

## Economic Crisis has Ethical Dimension, Pope Francis says

"The current difficulties and crises within the global economic system have an undeniable ethical dimension," Pope Francis said on May 26, 2018. "They are related to a mentality of egoism and exclusion that has effectively created a culture of waste blind to the human dignity of the most vulnerable."

Pope Francis spoke to members of the Pro Pontefice institution, who were in Rome May 24-26 for an international convention titled "New policies and lifestyles in the digital age".

The Holy Father used the analogy of the false conflict between faith and science, noting there is a misconception that successful economics and morality are in conflict.

"All too often, a tragic and false dichotomy – analogous to the artificial rift between science and faith – has developed between the ethical teachings of our religious traditions and the

practical concerns of today's business community," Francis explained. "But there is a natural circularity between profit and social responsibility."

This ethical dimension of social and economic interaction "cannot be imported into social life and activity from without, but must arise from within," he said, adding that this is a long-term goal that requires the commitment of all persons and institutions in society.

In his speech, Pope Francis spoke on themes brought up in the recent Vatican document Economic and financial issues.

He said current financial and social challenges faced by the global community "have an undeniable ethical dimension" and are related "to a mentality of egoism and exclusion that has effectively created a culture of waste blind to the human dignity of the most vulnerable."

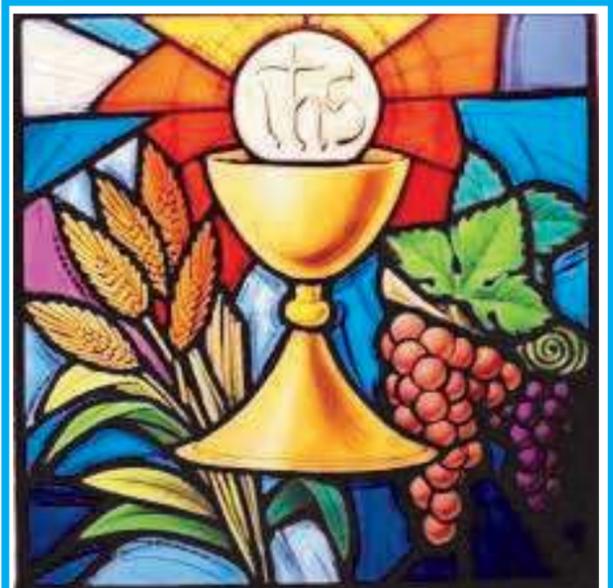
This can be seen by the increasing "globalization of indifference" in front of blatant moral challenges humanity faces, he said, citing migration and a lack of development not only in materially poor countries, but also increasingly in the "opulence of the developed world."

Referring to the conference theme, Francis noted how one major threat to families is a lack of stable jobs and the impact of the "digital cultural revolution," which he said is "a vital area in which the solidarity of the Church is actively needed" and is a key theme in the upcoming Synod of Bishops on young people.

When it comes to ensuring a better future for young people and families, Francis said ecumenical cooperation "is of especial importance," and cited the presence of Patriarch Bartholomew at the conference as "an eloquent sign of this common responsibility." ❖

## INSIDE

- Editorial: Why did all Chilean bishops resign?- [p2](#)
- Letters to the Editor - [p2](#)
- Church in Peru launches collection to help Venezuelan refugees - [p3](#)
- A Christian Perspective on Social Issues - [p4](#)
- Sunday Scripture - [p5](#)
- US State Department releases annual report on international religious freedom - [p6](#)
- Crowning of Our Lady at Enmore - [p7](#)
- Bishop Singh out of hospital - [p8](#)
- Children's Page - [p9](#)
- Small Things in Life We Need to Remember- [p10](#)
- 'Do not be afraid to give your life to Jesus Christ': Archbishop Gordon to youths- [p11](#)



Body & Blood of Christ

## Catholic youths continue preparations for Regional Assembly in Martinique



Bishop Francis Alleyne (backing camera) meeting recently with one of the groups of young people

The Diocesan Youth Office has continued its spiritual preparation sessions for those young Guyanese Catholics intending to go to the Caribbean Bishops' Youth Assembly in Martinique in July.

The Youth Assembly of the Caribbean Catholic Conference allows young people in the Region to experience their Catholic faith as practiced in the Region. This encounter with their contemporaries is an opportunity to deepen

their faith and grow closer to Christ, by means of prayer and the sacraments, along with hundreds of other young people from the Region. Young people spend two weeks immersing themselves in the [\(please turn to page 6\)](#)

## Bishop's Engagements

- Saturday June 2nd**  
09:00hrs – Retreat with AEC Youth Assembly 2018 delegates  
17:00hrs – Mass at Our Lady of Fatima
- Sunday June 3rd**  
08:30hrs – Mass at Holy Spirit, North Ruimveldt  
09:30hrs – Meet with St. Teresa Confirmation Candidates
- Monday June 4th**  
10:00hrs - Meet with Communication Committee
- Sunday June 10th**  
08:00hrs – Confirmation at St. Teresa



✠ Francis Alleyne OSB



## Music in Rupununi: An eye opener

## EDITORIAL

### Why did all Chilean bishops resign?

By Mike James

In a Catholic News Service report carried in last week's Catholic Standard, the news of an unprecedented event in the history of the Catholic Church, the submission of resignation letters to Pope Francis of all the 31 serving bishops of the Catholic Church in Chile. Citing a letter from Pope Francis to each of the bishops at the beginning of a meeting in Rome to which he had invited all the bishops to pray and discern with him on the crisis of clerical sexual abuse in the Chilean church, the CNS report noted that a report of Maltese Archbishop Scicluna, commissioned by Pope Francis earlier this year had uncovered clear evidence of "grave negligence" among the Chilean bishops, as well as evidence that some bishops had covered up abuse and put pressure on Church officials to do the same.

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

"It is painful to note that in this last period of the history of the Chilean Church, the prophetic inspiration lost power to give rise to what we might call a shift in its centre. I do not know what came first, the loss of prophetic power resulted in the shift of centre or that the change of centre led to the loss of the prophetic witness that was so characteristic of you. What we can observe is that the Church that was called to point to the One who is the Way, the Truth and the Life (Jn. 14,6) became instead herself the centre of attention.

She stopped looking and pointing to the Lord and instead looked to and concentrated on herself. She focused attention herself and lost the memory of her origin and mission. She withdrew into herself so that the consequences of this process had a very high cost: her sin became self-centred. The painful and shameful unfolding of sexual abuse, abuse of power and abuse of confidences by ministers of the Church, as well as the way in which these situations have been addressed, has exposed this "shift of ecclesial centre." Far from decreasing herself so that the signs of the Risen One should be brought forth, ecclesial sin took centre stage concentrating in itself all attention and focus.

In his letter to the bishops Francis also told them that the Chilean Church has become "elitist," which he condemns by saying that no individual or "enlightened group" can pretend to "be the totality of the People of God." He adds, "that elite or elitist psychology ends up generating dynamics

Dear Editor,

I was enthralled to read about and see the pictures of the music workshop at St. Ignatius Church in the Rupununi. I would like to thank the organizers and participants of this music workshop. I believe that it has refreshed and enhanced the liturgy in the Rupununi.

I was glad to know that the participants were taught to read music. I must admit that I am not a musician. It was in theology studies that my liturgy professor Fr. Andrew Cameron Mowat SJ inspired me to sing the liturgy, especially the Sunday Liturgy because the liturgy must be the public expression of the

people of God. Fr. Andrew taught me to read notations (music) for the Eucharistic Prayer with much practice. I had to practice one Eucharistic Prayer and sing it for him. When I sang it in a practice session, Fr. Andrew whispered in my ear, 'you've good voice, you need to pursue this.' Although I was inspired by Fr. Andrew, I never gave a serious thought to it. However, I managed to learn the music for a few Eucharistic Prayers from the Missal and my favourite is the Eucharistic Prayer on Salvation History. It is from there I picked up some of the music notes for other prayers. You must have witnessed that in the liturgy I celebrated on Sunday's. Now I must not boast that I am an expert. As I admitted earlier, I can read music a little, but know much better to read music for Eucharistic Prayers.

In some countries, we have witnessed how the hymns are

printed with music notes. This can be an excellent boost to the Eucharistic Celebration where everyone can sing along provided one knows to read music at the basic level.

Music is an important ingredient in the liturgy and without it the liturgy can be flat and could be uninspiring. Music should be as important as preaching because in singing we praise God twice.

As I feel proud about the workshop, I also urge everyone to pay attention to music and if possible pick up the basic knowledge of reading music. This will not only raise the standard of liturgy but also can boost singers' confidence. My views are not foreign to those who know to read music. The people who know to read notes could teach others to read and if you need there are many easy lessons on YouTube on reading music.

Fr. Jerri Dias SJ

## The privilege of going to Mass

Dear Editor,

In the Book of Genesis we read that God created the world in six days and rested on the seventh day. He didn't rest because he was tired. God rested on the seventh day because he foresaw our need for rest.

It is within this context that we begin to understand Sunday as a day of rest and renewal, and more specifically the role of the Mass in the Catholic lifestyle.

Attend Mass regularly and little by little you will begin to draw closer to

the man whose footprints have left an indelible mark in the dusty path of human history. We believe that Jesus is present in the Holy Eucharist, in a very unique and powerful way. I think his presence makes a difference. How could it not? His new spiritual existence makes it possible for him to be so intimately among us that we "eat his flesh". He said "Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood lives in me and I live in him". (Jn 6:56). He also said, "I am the living bread which has come

down from heaven. Anyone who eats this bread will live forever, and the bread that I shall give is my flesh, for the life of the world". (Jn 6:51).

We go to Mass to give ourselves to God, to listen to his word, and in return receive God in the Holy Eucharist, Holy Communion. Some of us Catholics, are so unaware of this mystery and the privilege that most of us cannot be bothered to show up to church on Sunday.

Leon Jeetlall

of division, separation, 'closed circles' that lead to narcissistic and authoritarian spiritualities in which, instead of evangelizing, the important thing is to feel special, different from others, thus leaving in evidence that neither Jesus Christ nor others truly matter. Messianism, elitism, clericalism, are all synonymous of perversion in the ecclesial being."

The Chilean bishops, at the end of their meeting, made public apologies for their individual and collective failings in preventing and pursuing cases of sexual abuse by clerics in recent decades and offered their resignations so that Pope Francis to decide their future in the process of conversion and return of the Chilean hierarchy to their vocation of serve only their Lord Jesus Christ and the People of God.

On their return to Chile, the President of the Chilean Episcopal Conference and former General Secretary of CELAM, Bishop Santiago Silva in a press conference and a declaration on behalf of the Bishops affirmed, "If something was clear to us in those frank conversations with Pope Francis, it is that the life of bishops and priests does not always follow the Gospel. We are separated from the Gospel by our mistakes and, what is more serious, by the commission of crimes such as child abuse. Once again, we ask for forgiveness, begging insistently that all such crimes be

reported to the courts. The Church is not a place to commit a crime! But it also became clear to us that there are many lives of believers in Chile who bear witness to the Gospel, for whom Christ is the germ of a new humanity. "Undoubtedly it will be the evangelical and ecclesial values that will allow us the desired and urgent renewal. But we must put Christ in the centre and, from him, generous service to people, particularly the most vulnerable and poor.

I understand that many people may not give credit to the forgiveness we ask for and to the pain we express, because we will not recover confidence from one day to the next. We must demonstrate it with concrete reparatory actions.

For us it is essential to be fully aware that the report of Archbishop Bishop Scicluna details lost documents (detailing abuse), to the superficial treatment of the accusations, to the delays in the investigation, to all the errors committed referring to the abuses. By the incarnation of Jesus, we know «that only what is assumed is redeemed». But to assume, you must know the reality and accept it with humility.

What value are good intentions if everything remains the same? In virtue of the value of personal and pastoral conversion, central to the preaching of Jesus, it is up to all of us, particularly the bishops, to encourage

an intense and extensive project of ecclesial renewal. And we must begin with dialogue. The Church is not built by elite groups, because she is "the holy, faithful and suffering People of God" in the expression of the Pope. The whole People of God, therefore, has something to say about the abuses of minors, power and conscience, and about the mission to which the Spirit calls us as Church in this postmodern culture.

It is time to generate a dialogue where nobody feels excluded. We all need each other in this "new Pentecost" that we hope to live. And I hope that this dialogue is not only intra-ecclesial and, of course, that it does not remain only in good intentions, but truly generates a process of renewal, seeking the commitment of all. Only as a People of God that listens to all of us together can we discern what the Spirit says to the Church.

Bishop Silva concluded by citing Pope Francis final words to the Bishops at the end of their Rome meeting in which he urged them to commitment to making the necessary changes. "He asked us to be a prophetic Church and told us 'After these days of prayer and reflection I send you to continue building a prophetic Church, which knows how to put in the centre what is important: the service to your Lord in the hungry, in the prisoner, in the migrant, in the abused'." ❖

# Church in Peru launches collection to help Venezuelan refugees

(ACI Prensa) The bishops of Peru have launched a campaign to collect funds to provide for the basic needs of Venezuelan refugees living in the country.

The Peruvian bishops' conference announced the collection will take place June 3, during the day's scheduled Masses.

According to Caritas International, about four million people have left Venezuela due to the grave economic crisis marked by a major shortage of food and medicine under the socialist government of Nicolas Maduro, the president of the country since 2013.

Maduro was re-elected May 20 in questionable elections.

Maduro is the hand-picked successor of socialist president Hugo Chavez.

The main destination of the millions of refugees is Colombia, along with other countries such as Peru, Chile, and Argentina.

The Center for Strategic and International Studies stated that the average Venezuelan lost about 24 pounds in 2017, in a population where almost 90 percent live below the poverty line.

The lack of medicine has caused a resurgence of diphtheria and an

increase in measles and malaria, diseases that had almost been eradicated in Venezuela.

Cases of Malaria have skyrocketed while measles has claimed the lives of 26 children just in the Orinoco Delta area.

Venezuela closed 2017 with an inflation rate of 2,616 percent and a drop in Gross National Product of 15 percent. The International Monetary Fund forecasts inflation at 14,000 percent for 2018 which would be the highest index of inflation among emerging markets for this year and the next. ❖

## Upcoming Events

**Saturday June 2nd**  
**Corpus Christi All Night Vigil**  
**Before The Blessed Sacrament**  
 Please see [page 8](#)

**July 7th, 8th and 10th**  
**RCA reunion**

There will be an RCIA THREE DAY REUNION on July 7th, 8th and 10th, 2018. Interested persons are asked to contact Ms. Curtis on telephone no. 225-2354 before June 24th, 2018. ❖

### Bishop's Office Phone Lines Down

The telephone lines at the Bishop's Office (226-4469 and 225-0420) are currently down.

Persons who would like to contact the Bishop's Office may do so on the temporary number **225-0427**

# Voters in Ireland pave way for abortion on demand

DUBLIN (CNS) — Voters in Ireland have opted to remove the right to life of the unborn from the country's constitution, paving the way for abortion on demand up to 12 weeks.

Results from the nationwide referendum showed that 66.4 percent of citizens opted to remove the Eighth Amendment from the constitution, while 33.6 percent voted to retain it. Turnout was 64.5 percent.

Voters inserted the original amendment in the constitution in 1983 by a margin of 2-1, and it "acknowledges the right to life of the unborn and, with due regard to the equal right to life of the mother, guarantees in its laws to respect, and, as far as practicable, by its laws to defend and vindicate that right."

That text will now be deleted and replaced with an article stating that "provision may be made by law for

the regulation of termination of pregnancy."

Bishop Brendan Leahy of Limerick told Massgoers May 26 that the result "is deeply regrettable and chilling for those of us who voted 'no.'"

He said "the final result of the referendum is the will of the majority of the people, though not all the people."

"It is a vote, of course, that does not change our position. Our message is one of love: love for all, love for life, for those with us today, for those in the womb," he said.

Referring to Pope Francis' Aug. 25-26 visit, Bishop Leahy said: "In August, we will unite as a family, to renew that sense of family when the World Meeting of Families comes here. We have the privilege of Pope Francis coming, and today I cannot think of his visit being more timely: to come

here and remind us of the importance of family, of the love we have of family, of the reality that, yes, families get bruised sometimes, but they should never be broken."

Minister for Health Simon Harris has said he would introduce legislation that would allow abortion on demand up to 12 weeks, up to 24 weeks on unspecified grounds for the health of the mother, and up to birth where the child is diagnosed with a life-limiting condition that means he or she may not live long after birth.

An exit poll conducted by the Ireland's national broadcaster RTE asked voters what motivated them to opt for either "yes" or "no." Among "yes" voters, the most important issues were the right to choose (84 percent), the health or life of the woman (69 percent), and pregnancy as a result of rape (52 percent).

[\(please turn to page 4\)](#)

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## A Christian Perspective on Social Issues



### Re-visiting Domestic Violence (Part II)

By GHK Lall

This time it is about the children. It cannot be shooed away under the law of unintended consequences. For this is one of the unspoken, very little written about, aspects of domestic abuse that rises to the level of psychological violence inflicted on the innocent, vulnerable ones. It is the traumas that any thinking adult would know are sure to follow from that which spirals out of control in the home amidst families at war and under perpetual bombardment and siege. These traumas are known and observable by those selfish ones, if only they would take the time to pause and to monitor the results of their actions. Too many times, the perpetrators are beyond caring. Custom and tradition, poverty and alcohol, and so much more form part of a dismaying set of circumstances, of a settled environment that feeds on itself and perpetuates itself on and on....

As an example, there is the situation involving a chronic addict (to different things), whose meager occasional earnings rarely reach the home, and one who is violently abusive on a daily basis. He is one of many in this country. To extend an already grim picture, and as if throwing in the towel in surrender to the relief of numbness, the mother in the home has now joined as an active participant in the self-medicating. Anything at hand will do. She is well on the road to full-blown chemical dependency, maybe already there. In this unimaginable (for some, perhaps many) hell, there are young children trying to cope, to learn, and to grow. They are already old beyond their years. One child, who is at the CXC level, does have some potential that may never be realized; he is now under severe pressure to perform even marginally. What was once his passport (CXC success) is now his prison. The first thought is: how will this exposed child be in five years? What will become of him in life, if there are no willing saving adult hands to rescue? And what about the other siblings?

In the media coverages that headline the mayhem of sometimes daily brutality: wounding, poison, and rope, and most times of the lethal variety, there is little space for the plight of the lost and destroyed trapped in the storms. Those forlorn pictures tell the story. These shattered ones—youthful, scared, numb, sad, hopeless—are some of the time left to their own devices to manage somehow; or to the whims of relatives who could be exploiting and represent nightmares of a different kind. There are the occasional stories that bring joy but for every success story of love and care, there is at least

## Voters in Ireland pave way for abortion on demand (From Page 3)

Among "no" voters, they cited the right to life of the unborn (76 percent), the right to live of those with Down syndrome or other disabilities (36 percent), and religious views (28 percent).

John McGuirk, spokesman for Save the Eighth, which campaigned for a "no" vote, described the outcome as "a tragedy of historic proportions."

"The Eighth Amendment did not create a right to life for the unborn child — it merely acknowledged that such a right exists, has always existed

and will always exist," he said, insisting that "a wrong does not become right simply because a majority support it."

"We are so proud of all of those who stood with us in this campaign — our supporters, our donors, our families and our loved ones," he said. "This campaign took a huge personal toll on all of us who were involved, and we have been so grateful for their support."

Insisting that pro-life campaigners will continue their efforts, McGuirk

told Catholic News Service: "Shortly, legislation will be introduced that will allow babies to be killed in our country. We will oppose that legislation. If and when abortion clinics are opened in Ireland, because of the inability of the government to keep their promise about a (general-practitioner-led health) service, we will oppose that as well.

"Abortion was wrong yesterday. It remains wrong today. The constitution has changed, but the facts have not," he said. ❖

## US State Department releases report on religious freedom (From Page 6)

Groups that together constitute less than 1 percent of the population include Rastafarians and Bahais. An estimated 3 percent of the population does not profess a religious affiliation.

Under the section 'Status of Government Respect for Religious Freedom' it is noted that "Representatives of the Rastafarian community said that a law criminalizing the possession of

one (if not many more) of those left without guidance from the nurturing of family, the anchorage of a home, a sense of direction and purpose, the incentive of dreams, and the room for hope. What about them and where do they end up right now and then in the passage of a life already devastating?

The cocoon and community of church is, too often, not looked upon as a first option to provide comfort, or even as a fallback option to be considered, if only as an escape from the suffocating. Too many of the youthful look upon religion as torturous, and an old people activity. In so doing, they deny themselves a possible light, a positive one, that could lead away from their dark world. Cumulatively, the lack of finances, employment, skills, mentors, and a support structure combine to lay waste to any promise in young lives that could end up in gangs, trafficking, or other forms of collateral victimhood.

In many communities, children already terrorized by abuse and violence in the home surrender to new and nuanced forms of temptation that cycle them into boiler rooms of an increasingly cold cruel society. Egged on by peers, wanting (and having) to prove themselves in vicious ways, they become poster children positioned at the bottom of the criminal ladder, and soon seasoned enough and comfortable enough with the tools and consequences of illegal trades to risk all including life. All that was and is known by young but now aged veterans of violence is that life is an unfair, unkind, unrewarding proposition. On each occasion that the ugliness of the latest news report brings home the barbarity that takes place under other roofs, there could be added to the growing pile more children who will pay additional prices for the rest of their lives. Soon enough that price translates to a steep cost that is felt by larger society. ❖

15 grams or more of marijuana infringed on their religious practices. A representative of the Rastafari Council said some members of his community faced extra scrutiny from law enforcement officials who believed Rastafaris carried marijuana on their person. According to the same representative, the Rastafari community perceived they were employed at lower rates than other citizens. The council petitioned the government to legalize the use of small amounts of marijuana for religious purposes, but authorities reportedly did not consider the proposal, saying that reviewing drug legislation was not a state priority at that time. On August 17, the Alliance For Change, a faction of the coalition government, said that

it would advance the concerns of the Rastafarian group at parliament".

"In March foreign Christian missionaries proselytized in some urban public schools. Representatives of the Hindu community stated that proselytizing in public schools is unconstitutional and the government should denounce it. In April the government stated that proselytizing in public schools is prohibited, and it disciplined the administrators of three public schools for permitting religious proselytizing by the foreign Christian missionaries in the three schools".

Iran and Saudi Arabia were among the Middle Eastern countries whose records on religious freedom were severely criticized in the report. ❖

# 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Catholic Men's Conference

## "Be Strong Be a man!"

1 Kings 2:2

*Rev. Francis Allyne OSB,  
Bishop of Georgetown, and  
the Catholic Men's Ministry  
invite all men to join them at  
their Men's Conference  
which is aimed at the  
renewal of minds and  
transformation of  
hearts and lives  
for Christ.*

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# Sunday Scripture

## June 3rd - The Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ, Year B



### FIRST READING

Exodus 24:3-8

*This is the blood of the Covenant that the Lord has made with you.*

Moses went and told the people all the commands of the Lord and all the ordinances. In answer, all the people said with one voice, "We will observe all the commands that the Lord has decreed." Moses put all the commands of the Lord into writing, and early next morning he build an altar at the foot of the mountain, with twelve standing-stones for the twelve tribes of Israel. Then he directed certain young Israelites to offer holocausts and to immolate bullocks to the Lord as communion sacrifices. Half of the blood Moses took up and put into basins, the other half he cast on the altar. And taking the Book of the Covenant he read it to the listening people, and they said, "We will observe all that the Lord has decreed; we will obey." Then Moses took the blood and cast it towards the people. "This" he said "is the blood of the Covenant that the Lord has made with you, containing all these rules."

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 115

**Response:** *The cup of salvation I will raise;  
I will call on the Lord's name.*

1. How can I repay the Lord for his goodness to me?  
The cup of salvation I will raise;  
I will call on the Lord's name. *Response*

2. O precious in the eyes of the Lord is the death of his faithful.  
Your servant, Lord, your servant am I;  
you have loosened my bonds. *Response*

3. A thanksgiving sacrifice I make:  
I will call on the Lord's name.  
My vows to the Lord I will fulfil  
before all his people. *Response*

### SECOND READING

Hebrews 9:11-15

*The blood of Christ can purify our inner self from dead actions.*

Now Christ has come, as the high priest of all the blessings which were to come. He has passed through the greater, the more perfect tent, which is better than one made by men's hands because it is not of this created order; and he has entered the sanctuary one and for all, taking with him not the blood of goats and bull calves, but his own blood, having won an eternal redemption for us. The blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer are sprinkled on those who have incurred defilement and they restore the holiness of their outward lives; how much more effectively the blood of Christ, who offered himself as the perfect sacrifice to God through the eternal Spirit, can purify our inner self from dead actions so that we do our service to the living God.

He brings a new covenant, as the mediator, only so that the people who were called to an eternal inheritance may actually receive what was promised: his death took place to cancel the sins that infringed the earlier covenant.

### Gospel Acclamation

*Alleluia, alleluia!  
I am the living bread which has come down from  
heaven says the Lord.  
Anyone who eats this bread will live for ever  
Alleluia!*



### GOSPEL

Mark 14:12-16; 22-26

*This is my body. This is my blood.*

On the first day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover lamb was sacrificed, his disciples said to Jesus, "Where do you want us to go and make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?" So he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, "Go into the city and you will meet a man carrying a pitcher of water. Follow him, and say to the owner of the house which he enters, 'The Master says: Where is my dining room in which I can eat the Passover with my disciples?' He will show you a large upper room furnished with couches, all prepared. Make the preparations for us there." The disciples set out and went to the city and found everything as he had told them, and prepared the Passover.

And as they were eating he took some bread, and when he had said the blessing he broke it and gave it to them. "Take it," he said "this is my body." Then he took a cup, and when he had returned thanks he gave it to them, and all drank from it, and he said to them, "This is my blood, the blood of the covenant, which is to be poured out for many. I tell you solemnly, I shall not drink any more wine until the day I drink the new wine in the kingdom of God."

After psalms had been sung they left for the Mount of Olives. ❖



By: The Diocesan Stewardship  
Council of Guyana

We have had three consecutive weeks of significant Solemnities—Pentecost, Trinity Sunday, and now the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ, better known by the name of Corpus Christi which translates from the Latin as the "Body of Christ."

Clearly this is a celebration which brings our focus on the Eucharist, which is at the absolute centre of our liturgy, and at the core of our Catholic faith. We have mentioned many times that all revolves around the Eucharist when we receive the real Body and

Blood of the Lord.

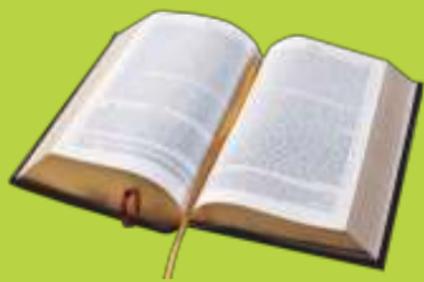
According to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (#1324), "The Eucharist is 'the source and summit of the Christian life.' The other sacraments, and indeed all ecclesiastical ministries and works of the apostolate, are bound up with the Eucharist and are oriented toward it. For in the blessed Eucharist is contained the whole spiritual good of the Church, namely Christ himself."

The Eucharist should be the high point of our week, or even of our day. The

author J.R.R. Tolkien (author of *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy), who was a devout Catholic, once stated, "The only cure for sagging or fainting faith is Communion. Though always itself, perfect and complete and inviolate, the Blessed Sacrament does not operate completely and once for all in any of us. Like the act of Faith it must be continuous and grow by exercise. Frequency is of the highest effect. Seven times a week is more nourishing than seven times at intervals." ❖

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

# Gospel Reflection



By Fr. Michael Barrow SJ

The words of Corpus Christi Sunday's gospel are familiar to anyone who goes to Mass. The account of when Jesus first gave us the Blessed Sacrament are repeated at the most sacred time of every Mass.

The disciples at table with Jesus on that Thursday evening, the night before Jesus died, must have been very puzzled by the words "This is my body and this is my blood" when referring to the food on the table. They could not have understood entirely what it meant but their deep trust in our Lord allowed them to accept without fully understanding something which later on would become so important in their lives. A year or two later, when they had been offering the Mass and explaining it to new converts, the words of consecration would have become full of a much deeper meaning.

But without fully understanding the significance of what Jesus was doing, the word COVENANT was familiar to them and coloured what Jesus was saying with a tender significance. They knew that the Covenant referred to a permanent bond between Almighty God and themselves: "I will be your God and you will be my people." It was said with all the love of a couple getting married: I will be your wife and you will be my husband. The Old Covenant [which we sometimes call the Old Testament] was taken by Christ and consecrated into a New Covenant, a promise of eternal love. The words of consecration which we hear at every Mass are words of love, the personal promise of love spoken to us by Jesus our Lord. Not only is Jesus present in the Blessed Sacrament but also, just as a husband and wife give themselves to each other in a marriage bond, so we give ourselves to Christ as he gives himself to us in a covenant and commitment of love. ❖

## US State Department releases annual report on international religious freedom

Everyone has "a stake in this fight" for religious freedom, said the U.S. ambassador at large for international religious freedom, Sam Brownback.

"One person's bondage is another person's burden to break," he told reporters May 29. "We're all people with beautiful and undeniable human dignity. Our lives are sacred. Our right to choose the road our conscience takes is inalienable."

Brownback joined U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo at a news conference to release the annual International Religious Freedom Report, which cover the period between Jan. 1 and Dec. 31, 2017.

Pompeo also announced the United States will host the first ministerial meeting to be held aimed at advancing religious freedom around the world. It will take place July 25 and July 26 in Washington. He said it will provide an opportunity to "break new ground," and will not just be a "discussion group."

The report's Executive Summary on Guyana stated, "The constitution provides for freedom of religion and

worship, including the right to choose and change one's religion. The government continued to limit the number of visas for foreign representatives of religious groups based on historical trends, the relative size of the group, and the president's discretion. Religious groups continued to report, however, that the government's visa quotas allotted to them did not adversely affect their activities because the visa limitation rule was applied infrequently.

There were no reports of significant societal actions affecting religious freedom.

The U.S. embassy hosted an interfaith forum on November 15 to highlight and promote tolerance among various religious groups, including the Muslim, Christian, Rastafari, and Hindu communities. A panel of religious leaders shared ways in which their respective faiths promoted their beliefs while adhering to religious tolerance principles. Embassy officials joined the Ministry of Social Cohesion on several occasions throughout the year at interfaith and religious events. To promote religious tolerance, U.S.

embassy officials attended events hosted by Muslim and Hindu communities, including Eid and Diwali celebrations. Embassy officials used these activities to speak on acceptance, tolerance, and harmony in a multifaith cultural context. The embassy amplified its activities through discussions on social media about religious tolerance".

On Guyana's Religious Demography the report says, "The U.S. government estimates the total population at 738,000 (July 2017 estimate). According to the country's 2012 census, 64 percent of the population is Christian, 25 percent Hindu, 7 percent Muslim (mainly Sunni), and less than 1 percent belong to other religious groups. Among Christians, Pentecostals comprise 23 percent of the national population; Roman Catholics, 7 percent; Anglicans, 5 percent; Seventh-day Adventists, 5 percent; Methodists, 1 percent; and other Christians, 21 percent. The 21 percent includes Christians who belong to the Assembly of God Church, Church of Christ, and African Episcopal Methodist Zion Church, among others. ([please turn to page 4](#))

## Mothers Day at Enmore



On Sunday, May 13th many of the womenfolk of St. Thomas the Apostle Church, Enmore, came out to mass to celebrate Mother's Day. Fr. Paul Martin SJ officiated, and after mass all the mothers were invited to the altar where a special prayer and blessing were bestowed on them. Snacks were served to all after mass. ❖

## Catholic youths continue preparations for Regional Assembly (From Front Page)

spiritual and physical life of the diocese, emerging with a new appreciation of their faith and having formed friendships across the Region.

The theme of the gathering is "**Youth Transforming the Caribbean Family**" and it forms part of the Bishops' 5-year plan for renewing family life in the Caribbean.

Guyana will be sending a contingent of about 25 youths to this very significant Regional Catholic event. They come from parishes across the diocese, including the interior and coastland.

One group from Georgetown has been holding meetings every Saturday. One purpose of these gatherings is for participants to get to know each other through icebreakers and sharing sessions.

They also spend time in praise and worship using *Lectio Divina*.

The focus of the sessions however, is to reflect on Pope Francis' communication called *Amoris Laetitia*: 'On Love in the Family'. In this document the Pope expands on the topics and considerations of the two meetings of Bishops from around the world on the subject of "the family". The Pope also adds his own considerations to help us provide pastoral guidance to support and strengthen today's families.

Each group of youths has to formulate an assignment or presentation based on their understanding of one particular section of the Pope's document and its application to family life in the Caribbean.

The Guyanese youths will participate in prayers and devotions during the

Assembly and they have been preparing spiritually in this way too.

The Assembly will also offer the opportunity for the Guyanese to offer something of their culture, part of a Regional sharing.

Some of the pilgrims are paying all of their expenses, others have received partial sponsorship from individuals or from their parish while others still have been sponsored.

"This is about experiencing the universal Catholic Church, and being part of the regional Church", one participant told the Catholic Standard.

Generally, the youths hope to return home with a few things: a more intimate knowledge of the Church, connections with Catholics across the Region and with a firmer or re-energized faith life. ❖



## Crowning of Our Lady at Enmore

From Jennifer Kanhai

The children of St. Thomas the Apostle Church, Enmore crowned Our Lady on Sunday, May 6th.

The Parishioners sang joyfully while a small procession proceeded to the Altar where a statue of Our Blessed Mother, Mary, was crowned.

The service was officiated by one of our Pastoral Lay Assistants, Mrs. Julianna Joseph. ❖

## Journeying with the Word of God



*Our word is  
a lamp unto my feet,  
a light unto my path.  
Psalm 119:105*

## Abortion: Breaking Silence for Silent Screams

By Father Jerri Dias SJ

There is an extraordinary procession of women coming to pay their personal tributes to Savita Halappanavar in Ireland as the abortion referendum has won a loud "Yes" to legalize abortion. Importantly, in every respect abortion cannot be accepted and the Irish Constitution under its Eighth Amendment guarantees to protect as far as practicable to equal right to life of the unborn and the mother.

Then, why did women choose this path of overturning the abortion ban? Why have women won today in Ireland? Has the dignity of both women and their unborn children been removed from the Irish Constitution? Can we as persons of integrity remain indifferent at this "Quiet Revolution" as the prime minister of Ireland hailed?

To break the armour, we need to go back to the story of Ms Savita Halappanavar. The story of Ms Halappanavar was in the mainstream media in 2012 when she died on October 28, 2012, at Galway University Hospital, one week after she was presented with back pain and was found to be miscarrying her 17th-week pregnancy. Although the pregnancy was not viable, her requests for termination were refused because there was a foetal heartbeat. She contracted sepsis and died of multi-organ failure and septic shock.

The enquiry concluded that Ms Halappanavar died because the consultant treating her had been concerned about the legal issues throughout her considerations as to whether terminate the pregnancy. The enquiry also concluded that making abortion illegal serves only to promote illegal abortions. It said, "those women with influence and

financial resources will get it performed in a safe environment. Those who are poor with less influence will resort to unsafe methods."

My views not merely Catholic, in which case I am biased, but I truly believe that no one has a right to meddle with embryo once conceived including the mother. That is my point of departure. The Catechism of Catholic Church compliments my viewpoint. "Human life must be respected and protected absolutely from the moment of conception. From the first moment of his existence, a human being must be recognized as having the rights of a person - among which is the inviolable right of every innocent being to life." (CCC 2270) The innocent and vulnerable embryo has its rights as a human person. Its rights must be respected more strongly because it cannot defend its own rights. The state must not interfere and dictate the laws of God. It is detrimental to human dignity if the state decides whether a mother must keep the child or terminate, hence bring an end to a human existence. "The inalienable right to life of every innocent human individual is a constitutive element of a civil society and its legislation: The inalienable rights of the person must be recognized and respected by civil society and the political authority. These human rights depend neither on single individuals nor on parents; nor do they represent a concession made by society and the state; they belong to human nature and are inherent in the person by virtue of the creative act from which the person took his origin. Among such fundamental rights, one should mention in this regard every human being's right to life and physical

integrity from the moment of conception until death." (CCC 2273)

This so-called "Quiet Revolution" has opened a whole new chapter in the human history. Where do we go from here? Is there a way forward? There is a dichotomy at play with regard to abortion where this dichotomy could lead to disasters or life.

The state, the church, leaders of various faiths, medical practitioners and human rights activists must come to the table to address these few significant questions and not remain indifferent. It does not affect us directly, it will affect us as human persons.

Every individual must be abortion-minded so that there is mature and reasonable dialogue. It is in dialogue we can arrive a consensus and no decision. The decision must lie on the premise that 'God creates life through parents and every created life has its rights as human person.'

Ireland has taken a certain path and we are not sure whether the premise still has influence.

We prayed for Ireland to not to lift abortion ban, but the referendum has lifted the abortion ban hence abortion will be legal in Ireland.

I urge that Irish leadership now has the duty and commitment to safeguard the sanctity of the womb by enshrining bylaws for abortion with reasonable consideration to human life.

Will other nations join this quiet revolution? We must wait and watch what our women have to say about it. Although it concerns everyone, but it has direct physical, psychological and spiritual impact and consequence on women. ❖

### MAKING THE WORD OF GOD YOUR OWN

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

**1st Reading:** Moses received the solemn commitment of the people to their covenant with God and he seals it with the blood of sacrificed animals.

**2nd Reading:** Through the saving work of Christ, God has entered into a new and everlasting covenant with his people.

**Gospel:** Mark describes the preparation and celebration of the Passover meal that Jesus ate with his disciples the night before he died

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

1. What kind of duties and responsibilities do you think a covenant between your parish community and God will require from both parties?
2. Why do you think 'blood' is such an important recurring symbol in all of today's Readings?
3. "We are a community of believers whose common faith strengthens the faith of each individual." What do you think is meant by this statement?
4. Why do you think Jesus based the Eucharist on the practice of having a meal with friends?

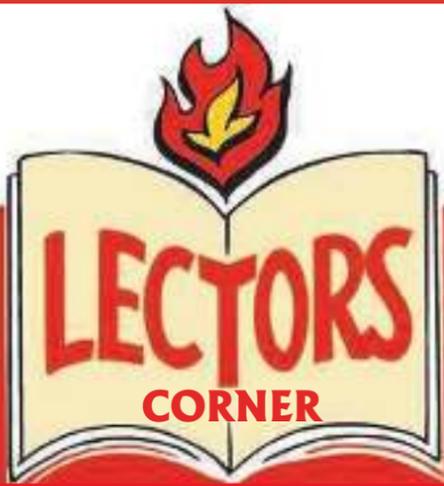
**Step 3: Accepting the message of God's Word in your life of faith.**

*Christians are expected to be there for each other. They forgive each other's offences, support each other in every way possible and encourage a spirit of community. The Eucharist is the centre of everything. It is what binds us together and enables us to offer loving service to one another.*

**Step 4: Something to think & pray about**

1. Reflect on the words the Jews told Moses: "We will observe all the commands that the Lord has decreed." Do you ever feel like making the same promise? What is it that hinders you from doing so?
2. As catechumens and candidates, you are not yet ready to receive the Eucharist. How does this make you feel? Do you understand the reason why this is so? Do you agree with the reason?
3. Pray that when you do receive the Eucharist you will find that the wait was worthwhile. ❖

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



## Proclaiming the Word of God

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

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

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

#### The Word This Week

The key to today's readings is the word "Covenant". A Covenant is a solemn and binding agreement between two parties, which establishes the way in which each party will behave towards the other. It establishes rights and duties, and forges a new relationship between two people or groups of people. In the Ancient World, a Covenant was always sealed with a sacrifice and a meal: the sacrifice brought divine blessing on the covenant, and the meal sealed the relationship between the participants. In the Covenant that God forged with his people in the Old Testament, it was expressed very

simply: God said, "You will be my people, and I will be your God." God would remain faithful to the people, and they were to remain faithful to God (this is where the commandments come in). This Covenant was sealed in its greatest form on Mount Sinai, as we hear in the first reading. When the Old Covenant had been broken beyond repair, God sent his only Son to establish a New Covenant: the sacrifice and meal of this New Covenant is Calvary and the Last Supper, where Christ is both priest and victim and altar. When we eat and drink this sacred meal at every Mass we are renewed in the New Covenant and the relationship with God, because Calvary and the Upper Room are present once more and the New Covenant is sealed for us anew.

#### Notes for Readers

##### First Reading: Exodus 24:3-8

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

##### Second Reading: Hebrews 9:11-15

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

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

## In Memory



### In Loving Memory of Paul Simon Gonsalves

Sunrise: 3rd October, 1993

Sunset: 2nd June, 2014

Sadly Missed By His Mom & Dad,  
Brothers & Sister, Relatives and  
Friends.

*May His Soul Continue to Rest  
In Peace.*

## Bishop Singh out of hospital



Retired Bishop Benedict Singh was discharged from hospital much improved last Monday and is back home resting comfortably where he will continue with his recovery and recuperation.

The 90-year old bishop was admitted

to the intensive care of the Balwant Singh hospital two weeks ago after an injury to his leg which seemed to trigger other medical issues.

Much gratitude and appreciation are extended to all those who made enquiries, visited, offered prayers and other expressions of care, love and comfort.

They all provided great consolation and support.

May God bless you all. ❖

## CORPUS CHRISTI

### All Night Vigil before the Blessed Sacrament



The Vigil will be held at Our Lady of Fatima Church, Robb Street and Shiv Chanderpaul Drive, Bourda, Georgetown and commences from **Saturday June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2018 at 6:00pm and concludes on Sunday June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2018 at 6:00am.**

There will be hourly Prayers, Praise and Worship with 30 minute intervals for Silent Prayers, Petitions, and Intercession before the Blessed Sacrament which will be exposed throughout the Vigil.

**Bring along your Family and Friends. Come Visit Me in the Blessed Sacrament. Come and watch with me for one hour, wont you, please?**

**Come And Receive Your Blessing**



## E-Standard

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

**We are offering free viewership to all interested persons during the month of June (ending June 30th).**

*Interested persons just need to fill out a short sign up form and will have access. Please use the following link:*

<http://www.rcdiocesgy.org/catholic-standard>

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

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

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

**Subscriptions may be paid as follows:**

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

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

- For current subscribers: Kindly send your name and the payment.

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**Abroad** (United States, Canada etc.) – please email the Piety Shop Manager at: [allsaintsmanager@rcdiocesgy.org](mailto:allsaintsmanager@rcdiocesgy.org) for details.



# Children's Page

## Body & Blood of Christ

Dear Girls and Boys,

Today we celebrate the **Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ** (also known as **Corpus Christi**) - the gift of Jesus Himself to us. This is the day when many boys and girls receive First Holy Communion.

We remember how Jesus ate with his disciples on the night before he died. It was his last supper with them. At this meal, Jesus gave thanks and praise to his Father. He changed bread and wine into himself. He offered himself to his Father for us. He gave himself to his disciples as food and drink.

Jesus gave his body and blood for love of us. We are now Christ's body in this world. We are called to help others just as Jesus did when he walked on the earth.

### How do I receive Communion well?

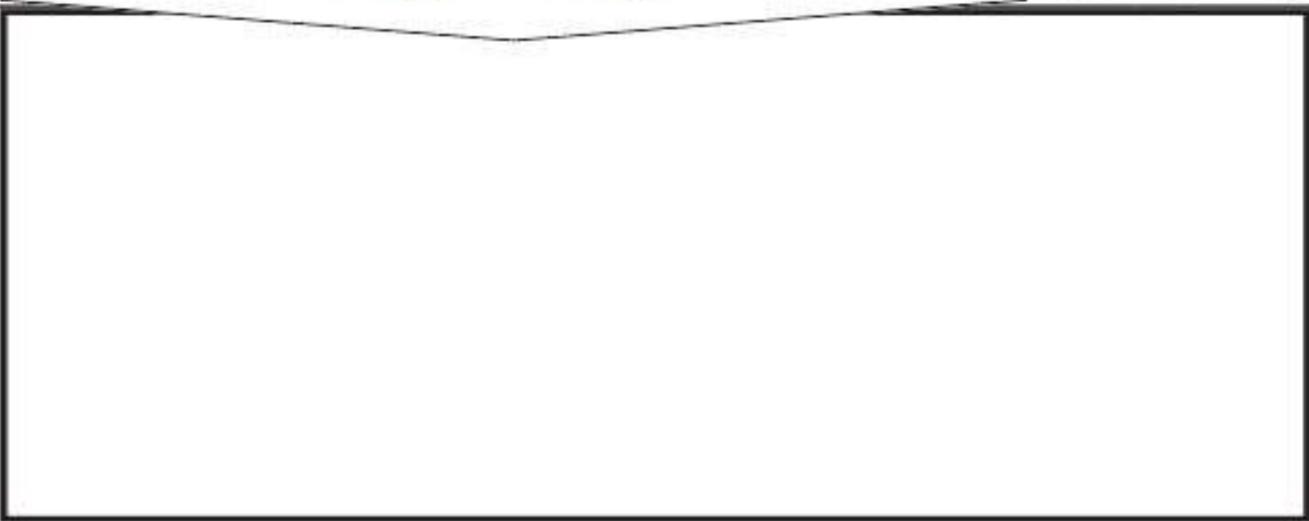
1. Be ready! Think about what is going to happen. Make sure that you don't have any big sins on your soul. If you do, then go to confession first.
2. Don't eat or drink anything other than water or medicine for an hour before going to Holy Communion. This is a sign of respect for Our Lord.
3. After receiving Holy Communion, take some time to thank Jesus for coming to you and talk to Him. He is your best friend and loves spending time with you!



**JESUS SAID:**  
**"TAKE IT AND EAT IT,**  
**THIS IS MY BODY."**  
**"TAKE IT AND DRINK IT,**  
**THIS IS MY BLOOD."**



Draw Jesus and his apostles around the table during the Last Supper.



ANOTHER NAME FOR TODAY'S FEASTDAY IS  
**C** \_\_\_\_\_ **CH** \_\_\_\_\_

E	V	E	N	V	A	E	H	S	E
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E	F	L	E	H	O	R	E	E	A
T	A	B	D	T	E	L	I	C	H
E	V	R	E	A	F	A	B	N	I
L	S	E	L	F	E	E	V	A	K
A	N	R	E	T	E	D	A	E	L

- BREAD
- EVER
- BLOOD
- ANCESTORS
- HEAVEN
- FLESH
- ETERNAL
- DEAD
- LIVE
- DRINK
- FATHER
- ANYONE



**Colour me!**

What does the bread become when the priest consecrates it at Mass?  
 Use the colour code to find out:

- grey
- skin colour
- brown
- blue

*Body and Blood of Christ*  
**Word-Find**

See if you can find all the words written in CAPITALS.  
 Use the left-over letters to fill in the blanks to make a little prayer you can say at Mass!

At the LAST SUPPER, after he had GIVEN thanks, JESUS took BREAD and said, "Take and EAT. THIS is my BODY." Then, taking the chalice of WINE, he said, "Take this, all of YOU, and DRINK from it. This is the CHALICE of my BLOOD, the blood of the new and everlasting covenant. It will be Poured out for you and for MANY for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in MEMORY of me."

That was the first MASS. When you go to HOLY COMMUNION, you really receive the Body, Blood, SOUL and DIVINITY of CHRIST, who is GOD!

Answer to Word-Find: MY LORD AND MY GOD

There are some people who, no matter how long it takes, never forget and forgive those who have wronged them. We met a chap recently who, when we mentioned a certain name, changed immediately from a cheerful, smiling man into a scowling angry individual. When we sought to enquire why he was so angry with us, he said that he was not angry with us but with the person whose name we just mentioned. Then he began to tell us about an incident that happened between them about fifteen years ago. As far as we could judge, what he was telling us about was not serious enough for him to be holding a grudge for so long and we told him so. But he still refused to see it that way. As we left him, we could not help feeling sorry for people like him.

Most of us are aware of the big things that we need to do in order to have fulfilling lives, but what about the smaller things? The little things that we tend to forget to do in life matter greatly. These small aspects of life is what can empower us and equip us with the tools to live more fulfilling lives. So, what are these things we should remember about life but often forget? We found these simple tips on the internet. Read on, and discover some of them!

**Forgive But Don't Forget:** A grudge is not a pretty thing to hold on to. We should be willing to forgive, but don't force ourselves to forget others' wrong doings. Being let down is an important part of life, so we should forgive, but don't feel that we must forget. It's perfectly acceptable to remember what we've been through as it will enable us to be grateful for

### Small Things in Life That We Need to Remember



By Chris & Noelma Lam

who we have become.

**Be Completely Honest with ourselves:** We are taught that lying or keeping information from others is wrong but what about lying to ourselves? We often have the courage to be brutally honest with others, but we are cowards when it comes to being honest with ourselves. However, sometimes the only truth that can truly make a difference is the one we admit when we take a look at ourselves in the mirror. It's the realization of such a truth that is the only thing that can set us free.

**Remember That Our Smile Can Change the World:** We have a powerful tool that can change the world around us – our smile. We have the potential to make someone's day better just by sharing a smile. Furthermore, sharing a smile with a complete stranger will enable us to remove fears as it will force us to step out of our comfort zone.

**Enjoy Silence:** In a world where we are constantly being bombarded with televisions, cell phones, radios, and a number of other devices that keep us forever connected, it's imperative that we take a break to enjoy some silence. We could find a nice quiet place, recharge ourselves, and rediscover our thoughts.

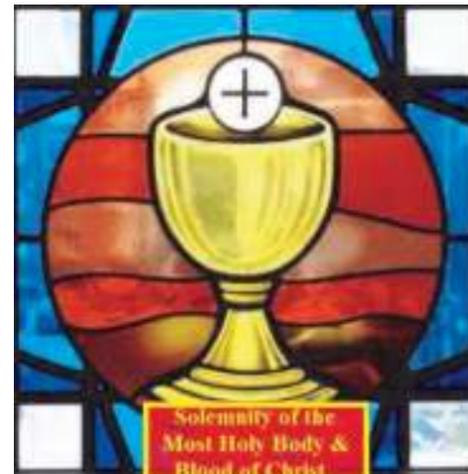
**Live in the Present:** We must respect everyone around us, but just worry about ourselves, who we can become, and what we can achieve.

**Surround Ourselves with Positive Influences:** When life starts to get tough, it's crucial for us to have a strong support system that influences us in a positive manner. We need to try to surround ourselves with positive minds and strive to remove any negative energy from our life.

**Don't Lose Hope:** Regardless of the circumstance we might find ourselves in, we have to keep believing that there is a way out. As long as we're alive, there is room for growth, hope, and change. There is always hope, it's everywhere. We just need to keep looking.

**Be Kind, Even if Others Don't Deserve It:** Be kind not to just those that treat us right, but also towards those who don't. Our kind actions may teach them a lesson and our heart will remain pure.

**Be a Good Listener:** When others start to talk, listen. We mustn't just wait for them to finish so that we can have our say next, but try to truly listen instead. We should study their word usage, their tone, their eyes. We must give everyone the respect that their words deserve. ❖



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## TitBits

**-- This Week's Reflection:**

Hatred is a low degrading emotion and is so poisonous that no man is strong enough to use it safely. The hatred we think we are directing against some person or thing has a devilish way of turning back upon us. Hatred is a powerful emotion, and at times, people can be consumed with it. If someone stirs up that strong feeling of hatred in you, ask the Lord what you should do about it! Perhaps it will lead you into action? Confronting that person in love? Striving to rectify any wrong that person is doing to others or yourself? Certainly prayer should be our first step.

God Bless You! Have a Great Week!

**-- This Week's Bible Question:**

Q. What did the sailors do in order to find out the cause of the terrible storm?

**-- This Week's Teaser:**

Q: How does a girl vampire bat flirt?

**-- Today's Bible Verse:**

Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive and you will be forgiven. - Luke 6:37

**-- Today's Marriage Tip:**

Are you in the doldrums? Go out of your way to do something nice for your spouse or for a person in need. Love chases away gloom!

**-- Humour:**

Little Johnny was asked by his mother what he had learned at Sunday school.

"Well, Mom, our teacher told us how God sent Moses behind enemy lines on a rescue mission to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. When he got to the Red Sea, he had his engineers build a pontoon bridge and all the people walked across safely. Then he used his walkie-talkie to radio headquarters for reinforcements. They sent bombers to

blow up the bridge and all the Israelites were saved."

"Now, Johnny, is that really what your teacher taught you?" his mother asked.

"Well, no. But if I told it the way the teacher did, you'd never believe it!"

**-- This Week's Truism:**

Don't believe in luck, believe in hard work.

**-- Conflicting Proverbs:**

Many hands make light work. Too many cooks spoil the broth.

**-- Signs Found at Church**

If you're headed in the wrong direction, God allows U-turns.

**-- Answer to Bible Question:**

They cast lots. - see Jonah 1:7

And they said to one another, "Come, let us cast lots, that we may know for whose cause this trouble has come upon us."

**-- Answer to Teaser:**

She bats her eyes. ❖

### Mind Puzzler Corner

**Our Last Brain Teaser was:**

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

**Answer:** The wind .

**This Week's Brain Teaser:**

A table tennis ball has rolled its way down into a hole. This particular hole is extremely deep and has a sharp bend in the middle, making it impossible to retrieve by hand. The ground around the hole is made of hard clay, so digging the ball out isn't an option. What could you use to get the ball out?

**Look for the Answer next week**

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# 'Do not be afraid to give your life to Jesus Christ'

## - Archbishop Jason Gordon to young people discerning vocation



Archbishop Jason Gordon being interviewed by Joshua Van-Sluytman at the CMI studios (photo: Romeo Abrams)

We bring you the second part of the interview His Grace Archbishop Jason Gordon gave to Catholic Media Initiatives (CMI). Archbishop Gordon, head of the Archdiocese of Trinidad and Tobago, of which Guyana is part, was in Guyana earlier this year for the ordination of Fr. Carl Philadelphia.

**Catholic Media Initiatives: Your Grace, what would you say to a young person discerning vocation?**

**Archbishop Gordon:** I would say 'Do not be afraid to give your life to Jesus Christ'. Do not be afraid – why would I say that? Because what stops the process of discernment? Fear. Fear is the biggest – “what is my mother going to say, what is my father going to say, what are my friends going to say?” “How am I going to live this?” “Is this possible?” The second thing I'll say is that no it's not possible – not without God's Grace. And that's why 'Do not be afraid to give yourself to Christ', because if you give yourself to Christ, the grace to live it will come.

When somebody, a young person, feels a tug in their heart towards vocation, the way I start is not by assuming that the person will be a priest, I start by assuming that God is tugging, and therefore this person has to discern. And that means they have to go through a special time of listening, and that special time of listening is a time of listening to God. So they have to learn how to pray, and to deepen their prayer, so they could start to listen to God, so they can have attention to God, and see what God is actually asking of them. And when they start hearing more clearly from God, it becomes more important to respond, then they have to have the courage to respond to God. This is a nice little prayer I give to young people who are discerning: **"Bend my heart to your will, Oh God."** Real simple, "Bend my heart to **your** will, Oh God." Most of the time, how we live life is 'bend your will to my heart

oh God'; we want God to bend to us, but the whole goal of Christianity is us bending to Him, and when we are ready to bend our heart to Him, it means that whatever He's asking, we are willing to do, which means that if He is asking us to be a priest, we will go there; a deacon, we will go there; a religious, we will go there; a married person, we will go there. So, whatever the vocation is - and there are multiple vocations that a young person can have – whatever the vocation is, if they are willing to listen to Him, He will lead them to their vocation, and that will be the best and most happy life that they can have.

And this is my third point: that the happiest life that we can have is a life that is dedicated to Jesus Christ, and when we give ourselves completely to Him, there is nothing in our life that goes right or wrong that is going to rob us of true joy. Because sufferings are going to come, no matter what our life is, but if the life is lived according to what He's asked, then the grace is going to come, and then that flourishes.... and we are going to become the best that we can ever become.

The biggest challenge for young people thinking about vocation to priesthood is this whole question of celibacy: "but Father, I can't be celibate, that Church is asking me too much". Well, I agree with you, but through God's grace, you will grow in to the discipline, and through God's grace, little by little, you will find the way towards what He is asking. And that's why it is important to know up front who is asking you to do what. Is it your mother wants you to be a priest? Or is it Jesus Christ asking you to be a priest? If it is the first, I would say, "say no", if it is the second, I would say yes.

If you are convinced in your heart that Christ is asking you something, spend a time of your life – say six months – dedicated to prayer, find somebody

you can trust and journey with them, and have them journey with you, leading you along the path, and then come to a place where you are ready to make an answer, and when you are ready, then speak to the Vocations Director or the Bishop, and take the next step in the process of discernment.

**Catholic Media Initiatives: Your Grace, why are many of our young people not participating in Church today?**

**Archbishop Gordon:** You know, I should be asking you that question. Because they are your friends – why are your friends not participating in Church?

**Joshua Van-Sluytman:** Basically, I think that the activities for them are lacking, but then they need the support from the older ones in the Church, so to speak, to encourage them, and I think that is lacking there.

**Archbishop Gordon:** Explain

**Joshua Van-Sluytman:** Well, basically, you go to church, and you see something that you think that you can change it, and you go to the elder person and you tell them 'you know, this is my suggestion'. They have this in them that they were there - as you say, generations are different, - so they were in their time and I'm coming with a suggestion that they are not comfortable with, so they do not think that that is fitting, and that kind of, push back the young people from being active in the Church...

**Archbishop Gordon:** ..and then you want to shut up the young people, and the young people say "well, if allyuh don't want us here and ent got no room for us, we gone."

You know, Jesus had the seven last words he said before he died – "forgive [them], they know not what they do, mother behold your son, son behold you mother, I thirst ..." there

are seven words he said - and the Church has seven last words that she will say before she dies: **"we never did it this way before"**. And it's one of the greatest sins in our Church right now, that the older generation who have been really committed, and have really held the Church together, and have been amazing at holding the Church together don't understand that they got in Church when they were young people, and they were encouraged to do so. And for some reason now, they believe that they must be the only ones involved in the Church. And the role of the older generations is to mentor the younger generation, and bring the younger generation to be involved in the Church. And the only way you could do this is to give them some spaces to operate. Will they make mistakes? Of course they will! And will they learn from it? Of course they will! But if we are mentoring the young generation, we let them make mistakes! We sit, we talk, we chat about it and say: "Okay, what have you learned from this? How could you have done this differently? What can we do better next time? You learn and you go again! They had to learn, this generation has to learn too!

And I really am passionate to create spaces for young leadership in our Church. In Barbados, the leaders of the Youth/Young Adult Ministry are four young adults. Four young adults! Two are a married couple, and he was discerning vocation early on when I was there in Barbados, and in his discernment he discerned marriage, and I said "Okay, if this is your discernment, here's what I need you to do: get a group of young people together, and I want you to do Theology of the Body with them". I said "call me for the hard questions". They did: I came in, answered all the hard questions, and had wonderful conversations with them. As a young couple, they started doing Theology of the Body for all of the young people in Confirmation programme, and because these are young adults teaching teenagers about Theology of the Body, human sexuality, chastity, it is far more credible than if I am teaching. Because they are saying "listen, we are engaged, and this is what we are doing, we're not telling you one thing and living another, this is what we are doing". They got married last year, so they are now a young married couple, and they are part of the leadership team; and the other two people on the leadership team are two young women who are also very committed to the Church. Now, because I put four young adults to lead Youth/Young Adult Ministry, it means that the ideas are coming from them, the thinking is coming from them, and I have given them the authority to do what they need to do to bring young people into the Church.

(to be concluded next week)✦

## Making arrangements for AECYA Martinique



From L- R: Joel Thompson SJ, Monica Campion, Ursuline Sister Nishi Kujur, Carey Rodrigues and Bonaventure Casimero; absent is Silverius Perry.

Four young Catholics from the South Rupununi arrived in Georgetown on Monday to continue preparations for their trip to Martinique where they will participate in the Caribbean Bishops Youth Assembly in Martinique in July.

On Saturday they will join the larger group which is making the trip at Bishop's House for a one day retreat which will be conducted by Bishop Francis Alleyne OSB. The retreat will end with Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church in the afternoon.

Early the next day, the group of 25 that will be going to the Assembly will make the long, overland journey by bus to Suriname to obtain their visas for Martinique. ❖

## Saint of the Week



### June 5th: St. Boniface (circa 675-754)

Saint Boniface, known as the apostle of the Germans, was an English Benedictine monk who gave up being elected abbot to devote his life to the conversion of the Germanic tribes.

Boniface was born in Devon, England, about the year 675. After years as monk and teacher, he went to evangelise the Germanic peoples. Ordained bishop, he was given wide-ranging papal commissions throughout Germany and Gaul. He founded monasteries and established dioceses, presided at Synods, and liased with kings.

Boniface is remembered as a determined missionary, and as a church organiser and reformer, whose work shaped the future of Europe. He was killed in the Netherlands in the year 754. ❖

[franciscanmedia.org & salfordliturgy.org.uk]

## Brickdam Cathedral marks Independence Anniversary



The Golden Arrowhead along with the Papal flag were hoisted on Independence Day—May 26, 2018, in the Brickdam Presbytery compound. (Photo by FQ Farrier)

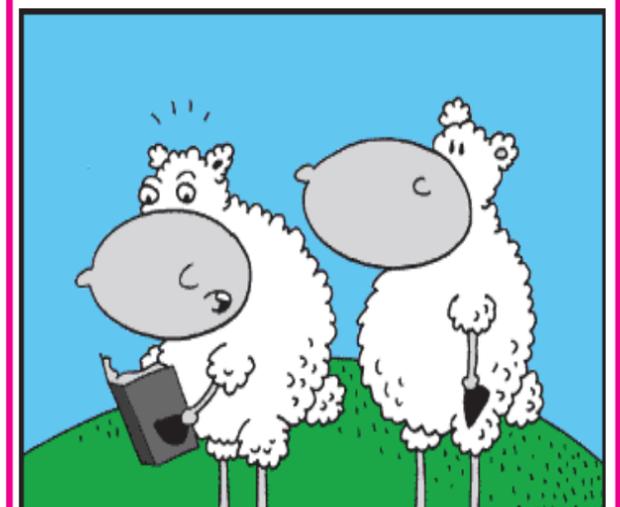
The Vatican Flag that is the official emblem of the Pope. It consists of yellow and white bands with the crossed keys of Saint Peter and the Papal Tiara. The two keys represent the Keys of Heaven (according to the Gospel of Matthew 16:19) given by Jesus Christ to St Peter. The popes are regarded as the successor of Peter, and the gold and silver keys have been significant elements in the symbolism of the Holy See since the 13th century.

When Guyana became independent in 1966, then-reigning Pope Paul VI sent a personally signed letter of greeting to our Bishop. The Pope also sent an Ambassador Extraordinary, Bruno Torpigliani, to represent the Vatican at the festivities. In his signed message the Pope said, "... we are confident that the Catholics of Guyana will continue to prove themselves excellent citizens, law-abiding,

exemplary active in forwarding the best interests of the country".

Meanwhile, at a religious service to mark Guyana's attainment of independence, Ambassador Torpigliani prayed, "... may almighty God receive from the noble people of Guyana a solemn pledge of mutual brotherly love. May He receive above all their fervent prayer for the progress of their country in peace, justice and fidelity to his guidance. ❖

## On the Lighter Side



Ah yes, here it is... says here that Passover is a time of celebration including a feast of unleavened bread, bitter herbs and... uh oh.