministry of accompaniment in their settings of schools, parishes, among friends, in their homes and workplaces.

The second is to look at ways in which they can transform the family.

The Diocesan Youth Office wishes to thank the following persons and companies who played a major role in making it possible for our youth to participate in this assembly: Bishop's Office; Our Parish Priests and parishioners who give financial contributions; the Sisters of Mercy, and Ursulines Sisters; parents and family members; Ms. Vivienne Daniel and The National Dance Company; Catholic Media and the Catholic Standard Ltd; LIAT; the Ministry of Social Cohesion; the Guyana Tourism Authority; Sterling Products Limited; The Gift Centre; Bounty Farm Limited; and all those give their support and offered prayers for the success of this Assembly.

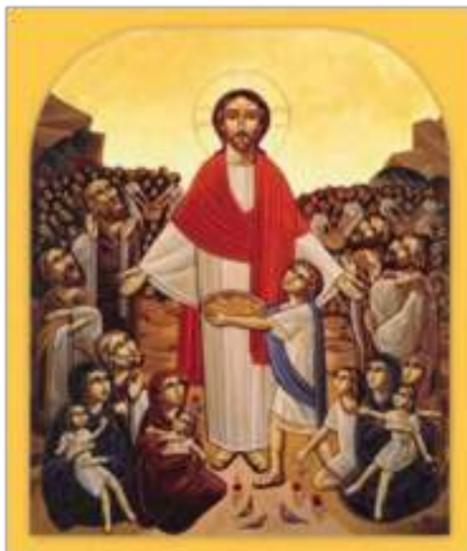
There will be much more on the Assembly in the Catholic Media, Facebook and other social media in the near future. ❖



Proclaiming the Word of God

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

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

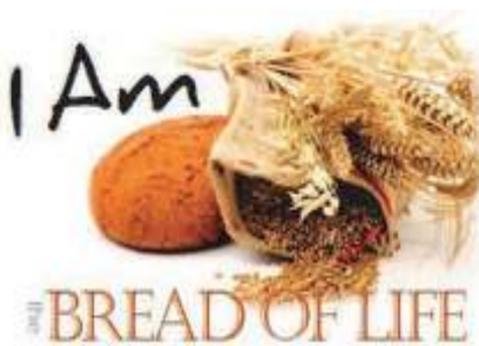
A very simple and straightforward account. Just note the pronunciations: the 'i' in 'Elisha' is pronounced as "eye", and Baal-shalishah is pronounced as it is written. Watch the different tones of the different speakers, and make something of Elisha's emphatic repetition of his instruction, "Give it 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.



August 5th: Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)



"He who comes to me never be hungry. He who believes in me will never thirst."

The Word this week

We continue reading from John 6: this is the aftermath of the miracle, and we see the beginnings of a

misunderstanding that will develop over the next four weeks. People have seen the miracle, but not the message: they have seen the sign, but not what it points towards. The bread that was given is a sign of the Bread of Life, which is the teaching, the words and the very person of Jesus, as the revelation of the Father. His mission is to draw people back to his Father, to found a New Covenant or relationship. As the weeks go by, we will see that the people's hunger is simply for spectacle and miracle, not for the much harder teaching of living nourished by God's word and the presence of his only Son. For us, the People of the New Covenant, these passages must make us think of how we receive the Lord in the Eucharist. Are we nourished by his presence, so that all the hunger and thirst of our lives is answered by the One who is the Bread of Life?

Notes for Readers

First Reading: Exodus 16:2-4.12-15

The first paragraph is the rather eloquent complaint of the people - enjoy the graphic imagery ("pans of meat ... bread to our heart's content...") and underline the dramatic statement at the end ("...starve this company to death.") Then change the tone for the quiet word the Lord has with Moses, announcing what he will do, and the proclamation to be made to the people. Pause before reading the words "And so it came about." The description of what happens is very clear and obvious: just read with similar clarity. Two delightful points: first the description of the manna as "...a thing delicate, powdery, as fine as hoarfrost...", and then the dialogue between Moses and the people, with the puzzled question of the people and Moses' laconic reply. Enjoy reading these details.

Second Reading: Ephesians 4:17.20-24

This is a very powerful reading with a simple basic theme: living in the Church means a radically different way of life. This is the contrast to be brought out throughout the reading. Notice how Paul wants to "urge" the listeners - not just "tell them". There is (literally) an urgency about his appeal. Stress the word "aimless" describing the pagans' way of life. There's almost a hint of irony in the next sentence, in the words "...unless you failed to hear him properly..." Have a think about how you will say those words. The rest of the reading is a very positive appeal, balancing the old way of life with the new (renewed) way. The words "spiritual revolution" are very dramatic - give them their full weight. Also stress the words "new self", and end triumphantly on the mention of the truth. This is much more like the transcript of a speech than a written letter: look at your congregation, and do your best to allow Saint Paul to speak to them, using your mouth and voice. These are words to inspire a congregation; you, the reader, must find them inspiring yourself, so that you read with great conviction. ❖

[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 ❖



Dear Boys and Girls,
 One day Jesus and his disciples got into a boat and sailed across a lake. When they reached the other side, they went up onto the side of a mountain and sat down to rest. But when Jesus looked, he saw a great crowd of people coming toward him. They wanted Jesus to teach them and heal the sick. So, that is exactly what he did. He healed the sick and taught the people about the kingdom of heaven.

Soon it was time to eat. Jesus asked one of the disciples whose name was Philip, "Where can we buy enough bread to feed all of these people?" Philip answered, "Eight months wages wouldn't buy enough bread for each person to have one little bite!" Andrew, another one of the disciples, spoke up, "Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?"

Jesus told the disciples bring him the loaves and fish and to tell everyone to sit down on the grass. Jesus took the loaves and fish and looked up to heaven and gave thanks. He then gave the food to the disciples to give to the people. Was it enough? It was more than enough! When everyone had eaten as much as they wanted, Jesus told his disciples to gather up what was left over. They gathered up enough food to fill twelve baskets!

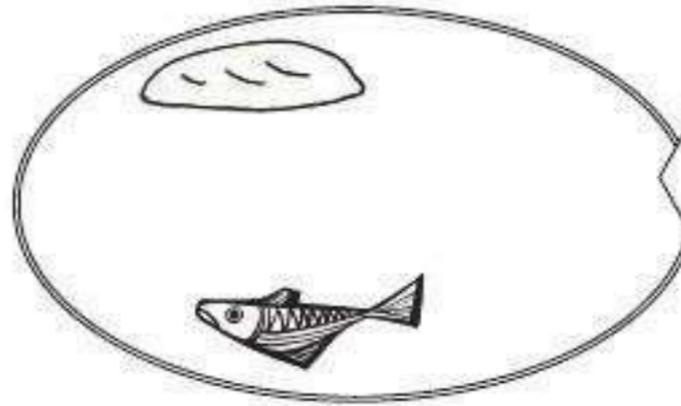
Heavenly Father, we praise you for your goodness. You give us all that we need and more. We thank you in Jesus' name. Amen. ❖

JESUS GIVES US FOOD

A large crowd followed Jesus.
 Everyone was hungry.

One boy had 5 barley loaves
 and 2 fish.

Jesus
 blessed
 the food
 and the
 apostles
 gave food
 to
 everyone.



Draw the
 rest of the
 loaves and
 fish the boy
 had.

When everyone ate they collected 12 baskets of leftovers.
 Everyone said:

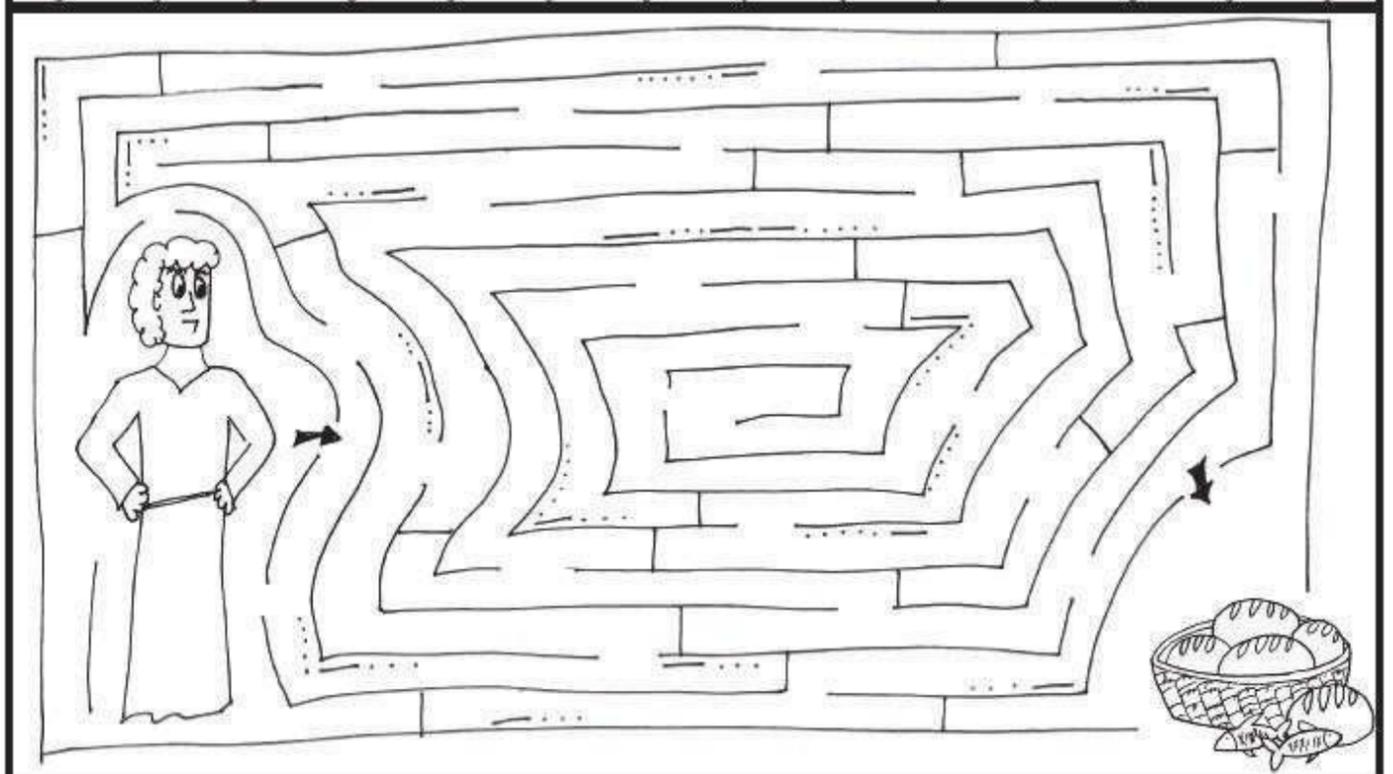
"Jesus must be a special Prophet."

Draw the rest of
 the baskets that
 were filled with
 leftovers.



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

- SEA
- TIBERIAS
- HILLSIDE
- FEAST
- PASSOVER
- BREAD
- BOY
- FIVE
- BARLEY
- LOAVES
- FISH
- HAMPERS



Gospel

Jesus was teaching 5000 people about God, and it was time for lunch. Oh, no! They didn't have enough food! Jesus blessed 5 loaves of bread and 2 fish and everyone had enough to eat. It was a miracle!

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

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.

Dear Men, imagine you have a deadline to complete a very important project in a year's time. Although the time frame is relatively long, the project happens to be the most important one of your life, so you aren't willing to take any risks. You create a rigid and detailed schedule for you and all your team members because you know that any delay or negligence can jeopardize your entire future. Then a day comes when you plan to devote all of your resources to this project, and one of your partners suddenly stands up and says, "I think I'll go and get some rest."

It's clear that now you're probably thinking to yourself that this is just an exaggerated metaphor. "If it doesn't get done today, nothing bad will happen to my family" is a pretty normal thought for a man to have in such a scenario, but you have to understand that most women don't think like this. For them, every little delay is damaging to their life project, and if you are responsible for it, then they feel that you simply don't care about them and your life together.

Dear Ladies, imagine that you are entering a luxurious spa. You take off your clothes, take a shower, put on a soft bathrobe, and just as you plan to enter the water, the spa manager comes into the room and says, "Great! You got here just in time to clean the Jacuzzi." If such a situation were to occur in reality, it is reasonable to assume that you would walk

Rest vs. Chores (Cont'd)



By Chris & Noelma Lam

straight out of the place, but from a male perspective, this is a perfectly understandable response.

You might be asking yourself how this is related to your home life, because it's not realistic to rest and indulge all day - you need constant maintenance to "enjoy the spa," and you are right. Men simply have a different way of thinking about some of the tasks that you see as necessary for the household. They can completely ignore the "dirty tub in the spa" because they just enjoy relaxing in your shared home and sometimes your requests hurt their ability to do so.

How do you combine these two points of view?

If you've come this far, you probably already understand why men so love and perhaps need their rest. And guys, you now understand why it's hard to get your partner to accept the fact that you like to go home and sit in front of the TV or sleep in late and do nothing on Saturday. Both sides need to be clear that there are things that must be done: childcare, paying bills, preparing food, and the like. If there is no agreement on these essential

tasks, it must be established as soon as possible in order to avoid unnecessary fights, and then one can find the balance between the man's desire to rest and the woman's desire for a clean and orderly home.

The process of balancing the male and female perspectives differs between each pair. I've heard of couples in which the man asks for a certain period of time from the moment he enters the homes where he is not expected to do anything or a strategy of planning a common monthly schedule for all tasks that are not defined as being high priority. The method that will suit you and your spouse probably won't be exactly the same as that of any other couple, but you should at least follow these general recommendations:

You are a couple, but you are also separate people and each side has its own desires, respect them even if you do not understand them.

Throughout the article, general reference was made to men and women, but of course reality isn't divided in such a way. It may be that in your relationship the situation is somewhat different and perhaps even reversed, and that's fine.

A relationship cannot exist without a willingness to compromise, but there are issues that cannot be compromised, and a way must be found to deal with them. It is possible to adopt a veto mechanism that each spouse can adopt once a week or a month in relation to a specific task or a certain day of rest.

Remember the love you feel for each other, it will help you find the strength to call the cable technician after a frustrating day or accept the fact that it will take a few more days for the overflowing trash can makes its way out. ❖

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. ❖

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TitBits

-- This Week's Reflection:

This is a special weekend for us. Sunday will be the 46th anniversary of our Wedding Day. If we add the two years of our engagement and two years of our courtship, we can say we will be celebrating fifty years of love and togetherness. Looking back, we now see that God gave us a sign that we did not recognise at that time. We were fortunate to have two priests on the altar officiating at our Nuptial Mass. The young priest who should have officiated at our wedding did not get his marriage officer's certificate in time and we had to ask the administrator of the Cathedral. So, our marriage was blessed by two priests. God has been good to us. God Bless You! Have a Great Week!

-- This Week's Bible Question:

Q. How many talents were given to the third servant in Jesus' parable?

-- This Week's Teaser:

Q: Say my name and I will disappear. What am I?

-- Today's Bible Verse:

The measure you give will be the measure you get back. - Luke 6:38

-- Today's Marriage Tip:

Do you have a regular date night? It's one of the keys to a satisfying marriage. It doesn't have to involve money or going out but it should be a time set aside for meaningful conversation (not about money or the kids) and for fun.

-- Humour:

Mom was taking Little Johnny and his cousin Little Susie to the Zoo. At the ticket counter, while mom was looking into her purse Little Johnny said: "Two tickets for the beauties and one for the beast."

-- A Card Hallmark Would Never Print:

I thought that I could love no other, - Until, that is, I met your brother.

-- This Week's Truism:

Don't compare your life to others' you have no idea what their journey is all about.

-- Clever Word Play:

Police were called to a day-care centre where a three-year old was resisting a rest.

-- Signs Found at Church:

Down in the mouth? Come in for a faith lift.

-- Answer to Bible Question:

One. - see Matthew 25:15
 And to one he [the master] gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability.

-- Answer to Teaser:

Silence. ❖

Mind Puzzler Corner

Our Last Brain Teaser was:

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?

Answer: Choices/Options.

This Week's Brain Teaser:

What word, when read from left to right is a ruler, but when read right to left is a servant?

Look for the Answer next week

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“Engage us on issues of good governance” -Minister Harmon to religious leaders



Georgetown, Guyana — Minister of State, Mr. Joseph Harmon, last Sunday called on the leaders of religious organisations across Guyana to petition the Government on issues that concern their organisations, congregations and communities. The Minister of State made this call at the 14th Anniversary Service of Prophecy One Deliverance Ministry (PODM), located on Hadfield Street, Georgetown.

“Pray for our nation; that we may grow from strength to strength and [govern] with truth and justice for all [of] our people. Please also, feel free to engage us, the Government, on issues of good governance, national development and any other matter that you may deem important,” he said.

Minister Harmon said that much of the Government’s success is due to the support of Guyana’s religious communities. “It has been a mere three years since the change of Administration brought President David Granger and our Coalition into Government... The past three years have not been easy for us as a Government... We continue our efforts to re-institute systems and structures, to re-establish a sense of morality and decency in our society, to heal divisions that exist among us, and to provide a good life for all [of] our people... We have been truly blessed in many ways... The most important [being] the support of the righteous in our society... through prayers and hard work,” he said.

Condemning the prevalence of domestic violence in Guyana, Minister Harmon called on the

congregation of PODM to increase their efforts in combating violent tendencies. “I believe that we have to train our young men and young women to find ways of dealing with anger, with disaffection and with problems in the society other than resorting to violence... Too many of our womenfolk are cut down and are sent to their graves because of domestic violence... This affects the church... I urge you today to continue to speak to the persons in your ministry. Let them understand that we have to find other ways or resolving our issues, that anger is something that we have to learn to manage and it is not right to be killing people because you’re angry,” he said.

In closing, Minister Harmon said that the success of Guyana’s religious people is the success of Guyana as a whole. “Our Government has a vested interest in your continued success, because your success will result in an increase in goodness and righteousness in our society; in moral re-armament and national development and a lessening of the social ills that affect us,” he said.

Pastor of PODM, Mr. Allwyn Williams thanked the Minister for taking the time to address his congregation. “It was a very important message from the Minister of State... It really touched our hearts to see a Minister take time out from his busy schedule and come [to] fellowship with us... [The message] was received in good faith and we stand with him as he goes forward,” he said.

The 14th Anniversary service of PODM was held under the theme “No one will be able to stand against you”.

East Coast Lay Ministers in one-day seminar

(From Back Page)

Questions discussed were: “When were you trained?”, “How long and where were you trained?”, “Have you been commissioned?”, “What five things have been learnt in the training programme and how are they put into practice?”, “What activities are carried out in the faith community?”, “How do you prepare for your personal ministry?”, “What challenges are faced in your personal ministry?” and “What do you propose to do to improve your ministry?”.

The discussions were interesting and some challenges pointed out were the criticisms experienced, miscommunication and lack of commitment. On a positive note, ministry encouraged and influenced, to a great extent, the personal prayer lives of those present. The participants enjoyed the get-together and were in favour of meeting again and it was decided that we will meet on December 1st, 2018 at St Paul’s, Mahaica. We concluded with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and a Communion Service, followed by a delicious lunch which was prepared by ladies from St Peter’s parish. We take this opportunity to thank them for their hospitality. ❖

Catechists/Lay persons receive certificates (From page 12)

completing a foundation course in Catholic Beliefs.

The Echoes programme is a local one developed by Jesuit priest Father Eddie Birmingham, while the VLCFF is an online, adult Religious Education and Faith Formation programme coordinated and sponsored by the Institute for Pastoral Initiatives (IPI) at the University of Dayton, USA - a Catholic Marianist Institution.

These Dayton University courses were initiated by Fr. Eddie Birmingham and were on hold - this course was offered as a means of resuscitating them.

Certification is a way of ensuring that the best possible resources for formation are available and accessed by Catechists and other interested persons. It will also help the Catechists and Lay persons in their parishes as they teach in Religious Education programmes, lead Bible Study programmes and adult Faith Formation courses.

The now-trained Catechists who

received certificates came from several parishes namely: St Peter’s BV; St Joseph, Diamond; Church of the Assumption, Hague; St Theresa, Campbellville; St Jerome, Supply; St. Catherine, Our Lady of the Mount, Meadow Bank; Church of the Holy Spirit, North Ruimveldt; and St Anthony’s, Bartica.

The certificates were presented by Bishop Francis Alleyne OSB. Head of the Department of Catechesis, Mrs. Angie Sukhai; and Mr. Phelan Ramdatt, who coordinated the Online Course; were also present.

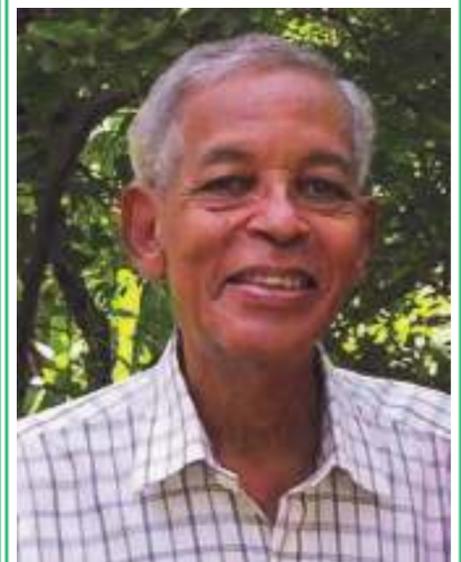
In her opening remarks, Mrs. Sukhai said she applauded the Catechists for what they continue to do and expressed the sentiment that when people seek to elevate themselves to better serve others they cannot go wrong as the Ministry of Catechesis flows from the Ministry of the Apostles. She quoted Pope Francis’ talk on “The Catechist”. Firstly, Catechesis is not a job or a task that is extended to the person who is a Catechist because one is a Catechist

and all of life revolves around this mission. In fact, being a Catechist is a vocation of service to the Church.

Before presenting the certificates, Bishop Francis congratulated all who participated in and completed the courses. He said he saw the event in the context of what he asked for in the Bishop’s Appeal for more people to seek out ways to get involved. He added that faith formation was very important and it was good to see members of the faith community putting aside other things and making the sacrifice. The head of the Catholic Church also noted that teachers of Religious Education have a great challenge, but encouraged them not to give up. He also expressed the hope that it was an initiative that would really take off and that many more would become involved.

The Catechetical Department is offering the *Echoes Plus Catechists’ Formation Programme* and the *VLCFF*. Interested persons may contact the Department on 226-0822 or 226-4893 for more information. ❖

In Memoriam



Aubrey Francis Collins

Remembering with love and gratitude our beloved Aubrey Francis who was called from this life on Monday, August 2nd 2010.

With thanksgiving for all he was to us:

Joan; Ian, Andrea, Naomi, Joanne; Rene, Serafin; Karen, Tatianna; O’Donna and other relatives.

May God continue to grant him eternal happiness

Thirty Catechists/Lay persons receive certificates



In a small but very significant ceremony at Bishop's House on Friday July 13th, 30 Religious Education teachers or Catechists and some other Lay persons from 11 parishes across Guyana

received Certificates of Completion from the Echoes programme and the Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation (VLCFF). The certificates from the Echoes programme means they have

successfully completed training in a number of specialized courses in Catechist Formation. The Online Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation, saw persons ([please turn to page 11](#))

East Coast Lay Ministers in one-day seminar



From Joylyn Jafferally

The day was Saturday July 21st 2018, bright and sunny. The place was St Peter's Parish Hall, Betervwagting, East Coast Demerara. Seventeen Parish Lay Assistants/Extra-ordinary Ministers of the Eucharist met to share their varied experiences in their ministries in their respective parishes.

The Parish priest for the parishes on the lower East Coast is Jesuit priest Fr. Joseph Raj SJ who is ably assisted by Fr. Paul Champerathy SJ.

I suspect that the idea to gather the PLAs/EMC to get to know each other a little bit more was born out of a request made at the

yearly pilgrimage which was held this year on March 11th at St Anthony's Church, Buxton.

The session started with a song, a reading from 1 Cor 11: 23-27 and a prayer. Fr. Paul was the moderator and he explained why it became necessary for the laity to become more involved in the different ministries in the church.

The ministry of the PLAs/EMC is a privileged one and those called to it should carry it out with dignity. Father Paul presented a brief outline of the different ministries in the Church. The ordained priests and deacons are the ordinary ministers of the Eucharist and EMC are the Extra-ordinary Ministers of the Eucharist. This ministry came about because of

the need for assistance in the distribution of the Eucharist in Mass, Eucharistic Services, visits to shut-ins and the fact that sacraments are administered individually and not community based. Father made reference to the Synoptic gospels and the institution of the Eucharist whereas St John's gospel gave the description of service as a result of the Eucharist, emphasizing the fact that the Eucharist unites us as a Christian community from the beginning and produces the various services.

We were given a brief history on some aspects and guidelines of the Church and then were divided into groups to discuss the ministries in which we are involved.

([please turn to page 11](#))

Saint of the Week



July 31st - Saint Ignatius of Loyola

The founder of the Jesuits was on his way to military fame and fortune when a cannon ball shattered his leg. Because there were no books of romance on hand during his convalescence, Ignatius whiled away the time reading a life of Christ and lives of the saints. His conscience was deeply touched, and a long, painful turning to Christ began. It was during this year of conversion that Ignatius began to write down material that later became his greatest work, the Spiritual Exercises.

He studied in Paris, and gathered companions around himself, who later became the Society of Jesus. They were effective in teaching and evangelising.

Ignatius was a true mystic. He centred his spiritual life on the essential foundations of Christianity—the Trinity, Christ, the Eucharist. His spirituality is expressed in the Jesuit motto, *ad maiorem Dei gloriam*—"for the greater glory of God." He died in 1556.

He is the Patron Saint of Retreats . ❖

On the Lighter Side



"Ask Jesus to stop multiplying the bread and fish. It's plates that we need now."