

Latin American bishops unite to help Venezuelan refugees



Venezuelans line up to cross into Colombia at the border on Feb. 16 in Paraguachon. Around 50,000 Venezuelans leave the country per month. (CNS photo/Jaime Saldarriaga, Reuters)

(CNA/EWTN News) The ongoing crisis in Venezuela has produced a tremendous flow of emigration, with thousands fleeing the instability and hyperinflation under Nicolas Maduro's socialist government to seek refuge in neighbouring countries.

Venezuelans who choose to leave their country, as with any migrant, face a plethora of obstacles, risks, and unknowns, including an increased number of neighbouring nations closing their doors, as well as the danger of falling victim to traffickers.

In a bid to help host countries support the influx of their Venezuelan neighbours and provide migrants the resources they need to integrate into their new [\(please turn to page 11\)](#)

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Sacred Heart Church hosts Portuguese Arrival Day event



President Granger and some members of the Portuguese community at Sacred Heart Church where the Ministry of Social Cohesion held an event to mark Portuguese Arrival Day (photo: Ministry of the Presidency)

The Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church on Main Street was the venue for a cultural event on May 3rd in observance of Portuguese Arrival Day.

Speaking at the event, President David Granger said that the designation of specific days to recognise the arrival and contributions of the various ethnic groups is a celebration of the plural [\(please turn to page 2\)](#)

Bishop's Engagements

Sunday May 13th

16:30 hrs - Return to Georgetown

Thursday May 17th

10:00hrs - Meet with Ursuline Sisters of Tildonk

Sunday May 20th

08:00hrs - Confirmation at Cathedral



✠ Francis Alleyne OSB



Mary welcomes us with gentleness

God Our Father, and Mary our Heavenly Mother are always at our side.

It is with good reason the eternal Father entrusted to the Blessed Virgin Mary, his only Begotten Son, so that she might give him his human nature and lead him to Calvary.

If Our Lady welcomes us with gentleness, it is only because she loves us, and that she may then place us, without any rebellion on our part,

upon the wood of the Cross, moulding us into the image of her crucified Son Jesus.

Our Lady, the most humble and pure, is a mother who begets, and raises her adopted children, bringing to fulfilment the work accomplished in her Son Jesus.

Our goal then, is the greater Glory of the most Holy Trinity.

Leon Jeetlall

EDITORIAL

The Francis revolution at five

By Michael Kelly

Sometimes it's hard to believe that it has been five years since the dreary rainswept evening when the little-known Archbishop of Buenos Aires appeared on the balcony of St Peter's Basilica having just been elected as Pope Francis.

Dressed in a simple white cassock and introducing himself to the world with an almost faltering buona sera, Francis caught the imagination.

You can't please everyone as Pope. John Paul II didn't, Benedict XVI certainly didn't and Pope Francis doesn't either.

One former president, Mary McAleese has described the Francis era as a "journey in disappointment". In this assessment, she finds herself a fellow traveller with many self-styled 'progressives' or 'traditionalists' who either accuse the Pope of not going far enough, or think that Francis has gone too far in his reform agenda for the Church.

So, what is the Pope's agenda for reform and where does it stand five years into his papacy? In his landmark apostolic exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium*, Francis sets out a vision of the Church that is more decentralised. A Church where the relationship between the centre (Rome) is balanced with the local Church. This model was the one envisaged by the Second Vatican Council in the 1960s that sought to realise the idea of collegiality – that the Pope and bishops govern the Church together.

After the tumult of Vatican II, and misconceptions in the post-conciliar era Paul VI and to a greater extent John Paul II chose centralisation as a vehicle to ensure that the Church remained united. While probably necessary at the time, that centralisation and over-emphasis on Roman authority stifled some of the creativity that could have come from the local Church. The pastoral needs of Bogotá are not the pastoral needs of Belfast.

After five years, Francis has shown that he believes the Church must be governed in a way that is more synodal – bishops, priests and people coming together to discuss the needs of the Church and discern pastoral strategy to meet those needs.

While there have been two Synods of Bishops in Rome which were widely hailed as successful and collegial, there has been precious little flesh on the bones of co-responsibility in Ireland to elsewhere.

Many Catholic people misunderstand synodality. Some fear that it is akin to turning the Church into a democracy where everything – including core teaching – is up for grabs. But, a synodal Church is not about

Dear Editor,

From its fruits you will know the quality of the tree.

The eternal Son of the Father, the Omnipotent, the Omniscient, took his human nature from Mary.

Election of Tosaos

Dear Editor,

The elections for village toshaos across the country will take place between the months of May and June 2018. Most villages have already had their nominations of their potential candidates held. For example, in Aishalton and Moruca that took place, coincidentally, on April 25th. They will have their village elections on May 25th.

During these weeks the nominated candidates vying to be leaders of their respective villages will be entering the campaign trail. I am sure it will be an interesting time as they do their research and investigations well and disclose their findings together with a blueprint for the betterment of their villages. With these it is hoped that they can convince the villages, after being listened to and evaluated by critical thinking from villagers, to elect the best candidates to lead their communities.

Editor, most of our Indigenous brothers and sisters engaged in the upcoming village elections for toshaos across Guyana are

"Christians" from the main Christian churches such as Anglicans, Evangelicals and Catholics. Given this fact it is hoped that we can see some Christian attitudes and values displayed by the candidates in the election campaign during these months in the communities.

In this context, it is hoped that there be constructive criticism. By this I mean efforts to build the other person and not to degrade him or her with filthy words. Sometimes it seems that when we fill our heads with ideas and plans we tend to lose touch with the concrete and with reality. Hence, we are blinded by a lens that keeps away the Christian and human outlook which keeps us from seeing the other as a person and fellow villager. Also, since most of the candidates are Christians and, we hope, regular church goers, especially the Catholics, it would be good to start praying for all involved in the elections at Mass and in other church worship in communities across the country.

Since it is the month of May there should also be the praying of the

Rosary for the intercession of our blessed mother Mary to help our people chose good and genuine leaders for the communities, because nowadays, in most villages the people seem not to be praying much or seeking divine intervention. Neither are they practicing moral and Christian development which goes parallel with this. Instead they tend to be obsessed with material and temporary possessions.

Editor, in conclusion, it is also hoped that the potential candidates vying for leadership in Indigenous communities across Guyana should be in consultation with the elders in their respective villages, to revisit the history of how they led their respective villages in terms of what was successful, what failed, what was challenging. The candidates should also ask their elders how to apply some of their past experience and wisdom to these times where modernity is creeping in and having impacts, mostly negative ones, on once traditional and less complex indigenous communities in Guyana.

Medino Abraham

doctrine or changing Church teaching, it is about finding a different way to be the Church where there is dialogue and a healthy tension between the People of God and the hierarchical Church. This also necessitates a certain tension between the local Church and the primacy of Rome.

Francis, in *Evangelii Gaudium* and elsewhere, has laid out a vision for a more synodal Church that it is up to bishops' conferences to run with and individual bishops to try to implement in their dioceses.

Few have taken up this challenge, so far.

Authentic reform in the Church doesn't come by being imposed from the top down, it comes from the margins – from people discerning together what God is calling forth from the Church in every particular era.

By underlining this fact, Francis has laid the groundwork for a Catholic future that is more collegial and more dialogical. But the Pope is only one man, and it's wrong to be constantly looking upwards as if Francis signing a decree in Rome will reinvigorate a struggling parish.

Each local Christian community has to take responsibility for the transmission of the Gospel in their own milieu – Francis can provide the model, but he can't situate it in every parish. That remains the call – and challenge – of his papal vision five years on. ❖

Sacred Heart Church hosts Portuguese Arrival Day event (From Front Page)

character of the Guyanese nation and is intended to support the overall objective of social cohesion. He added that the Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church stands as a monument to the Portuguese presence in Guyana.

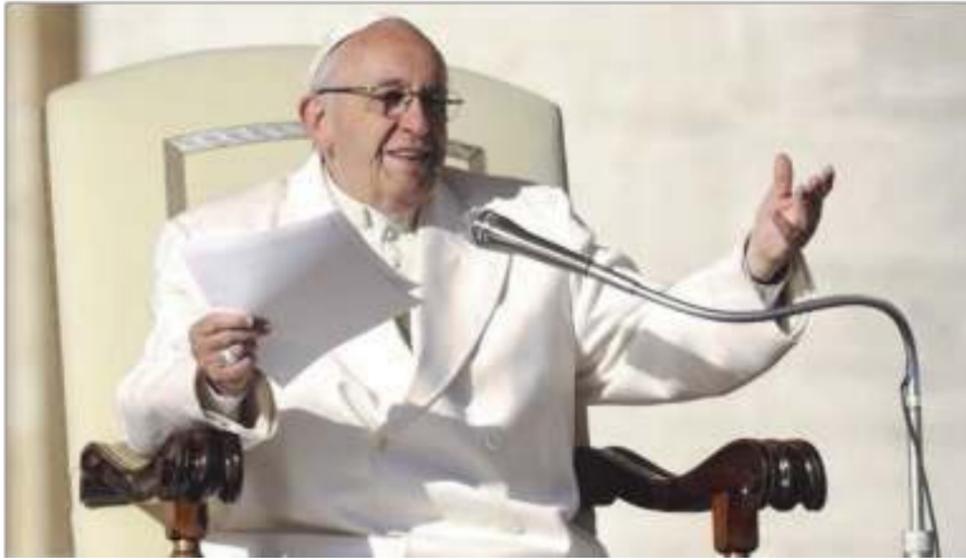
According to a statement from the Ministry of the Presidency, Honorary Consul for Portugal to Guyana, Mr. Michael Correia expressed his appreciation to President Granger for designating a day to commemorate the arrival of Portuguese so that Guyanese, as a nation, can recognise and celebrate their contributions to nation-building and economic growth. He pointed out, also, that while the society is made up of people of different ethnic origins and cultures, they are one people who share a common destiny. "While we acknowledge our past and from where we came, let us also use occasions like this to recognise who we are as a nation and who we are as a people, the MoP statement said.

The Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church has played a significant role in the historical and religious development of Catholicism in Guyana. Its rich history began over 160 years ago when Jesuit priest Father Benedict Schembri, who came to the then British Guiana in 1835 to be the pastor for the Portuguese community, purchased the plot of land on Main Street to begin construction.

On Christmas morning 2004, the Sacred Heart church, school and presbytery were completely gutted by fire. The church was 143 years old. After much debate on whether or not to rebuild the church a decision was finally made to do so.

It was also the site on which the Charismatic movement here was founded and it was identified as a Heritage Site of both cultural and architectural interest. ❖

Pope denounces “fake news” in World Communications Day message



Pope Francis delivers his speech during his weekly general audience, in St. Peter's Square, at the Vatican, Jan. 24, 2018. (Credit: Andrew Medichini/AP.)

ROME - At a time when “fake news” is spreading, Pope Francis is calling on journalists, “protectors of the news,” to rediscover the dignity of their profession and the responsibility they have to communicate the truth.

The pontiff also said that the first fake news is found in the book of Genesis, when the “crafty serpent” tempted the woman “by pretending to be her friend,” to eat from the tree of knowledge of good and evil.

Francis said. “This biblical episode brings to light an essential element for our reflection: There is no such thing as harmless disinformation; on the contrary, trusting in falsehood can have dire consequences.”

Hence, the pontiff said, the need to unmask the “snake-tactics” used by those who disguise themselves in order to “strike at any time.” That first fake news, Francis added, began “the tragic history of human sin, issuing in

the countless other evils committed against God, neighbor, society and creation.”

Francis’s words came in the annual message for the 52nd Vatican-sponsored World Communications Day, to be marked on May 13, on the Sunday previous to Pentecost. The theme he chose for the 2018 commemoration is “‘The truth will set you free’ (Jn 8:32). Fake news and journalism for peace.”

The message was released in January, one week after President Donald Trump released the “Fake News Awards,” presented on the GOP webpage as a response to 2017’s “unrelenting bias, unfair news coverage, and even downright fake news. Studies have shown that over 90 percent of the media’s coverage of President Trump is negative.”

Francis began his message by noting that this is not the first time the papal

message for this date speaks to the issue of truth, but he was inspired to go back to it due to the proliferation of fake news.

The pontiff acknowledged that the term fake news has been the object of debate. However, in general, “it refers to the spreading of disinformation online or in the traditional media.” Fake news, Francis wrote, has to do with false information that is based on non-existent or distorted data, and that is meant to deceive and manipulate the reader.

“Spreading fake news can serve to advance specific goals, influence political decisions, and serve economic interests,” he wrote.

It is a sign of “intolerant and hypersensitive attitudes,” leading only to the spread of “arrogance and hatred.”

“The tragedy of disinformation is that it discredits others, presenting them as enemies, to the point of demonizing them and fomenting conflict,” he said.

Fake news is primarily effective because it mimics real news, he said, and because it grasps people’s attention by appealing to stereotypes and common social prejudice, exploiting emotions such as anxiety, contempt, anger and frustration.

“Untrue stories can spread so quickly that even authoritative denials fail to contain the damage,” he said.

The best antidote against falsehoods, the pontiff argued, is people who are ready to listen, who engage in honest dialogue so the truth can emerge, and who are attracted by goodness and are responsible in the way they use language.

“If responsibility is the answer to the spread of fake news, then a weighty responsibility rests on the shoulders of those ([please turn to page 4](#))

Upcoming Events

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Saturday May 19th: 13:00 - 16:00 hrs and 16:30 - 19:30 hrs

Sunday May 20th: 14:00 - 17:00 hrs

For more information, please call the Catechetical Department on 226-0822 or 226-4893.

Saturday May 19th

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Pope’s Intentions

May Monthly Intention:

The Mission of the Laity

That the lay faithful may fulfil their specific mission, by responding with creativity to the challenges that face the world today. ❖

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A Christian Perspective on Social Issues



**Turn up,
tune out,
tilt away**
(Part I)

By GHK Lall

Ask those who have physically separated themselves from institutionalized religion, including the Catholic Church, and quite a few would voice a disconcerting, inconvenient answer. It is a frequent response that is as unsurprising, as it is unpleasant. It is not about church teachings (although there is the occasional hearing of that); rather, it is that the attitude and atmosphere that prevail within the confines of God's sacred space is noticeably inhospitable and lacking in friendliness. According to those complaining and since distancing themselves, the ambience is best described by any of the following 2-word combinations: not receptive; not welcoming; not Christian.

Whenever and however looked at, and no matter how ignored or denied, this prompts some of those who are earnestly seeking to find Christ, or to draw closer to him to turn up, tune out, and tilt away. They tilt away in a hurry through the distaste of lingering memories that whisper go away and stay away. In time, they tilt away and hurry away to the many other congregations waiting and beckoning with the warmth of embracing fellowship. These are houses of Christian worship continuously engaged in the work of attracting, converting, and retaining new adherents to the faith. There is interest and energy in these places.

To put all of this in perspective, an example could prove to be of some help. It is a familiar one that needs no great emphasis, and ought to reinforce the point raised. Most citizens who go to a place of business to conduct some routine (purchase of a good, obtain a service, get an answer) arrive with certain expectations of what is offered, and should be expected at a barest minimum. Unless there are unusual circumstances, they would have a problem if essential elements of what is being sought (and should be there) are missing; and if they are treated coldly or distantly or not at all by those manning the pathways of the establishment. Any or all of this would be resented, sometimes sharply. Silence and aloofness from the staff would contribute to a feeling of disconnect; there is that peculiar strangeness of being in the wrong place amidst the wrong people. The pretense of not noticing; or being otherwise engaged, along with an overall poor attitude, all incur growing impatience, displeasure, and disgust. Some of the objects of such reception bottle up their dismay and return; others move on never to come back. In most instances, the disappointed and angry do something more damaging: they spread the word of this or that place having a reputation for treating people poorly, and a place with which to not do business; a place of bad practices. In next to no time, this catches on and spreads. In the daily commerce of human interac-

tion, this is the fallout from turning up, tuning out, and tilting away. In sum, it is bad impression, bad feeling, bad image, bad words, and bad consequences.

This secular illustration has found rich soil in the grounds of the Catholic Church. Rather dispiritingly, the wellsprings of the church: some of those who serve, read, lead, minister, reflect, proclaim, and do much more are among those who have come to embody the unwelcoming and the disturbing. It has to be said. Those who talk of loving, of bonding, of humbling, of learning, and of all the other profound Christian virtues that inspire and bring a glow are among those turning backs and setting faces into the granite of chilly unwelcoming. For when the preaching stops, so do everything else. There are no supporting actions. There is little by way of personal dedication to implementing the lessons shared and reinforced; to practicing the sacred truths proclaimed; and to living the life exhorted, if not commanded, in all those sometimes powerful stirring messages.

Very strong passionate arguments could be made, and accurately so, that those in attendance in places of business, whether private or public, are being paid for their presence; that basic professionalism and any baseline code of conduct would demand better standards and delivery; and that quality training would be helpful and made mandatory. There is the further assertion (also well-received) that, unlike hired hands in a for-profit enterprise, those who take the lead in church and serve are unpaid volunteers giving willingly of precious time and energies in a not-for-profit context, and a purely spiritual one at that. (cont'd next week).



Pope denounces "fake news" (From P3)

whose job is to provide information, namely, journalists, the protectors of news," Francis wrote, with italics in the original.

Being journalists, according to the pontiff, is not only a job but a mission, and amid the "feeding frenzies and the mad rush for a scoop," they're called to remember that persons - not speed or audience impact - are at the heart of information.

Hence, he argued, accurate sources and protecting communication are ways of promoting goodness and generating trust, "opening the way to communion and peace."

A journalism of peace, Francis added, does not mean a "saccharin kind of journalism," that doesn't acknowledge the existence of problems or that is full of sentimentalism. On the contrary, a journalism of peace is one that is truthful, and devoid of rhetorical slogans and sensational headlines.

"A journalism created by people for people, one that is at the service of all, especially those - and they are the majority in our world - who have no voice," he said. "A journalism less concentrated on breaking news than on exploring the underlying causes of conflicts, in order to promote deeper understanding and contribute to their resolution by setting in place virtuous processes. A journalism committed to pointing out alternatives to the escalation of shouting matches and verbal violence."

Falsehood, Francis said, "can always creep in," even when what's stated is true: an argument can rest on undeniable facts, but if it's used to hurt or discredit a person, to provoke quarrels,

foment division or encourage resignation, however correct the argument may appear, "it is not truthful."

To counter fake news, Francis highlighted the importance of education, which gives people the tools to discern and understand "our deepest desires and inclinations, lest we lose sight of what is good and yield to every temptation," the role of tech and media companies, and the institutional and legal initiatives aimed at curbing the phenomenon.

Since his election to the papacy, the Argentine pontiff has fallen prey to fake news in various instances. For instance, during the 2016 election cycle there was a story circulated widely on social media which falsely reported that he had endorsed then-candidate Trump.

The need for the clarification came after a Catholic organization in Argentina, the Pope Francis Foundation, launched a "Wabot-Papa Francisco," a chatbot that allegedly allows users to contact the pope and keep up-to-date with his schedule.

Also in late 2017, a Northern Irish radio called "Q Radio" suggested the pontiff could visit Northern Ireland in August 2018 in the company of Queen Elizabeth II, while he's in Ireland for the August 21-26 World Meeting of Families in Dublin.

While there are grounds to think Francis may want to head north of the border while he's on the Emerald Isle in order to lend his support to the peace process, there's no real indication he would do so in the company of the 91-year-old queen. ❖

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Sunday Scripture

May 13th -The Ascension of the Lord, Year B

FIRST READING

Acts 1:1-11

He was lifted up while they looked on.

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. "It is," he had said, "what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit."

Now having met together, they asked him, "Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom of Israel?" He replied, "It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth."

As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, "Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there."

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 46

**Response: God goes up with shouts of joy;
the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.**

- All peoples, clap your hands,
cry to God with shouts of joy!
For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear,
great king over all the earth. *Response*



- God goes up with shouts of joy;
the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.
Sing praise for God, sing praise,
sing praise to our king, sing praise. *Response*
- God is king of all the earth.
Sing praise with all your skill.
God is king over the nations;
God reigns on his holy throne. *Response*

SECOND READING

Ephesians 1:17-23

He made him sit at his right hand in heaven.

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of

what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit and how infinitely great is the power that he has exercised for us believers. This you can tell from the strength of his power at work in Christ, when he used it to raise him from the dead and to make him sit at his right hand, in heaven, far above every Sovereignty, Authority, Power, or Domination, or any other name that can be named, not only in this age, but also in the age to come. He has put all things under his feet, and made him, as the ruler of everything, the head of the Church; which is his body, the fullness of him who fills the whole creation.

Gospel acclamation Mt 28: 19

Alleluia, alleluia!

*Go, make disciples of all the nations;
I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.
Alleluia!*

GOSPEL

Mark 16:15-20

He was taken up into heaven; there at the right hand of God he took his place.

Jesus showed himself to the Eleven, and said to them, "Go out to the whole world, proclaim the Good News to all creation. He who believes and is baptised will be saved; he who does not believe will be condemned. These are the signs that will be associated with believers: in my name they will cast out devils; they will have the gift of tongues; they will pick up snakes with their hands, and be unharmed should they drink deadly poison; they will lay their hands on the sick, who will recover."

And so the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven: there at the right hand of God he took his place, while they, going out, preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word by the signs that accompanied it. ❖



By: The Diocesan Stewardship
Council of Guyana

We often cite Jesus' quote from today's Gospel of Mark: "Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature." This was not a suggestion from the Lord. It was quite frankly a command, and it is one which still holds for each of us. Being an evangelist, being a disciple, being a steward is not a matter of choice for those of us who are Catholic and Christian. It is something the Lord expects of us.

Often we may like to spend time debating how to do that, but that does not lessen the fact that it is something we are supposed to do. We need to acknowledge that even the original Apostles and followers of Jesus did not do that immediately. We learn that they stayed in Jerusalem for some time, and it seemed to be only when the Church and its followers were persecuted that they began to reach out and truly share the "Good News." Once Christians accepted that charge from the Lord, they did indeed take the Word of God to all corners of the

earth. Look at the Church today. It is incredible how this Church has grown from one Man/God and a small group into what it is today. That does not, however, get us "off the hook."

As much as we may argue about how to carry out this command from Jesus, the fact remains that our very lives need to stand as a representation of what it means to be a Christian, what it means to "love one another," what it means to live and to work as a disciple of Christ. ❖

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

Gospel Reflection



Fr. Michael Barrow SJ is away, and will be back on May 25th

The Ascension of Jesus to the Father does not represent his removal from the earth. It means that he is now constantly present everywhere, no longer limited to a region of the world and a moment in human history. Being united with God suggests that wherever God is found, Jesus is there also. And we can be sure that he is with us also while we strive to be witnesses for him in the world. How? We are his hands to raise up the fallen, his feet to walk among the lost, his eyes to see the tears of the suffering, his ears to listen to the lonely, his tongue to speak his words of comfort to the sad, his heart to love the unloved. We have to accept this challenge as part of our mission as Christians.

In the Gospel passage, the disciples are challenged to go out to all nations to preach the Good News. Today, this challenge is extended to us. It is a great privilege to do so but, at the same time, it is also an awesome task because it involves getting people to believe in the Gospel message. The values of today's society seem to encourage rejection of what the Gospel stands for. It is also a sad fact that there is much unbelief in our world because of the poor witness given by those who claim to believe in Jesus. It is clear, then, that the best way to preach the Gospel is to live it, that is, to live the Christian life. My behaviour as a Christian will influence and encourage non-believers or half-believers to either accept or reject the Gospel. Therefore, in a sense, they begin to read the Gospel through me before they ever pick up the book. ❖

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

Antilles Episcopal Conference Message for World Communications Day 2018

New Wine, New Wineskins

No one sews a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old garment; if he does, the patch tears away from it, the new from the old, and a worse tear is made. And no one puts new wine into old wineskins; if he does, the wine will burst the skins, and the wine is lost, and so are the skins; but new wine is for fresh skins. - Mark 2:21, 22

One friend lives on the slopes of the mountain and is content to roam the little hills and valleys around his home and neighbourhood, and is comfortable there; another dares to climb to the highest point and journey beyond what the eye could see – to a whole new world.

Two ways, not mutually exclusive, are continually open to us: one suggests we stay where we are, on the turf we know well; the other beckons us to push forward.

The celebration of World Communications Day 2018 comes at a time when the age of acceleration, as the present has been dubbed, places us in new situations, sometimes giving us solutions to problems we do not have, but at other times promising to open up, in various disciplines, marvellous opportunities that fill us with hope.

This World Communications Day (WCD) gives us the opportunity once more to reflect on communication issues and to bring attention once more to the worthy profession of journalism made so by the “most wonderful” of gifts, communication.

The spawn of fake news, aided to a great extent by the pervasiveness of social media and the dumbing down of the gatekeeper role that has been a feature of traditional media, demands a restating of the high ideals of journalism in our time. Pope Francis dedicates this year's WCD message to the issue of truth and “rediscovering the dignity of journalism and the personal responsibility of journalists to communicate the truth”. Key to arriving at the truth we seek today must be an appreciation of the sacredness of communication.

1. Communication

Communication in earlier times was synonymous with exploration and opening up of new frontiers. It went hand in hand with transportation and easily came to be associated with the transmission of information. But from the start, communication implied participation and sharing – a more ritualistic model, as communication theorist James W Carey argued.

In a ritual definition, communication is linked to terms such as “sharing,” “participation,” “association,” “fellowship,” and “the possession of common faith.” ... A ritual view of

communication is directed not toward the extension of messages in space but toward the maintenance of society in time; not the act of imparting information but the representation of shared beliefs.

Communication is as important for human existence as it is for the life of the Church. We can even say the Church is communication. The Church's two-fold mission of gathering and sending forth requires communication. The Pastoral Letter, *New Ways of Being Church in a Digital Milieu* (AEC 2017) begins by stating, “Good News to the poor is the mission and goal of all pastoral communications” (no.1). Indeed, the Church is a ‘communications network’ meant to bring all Christians into union with God and to sustain them on their journey to him. “Communications,” said Cardinal Avery Dulles, “is at the heart of what the Church is all about. The Church exists to bring men into communion with each other.”

Communication happens only in interplay with the symbolic environment, the culture and technology of the time. Church communication cannot hope to be effective without drawing upon the popular culture, learning from it and impacting it.

New Ways of Being Church states, “Through signs, gestures, words, books, moving images, audio and social communications, the Church has sought to proclaim her message so that all people will hear it in their own native language” (no. 1).

It adds, “as Church, we desire to call forth the artistic giftedness of women and men within our faith communities to assist us in our mission in the digital milieu” and recalls the words of Pope John Paul II,

In order to communicate the message entrusted to her by Christ, the Church needs art ... Art has a unique capacity to take one or other facet of the message and translate it into colours, shapes and sounds, which nourish the intuition of those who look or listen (no. 18).

It is not enough to push against the boundaries, to stretch the limits of our understanding or work. The time comes when it is necessary to start afresh, to begin again. Indeed, the circumstances will urge us to start anew. It will be necessary then to resist settling for the comfortable, to dare, to take the risk.

2. Cooperation

A too often unacknowledged feature of our human experience is a sacramental dimension – the ability to make visible or create through signs and words, and through art in all its

forms what is invisible – making communication possible. In other words, art, in all its forms, and artists can play a sacramental and prophetic role in our societies today. We are all communicators but, in a way, we are mystics too. In his book *Painting and Reality*, theologian Etienne Gilson, reflecting on the connection between the religious dimension and the creative process, concludes that the source of the exhilarating feeling that some artists experience may arise from their interaction with the “creative power from which all the beauties of art as well as nature ultimately proceed”.

Church communicators need to listen to the other voices in our Caribbean culture that speak with a sense of the Infinite, that reach beyond the limits of our day-to-day existence.

Of course, not all art, or all artists as they proceed in their spiritual odysseys, will aid the mission of the Church today; the packaging of the content may obstruct and detract. This means that as Church the function of educating our people in appreciating the symbolic forms of communication, in interpreting them and making use of them in catechesis will always be an important one.

From one territory to another, throughout our region, music, including calypsos and songs in popular culture, film and fine art, provide a rich resource to open doors to the sacred and move us beyond the limits of our everyday living to imagine our best selves and contemplate the Giver of all good gifts. When truth is pursued as the highest good, little room is left for “fake news”.

3. Collaboration

A Church that understands participation, fellowship and association as critical to communication will necessarily speak the language of collaboration. Collaboration can only begin when groups or individuals recognise they have something in common. It is built on the foundations of communication and cooperation. There is no collaboration without communication and cooperation.

Collaboration among a people of faith requires that they see one another as gift and be willing to engage in the mission they see as worth staking their lives on. For that reason only those in communion, those sharing a common language of faith, can truly collaborate.

The Integrated Pastoral Communications Plan (IPCP), instituted by the AEC in 2017, demands collaboration. The IPCP calls dioceses to share their communication skills for the development of ([please turn to page 7](#))

Ascension Parish SSVP starts sewing project

The Saint Vincent DePaul group at Ascension parish in New Amsterdam, Berbice, has launched a sewing project to generate the finances needed to support the group's charitable activities.

The project was launched last April after the group acquired two sewing machines, materials and a generator.

At first the group will be sewing mosquito nets and bed sheets. These will be sold to members of the parish initially and later to the general public.

This project was discussed with the president of the Superior Council in Guyana, Mr. Winston Playter, treasurer, Mr. Dwane Lopes and Mr. John Wild of an SSVP conference in the UK with which the Guyana SSVP is twinned.

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

The local body would like to express its gratitude to Mr. Wild and others in the UK for reaching out to brothers and sisters in Guyana.

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

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

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



Journeying with the Word of God



MAKING THE WORD OF GOD YOUR OWN

Step 1: Look at today's Readings prayerfully.

1st Reading: The First Reading describes the Ascension of Jesus into heaven and his promise to send the Holy Spirit to his apostles.

2nd Reading: Paul describes the meaning of the Ascension, which is that God has raised Jesus above all earthly powers and made him not only head of the Church but Lord of all creation.

Gospel: Before ascending to the Father, Christ instructs his apostles to preach the Gospel to the whole world. This challenge to evangelise is directed to us too.

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

1. Jesus gives the apostles (and us) the task to go out and evangelise the world. The most effective way to preach the Gospel is to live the Christian life. What do you think such a life demands of us who say we believe?
2. The disciples have been commissioned to preach the good news to all nations. Give a concrete example to how Jesus has been "good news" to you?
3. Do you really believe that the signs mentioned by Jesus as being associated with believers to be taken seriously?
4. How do you feel challenged by the message of the Gospel that speaks of spreading the Good News? In what way do you feel equipped to take up this challenge?

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

As Christians we are a people with a message for the world. Even though we may be timid and fearful like the first disciples, we know that we can spread this message by the very way we live our lives and by the relationships we have with others. And while we share this message with the world, we know we are not on our own. The Spirit of the Lord is with us always.

Step 4: Something to think & pray about

1. Christian mission demands that we examine ourselves so as to identify our strengths and weaknesses and the special gifts God has given to each of us. Try to identify your special gift or talent that you can carry to your mission to evangelise. Do you feel you need to work at developing your gifts and talents?
2. Pray that God will inspire you so that you may take on the task of spreading the good news of Jesus with confidence and pride. ❖

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

New Wine, New Wineskins (From Page 6)

the region, for proclaiming the kingdom of God and preaching the Good News to the poor (Lk 4:18,19). It invites each diocese "to embrace a bold, prophetic, missionary stance for both understanding the digital milieu for communicating faith and for reimagining how to nurture collaborative ministries" within the AEC and in each member diocese (no. 45). So what takes place at the regional level is mirrored in each diocese, with representatives of various ministries working together to design a plan that draws on the skills and the gifts that lie within each ministry to further the work of these ministries and the mission of the local Church.

The Church is called in this time to a new evangelisation: one that is new in its method, new in creativity and new in its zeal. Although the Church has been

instituted once and for all, each generation steeped in its own culture must appropriate it anew. It needs to collaborate with artists inside the Church as part of the IPCP design, but it needs to work with artists on the outside as well. The Church cannot be afraid to look beyond the accustomed, well-travelled paths. The apostle James reminds us, on the one hand, that we are to "receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls", but also to "be doers of the word, and not hearers only" (James 1:21, 22).

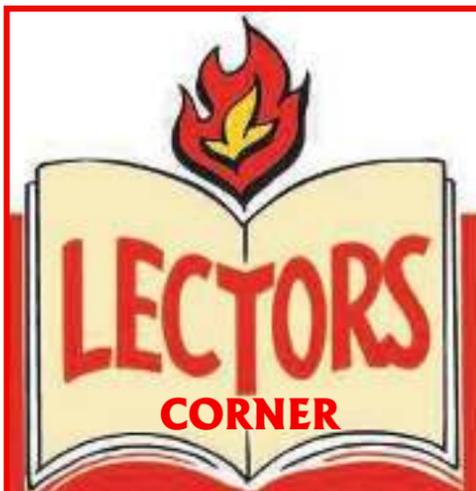
It is in this age when the moral fabric of our societies have been weakened by a persistent and ever intrusive technological environment that something more is demanded by those who communicate the faith and by those who work in the field of journalism. It is also in challenging times like

the present, times also of great paradox and mystery, that the arid landscape can be touched by a sweet grace that causes spectacular flowers to bloom because communication is of God himself.

For this reason we face the present with great hope, sustained by the knowledge that outside and within the Church where communication is of its very purpose, God, who never takes back his word, will be faithful (Is 55:11).

Through the intercession and inspiration of our Blessed Mother may we renew our commitment to proclaim new life and salvation through Jesus Christ. And may the grace of God accompany us in our great enterprise of communicating his tender and loving mercy to the world.

Happy World Communications Day to all! ❖



Proclaiming the Word of God

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

May 13th: The Ascension of the Lord (B)



"He was taken up into heaven: there at the right hand of God he took his place."

The Word This Week

Ascension is not just a feast that happens to fall in Eastertide: it is an integral part of the Easter mystery. Remember the Lord's words at the Last Supper: "I am going to prepare a place for, and after I have gone and prepared you a place, I shall return to take you with me." The resurrection presumes the Lord's return to the Father. This is therefore a feast of hope: our hope in the Lord's return, as he went. Our hope that he will take us with him, when our bodies are raised as his was. Our hope that we will take our place in heaven, where he sits on the Father's right.

Notes for Readers

First Reading: Acts of the Apostles 1:1-11

The writer is Saint Luke, and the first lines of this reading are a link

between the Gospel which bears his name and this book. The Gospel dealt with everything Jesus said and did until he was taken up into heaven; Acts will tell the story of what happened next. The first paragraph is a summary of what happened in the forty days between the resurrection and today: Jesus "showed himself alive to them" (the Apostles) and instructed them. In the second paragraph they have gathered together (later Luke tells us it was on top of the Mount of Olives) to receive their final instruction – a promise of power, when the Holy Spirit will come down upon them. And with this power will come a task: to witness to all of this throughout the whole world. Then, in the mysterious last paragraph, Jesus disappears from sight, and a second promise is made: that he will return. One interesting point: this is one of only a handful of occasions when the words of the Lord Jesus appear outside the Gospel. You, as the reader, today have an even greater responsibility, because you proclaim not just the words of the prophets, or Peter or Paul, but of the Lord Jesus himself. If in your prayer and preparation you think about this it will give your proclamation a power that will enter the minds and hearts of those listening.

Second Reading: Ephesians 1:17-23

In the first half of this reading, there are three key concepts: hope, glory and power, which are gifts for us. Where do we find this hope and glory? What power has God exercised for us? Paul gives the answer in the second half (beginning from "This you can tell...") We know about these things because of the resurrection and ascension. Because Christ has been raised, because Christ now "fills the whole creation", THEREFORE we know that God gives us hope, God promises us glory, and God exercises power on our behalf. This is a difficult reading to proclaim: you must understand the way the two halves fit together. If you catch the passionate quality of the second sentence, it will help to get this reading across: underline "so that you can see...", "rich glories" and "infinitely great", and then in the next line emphasise "This you can tell..."



May 20th: Pentecost Sunday (B)

"The Spirit of truth will lead you to the complete truth."

The Word This Week

We arrive at the fiftieth day - the completion of the Easter Season, and the completion of the Paschal Mystery: the Lord has died, is risen, has ascended to heaven and now gives



birth to his Church, by sending the Spirit upon the apostles. This feast of the gift of the Spirit is so significant for us, because it marks the handing on of Jesus' ministry to the Church - in the Church we are guaranteed the presence of the Lord, in his sacraments, in his ministers, in the Blessed Sacrament and in his Celebrated Word. It also marks the fulfilment of our thoughts about baptism throughout this season: the gift of the Spirit which we receive in Confirmation is the 'seal' of our baptism, guaranteeing and confirm-ing all that baptism achieves.

Notes for Readers

First Reading: Acts of the Apostles 11-11.

The meaning of this reading is obvious: it is the story of this day. There is a great sense of mystery in the first paragraph, seen in the words 'what sounded like' and '1 something that seemed like' - almost as if Luke cannot quite find the words to describe the experience. You must ensure that amazement and astonishment is present in your voice throughout the second paragraph. Don't worry about the list of strange names - but make sure you practice them out loud beforehand: it would be a shame if the reading were spoiled because your tongue 'tripped up' over "Phrygia and Pamphylia"!

Second Reading: Galatians 5:16-25.

This reading tells us all what the Spirit actually does. The key word to emphasise (in a sense) is the "you" in the first line. As we have said before, the reading of Scripture is a here and now experience. We aren't just celebrating something that happened on Pentecost Sunday two thousand years ago, but celebrating a reality today. Remember this as you read. Be careful with the lists, both of vices and of virtues: don't gallop through them, but read thoughtfully and by that encourage your listeners to listen thoughtfully! Without acting or overdramatising, there can be a difference in tone between the negative things and the wonderful, positive gifts of the Spirit. ❖

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

The Catholic Charismatic Renewal

Extends an invitation to all to spend a night in prayer at the

All Night Pentecost Vigil



8:00pm Saturday May 19th - 6:00 am Sunday May 20th, 2018

at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Brickdam

- Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
- 6th Life in the Spirit Seminar
- Laying on of hands for the Baptism of the Holy Spirit
- Holy Ghost filled Praise and Worship
- Burning of Letters to the Lord
- Testimonies
- Mary's Hour – Crowning of Mary and Praying the Rosary
- Mass at 6:00am

A Blessing is in Store for Everyone



Children's Page

Dear Boys and Girls,

As you all know, today Sunday, May 13th is Mother's Day. Today people honour their mothers. What are you going to do to show your mother how wonderful and special she is?

Matthew 19:19- honour thy father and thy mother...



The Ascension

Today is the solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord. Can you imagine how the apostles felt when they saw Jesus disappear into the heavens?

Jesus had risen from the dead 40 days before and in order to fulfill his role completely, he had to ascend into heaven.

The apostles must have once more felt alone. However, Jesus had to leave so that the Holy Spirit would descend upon them and give them all they needed to perform the work God had commanded them to do.

The Ascension of Jesus told the apostles, and tells us today, that Jesus' presence with us will no longer be the same as it was.

He is always with us but in a different way. He is with us by the grace of baptism and the other sacraments in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus expects us to be responsible enough to spread the good news and share our spiritual gifts with our friends.

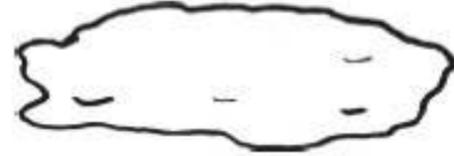
Have a Spirit-filled week. ✨

ASCENSION

Shade in the letters with a star (*) to reveal the meaning of today's feast.

D	J	E	S	U	S	V	G	O	E	S	E
	*	*	*	*	*		*	*	*	*	
H	O	B	A	C	K	U	M	T	O	P	X
		*	*	*	*			*	*		
Y	E	W	H	E	A	V	E	N	K	R	L
			*	*	*	*	*	*			

Jesus spoke to the apostles for the last time. Then he was lifted up – a cloud came and they could see him no more!



Draw Jesus covered by the cloud and the apostles looking up on the hill.



Colour me!

"Her children rise up and call her blessed."

Proverbs 31:28



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

- ELEVEN
- AUTHORITY
- NATIONS
- FATHER
- MOUNTAIN
- HEAVEN
- BAPTISE
- SON
- FELL
- EARTH
- NAME
- SPIRIT



Raising children is not an exact science because every child has individual unique needs, temperament, and passions. Parents are often faced with questions and issues they don't know how to deal with, so they turn to family, friends or blogs for information about what to do when they encounter problems.

If only there was a guide that could provide us with the answers when we needed them, it would be so much easier for us, but since we know that every child is unique and doesn't fit the same mould, it's impossible to create such a perfect manual. Until they do come up with the ultimate parent's handbook, we can make use of the following tips which will give us a little insight into what can be done in cases that occur on a daily basis for almost every family around the world.

Give them instructions with a positive attitude. Older people can analyse instructions and understand the logic behind them in a fraction of a second, so they tend not to argue. In children, on the other hand, the ability to draw conclusions or understand the consequences of their actions sometimes requires a long and exhausting explanation, so the instructions must be clear, concise and positive, not negative.

For example: If children walk onto the street don't tell them "don't walk on the street," rather say, "walk on the sidewalk because it is much safer." When we describe only negative behaviour like "don't run," we still leave them with many other options, such as skipping or jumping, therefore, its best to tell them "walk slowly, please," because then they have no other way of understanding what we mean.

Appreciate children and encourage them to practice what they are good at. Some parents underestimate their children's ability to perform different types of tasks and thereby undermine

Raising Children



By Chris & Noelma Lam

their desire to invest in and achieve their goals in many areas. If we only know how to appreciate them and show them that we expect them to give things their all, but not by force or coercion, it will make them want to invest more and even to succeed. Help them improve their strengths far more than their weaknesses. Doing so will lead to them specializing in a specific field and becoming successful in it.

Praise children who behave well. A good word is an appreciation for something good you have done, and nothing contributes to self-confidence more than praise for good behaviour. In children the desire for appreciation is even greater than that of adults, so it is very important to praise them when possible.

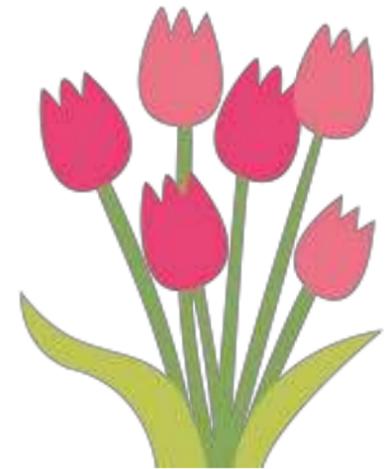
Don't hold back curiosity. Children are curious by nature, and on almost any subject they will have at least one question if not more. Our role as parents is to provide answers to the things that intrigue them, but of course, these answers need to match the child's age and cognitive level. Parents are all familiar with the "why" and "what is this" stage, and most just answer these short questions with

short answers. As the child grows, the questions become more complex and we don't always have an answer to each question, so know that it isn't shameful to tell a child that you don't know the answer and you can always offer to research it together, whether on Goggle, Wikipedia or any other site that can provide you with a good answer.

Learning from mistakes builds confidence. Everyone makes mistakes - but the trick is to learn from them, because a person who is afraid of mistakes learns nothing. So if your child wants to do something new, encourage them to try, provided that it is not something that is life-threatening or criminal. If they tried and didn't succeed, don't judge or criticize them, since most children are afraid to fail for fear of disappointing or angering their parents. Do your job and urge your children to try again if possible or try to make them feel better. Good support at such time builds confidence and improves their abilities in the future while strengthening the bond between both of you.

Teach them everything you know. If you ask a young child what they want to be when they grow up, their answer will probably be: "like dad/mom." Parents are heroes in their kid's eyes, at least until they hit puberty, because parents are the characters in the story of their lives who are always there to rescue and protect them. Knowledge is power, so use it to teach them how to think, act and speak, and be role models for them. Your kids always have their eyes on you, whether or not you're aware, therefore, it's important not to show them that you are worried, convey success and strength even if it's a little hard - this will only help your children succeed in life and increase their desire to do the same thing in the future. ❖

HAPPY Mother's DAY



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TitBits

-- This Week's Reflection:

May is a special month when we honour Mary as our Queen. For centuries, the Catholic Church has set aside the month of May to honour Mary, Mother of God. Mary's journey as a mother, from a crib in Bethlehem to a cross in Jerusalem gives each of us an opportunity for reflection.

Consider where Mary gave birth to Jesus - in a rough shelter meant for animals. Dark, dirty, and without comfort for mother or baby. Sadly, the conditions of the manger in Bethlehem continue to be a reality for many women in the remote areas of our country. They may have no other choice than to give birth at home without running water or skilled care. Some are forced to walk for hours to deliver

at a rustic health facility lacking equipment and medicines. In the worst, most dangerous cases - when the baby arrives unexpectedly - women must give birth wherever they are, including on the side of a dirt road, without any support at all. Let us pray for all mothers in this special month. God Bless You! Have a Great Week!

-- This Week's Bible Question:

Q. To what animal does Solomon's lover compare him?

-- This Week's Teaser:

Q: How do hair stylists speed up their job?

-- Today's Bible Verse:

You shall no longer be Forsaken... For the Lord delights in you." - Isaiah 62:4:

-- Today's Marriage Tip:

Humour can lighten a stressful situation in life. Look for an opportunity today to lighten your beloved's life

with a touch of humour.

-- Humour:

"Has your son decided what he wants to be when he grows up?" A friend asked Little Johnny's Mom.

"He wants to be a garbage man," she replied.

"That's an unusual ambition to have at such a young age."

"Not really. He thinks that garbage men work only on Tuesdays."

-- Signs Found at Church:

Fight truth decay - study the Bible daily.

-- This Week's Truism:

Dreams come true if you work hard enough.

-- Answer to Bible Question:

A gazelle or a young stag - see Song of Solomon 2:9 My beloved is like a gazelle or a young stag.

-- Answer to Teaser:

They take short cuts! ❖

Mind Puzzler Corner

Our Last Brain Teaser was:

You hear me speak, for I have a hard tongue.

But I cannot breathe, for I have no lung.

What am I?

Answer: A bell.

This Week's Brain Teaser:

I am, in truth, a yellow fork

From tables in the sky

What am I?

Look for the Answer next week

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A MOTHER'S LOVE

Viewpoint

by Vibert Parvatan

Stories first heard at a mother's knee are never wholly forgotten – a little spring that never quite dries up in our journey through scorching years.

- GIOVANNI RUFFINI

Each year in the month of May, Mother's Day is observed in many lands. The programmes and celebrations allow children, fathers and others to purposefully pay attention to Mothers in general, and their own Mother in particular. In that situation, there is always the process of looking back at the years gone by and the relationship with and influences of Mothers. So like most of you, at this time I reflect.

May slogans capture the love, admiration, appreciation and gratitude, which sons and daughters have, or should have, for that wonderful person called – MOTHER, MAMA, MA, MUMMY OR MOM.

Those observing the day will fall into several categories. There are those children whose Mothers have already left the earthly life and the occasion is mixed with sadness and joy. Sadness is not having the privilege of being able to present a GIFT to their Mothers

or to share a meal or to embrace her warmly, or to sit with her in a happy state of reunion and reflect on the growing up days, the secrets, the tricks they played as children, the fun in growing up, and expressing gratitude for the love and guidance received over the years.

For those not having their Mother, there must be some yearning for the past and sadness in the parting. But besides the sadness there must be joy in the memory of the happy times, the fond remembrance and the cherished memories, which death cannot destroy.

Another category of children will be those who are fortunate to have their Mothers alive on this Mother's Day.

The role of Mothers cannot be over emphasised.

On this Mother's Day as with any anniversary, there is need for reflection and in so doing, certainly the identification of deficiencies and areas for improvement which can be beneficial and also give the participants – children, parents, etc. a feeling of great satisfaction and self fulfillment. What better goal than better relationships with others and even moreso with Mothers.

There are too many children who take for granted their Mother and will superficially say – she knows I love her. Others will logically explain that the day-to-day demands preclude their doing much for their Mothers. They procrastinate until it is too late.

The advice of Thomas Macaulay that English Historian is worth repeating:

"Children, look into those eyes, listen to that dear voice, notice the feeling

of even a single touch that is bestowed upon you by that gentle hand! Make much of it while yet you have that most precious of all good gifts, a loving mother.

Read the unfathomable love of those eyes; the kind anxiety of that tone and look, however slight your pain. In after life you may have friends, fond, dear friends, but never will you have again the inexpressible love and gentleness lavished upon you, which none but a mother bestows."

A Mother's love in all its forms is always pure, beautiful and endures forever. Somehow, Mothers are more understanding, more tolerant, more forgiving and they always want the best for their children and remain protective. Can we ever repay them?

There are many ways open to children to demonstrate gratitude. Today there are Mothers who are bereft of attention. They sometimes smile with the world but feelings of neglect bleed their heart – the neglect of children.

While happiness may make the gift of money for food, shelter and medicines welcome – their greatest need is to know that they are appreciated, that they are wanted, that they are loved.

Is that too much for some children?

Mother's Day should allow all children to rededicate themselves to providing that quality of love, which would fill the hearts of mothers with joy, not only on Mother's Day but always.

"A mother's love is indeed the golden link that binds youth to age; and he is still but have furrowed his

cheek, or silvered his brow, who can yet recall, with a softened heart, the fond devotion, or gentle chiding, of the best friend that god ever gives us."

My Mother who died years ago is fondly remembered every day.

My Mother, encapsulated many great teachings in her advice to

me and my sisters and my brothers in simple statements. One such statement I will always remember my mother stressing was **"IT IS NICE TO BE NICE."**

Blending that with her Christian values, and love for others, she worked assiduously to make her children possess and exemplify love, respect, and compassion for everyone.

As I join in wishing all mothers a happy Mother's Day I comment to everyone the need to remember and acknowledge that your wife's mother and your husband's mother are worthy of the love and respect which you demand for your own mother.

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY! ❖

CAMP KAYUKA

The Camp Kayuka Committee would like to express sincere thanks to all, especially parishes, who participated and contributed to the Annual Family Fun Day which was held on May 5, 2018 at the Camp, Soesdyke, Linden Highway. It was indeed a fun filled day!

Latin American bishops unite to help Venezuelan refugees (From page 1)

countries, the Vatican's office for migrants and refugees has partnered with eight South American bishops' conferences in launching a project aimed at providing this support.

Titled "Bridges of Solidarity," the project was presented May 7 by the two undersecretaries of the Vatican's migrant office – part of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development and is overseen by Pope Francis directly – Fr. Michael Czerny, SJ, and Fr. Fabio Baggio, as well as Fr. Arturo Sosa, Father General of the Society of Jesus and himself a Venezuelan.

The office is partnering with the bishops of Colombia, Brazil, Ecuador, Peru, Chile, Bolivia, Paraguay, and Argentina.

The project is in line with the 20 actions points drafted by the Vatican's migrant section as part of Pope Francis' 4-step plan for assisting migrants and refugees: to welcome, protect, promote and integrate.

Services offered through the project, which is designed to run for 24 months, include the building of centers and shelters for migrants; assistance finding housing and jobs; the facilitation of access to education and healthcare; advocacy and legal assistance; professional training of pastoral workers and awareness cam-

paigns aimed at sensitizing local communities to the needs of migrants and the risks they face.

Funding, according to Fr. Baggio, happens partially at a local level, but the dicastery also helps in seeking support from private donors and partnerships. Fr. Czerny said the department's mission is to "assist the Church wherever needed, wherever possible, in accompanying migrants, refugees and victims of human trafficking."

As a refugee himself, Czerny said one of the biggest areas they want to address helping migrants to have access to good information, thus lowering the risks they face along the way.

The looming questions for any migrant, Czerny said, are "what awaits you? What lies ahead? What do you need to know now that's going to happen that you can be a bit better prepared? Or are you always arriving shocked, surprised and disappointed?"

"I don't think there's a better example of where the Church, throughout [the continent] can cooperate so that as people undertake these difficult journeys and that they are supplied with good information all along the way," he said, referring to the new project.

Providing the right information, he said, plays a key role in the prevention of trafficking, "because people are

trafficked when they lack the necessary information in order to make good decisions."

In comments to CNA, Czerny said migrants generally lack two key areas information, the first being the practical "what do you do when..." info, as well as answers to questions about what a migrant should do when they arrive to a bus station or shelter, and what to say and not to say.

The other area is a lack of correct information, he said, noting there is often an abundance of false information that reaches migrants, and "false information is the beginning of the trafficking problem...people are oriented in the wrong direction and they end up trapped."

Compounding the issue is the fact that many see the issue as something chaotic, assuming that it would be difficult to get the right information to migrants in the first place.

However, "when we look at it practically it's not chaotic, it's practical. It's people, and people are coming and if you have good information you can share it," Czerny said, adding that cell phones and other digital tools make it easy to share information, "but it has to be good information."

Pope Francis has often been outspoken about the issue of trafficking. He

addressed the topic again, speaking specifically about the problem of false information, in a video message to the Second International Forum on Modern Slavery, taking place May 5-8 in Argentina, published May 7.

The pope said slavery is not something of the past, but is a grim reality for many men, women and children throughout the world.

Confronted with this "tragic reality," the pope said "no one can wash their hands who does not want to be, in some way, complicit in this crime against humanity."

He spoke of the need to overcome "the veil of indifference" covering this issue, and said it often times appears as if "many don't want to understand the scope of the problem."

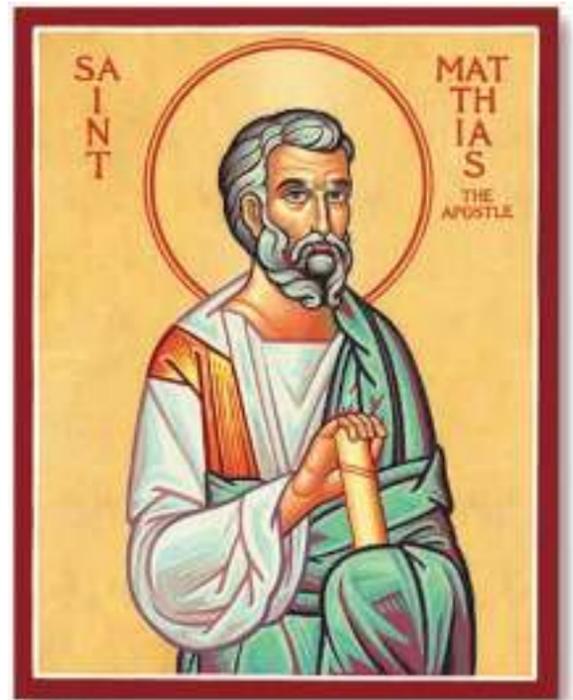
According to Fr. Czerny, the problem of prostitution, to which the pope was likely referring, is the biggest area of trafficking that migrants fall victim to.

Pope Francis said that enforcing stricter laws are not enough, but the root causes must also be addressed, such as poverty, violence, and corruption.

The response to this issue, he said, must be based on creating opportunities for a true integral human development, beginning with education, which he said is "the key point." ❖

Hundreds enjoy Family Fun Day at Camp Kayuka

Saint of the Week



May 14th
St Matthias, Apostle

After the death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus and in the wake of the suicide of Judas, Matthias was chosen as an apostle to replace him (Acts 1:15-26).

The criteria set by Peter for the replacement among the apostles after the suicide of Judas were that he should be "someone who has been with us the whole time that the Lord Jesus was travelling around with us from the time when John was baptising until the day when he was taken up for us and he can act with us as a witness to his resurrection" (Acts 1:21-22).

They nominated two candidates, "Joseph known as Barsabas, whose surname was Justus, and Matthias". They drew lots and as the lot fell to Matthias, he was listed as one of the twelve apostles. He is not mentioned elsewhere in the New Testament. Tradition says he worked first in Judea and later in Cappadocia and at Colchis in present-day Georgia, where he is said to have died, but another tradition locates him in Ethiopia. ❖

[From: <https://www.catholicireland.net>]

By Joshua Van Sluytman

It was a vibrant and happy day for the hundreds of persons from across the diocese, including families with young children, who met and had lots of fun at the Family Fun Day last Saturday, May 5th, organized by the Camp Kayuka Committee.

There were many activities for all ages at the successful event which took place at Camp Kayuka off the Linden/Soesdyke highway, including tug of war, bingo, cricket, football, nature walks, and of course swimming.

It was a great opportunity for participants to connect and get to know each other better while enjoying the wonderful atmosphere.

Bishop Francis joined in the merriment later in the afternoon and is reported to have shown a distinct preference for the more energetic events..❖



Children of St. Pius X parish crown a statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Sunday May 6th 2018.

On the Lighter Side



"We should get Mummy one of those cards—she's a happy mother"