

## Diocese starts preparations for Pan-Amazonian Synod



Some participants of the meeting to prepare for the Pan-Amazonian Synod (photo: Joshua Van-Sluytman)

The Diocese of Georgetown began preparations for the Pan-Amazonian Synod of Bishops (scheduled for October 2019) with a meeting at Bishop's House on Thursday June 28<sup>th</sup>. This initial meeting, led by Bishop Francis Alleyne OSB, was called to discuss ways in which the Church in Guyana can

embark on a diocesan-wide reflection in preparation for the Pan-Amazonian Synod at which Bishop Francis will represent the Diocese.

Last year Pope Francis announced that he would be holding a special assembly of Bishops from South America's Pan-Amazon region,

meaning Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, French Guiana, Guyana, Perú, Venezuela and Suriname.

The main purpose of this gathering, the Pope said, will be to identify new ways for the evangelization of all of the peoples in all the Pan-Amazon regions. ([please turn to page 2](#))

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## Bishop's Engagements

### Sunday July 8th

07:00hrs – Mass at St. Thomas the Apostle, Emmore.

### Monday July 9th

17:00hrs – Media Meeting

### Tuesday July 10th

09:30hrs - Clergy Meeting

17:00hrs – RCIA Reunion Mass, Cathedral of Immaculate Conception, Brickdam

### Saturday July 14th

08:00hrs - Attend Catholic 10th Anniversary Men's Conference, Marian Academy, Carifesta Avenue

### Sunday July 15th

10:00hrs – Mass at Mt. Carmel, Wismar



✠ Francis Alleyne OSB

## Aishalton holds first Bible Quiz



The participants and planning team of the Bible Quiz in Aishalton (photo: Judy Winter)

From Judy Winter - Youth leader  
St. Robert Bellarmine Church, Aishalton, South Rupununi

In Region 9 and particularly in the South of the Rupununi there are always games being played among the young people such as football and cricket between different teams; competing against one another and also keeping themselves physically occupied and talented. Aware of this reality, the Jesuit Medino Abraham, who is based at Aishalton along with the church team, thought about engaging the youths - mainly the Confirmation candidates - in a game in which they do compete with one another, but this time in a religious education activity, namely a Bible Quiz. In this way they would learn about the Bible and also boost their faith.

Thus, on Saturday June 30th, the Catholic Community of Aishalton in the South Rupununi held a Bible Quiz among the young people preparing for Confirmation.

This religious education programme began at 4:30 and finished at 5:30 pm that evening. It was organized by the church team and the youths who wanted to know more about the scripture and particularly the Gospel of Mark. ([please turn to p11](#))



Dear Editor,

From the Catholic perspective salvation is available to men and women of every age and every culture. Through the teachings of the Church, the people of every land for 2000 years have learnt about the life and teachings of Jesus Christ. The people of every place and time have been encouraged to believe and do all that Jesus taught. In many cases, this great work has been achieved in all corners of the globe.

Christians of all denominations around the world, owe an enormous debt to the Catholic Church. The

## The Bible, uncorrupted through the centuries

Catholic Church, inspired and guided by the Holy Spirit is responsible for the – formulation, preservation, and integrity of the sacred scriptures. For fifteen hundred years, when there were no other Christian denominations the Catholic Church preserved the scriptures from error, saved them from destruction and extinction, multiplied them in every language, and conveyed the truths they contained to people everywhere.

Time and time again people have tried to manipulate and corrupt these writings - and in some cases have succeeded – but the Catholic Church has preserved a version that is complete and free from human tampering.

It seems strange and self-contradictory, that so many who claim to love Jesus, would be so hos-

tile towards the Catholic Church which has singlehandedly protected the records of His life and teachings for so long.

The bible is the most profound and sublime collection of writings in human history. It therefore goes without saying that these writings are difficult to understand.

This is why the Catholic Church has, in her wisdom, so vigorously defended her right to interpret the meaning of the scriptures throughout history. The living voice of the Catholic Church stands as a beacon for all men and women of goodwill, and announces the life and teachings of Jesus Christ with tradition in one hand and the scriptures in the other.

**Leon Jeetlall**

## EDITORIAL

### Children teaching parents?

In a few days 25 young Catholics from across Guyana will be travelling to Martinique. There they will get together with hundreds of others like themselves for the sixth Caribbean Bishops Youth Assembly (AECYA). The theme for this event is *'Youth Transforming the Caribbean Family'*. This theme is influenced by Pope Francis' document "Amoris Laetitia" on love in the family.

The family, the church teaches, is humanity's first school, and it is within the family where men and women are formed "in the fullness of his personal dignity according to all his dimensions, including the social dimension," The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches. The Catholic among many others also hold that families are the foundation of society and that evangelized families would transform the world.

Asking our youth to be one of the major driving forces in this transformation in the Caribbean family is asking them to shoulder a very serious responsibility. In many cases it means asking children to be responsible for bringing adults and even their own parents back to the faith and encouraging their families to take part in various evangelizing activities.

The environment in which they are being asked to do this is not an easy one either. From several quarters it is being heard that the family has been in "crisis" in recent decades, evidenced by increased divorce, increased co-habitation single-parent families, and a decline in the number of marriages. There are attempts to re-define marriage and those who are committed to the belief that marriage is the lifelong union of a man and a woman, could face discrimination and peer pressure to make them feel guilty, odd and inferior about what they believe and the way they really want to live.

Our Health Minister blithely tells teenagers they must use condoms. Nothing is said about fidelity in marriage and chastity for the single young adults. Her advice quite clearly sends the message that she agrees with free sex, but you must use a condom. Young adults, feel free to indulge in promiscuity, feel free to indulge in safe sex, feel free to experiment with each others bodies.

In an article on the in the rapidly changing environment of the Guyanese family, the Justice and Peace Commission said, "Guyana is grappling with social change in an increasingly secular, technological and globalised world, where 'foreign' values are easily transmitted and quickly assimilated. The principal task of raising

## Diocese starts preparations for Synod (From Front Page)

Particular attention, he added, will be paid to the indigenous people, "often forgotten and without the prospect of a serene future." He said particular attention will also be paid to the crisis of the Amazonian rain forest, considered one of the world's "lungs" because of the amount of oxygen produced by its abundant vegetation.

Among those participating in the meeting at Bishop's House were members of the Clergy and Religious, the Vocations Committee, the Youth and Catechetical Departments, the Stewardship and Finance Councils, the Justice & Peace and Family & Life Commissions, the Pontifical Mission Societies, Catholic Communications, and the Laudato Si Guyana group.

Salient points of the preparatory document for the Synod released by the Vatican, *"Amazonia: new paths for the Church and for an Integral Ecology"* were talked about, and many good ideas about how to implement the preparations for the synod were discussed.

The Vatican have requested that 45 **Pre-Synodal Assemblies** be held across the 9 countries that comprise the Pan-Amazon Region, so that there can be the widest possible consultation before the Synod itself convenes. We in Guyana have been

asked to hold one of these Assemblies and it was agreed to aim at a date towards the end of October or the beginning of November this year. The aim of this Pre-Synodal Assembly will be to bring together representatives from across the diocese to reflect on the preparatory document and its questionnaire and submit an official response in the name of the Church in Guyana.

To give everyone in the diocese the opportunity to be involved in the process, the Pre-Synodal Assembly will be preceded by three levels of gatherings:

#### a) **Community Gatherings**

Beginning at the end of July and continuing through the month of August, each community will participate in a "Community Gathering". It is envisioned that community gatherings will be held as follows:

- 16 in Central Rupununi
- 14 in South Rupununi
- 6 in South Pakaraimas
- 13 in North Pakaraimas
- 26 in the North West
- 9 in Moruca
- 9 in Essequibo/Pomeroon
- 7 in Berbice
- 9 along the East Coast
- 7 along the East Bank
- 3 on the West Coast/West Bank

- 3 in North Georgetown
- 3 in South Georgetown
- 3 in Central Georgetown

#### b) **Cluster Gatherings**

The Community Gatherings will be followed by 15 Cluster Gatherings. The Cluster Gatherings will serve to get a sense of the issues and concerns of the people in the cluster and select representatives for the Regional Gatherings.

#### c) **Regional Gatherings**

After the Cluster gatherings, it is proposed that three one-day Regional Gatherings be held:

- One in Georgetown for the Coastal Communities
- One in the North West
- One for the Rupununi/Pakaraimas

Each Regional Gathering will reflect on the preparatory document from its own perspective and select representatives to attend the **Pre-Synodal Assembly**.

A meeting of the Coastal Priests to discuss the pre-synodal preparations will be held on Tuesday July 10<sup>th</sup>.

Please look for further information in the Catholic Media and your Community about how you can participate in the pre-synodal preparations, and pray the prayer on page 8. ❖

children to become healthy and responsible adults now seems a monumental task, due to many factors which include poverty; the high cost of living; family separation through migration; the growing single-parent phenomenon; disrespect for human life and the rule of law; indiscipline in schools; all forms of violence; materialism; individualism; incest and child sexual abuse.....

"The absence of a moral sense of family has crept into Guyanese society. Citizens seem to be operating in a state of social utopia, entirely free of taboos and other constraints on behaviour. The

sanctity of the home and marriage is easily replaced by quick non-commitment sexual liaisons or 'shack ups'. Indeed, we are neglecting the instruction given in Hebrews 13:4 that "Marriage should be honoured by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral." The numerous influences and temptations via the global media and internet pose new challenges for the Guyanese family. The minds of both children and adults are now governed by the suggestive influence of television which promote the use and abuse of

intoxicating drugs, sexual promiscuity and other forms of deviant behaviour. The effect is that as morality plunges, people begin to move farther and farther away from godly mores and values.

This gathering of youths is part of the Bishops' long-term plan for the renewal of family life in the Caribbean. It is the Bishops' belief that the key to transforming society is transforming the family.

Our delegates are embarking on a vital mission. They need your prayers. ❖

# Humble companions: New Catholic-Anglican document sees healing in difference



Anglican Archbishop Justin Welby of Canterbury, England, holds a replica of the staff of St. Gregory the Great given by Pope Francis at a vespers service at the Church of St. Gregory in Rome Oct. 2016 (CNS photo/Paul Haring)

Catholics can learn from Anglicans in giving a greater role to the laity in matters of church governance and more authority to local bishops' conferences, according to a landmark new document from the official dialogue body of the two Churches.

Anglicans, the text also argues, should focus on setting up structures and processes that safeguard the worldwide identity of its Communion and avoid becoming too focussed on one province.

The recommendations are contained in "Walking Together on the Way: Learning to Be the Church – Local, Regional, Universal", the first document produced by the Anglican-Roman Catholic International Commission (Arcic) in 13 years.

The 68-page report on church governance, published on 2 July, represents a shift in ecumenical dialogue by focussing on how difficulties within the respective communions can be helped by learning from each other.

Rather than blandly clarifying misunderstandings and setting out where the Churches agree, this document argues that after honestly speaking about internal problems new paths for reform within one another's tradition can be found.

"Laity, religious, and clergy could be given a deliberative vote in Roman Catholic provincial/regional councils on many matters of worship, pastoral outreach, community self-discipline," the document argues.

On the other hand Anglicans are warned that "too strong an emphasis on local autonomy risks straining important ecclesial bonds at the trans-local level" and risks leading to "insufficient critical distance from the prevailing culture and inadequate attention to the expressions and practice of faith in other parts of the Church".

Arcic was established in 1966 following the meeting between Pope Paul VI, and the Archbishop of Canterbury, Michael Ramsey, and produced its first document in 1971 on the Eucharist. Its last document on "Mary: Grace and Hope in Christ" was published in 2005.

But that document received a mixed reaction among Anglicans while Arcic was in a period of hiatus after the ordination of Bishop Gene Robinson, an openly gay man in a relationship. While Rome protested over Bishop Robinson, Anglican bishops were upset by the 2009 decision by Benedict XVI to set up "personal ordinariates", special structures to allow Anglicans to become Catholics.

It was also Benedict XVI, however, who decided to start a new, third round of Arcic discussions which commenced in 2011 and from which the latest document has been produced.

In it the commission admits that the ordination of women, questions of human sexuality and the ordinariates have caused difficulties, but stresses that despite the disagreements "neither the Anglican Communion nor the Roman Catholic Church has deviated from their commitment to the goal of visible unity".

"The time is ripe to pursue the task of ecumenical engagement as one that includes explicit ecclesial self-critique," ([please turn to page 11](#))

## Upcoming Events

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

**RCA reunion**

There will be an RCIA THREE DAY REUNION on July 7th, 8th and 10th, 2018. For further information, please contact Ms. Curtis on tel. no. 225-2354.

**Fri. July 13<sup>th</sup> – Sun. July 15<sup>th</sup>**

**Catholic Men's Conference**

Please see page 4. ❖



Please let us know of upcoming events by emailing us at:

[catholicstandardgy@gmail.com](mailto:catholicstandardgy@gmail.com)

under the heading "Upcoming Events" or call 226-2192.

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**A Christian Perspective on Social Issues**



**Real role models urgently needed (Part II)**

By GHK Lall

In the continuing quest to locate the sparse human lights in the world of Guyana today, one thing becomes dis-comfortingly clear: those sturdy heroic ones from yesterday, who have not moved on to the beyond are part of a disappearing specie: in faded retreat with rare sightings and looked upon sometimes with nostalgia, many times with impatience, and increasingly with palpable scorn. In addition, the once heralded callings of nursing, protecting, counseling, and leading have been ousted or converted to ugly replicas of what they once represented. Even worse, those noble callings have not only lost luster, but have been replaced by a more galvanic and glamorous field of endeavors filled with hustlers and rustlers, who are dedicated to one damning pursuit: money; money at all cost and by any means, including the violent, the tricky, and the unfathomable.

The headlong pursuit of cash of any kind and from any source has come to represent rushing furiously, grabbing quickly, accumulating constantly, trampling recklessly, and abandoning the godly. The last does not necessarily mean an absence of religious presence

and practice; but a chronic failure to exemplify most of the commands coming from sacred texts, and a steadfast disregard towards the rigorous submission demanded by the Christian ethos. Where humility is essential, there can be the crude self-promotion that distracts from capable works and Christian character. (Mt 23: 3).

Obsession with money explains why the humble observant souls of before have been largely substituted by the glitter made alluring by powerful criminals and their showy underlings. The crooked cops of all ranks and their substantial, but inexplicable, list of assets; the shady commercial princes and their ever-growing business ventures and the small army of middlemen who provide the linkages between the legal and illegal worlds, as well as the public versus the secret faces of a new breed of role models. It is a mainly dirty breed; but all too sadly many hunger and thirst to be like them in all of the distinctive and undeniable unrighteousness of their presence and conduct. The words of Proverbs 13:20 (KJV) are fitting, "He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed."

With all the flash and cash on constant display, which serve as teasers, all the obvious and rumored holdings that leave the aspiring panting and breathless, it should come as no surprise that immature and gullible hungry younger ones fall easy prey to the many temptations that abound. The attraction flows from this new legion of the wicked. To get rich quick, to get rich by breaking rules and laws, to get rich the fast and

easy way. It is also the nasty way that have painful lasting consequences. A mere handful of the younger ones pay heed to the timeless exhortation of 1 Timothy 4:12 "Don't let anyone look down upon you because you are young. Be an example to all believers in what you say, in the way you live, in your love, your faith, and your purity." Too many of local youth go the other way, by observing this in the breach. It should be surprising that older, more educated, more aware adults who ought to be wiser and more responsible throw caution to the winds and take a chance at the thrill of the off-limits cash box, the frowned upon forbidden territories despised for their mere existence. The older ones, who should serve as the exemplary figures, also join in the

mad race to join the party, to follow the leaders to get their hands on what is not theirs and not legitimate. Money is key; money is power; money just might be everything. Contentment and simple pride in honesty is out; the stickiness of unresisted greed is now normal and widespread; it is empowering, too. It is but a quick short step from the unethical to the untrusted and the immoral. Thus, the door to greater evils are flung wide open and rushed through in reckless abandon. And when the weak and willing so fail and fall, they transform into the admirable worthy of blind unthinking imitation, in the hope of making it big too.

**Next week:** Real role models: the challenges to finding them. ❖

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along with other speakers.

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**Catholic Men's Ministry**  
Diocese of Georgetown, Guyana.  
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**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.**

**at Marian Academy**  
Carlisle Avenue, Thimelands, Georgetown, Guyana.

**Closing Mass on Sunday**  
Brickdam Cathedral  
Time 5:00 pm

**Fri July 13 2018**  
Time: 5:30 pm

**Sat July 14, 2018**  
Time: 8:00 am to 4:00pm

**Sun July 15, 2018**  
Time: 8:30 am to 12:00 noon.

The Diocesan Youth Office presents

**Youth Camp 2018**

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

Venue: Camp Kayuka

**Juniors (13 to 16 yrs old) : 30th July - 2nd August**  
Fee: \$4000  
Registration closes 23rd July

**Seniors (17 to 30 yrs old) : 24th - 26th August**  
Fee: \$3000  
Registration closes 20th August

For more information please contact Youth Office on  
231-8833/ 642-8866 or email us at  
rcyouthguyana@gmail.com

# Sunday Scripture

## July 8th - Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B



### FIRST READING

Ezekiel 2:2-5

*The sons are defiant and obstinate and they shall know that there is a prophet among them.*

The spirit came into me and made me stand up, and I heard the Lord speaking to me. He said, "Son of man, I am sending you to the Israelites, to the rebels who have turned against me. Till now they and their ancestors have been in revolt against me. The sons are defiant and obstinate; I am sending you to them, to say, 'The Lord says this.' Whether they listen or not, this set of rebels shall know that there is a prophet among them."

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 122

**Response: *Our eyes are on the Lord till he shows us his mercy.***

1. To you have I lifted up my eyes, you who dwell in the heavens: my eyes, like the eyes of slaves on the hand of their lords. *Response*
2. Like the eyes of a servant on the hand of her mistress, so our eyes are on the Lord our God till he show us his mercy. *Response*
3. Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy. We are filled with contempt. Indeed all too full is our soul with the scorn of the rich, with the proud man's disdain. *Response*

### SECOND READING

2 Corinthians 12:7-10

*I shall be very happy to make my weaknesses my special boast so that the power of Christ may stay over me.*

In view of the extraordinary nature of these revelations, to stop me from getting too proud I was given a thorn in the flesh, an angel of Satan to beat me and stop me from getting too proud! About this thing, I have pleaded with the Lord three times for it to leave me, but he has said, "My grace is enough for you: my power is at its best in weakness." So I shall be very happy to make my weaknesses my special boast so that the power of Christ may stay over me, and that is why I am quite content with my weaknesses, and with insults, hardships, persecutions, and the agonies I go through for Christ's sake. For it is when I am weak that I am strong.

### Gospel Acclamation

**Jn 12: 12. 14**

*Alleluia, alleluia!*

*The Word was made flesh and lived among us; to all who did accept him he gave power to become children of God.*

*Alleluia!*

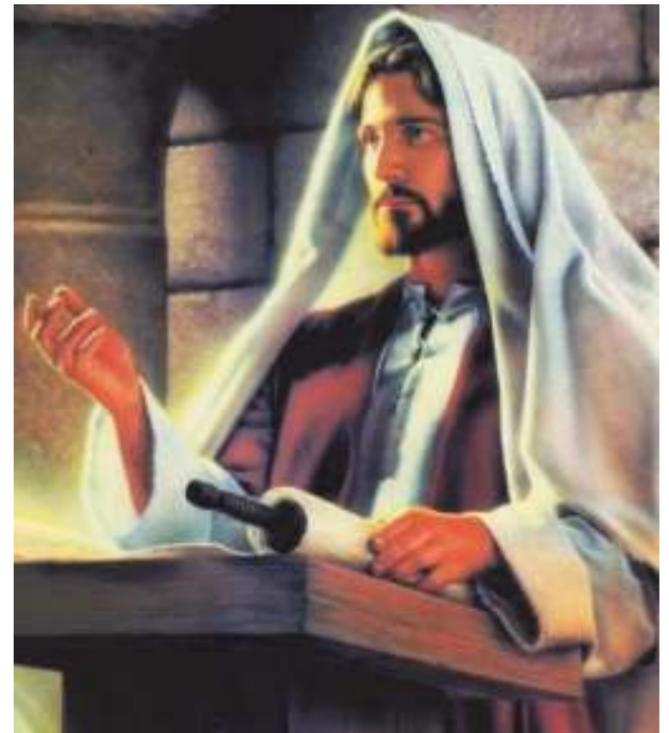
**or**

**Lk 4:18**

*Alleluia, alleluia!*

*The Lord has sent me to bring the good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives.*

*Alleluia!*



### GOSPEL

Mark 6:1-6

*A prophet is only despised in his own country.*

Jesus went to his home town and his disciples accompanied him. With the coming of the sabbath he began teaching in the synagogue and most of them were astonished when they heard him. They said, "Where did the man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been granted him, and these miracles that are worked through him? This is the carpenter, surely, the son of Mary, the brother of James and Joset and Jude and Simon? His sisters, too, are they not here with us?" And they would not accept him. And Jesus said to them, "A prophet is only despised in his own country, among his own relations and in his own house"; and he could work no miracles there, though he cured a few sick people by laying his hands on them. He was amazed at their lack of faith. ❖



By: The Diocesan Stewardship Council of Guyana

The First Reading from the prophet Ezekiel tells of how Ezekiel was called by God. The Lord speaks to him and says, "Hard of face and obstinate of heart are they to whom I am sending you." God knew He was not giving Ezekiel an easy task, but that is part of what being called by the Lord sometimes involves.

Being called is something to which we often make reference, as each of us is

called in Baptism. St. Paul once wrote that we are "called to belong to Jesus Christ." The United States Bishops issued a document a few years ago titled *Disciples Called to Witness*. That is what we are all to do as baptized Catholics.

In that treatise the Bishops say, "To create a culture of witness, we must live explicit lives of discipleship. Being a disciple is a challenge. Fortunately, one does not become a disciple of Christ on his or her own initiative. The work of the Holy Spirit within the

Christian community forms the person as a disciple of Christ."

God does not forsake us when we are called, just as He did not abandon Ezekiel. He is with us through the Holy Spirit to strengthen us and assist us. We must allow the Lord to help us. At the same time, we must strive to be disciples of the Lord. We are called to spread the light of the Gospel in everything we do. ❖

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

## Gospel Reflection



By Fr. Michael Barrow SJ

“He could work no miracle there.” Imagine that! The impression you get from the gospels is that Jesus could work any miracle by his own power. Yet often enough when he has healed someone he attributes it to their faith, saying something like “Your faith has healed you” or “Your faith has made you whole.”

What does he mean when he says “your faith”? During the Mass we all recite the Creed, an act of faith stating what we believe, but that is a different meaning of the word Faith. If I say that I have absolute faith in you, then I am saying how I feel about you, my love and trust. When Jesus went back to Nazareth he wanted to heal them and show them his love, but that he could not do so unless they were open to receive it. God always wants to show his love for us, but he cannot force us, as that would not be love.

When anyone came to Jesus for healing, he always asked “What do you want me to do for you?” even when it was quite obvious, such as a person with leprosy or blind or lame. The reason for Jesus asking is that when they say what they are asking for, they are showing their faith in him. They cannot see God, only a human person, and yet looking at Jesus with faith they do see God with their hearts.

In Nazareth they could not see beyond the human person, the boy they had seen growing up. If he had come with thunder and lightning as they do in the movies, perhaps they would have accepted him. But that would not be faith. Faith in God is ready to accept the coming of God into our ordinary world, to find God in our own lives. Many people even in Nazareth could not do that. ❖

## Inspiring Prayer Breakfast by Charismatic Renewal



The attendees were entertained by the choir and their vivacious energy during the praise and worship sessions.

The Guest Speaker was Father Carl Philadelphia who shared with a passion on the theme “Whoever **loves God must love others also**” 1 John 4:21. Fr. Carl declared himself to be a dreamer and dreams of the day when we can all live in love because for that reason we were created. Our love must not be wishy-washy but well-grounded in Christ who is love and to help others to know that they are loved by God and by us. We are not to see life as only providing for us to have the best in everything, but that there are so many rooms in God’s mansion, and we can work towards our brothers and sisters getting one of the rooms.

Mrs. Melcita Bovell shared powerfully her testimony on her sojourn during the Life in the Spirit Seminar which was recently completed. She informed that it was a good seminar for those who have never done it and even those who would have done so many years ago to have a refresher which is reminder to “fan into flame the gift of God as hands were laid on us”.

Mrs. Melcita, who confessed to having a voracious need for learning, knows that God is not finished with her as she walks confidently in the Holy Spirit and the best is yet to come.

We at the Catholic Charismatic Renewal love you and want this for you. It is the tool to renew the Church and so we are inviting you to come and join us and to learn to walk confidently in and with Jesus. ❖

**M**onday July 2nd, 2018 dawned bright and sunny and the Prayer Breakfast hosted by the Catholic Charismatic Renewal was blessed and well attended.

## St Pius X Parish Outing



Some of the St. Pius X parishioners who took part in the parish outing to the Marudi Creek Resort last Sunday, July 1st. Parish Priest Fr. Godfrey Veerasammy SJ is on the extreme right.

Last Sunday, July 1st, the members of St. Pius X parish, along with parish priest Fr. Godfrey Veerasammy SJ, went on an outing to the Marudi Creek Resort, off the Soesdyke/Linden Highway.

The day began with a Praise and Worship session, led by Mr. Gibion Moonsammy. This was followed by a talk on Family Life by Mrs. Joan Collins.

Mass was celebrated by Fr. Godfrey. After mass, parishioners shared lunch, and spent the rest of the afternoon

joyfully swimming in the creek, playing games such as table tennis; communing with nature and enjoying fellowship with each other.

Before departing for home, parishioners gathered once more in prayer and thanksgiving. ❖

# Ascension Youth tackle Domestic Violence



By Rebekah Jotis

The Laudato Si Youth Group in New Amsterdam, Berbice on Saturday June 30th hosted a domestic violence awareness presentation.

One of the main aims of this group is to discuss and implement ideas on how to protect our common home and our people, to raise awareness of environmental concerns in our community, and to create initiatives aimed at implementing the teachings contained in "Laudato Si," Pope Francis' letter on caring for the earth.

This event was well attended by community members.

The New Amsterdam group, comprised of Rianna Persaud, who focused on what was meant by the term 'domestic violence'; Adaline da Silva outlined the types of abuse, and Rhea dos Ramos examined the frequency, distribution, and possible control of violent acts.

Raquel Meenkum looked at risk factors, while Aaliyah Peterkin talked about the complications of domestic violence. Nianna Henry concentrated on the signs of violent behaviour while Daniel Persaud focused on various incidents of domestic violence in Guyana. Ryan Jotis prepared a very educational and

informational brochure while Eion Jotis focused on recent and early reports on domestic violence in the local community. Antonio Mangal assisted in creating the PowerPoint presentations used by the speakers while Sueann Hieronymo expounded on the preventative measures.

Chelsea Hieronymo explained the various types of abuse, while Rawlin Mangra focused primarily on the causes of domestic violence.

Myself, Rebekah Jotis elaborated on the management perspectives of domestic violence.

This holding of this event was an objective by the group mainly because of the recent increase in violent behaviours in our society.

The youths of Ascension felt that it would be of great benefit to the community to briefly educate the public and enlighten them about domestic violence and methods that can be put into place to reduce and help stop the relatively high degree of violence in our area. The youths also highlighted the warning signs which were very clear.

The event also included a candle light vigil dedicated to all those who lost their lives to violent acts.

Our parish priest Father Tony d' Souza SJ concluded the evening with very kind words of encouragement for our young people, along with a special blessing.

The youths thought to themselves that a purple ribbon be given to everyone. The significance of this was to personally remember and mourn for those who had died as a result of domestic violence.

In 'Laudato Si', Pope Francis calls on us to recover our bonds of mutual care. Many lives cry out to be protected and recognized as possessing the dignity given by God.

Pope Francis reminds us that all lives matter. ❖

## Sts Peter & Paul Raffle Results

**1st Prize:**  
**Dr Bob, GPHC**

**2nd Prize:**  
**Pamela Nauth**

**3rd Prize:**  
**Melroy Gomes**

The parish wishes to say a special THANK YOU to Bounty Supermarket and all those who supported the event and made it such a success. ❖

## Journeying with the Word of God



### MAKING THE WORD OF GOD YOUR OWN

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

**1st Reading:** God sends a prophet to his people. Now they cannot claim ignorance of their wrongdoing.

**2nd Reading:** Paul recognises that there are weaknesses in his life but it is just such weaknesses that he experiences God's saving grace.

**Gospel:** Even though they know him and his family, the people of his own home town reject Jesus. He cannot minister to them.

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

1. It is clear in the Scriptures that when God's calls someone, there is nothing that person can do but obey. Many prophets tried at first, with various excuses, to refuse. Do you feel God has called you for a special mission among his people?
2. St Paul acknowledged that he had certain weaknesses. but he intended to work through them in service to God. What would you say are your weaknesses? How do you cope with them as you strive to serve the Lord?
3. Why is it that at times those who are close to you, your family and friends, are the one who are least encouraging?
4. The people of Jesus' hometown had certain expectation of what Jesus should be like. When he didn't turn out as expected they rejected him. What part do expectations play in your faith life?

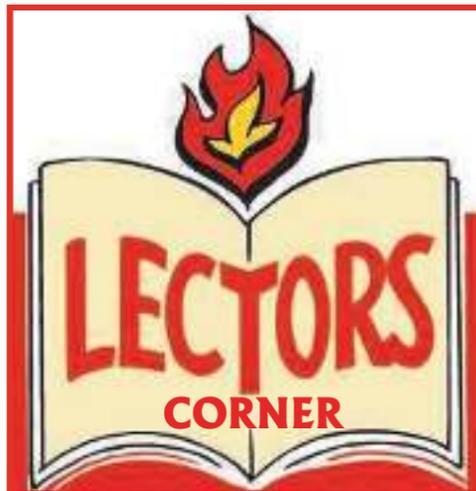
**Step 3: Accepting the message of God's Word in your life of faith.**

*Rejection is a fact of life and it is really hurtful to be rejected, especially by people who know you very well. Rejection can easily lead to anger. Jesus, however, was more saddened by the people's lack of faith than angry because they wanted nothing to do with him. Handling rejection is not always easy but Jesus shows us how. You do what you can and move on.*

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

1. Recall a moment in your life when you felt rejected and unwanted. What were the circumstances that led to the rejection? How did the rejection made you feel? Were you able to handle it easily or do you think it left a mark on you?
2. Pray that you will always be a more caring and accepting person and not one who quickly reject others. ❖

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



## Proclaiming the Word of God

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

July 8th: Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)



*"A prophet is only despised in his own country."*

### The Word this week

A prophet's job is to open people's eyes to the reality of their situation - pointing out to them the things they would rather forget or ignore. A prophet is a sort of "national conscience", always awake to situations of injustice and always speaking out about them. A prophet is commissioned to do this by God, who sends the prophet on his mission. Jesus is just such a prophet - teaching and preaching about the Kingdom of God and the best way to live. Despite the welcome his message has received elsewhere, when he comes to his hometown he is faced with rejection - such that "he was amazed at their lack of faith." It is curious that they seem to accept his wisdom, and his miracles, but because he grew up among them they cannot accept him as a teacher from God. We should remember that it is often hardest to stand up for the truth among those who know us well.

### Notes for Readers

**First Reading: Ezekiel 2:2-5**

This is a prophet's own account of his commissioning and send out by God. This short reading has a remarkable honesty - the mission is not going to be easy. Those forbidding words, "whether they listen or not..." give us insights into the task the prophet faces. This is a fairly simple reading: be careful to understand the way in which God presents the mission - in a very negative way. God doesn't understate the difficulty of the job ahead - using dramatic words like "revolt", "defiant and obstinate". When we eventually get to the message that Ezekiel is to take with him, it might seem a little bit of an anticlimax: "The Lord says this." This was the formula of Divine prophecy - a sign that the words, whatever they were, came from God. Interestingly, it is the same phrase that you, the reader, will say at the end of your reading: "This is the Word of the Lord." As a reader of God's word, you certainly share some of the roles of a prophet. Bear this in mind as you read!

**Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 12:7-10**

Paul gives us a strangely intimate insight into his ministry, in talking about his "thorn in the flesh". There has been a lot of debate as to what this could be: some think it could be a serious, possibly disfiguring disease; others that he refers to the failure of his brothers and sisters in Judaism to accept his message; some have even suggested that it could refer to his baldness, his short stature or a speech impediment. Whatever the details, here Paul is giving us a deeply personal testimony to his faith and his mission - whatever the burden, he is quite happy to carry on. Read in a tone that is friendly and almost casual (without losing any clarity). Announce the idea clearly - be careful with the words "thorn in the flesh"; in the second half of the reading, allow Paul's contentment to come through. Stress "weaknesses" in contrast with strength (which is what the world would boast about), especially in the last line. Spend some time with this reading before you proclaim it, and come to know the person of Paul, whose words you often read, a little better through this revelation.



July 15th: Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)

*"He began to send them out."*

### The Word this week

Again it is prophecy that is our theme (see last week). Here, we concentrate on the sending of prophets, the entrusting of the mission to them, and most importantly the necessary qualifications to be a prophet. The only qualification necessary is an

open ear, to hear the mandate from God. We see this in Amos, the simple shepherd, and in the Twelve, called by Jesus from their humble occupations, which no one would have thought qualified them to speak on 'religious' themes. As last week, the possibility of rejection and failure is quite explicitly treated - Jesus instructs the Apostles in what to do if they are ignored. When the Gospel simply states, "So they set off to preach repentance..." we can imagine all that was in their minds and hearts as they did so. They had heard the call of Jesus, and allowed it into their hearts: this was all they needed to go out and speak his words.

### Notes for Readers

**First Reading: Amos 7:12-15**

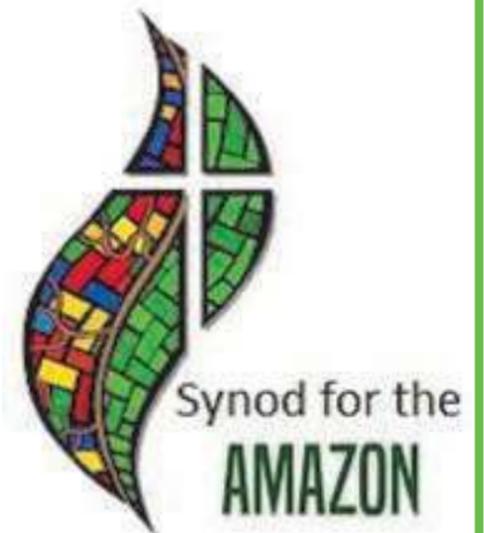
Here we see prophecy and 'organised religion' coming into conflict: the priest of Bethel rejects Amos, and tells him to clear off. But Amos replies that he cannot cease doing what he has begun, because it was not his choice or his career: the Lord is responsible for his mission, and he cannot ignore that call. Be careful with the change in speaker half way through: it's clear on the page, but how are the congregation to know that someone else is speaking when Amos has finished? Emphasise the words of the Lord, as he sends Amos out on his mission.

**Second Reading: Ephesians 1:3-14**

Check whether to use the long or short version

This is one of the most densely packed readings we find: a tremendous hymn of praise of God's eternal plan to save his people. Given the complexity of the reading, it may be advisable to concentrate on the shorter version - but still read the longer one yourself. The first line gives the context: "Blessed be God...": this is an outburst of praise by Paul. Remember this throughout the reading. The reading is printed in the Lectionary in sense-lines, which are there to help you read: this is more poetry than anything else, and so demands a slightly more flexible way of reading: look for an use the natural tone or colour of words such as: "holy and spotless", "kind", "praise", "free gift", "freedom", "richness", "showered", "mystery", "kindly". You must take this reading slowly, allowing pauses for ideas (not words) to settle into the minds of those listening. Given the length of the sentences (especially the second) people are not going to be following this as they would a story. It is more important to paint pictures and drop ideas - Paul is using language to create a mosaic of God's loving plan of our being "chosen in Christ". If you read the longer version, save a special emphasis for the words "Now you too..." since this is addressed to your congregation this morning or evening. ❖

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



## Prayer for the Synod for the Amazon

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

*You embrace with your tenderness all that exists.*

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

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

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

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

*that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction.*

*Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain*

*at the expense of the poor and the earth*

*Teach us to discover the worth of each thing,*

*to be filled with awe and contemplation,*

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

*Bless your Church which is here in Guyana*

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

*Bless our Holy Father Pope Francis Our own Bishop Francis*

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



# JESUS IN NAZARETH HIS OWN TOWN

Complete the following crossword.

1	People said, "This is the C_____."	→						N		
2	"He is the son of _____."	→						A		
								Z		
3	Jesus could work no m_____ there.	→						A		
4	Most people were astonished when they h_____ Jesus.	→						R		
5	The people of Nazareth did not a_____ him.	→						E		
6	Jesus said, "A prophet is not welcome in his own c_____."	→						T		
7	He was amazed at their lack of f_____.	→						H		

## Jesus Is Rejected in Nazareth

Dear Girls and Boys,

One time Jesus was back in his home town and teaching in the synagogue. How did the people feel when they heard him speaking? They were very surprised. They couldn't understand how Jesus, who they had known since he was a little boy, could have so much wisdom and teach so well.

Why do you think the people were so surprised? They thought that they knew who Jesus was – the son of Joseph the carpenter. They thought Jesus was just an ordinary man, but he wasn't. The people could not accept that Jesus was special. They did not believe in him.

Sometimes when we know someone really well we can forget how special they are. It can be hard to see past all the things we know about them, to what they are really like. And sometimes we forget how special the things that we do are, because they just feel ordinary to us.

Can you think of something special that someone you know really well does – it could be a friend or a family member or someone else? And can you think of one ordinary thing that you do, that others might see as special?

This week, let's try not to judge anyone for where they come from or who their family is, but instead listen to them, look out for the special things that they do, and see what we can learn from them.

Creator God, you made us all in your image and we are all loved by you. Show us how to treat each other with kindness and respect and help us to see how special each and every person in the world is. Amen. ❖



Jesus said to them, "Only in his hometown, among his relatives and in his own house is a prophet without honour." Mark 6:4

DEAR JESUS  
I BELIEVE  
IN YOU

1	2	3
4		
5		
	6	
	7	
8		
9		

**HORIZONTAL**

- 5. The ability to judge what is true or right
- 6. An event that can only be done through the power of God
- 7. To treat with great respect
- 8. A person whose job is making and repairing things made from wood
- 9. The town or city where a person was born or grew up

**VERTICAL**

- 1. To have great trust or belief in something or someone
- 2. One who is a spokesman for God to man.
- 3. A man or boy with the same parents as another person.
- 4. The seventh day of the week, the day of rest and worship for the Jews
- 5. The mother of Jesus

HOMETOWN    MIRACLE    CARPENTER    SABBATH    HONOR  
MARY        FAITH        WISDOM        PROPHET    BROTHER

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

HOME            TOWN            WISDOM  
CARPENTER    MARY            JAMES  
JUDE            JESUS            DESPISED  
OWN            COUNTRY        HOUSE



This week, we continue to give our suggestions on how to deal with problems new parents have after the birth of baby.

**4. Household chores**

You house needed tending to before your child came into the world, but these chores become even more difficult after a child is born. If all of it falls on one spouse for the most part, or if one spouse needs to nag the other for help around the house, the situation could lead to a lot of resentment and arguments.

To avoid this, the solution is simple - make a to-do list and divide the tasks between both of you. In addition, learn to ask each other for help with household chores and be open to "covering" for one another when needed. Be direct and ask for help when you need it. Another important thing is to know how to say "thank you" to each other (with a kiss) when your spouse has helped with what you've asked. Being appreciative, open, and honest will make for a happy orderly household.

**5. Grandparents**

Having a child is a wonderful thing, and seeing your spouse becomes a parent in this process is even more amazing. With that comes watching your parents become equally amazing grandparents, however, their ceaseless desire to spend a lot of time with the baby can be very burdensome. They may get the impression that from now on they have free access to your home, your life, and your child's education and upbringing 24 hours a day. The solution is to set boundaries, you have the full right to say "no", regardless of how generous they are or how much they spoil your child. Be nice but assertive - for example: "Our baby is lucky you are his/her grandparents, but we are all a bit tired and we'd love to have some time alone." What's more, if the grandparents in question are your in-laws, you have the right to ask your spouse to talk to his/her parents about the subject. At the same time, you can plan visitation

**Problems New Parents Have (cont'd)**



By Chris & Noelma Lam

times. If they feel wanted and you give them time, they will stop pressuring you.

**6. Lack of couple time**

After the first birth marital time becomes family time, you are always together, but not alone. Whether you are an older or a younger couple, the sharp transition between being a couple and a family challenges everyone and can cause problems. When it's only the two of you, you have the ability to make time for your private things - friends, hobbies and more. Once you have a child, you are "stuck" to each other and not only do you not have the time for your personal interest, you also don't have a lot of time just for the two of you.

The solution to this is divided into two parts: first, you need to set aside time where you don't talk about chores or the child (topics which also have time allotted to them), and your marital time will be filled with conversations about things you used to talk about when it was just the two of you. The second part is to allow each other personal time for hobbies and private matters. For this to happen, you need to be okay with asking your spouse to stay with the child alone. Don't look at this solution as an escape from your family, but rather as an opportunity to re-up on energy, one that will make you come back

refreshed, smiling, happy and full of vigor.

**7. Money**

Money is stressful for all of us, but for new parents, this is twice as true because most of them think they do not have enough of it to support their family often leading to marital problems. The anxieties that come from thinking about money will not be taken out on your kid, and your spouse will have to take the brunt of it. Therefore, the solution is first and foremost to talk honestly about what you want for your family and yourself, and in the second stage to understand and acknowledge that you have to make difficult choices - buy a fancy stroller for your child or go on a family vacation, no matter what, what's important is that you reach a decision together! Beyond that, to save and manage your money correctly, you can try living off of one salary and saving the other one. After the trial period, you can assess whether this is the right course of action for you.

**8. Lack of sleep**

For new parents, it is very difficult to get used to the new situation in which sleep is a luxury, and most of them spend the small hours of the night by their child's bed, sometimes even at relatively older ages. These nightcaps can lead to fatigue, lack of attention, and more - it's no coincidence that this is one of the most difficult challenges for new parents.

Lack of sleep causes us to be extremely nervous and irritable and this may affect our spouse and cause problems in our relationship. The solution to this can be achieved in several ways: one, sleeping shifts during weekends and even in the afternoon. Second, finding a quiet corner in the house where you can sleep, and even considering sleeping at a family member or close friend's house, as long as your spouse is home with your child, of course. Furthermore, when close friends or family members come to visit and offer help, don't be shy and take advantage of it, take a nap or simply rest for a few moments. ❖

*Pope's Intentions*

**July Monthly Intention:**

*Priests and their Pastoral Ministry*

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

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**Mind Puzzler Corner**  
**Our Last Brain Teaser was:**  
 I am something people love or hate. I change people's appearances and thoughts. If a person takes care of themselves, I will go up even higher. To some people I will fool them, to others I am a mystery. Some people might want to try and hide me, but I will show. No matter how hard people try, I will never go down. What am I?  
**Answer:** Age.  
**This Week's Brain Teaser:**  
 I was walking down London Bridge one day. I met a man. He tipped his hat and drew his cane. What is his name?  
 (Tip: His name is in the previous sentence)  
**Look for the Answer next week**

*TitBits*

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

It's easy to get caught up in a world in which our attention is focussed on everybody and everything else but ourselves. We are often told to be kind, to love, and to speak the truth. Yet, while it is right for us to do so, we are rarely ever told to be true to who we are, to protect ourselves. We need to always remember that, in doing the right thing, we do not sacrifice who we truly are.

God Bless You! Have a Great Week!

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

Q. Salvation belongs to someone. Who?

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

Q: What's stranger than seeing a catfish?

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

Welcome one another as Christ welcomed you for the glory of God - Romans 15:7

**-- Humour:**

One afternoon Little Johnny and his mom looked up as a flock of geese was flying past.

His mom explained how they always fly in a 'V' formation with the strong-

est one in the lead.

"Don't they know any other letters?" Enquired Little Johnny.

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

When in doubt take the next small step.

**-- Signs Found at Church**

How will you spend eternity - Smoking or Non-smoking?

**-- Answer to Bible Question:**

The Lord. - See Psalm 3:8

Salvation belongs to the Lord.

Your blessing is upon Your people.

**-- Answer to Teaser:**

Seeing a goldfish bowl. ❖

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# Pope accepts the resignation of two more Chilean bishops

# Australian Archbishop sentenced for concealing child sex abuse

(CNA/EWTN News) In his latest move on the Chilean clerical abuse crisis, Pope Francis has accepted the resignation of Bishop Horacio del Carmen Valenzuela Abarca of Talca, and Bishop Alejandro Goić Karmelić of Rancagua, both of whom have come under fire for their reaction to abuse allegations.

Valenzuela, 64, is one of four bishops formed by notorious Chilean abuser Fr. Fernando Karadima, and has long been accused by victims of covering up his mentor's crimes.

Goić, 78, is over the typical age of retirement for Catholic prelates, which is 75. In May he admitted to dropping the ball on abuse allegations brought to him last year. He apologized for having not looked into the charges, and suspended several priests who were accused of inappropriate sexual conduct with minors.

Pope Francis' decision to accept their resignations was announced June 28, and comes nearly six weeks after every active Chilean

bishop offered a written resignation to the pope following a three-day meeting with him at the Vatican in May to discuss the nation's abuse crisis.

With Valenzuela and Goić included, there are now five Chilean bishops whose resignations have been accepted by Pope Francis in the last month, including Bishop Juan Barros, who had been at the center of the nation's abuse scandal.

Earlier this year Francis summoned the Chilean bishops to Rome following an in-depth investigation and report into the Chilean clerical abuse crisis which resulted in a 2,300-page report on the scandal.

The crisis flared up with Pope Francis' appointment of Barros to the Diocese of Osorno in 2015, which was met with a wave of objections and calls for his resignation. Dozens of protesters, including non-Catholics, attempted to disrupt his March 21, 2015 installation Mass at the Osorno cathedral.

Opponents, including many of Karadima's victims, were vocal, accusing Barros, Valenzuela, and two other Chilean bishops who had been close to Karadima of cover-up.

In 2011 Karadima was found guilty by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith of sexually abusing several minors during the 1980s and 1990s, and sentenced to a life of prayer and solitude.

Though Pope Francis had initially backed Barros, after the investigation earlier this year he issued a major "mea culpa" for having made "serious mistakes" in judging the case, due to "a lack of truthful and balanced information."

Since then, he has met with two rounds of abuse survivors in addition to his meeting with Chilean bishops, and has sent Scicluna and Bertomeu back to Osorno to offer support and to educate in "best practices" for the handling of abuse accusations. ❖

A Catholic archbishop in Australia has been given a maximum sentence of 12 months in detention for concealing child sexual abuse in the 1970s.

Philip Wilson, now archbishop of Adelaide, is the most senior Catholic globally to be convicted of the crime.

He was found guilty by a court last month of covering up abuse by a paedophile priest in New South Wales.

On Tuesday, the court ordered Wilson to be assessed for "home detention" - meaning he will probably avoid jail.

Magistrate Robert Stone said the senior clergyman had shown "no remorse or contrition". He will be eligible for parole after six months.

Wilson has not resigned as archbishop, despite relinquishing his duties in the wake of his conviction.

In May, a court found he had failed to report his colleague James Patrick Fletcher's abuse of altar boys to police.

Wilson, then a junior priest in the Maitland region, had dismissed young victims in a bid to protect the Church's reputation, Magistrate Stone ruled.

Fletcher was convicted of nine child sexual abuse charges in 2004, and died in jail two years later.

During his trial, Wilson denied that he had known about Fletcher's actions.

The archbishop's lawyers had sought to have the case thrown out on four occasions, citing the 67-year-old's diagnosis with Alzheimer's disease. ❖

## Aishalton holds first Bible Quiz (From P1)



A participant receiving a certificate of participation at the Bible Quiz exercise. (Photo: Judy Winter).

Much preparation took place.

At first Mr. Medino Abraham and the church team held a Bible Seminar on the Gospel of Mark in first week of June to give the participants some background and help them plan and prepare.

The participants were given three weeks to get ready for the event.

It was agreed upon by the youths that the quiz would be boys against the girls with four in each team.

The team conducting the quiz namely Leah, Medino, Bunny and Mrs. Leona Spencer selected twenty questions from the gospel of Mark. The participants answered many of them almost without hesitation. However, as in each competition there must be a winner and as such, the girls emerged as the winners by six points.

According to one parishioner "it was really good see that the young people carefully studied the Bible and

prepared well. I was impressed with performance at this Bible Quiz. For me I saw all of them as winners and I wish them well as they continue educating themselves about the holy book".

At the end of the quiz, all participants were presented with certificates of participation and merit prizes, all compliments of the Planning Committee.

The youths and audience, who seemed to enjoy every minute of it, were not only given the opportunity to be more motivated about the Bible but also to experience a bible quiz which the church in this community had never witnessed before.

This religious activity is the start of a good initiative being implemented that will continue to help youths, particularly Confirmation candidates to be more involved and learn more about the Bible.

Perhaps some day we can even send a team to the Annual Bible Quiz in Georgetown! ❖

## New Catholic-Anglican document sees healing in difference (From Page 3)

Arcic argues. "It is not enough to recognise that there is something of gift and grace in the other. We must explore what God has given to our partners which, as Pope Francis has said, 'is also meant to be a gift for us'."

Among its recommendations the document includes an "enlarged role for authorised lay ministry" in the Catholic Church including the opening of the "ministry of lector for women". The role of lector allows someone to read the Scripture at Mass and while women frequently do this in practice, this change would give them an official ministry. It also urges the Catholic Church to give more authority to the Synod of Bishops, which is in keeping with Francis' emphasis on this body as a form of governance.

For Anglicans, Arcic encourages them to avoid becoming overly focussed on individual provinces, and also warns that the "parliamentary procedures" at a General Synod can "sometimes obscure the teaching authority of the college of bishops".

While the text is not an "authoritative declaration" by either Church, its fresh approach is likely to be closely examined by both denominations and is in keeping with the vision of both the Pope and the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby for Christians to find creative ways to work more closely together.

On the Catholic side Arcic III is led by the Archbishop of Birmingham, Bernard Longley, and on the Anglican side by New Zealand Archbishop David Moxon, who last year ended his term as the Archbishop of Canterbury's Representative to the Holy See and Director of the Anglican Centre in Rome.

Arcic III's next round of discussion will focus on how to discern right ethical teaching. ❖

# Guyana at North American Marriage Encounter Convention



from all across the world who all seemed to be on fire, lighting up the packed Convention Hall with overflowing warmth and love.

The Convention's purpose which was "To enrich, excite and empower us all to fulfill our mission for the next 50 years and beyond", we are convinced is well on its way to being achieved as the presentations centered around the theme "**We Remember, We Celebrate, We Believe**" were so powerful and profound they did have an impacting effect, as they were received with loud applause, cheers, standing ovations and many of us being emotionally moved to tears.

We were immensely touched by the positive energies, dedication, determination and sacrifice exemplified by the presenting couples and priests in their presentations. We were also touched by the participating priests and couples (Sacraments) who were totally involved. It was a wonderful sight to behold, in the dialoguing and open sharing sessions. These are the sacraments through whom Marriage Encounter's presence is now global, and is in all five continents, in approximately 94 countries.

Yes, there was the lighter side of the Convention too where we all had the opportunity to meet, greet and intermingle with couples and priests from the East, West, North and South. We surely established a few new friendships and rekindled some existing ones.

To bring down the curtains of the Convention, what a lovely gesture led by the International Ecclesial (Worldwide Leaders of Marriage Encounter). All sacraments invited to committing and saying a resounding 'Yes' to "The Challenge, The Greatest Jubilee-2033 – We Believe.

- We are Called to Evangelise
- The Power of Our Sacraments
- We Can Change the World"

In addition our being sent out - like Christ sending out His Disciples - to live the Mission of "Renewing the Church and Changing the World"

What a Convention, reiterating the urgency for us as Sacraments to be positive, rise to the challenges we face as a Movement and going beyond our fears and doubts to accomplishing our Mission. All this sealed during our joyful celebration of the Eucharist to bring the Convention 2018 to a close. TGBTG!❖

## From Robin & Sharon Roberts, ME Guyana

Our decision and choice over a year ago to celebrate our 19th wedding anniversary attending the North American Marriage Encounter 50th Anniversary Convention could not have been a better one.

Arriving in the windy city (Chicago) and receiving such a friendly and homely welcome from our host

couple was the beginning of an exciting and superb journey and experience of the Convention that took place from June 22nd-24th 2018.

For us it has been a feeling of glee and satisfaction, a blessing being part of the sold out Convention which had in attendance approximately 1,200 participants (including bishops, priests and couples

## Saint of the Week



**July 14th**  
**St. Kateri Tekakwitha**

Kateri was born near the town of Auriesville, New York, in the year 1656, the daughter of a Mohawk warrior. When she was four, Kateri lost her parents and little brother in a smallpox epidemic that left her disfigured and half blind. She was adopted by an uncle, who succeeded her father as chief. She was moved by the words of Jesuit missionaries, but since her uncle objected to the presence of the missionaries, fear of him kept her from seeking instruction. She refused to marry,

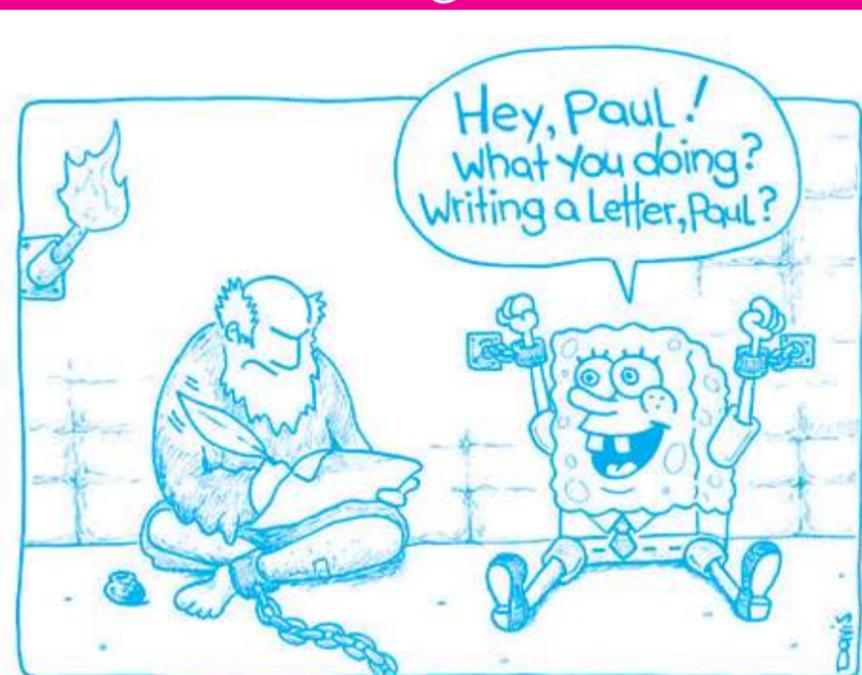
and at 19 finally got the courage to take the step of converting. She was baptized with the name Kateri (Catherine) on Easter Sunday.

Her conversion incurred great hostility, and she was treated like a slave. Because she would not work on Sunday, she received no food that day. Although she had to suffer greatly for her Faith, she remained firm in it. Her life in grace grew rapidly. She was powerfully moved by God's love for human beings and saw the dignity of each of her people.

She was always in danger, for her conversion created great opposition. On the advice of a priest, she stole away one night and began a 200-mile walking journey to a Christian Indian village near Montreal, Canada. Here she lived a life dedicated to prayer, penitential practices, and care for the sick and aged. She was devoted to the Eucharist and to Jesus Crucified. She died on April 17th, 1680 at the age of twenty-four. She is known as the "Lily of the Mohawks".

St. Kateri Tekakwitha is the first Native American to be declared a Saint. She is a patron of the environment and ecology.❖

## On the Lighter Side



"... I was given a thorn in my flesh, a Messenger from Satan, to torment me. Three times I...."