

Bishop Francis Alleyne explains 'Catholic Culture'



From Bishop Francis Alleyne OSB

The Bishop's Appeal this year is for "Vocations, building a Catholic Culture". A number of persons have asked me say a bit more about "Catholic Culture".

The definition of culture in the Oxford dictionary is:

"... the arts and other manifestations of human intellectual achievement regarded collectively.

... a refined understanding or appreciation of this... the

customs, ideas and social behavior of a particular people or group".

If we were to look at Guyana culture in the light of these definitions we could cite the poetry of Martin Carter, folk songs, the works of various authors, sculptors and painters. We could also bring into view some identifiable habits and practices that are part of the collective consciousness. For example it is said that Guyanese are welcoming and hospitable and I can certainly attest to this. I have also heard it said, and ([please turn to page 2](#))

Guyana Youths arrive in Martinique for Caribbean Bishops Youth Assembly



The Guyana delegation to the AECYA on their arrival in Martinique, Tuesday, July 10th. Each Diocese was asked to take a group photo with their country's flag. (photo: Joshua Van-Sluytman)

From Joshua Van-Sluytman, in Martinique

The Guyana delegation to the Antilles Episcopal Conference Youth Assembly (AECYA) arrived in Martinique on Tuesday morning. The theme for AECYA 2018 is "Youth Transforming the Caribbean Family."

The participants, who have been organizing for several months, would like to thank all those who supported fundraisers, those who

helped in their spiritual preparation leading up to the assembly, those who made fiscal endowments to the designated young people, and all those who prayed and are continuing to pray for us.

The atmosphere in the island is very welcoming and we do hope to maintain that spirit. May God bless you all.

From now until the opening ceremony on July 15th, the

participants will be spending days in the parishes. There are forty-six parishes in Martinique and delegates will be assigned to particular parishes beginning with those in the capital, Fort-de-France, then moving outwards. The programme in the parishes will include daily Mass, cultural exchanges, missionary work, museum tours, theme-related activities and Eucharistic Adoration. ❖

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Bishop's Engagements

Sunday July 15th

10:00hrs – Mass at Mt. Carmel, Wismar

Tuesday July 17th

06:30hrs – Travel to Martinique for AEC Youth Assembly

Wednesday July 18th to Monday July 23rd

Attend AEC Youth Assembly, 2018 in Martinique

Tuesday July 24th

12:30hrs - Return to Georgetown



✠ Francis Alleyne OSB



Bishop Francis explains 'Catholic Culture' (From Page 1)

EDITORIAL

Respect for all, priority for the poor in Mexico

By Mike James

Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador, a 64-year-old who is best known locally as AMLO, the initials of his name, has been officially declared by the National Election Commission as winner of the July 1 Mexican Presidential elections, with 53% of the vote.

Lopez Obrador's closest rival, Ricardo Anaya from the conservative National Action party (PAN), received 22% while Jose Antonio Meade, a career civil servant running for the currently ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party, or PRI, which ruled for most Mexico uninterruptedly from 1930 to 2000, came in a humiliating third with 16%.

Addressing tens of thousands of jubilant supporters, especially the poor and young, who poured into Mexico's iconic Zocalo square when the preliminary results were announced on election night, Lopez Obrador vowed to repay the trust put in him by millions of Mexicans. "I will govern with rectitude and justice. I will not fail you. I will not disappoint you. I won't betray the people," he said.

He vowed to rule for people of all religious groups (Mexico is 80% Catholic and a higher percent devoted to Our Lady of Guadalupe), social classes, all sexual orientations. "We will listen to everyone. We will care for everyone. We will respect everyone," he said. "But we will give priority to the poorest and to the forgotten."

In a country that has been plagued for decades with rigged elections to maintain the privileges a small extremely wealthy elite, the overwhelming vote in favour of AMLO led his opponents to graciously concede defeat less than 2 hours after the polls closed with the publication of the Election Commission's quick count results, exactly confirmed later by the official results.

Although Lopez Obrador will not take office as President until 1 December in keeping with the Mexican constitution, the media and society for the last week in Mexico has been gripped with confirmations of campaign commitments to put the poor first in a wealthy country with the world's second richest person, media magnate Carlos Slim with US\$ 59 billion, just behind Microsoft's Bill Gates, while 40% of the 130 million population live in poverty and 17% in extreme property.

Lopez Obrador has announced that from 1 December the monthly Presidential salary will be slashed from 259,629 pesos

noticed, that time and schedules are not high on the collective agenda and people do not get particularly upset if something or someone is late. They may shrug it off or inject a bit of humour "he have short foot." Another example is the widely used custom of persons respectfully, and somewhat affectionately, referring to elders as "auntie", "uncle", "grandad". Whatever the origin of these practices they are used and understood by the majority, if not the whole, of the population. These, along with so many other precious customs of the culture allow us to say "This is Guyana".

What would allow us to say "This is Catholic"? What would be the parallel in Christianity or Catholicism? What would be commonly understood, accepted, practiced and valued by the whole faith community? In the Acts of the Apostles we read of the early Christian Community that "remained faithful to the teaching of the apostles, to the brotherhood, to the breaking of the bread and to the prayers ... and all who shared the faith owned everything in common; they sold their goods and possessions and distributed the proceeds among themselves according to what each one needed... Each day, with one heart, they regularly went to the Temple but met in their houses for the breaking of the bread; they shared their food gladly and generously..." (Acts 2:42-46). "The whole

group of believers was united, heart and soul" (Acts 4:32). From very early the Christian community, filled with the Spirit, responding to the teachings and example of the Apostles, took on an identity and a way of living through a belief that they shared. This is evident in faith communities throughout the history of the Church and highlighted in the lives of the saints; men and women using their gifts and resources in favour of the common good and doing so with love, integrity, commitment and sacrifice. These men and women, in their particular time and circumstance, made an impact, made a difference.

Christian/Catholic culture in Guyana in 2018 is our time and circumstance. Like the first Christian community described in Acts, the communities of our time gather for worship and prayer and exercise some outreach through institutions, feeding programmes and charitable organisations. The question we need to put to ourselves is; can we build on this? Are we living our Christian/Catholic vocation to the fullest? In the examples from Acts of the Apostles and the lives of saints it is not only the externals that identify them. These communities were deeply motivated and committed to becoming more like Christ. It was important to them to become more loving and forgiving and to build relationships of service. It is helpful when the wider culture shares these

aspirations. A priest from Korea once explained to me that many priests and religious and strong families blossomed in the Christian communities in that country because the Christian teachings of commitment and sacrifice were valued and supported in the wider culture. It becomes a challenge to live our Christianity and Catholicism when the dominant behavior in the wider community is not supportive. Our integrity is challenged when corruption is rife, it is difficult to trust when there is so much deception and speculation and conspiracy; our celebration of community and belonging can be undermined by individualism and the preoccupation in many as to "What is in it for me?"

The invitation of the Bishop's Appeal this year to live our vocation and build our Catholic Culture is that together we make a concerted effort to witness to the faith in our time and circumstance. Clearly, at times, in the context of Guyana in the early 21st century, we will be called to be counter-cultural; being community when individualism is the mantra of the media, being stewards when people subscribe to messages of entitlement, building trust and collaboration when division and exploitation is before our eyes on a daily basis, living with passion and accountability in place of mediocrity. This is Catholic, this is our heritage, this is our vocation. ❖

(US\$13,664) to half that amount with all other allowances eliminated. The salaries of all his already named cabinet will also be cut by half. So will the super salaries of all top government officials since the Mexican constitution stipulates that no public official can receive a salary higher than that of the president.

While gratefully acknowledging the congratulations of the current and former Presidents of Mexico on his landslide victory, AMLO as the same time responded to a reporter's question by confirming his campaign promise that the lifetime pensions for all former presidents totalling US\$14 million annually will be abolished.

These savings and other radical measures to eliminate bribes and corruption in public spending which skim off more than 12% of government spending will help to fund programmes such as the doubling of government persons to the aged poor that are currently a lowly US\$75 monthly.

Regarding corruption the President-Elect has been adamant. "Whoever is involved will face the law. I include in this battle my own associates, public officials, friends and family members." And as I have said repeatedly: "Nobody above the law, no one outside the law."

The private sector, including some accustomed to benefitting from lucrative unadvertised government contracts and who had publicly pressured their employees during the campaign not to vote for AMLO's Morena Party, also unanimously hailed the landslide victory and pledged to work with the new government to launch massive employment training programmes for two million school leavers to ready them for gainful employment in the private sector.

Frustration with spiralling violence across the country was one of the major scourges which led Mexican voters to reject traditional parties. AMLO, a workaholic, as President will meet daily at 6 a.m. with a National Security Committee including the heads of Police, Army and Navy to address this issue, and on plans for massive training programmes and improved salaries for police to help reduce police corruption and widespread acknowledged collusion between sectors of the security forces and organized criminal groups.

Perhaps most striking has been the consistent message from the President elect of a commitment to reconciliation by reaching out, seeking consensus meetings and repeatedly expressing respect for political opponents and private

sector groups suspicious of his priority for the poor and marginalized

The Catholic Church has greeted the election results and changes promised with optimism. A statement last weekend the Archdiocese of Mexico, headed by Cardinal Archbishop Carlos Aguiar, appointed earlier this year by Pope Francis, noted:

"On July 1, Mexico experienced a true civic celebration. The acts of violence and corrupt practices that occurred failed to overshadow the intense citizen participation or put in question the decision of a people who have opted for alternation in power.

"The President-Elect has made clear what his priorities will be, which basically have to do with eliminating the vices that have most harmed Mexico the most ... For this reason, the Church has not only expressed her willingness to work with the new authorities in those issues that promote true common good, but also insisted on the importance of walking the path of reconciliation to build a country in which there are no winners or losers, but a society with hope and the challenges that face this great country." ❖

Pope presents palliums to new Archbishops



Pope Francis celebrated Mass marking the feast of Sts. Peter and Paul in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican on June 29th. At the conclusion of the Mass the pope presented palliums in boxes to dozens of new archbishops from around the world. Some of the new archbishops are seen in the photo above. Included among them

was Archbishop Jason Gordon of Trinidad and Tobago who is third from the left.

As has become standard practice, Pope Francis did not confer the pallium on new archbishops during the liturgy, but rather, blessed the palliums after they had been brought up from the crypt above the tomb of

St. Peter. As each archbishop approached him by the altar, the pope handed each one a small wooden box tied with a thin gold ribbon. The actual imposition of the woolen band was to take place in the archbishop's archdiocese in the presence of his faithful and bishops from neighboring dioceses.

The pallium is a white woolen circular band embroidered with six black crosses which is worn over the shoulders and has two hanging pieces, one in front and another in back. Worn by the Pope and by metropolitan archbishops, it symbolizes their authority as archbishop and expresses the special bond between the bishops and the Roman Pontiff. ❖

Upcoming Events

Monday July 16th

One-Night Parish Mission

The Catholic Charismatic Renewal in collaboration with the Catholic Men's Ministry invites you to a One-night Parish Mission at the **Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Brickdam, on Monday, July 16th from 5:30pm.** For more details please see page 4.

July 30th – August 2nd

Diocesan Junior Youth Camp

Please see page 4.

August 24th - 26th

Diocesan Senior Youth Camp

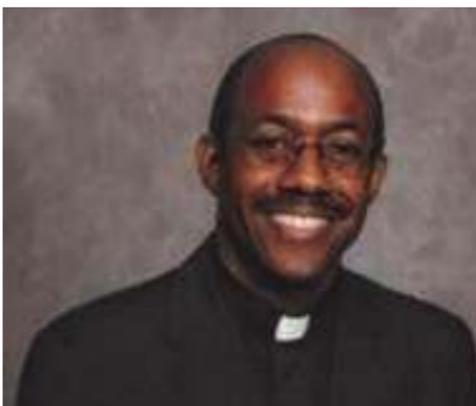
Please see page 4❖



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

catholicstandardgy@gmail.com
under the heading "Upcoming Events"
or call 226-2192.

Donald Chambers new General Secretary of AEC



The Caribbean Bishops Conference has announced the appointment of Reverend Donald Dean Chambers, Diocesan Priest of the Archdiocese of Kingston, Jamaica, as the new General Secretary of the Antilles Episcopal Conference with effect from December 1, 2018.

Fr. Chambers was ordained priest on June 28, 1992 and has served in various capacities in his own Archdiocese of Kingston. He has also served

as the Antilles Director of the Pontifical Mission Societies from 2007-2012. Fr. Chambers will succeed Fr. John D. Persaud, of the Diocese of Georgetown, Guyana, who has served as General Secretary from November 2014.

The AEC extended to Fr. Chambers their best wishes and assured him of their prayers as he prepares to take up his new office. ❖

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A Christian Perspective on Social Issues



Real role models - the challenges to finding them (Part III)

By GHK Lall

In this steadily encroaching atmosphere and numbing environment the sanctuary of church and God, the teachings and perfect example of Jesus and those of the early Christian strivers, indeed the Bible itself are all found uninviting and, to be frank, acutely dull. There is little inclination to labor on the straight and narrow road of life: too barren in the pleasures of the flesh and, hence, too unattractive when compared to the irresistible splendors of the world. There are so many things to be had, so many earthly tastes to be sampled. Church and scripture are too boring, too demanding and too unmanly in the here and now with its countless toys and joys. The old ways once so heavily relied upon as guideposts are now dismissed as too futuristic in its delivery of fulfillment, too delayed in the satisfactions of instant gratification.

Sensible youths distancing self from the pressure of peers, the poverty of circumstances and environment face an uphill task. The few sturdy ones who associate with a church find themselves either under constant distraction from the outside world or in mounting conflict on the inside of

what is supposed to be the embracing sanctuary. The one place turned to-sometimes forced to-is not as welcoming as it should be: comforting mentoring elders, who should be there to take the time and interest to encircle and protect first, and then develop towards the confidence of spiritual strength are there but may as well not be. As a quick aside, but of pointed significance, the elders of yore still around, including those in the sanctuary have gotten better at keeping counsel to themselves in a sharply disrespectful aggressive environment. This is the way of the wise, where the well-meaning can find themselves subject to ridicule or even worse yet sharp abuse; cross-racial lines of counsel (a once admirable feature of this society) have all but vanished; the thoughtful are too fearful. They simply settle for being careful: avoidance and looking the other way is the key; self-protection becomes paramount.

On the other hand, and many times, those necessary hovering mature figures to guide are too preoccupied with themselves and their own pursuits and

priorities. The exhortation of Philippians 2:3 is ignored through coolness of reception and lack of application, "Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves." The programs for recruiting and ingathering do not extend to the promising (who should be earnestly looked for, taken under wing and groomed)), the vulnerable (to be watched for and guarded), and the immature (to be taken cultivated to make better). The patience, care, and that call to "tend my sheep" are missing in action and leaves voids that are easily exploitable by the waiting wolves of the world; they are only too eager to pick up the slack and lead down pathways to destruction. For every lost one, a family is pained, a community suffers, the church loses, and this country pays a price. This is a tragedy by itself-at least a noticeable crisis-that deepens daily, and which starts with a widespread absence of real role models; the absence is on

REAL. In this instance, real represents the wholesome, the constructive, and the righteous, those willing to go many extra miles to nurture. According to Proverbs 11:14, "Where there is no guidance the people fall, but in abundance of counselors there is victory." The word and evidence are that this is not peculiar to any one denomination or religious body.

In view of this church atmosphere and social milieu, already thin at the core and fragile at the edges, what chance is there for the weaker ones looking to lift themselves out and away from the tentacles of the ensnaring devilish? What hope remains for those young adults searching for a way different from the prevailing strangling wickedness? What options are there? Who is there exemplary in behavior in whose footsteps they can walk?

Last installment next week: Real role models - the few waiting and worthy of imitating.

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The Catholic Charismatic Renewal in collaboration with the Catholic Men's Ministry

invites you to a

One-night Parish Mission

with special guest speakers

Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers
 along with
Micheal Haddock
 from the USA

at the
 Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception,
 Brickdam.

on Monday, July 16th, 2018
 from 5:30pm

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 15th - Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

FIRST READING

Amos 7:12-15

Go, prophesy to my people.

To Amos, Amaziah said, "Go away, seer; get back to the land of Judah; earn your bread there, do your prophesying there. We want no more prophesying in Bethel; this is the royal sanctuary, the national temple." "I was no prophet, neither did I belong to any of the brotherhood of prophets," Amos replied to Amaziah, "I was a shepherd, and looked after sycamores: but it was the Lord who took me from herding the flock, and the Lord who said, 'Go, prophesy to my people.'"

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 84

Response: *Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help.*

1. I will hear what the Lord God has to say, a voice that speaks of peace, peace for his people.
His help is near for those who fear him and his glory will dwell in our land.
2. Mercy and faithfulness have met; justice and peace have embraced.
Faithfulness shall spring from the earth and justice look down from heaven.
3. The Lord will make us prosper and our earth shall yield its fruit.
Justice shall march before him and peace shall follow his steps.

SECOND READING

Ephesians 1:3-14

Before the world was made, God chose us.

Blessed be God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with all the spiritual blessings of heaven in Christ
Before the world was made, he chose us, chose us in Christ,
to be holy and spotless, and to live through love in his presence,
determining that we should become his adopted sons, through Jesus Christ
for his own kind purposes,
to make us praise the glory of his grace,
his free gift to us in the Beloved



in whom, through his blood, we gain our freedom, the forgiveness of our sins.
Such is the richness of the grace which he has showered on us in all wisdom and insight.
He has let us know the mystery of his purpose, the hidden plan he so kindly made in Christ from the beginning
to act upon when the times had run their course, as head,
that he would bring everything together under Christ, as head, everything in the heavens and everything on earth.

Gospel Acclamation *Jn 6: 63. 68*

Alleluia, alleluia!

Your words are spirit, Lord, and they are life: you have the message of eternal life.

Alleluia!

or

Eph 1: 17. 18

Alleluia, alleluia!

May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our mind, so that we can see what hope his call holds for us. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mark 6:7-13

He began to send them out.

Jesus summoned the Twelve and began to send them out in pairs giving them authority over the unclean spirits. And he instructed them to take nothing for the journey except a staff – no bread, no haversack, no coppers for their purses. There were to wear sandals but, he added, "Do not take a spare tunic." And he said to them, "If you enter a house anywhere, stay there until you leave the district. And if any place does not welcome you and people refuse to listen to you, as you walk away shake off the dust from under your feet as a sign to them." So they set off to preach repentance; and they cast out many devils, and anointed many sick people with oil and cured them. ❖



By: The Diocesan Stewardship Council of Guyana

"He instructed them to take nothing for the journey." When Jesus sent his Apostles out, He sent them "two by two," and He basically commanded them to take nothing on the journey: "no food, no sack, no money in their belts." The point of the Lord is that all they needed was to trust in God. Jesus more or less says the same thing to us.

As long as we trust in God, our needs will be met. That is easily said, but it is a bit daunting to actually do it. Yet, people have been doing that since

Jesus' time. It is one of the reasons that the Church has thrived for such a long time.

There is a secondary reason for Jesus' instructions though, one with which we may not be familiar. At that time there was a ruled that you could not enter a temple area with shoes or a moneybag, because you were there to serve the Lord, nothing else and no one else. The Apostles understood that preaching the Gospel and healing in God's name was holy work. Jesus

did not want them to exemplify any other motive either.

One of the foundational elements of stewardship is trusting God. What enables us to be good stewards and to think of giving to God first, of ourselves and what we have, is that we truly believe that God will take care of us. God has a plan for each of us, and it is better than our own plan may be. ❖

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

Gospel Reflection



By Fr. Michael Barrow SJ

When Jesus sent his disciples out with no money, no food, no spare clothes but just what they stood up in, he was not laying down the normal pattern of their lives. He was giving them a very valuable experience of being totally dependent on God's providence. This still happens today in a number of religious orders. During the novitiate, which forms the first part of their training, they are sent off in twos on pilgrimage for a month or so during which they beg for enough to eat and for somewhere to sleep. They always come back amazed at people's generosity. Also they nearly always say there came occasions when nothing turned up, nowhere to sleep and nothing to eat, and always at the last minute something unexpected appeared out of nowhere. All of them say that it was a real experience of God looking after them all the time, so that they came to trust in God's protection even when it seemed unlikely that they were going to manage.

That was the experience that Jesus wanted his disciples to have. He was not saying that they should not plan ahead and organize the Church effectively, but part of their formation needed to be an experience of total dependence on God. For some people it comes by accident. An army chaplain captured by the Japanese during the Second World War, told me that when he had barely enough to eat and possessed nothing except the pair of shorts that he was wearing, the sense of freedom and dependence on God that it gave him was beyond anything he had ever experienced. When disaster strikes us and everything seems to be falling apart perhaps this can be for us a wonderful experience of God's protection, if only we can make use of it. ❖

Compton Young's estate donates to hostel, orphanage



From left: Carmelite Sister Antoinette in charge of the Girls' Hostel on Lamaha Street; Mr Joseph Young, Mr. Compton Young's eldest brother; and Ms. Eunice Headecker, who worked with Mr. Young from the age of 19, nursed him while he was in the St Thomas More Men's Home, then finally took him to her own home when his condition worsened.

The estate of the late Mr. Compton Young on Monday donated cash, clothing and accessories to the Saint Bernadette's Girls Hostel which is run by the Carmelite Sisters, and the Saint John Bosco Boys Home in Plaisance.

Making the donation on behalf of Compton Young was his eldest brother Joseph who resides in New York, USA. He said that it was Compton's wife Linda, and son Terrence Patrick, who chose the two places that would benefit from the donations. Linda, he explained, is a former Carmelite Sister and Compton has always had a special affection for needy children. He often prepared meals for children of Tiger Bay who were also frequently invited to his home.

Compton Julian Young, perhaps best known to Catholics for his zeal for God, and for being a local pioneer and leading figure in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal movement that swept through mainline denominations over 50 years ago, died earlier this year, on Sunday March 18th after a long illness. He was 77.

Mr. Young was also a former Mayor of Georgetown and a popular florist. ❖

Fund-raising Coffee Morning at Fatima



The Fatima branch of the Ladies of Charity held their annual fund-raising coffee morning on Monday July 2nd last in the parish hall, for members of

the parish and beyond.

It was a lovely venue to catch up with friends and neighbours, and to meet new people.

This year's event featured not only coffee, tea and delicious home baking, but also on sale were snacks including black pudding and a take-away lunch!

The Fatima branch of the Ladies of Charity, would like to express a heartfelt THANK YOU to the donors, workers, supporters and all who assisted in making their annual coffee morning a success. May God continue to richly bless you all and look forward to your continued support in the future.

ALL the proceeds go towards helping the needy in the parish. ❖

Sincere gratitude to Religious Ed. teachers from Catechetical Department

From Angie Sukhai - Diocesan Catechetical Department

Catechists throughout our diocese are in the process of or have already closed Religious Education classes for the Catechetical year. These men and women have given and continue to give of their time and effort, some for many years while some are new.

We sincerely thank you for your continued service to the Church and we acknowledge and appreciate all that you do to bring and pass on our Catholic faith to our children and in some cases, adults. Your answer to your baptismal call and in the process nurturing your vocation indicates your faithfulness and commitment

to serve. Your continued efforts to prepare persons for their Sacraments must not go unnoticed.

Let us view our service as a privilege of caring for others as Jesus cares for us. We can open the door for someone who may have never dreamed they would be welcomed personally into the house and family of God.

I have seen catechists reaching out to persons with the intention of getting them in formation. The love and patience shown are to be praised. Some catechists find it very challenging as well, in terms of space, materials etc. They go out of their way to ensure those they serve are comfortable.

The department asks; how can it assist in making your journeying less stressful. We know you are quite

knowledgeable of what you do, but having a relationship with our Lord can never be too much, we offer Faith Formation Classes for Catechists; at your convenience, we will avail ourselves to working with you.

Other than your regular Teachers' Manuals and Workbooks, the department has some literature that may be beneficial to you and other lay persons.

These include:

- Pastoral Formation for Young People
- Journeying with the Word of God
- Initial Training for Readers
- Our Catholic Tradition
- Some Catholic Rituals and Practices
- Rite of Confirmation, among others

"Therefore go make disciples of all nations." - Matthew 28:19. ❖

Confirmation at Beterverwagting



St. Peter's Church at Beterverwagting celebrated their Feast Day on Sunday July 1st. The celebration included the Sacrament of Confirmation. The church itself became 143 years old on June 29th.

Events began with devotions to St. Peter and ended with snacks for all of the congregation. His Lordship Bishop Francis gave an inspiring homily directed mainly to the candidates who were very receptive to his remarks. ❖

Courtesy & Kindness Viewpoint

by Vibert Parvatan

"Small kindness, small courtesies, small considerations habitually practised in our social intercourse, give a greater charm to the character than the display of great talents and accomplishments."

- Mary Ann Kelly

How does one deal with discourtesy and disrespect given our recognition that interacting harmoniously with others is an imperative? That principle applies in all places, to all persons and at all times. Respect needs to be evident and resound in our homes, workplaces, streets, communities, country and even in our international relationships.

Respect includes in its meaning treating others with consideration and regard, thus refraining from corrupting, tempting, or offending. One of the problems jeopardising that element of respect in our society and which undermines the blossoming of respect, is that some persons lack self-respect. It thus follows logically that if you haven't got it, you cannot be expected to show it or to share it. Respect goes hand in hand with other human attributes especially that of love, good breeding, confidence and good nature.

On the subject of respect **Robert Schuller** observed:-

Wow! Talk about a challenge. Is it possible to know and respect

all people? That would take a mountain of faith!

Is it possible to honour crude and cruel persons who destroy life and love? Yes. We do not condone their behaviour, but we recognise that they are still souls for whom Christ died on the cross. And we can still pause to pray, "God have mercy on their souls."

On a far more practical level, the challenge you and I have is to respect the people with whom we live, work, and close relate. Can we honour them as beautiful human beings even after their weaknesses have been grossly exposed? The answer must be a resounding yes.

How can our faith perform this miracle? Quite simply. Our faith reminds us that we too are imperfect human beings.

Our faith reminds us that God loves us even though he knows us better than anybody else! And if God loves in spite of what we are, he will give us the grace to pass that charitable spirit along!

I thank you today, O God my Father, for honouring me even after I have disappointed you, treating me like a noble person even after I have been guilty of disgraceful behaviour in your sight.

Help me now to treat my fellow human beings with no less respect than you have shown me.

Thank you, Father, for this faith. It's working miracles."

We need those miracles to counteract the many pitfalls which are indicative of disrespect.

Extra marital relationships are a manifestation of lack of respect for the institution of marriage and for the family. Such

behaviour runs counter to the sacred matrimonial vows and that of another commandment – Thou shalt not commit adultery.

With the recognition that individual families make up society, we can certainly understand some of the serious problems including disrespect which are evident today. Let me cite examples with which you may be quite familiar.

The escalation in criminal acts around the world and the nature of the crimes reflect a growing trend of no respect of Law and Order. The person who respects womanhood will certainly not be a wife beater or a rapist. Those who respect the rights of others will certainly be tolerant to differing views, diversity of cultures, as well as religious, political and ideological differences.

Those persons who use indecent language in the streets and just couldn't care who hears, display lack of respect for others.

The men who urinate against posts and trees show no respect for those passing by – the vulgarity, hostility, discrimination and other such ills are all indicative of a growing lack of respect for others.

But should we look for that quality of respect and expect to find it in the society at large, if respect is not well cultivated and entrenched in our homes?

Parents and guardians must be ever conscious of the importance of respect in our homes. Respect of parents for their children and the need to teach their children by good example cannot be over emphasised.

John Locke, the English philosopher observed that: **"Parents wonder why the streams are bitter, when they themselves have poisoned the fountain."** ❖

Journeying with the Word of God



MAKING THE WORD OF GOD YOUR OWN

Step 1: Look at today's Readings prayerfully.

1st Reading: The prophet Amos is faithful to the task God gave him even though those to whom he is sent rejected him.

2nd Reading: Paul writes a wonderful hymn of thanksgiving to God for the great spiritual gifts he had been given in Christ.

Gospel: Jesus gives a mission to the disciples and he instructs them on how they are to prepare and what they are to do.

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

1. The prophets were direct in telling people to change their lives. Why do you think it is so much easier to ask people for money for some good cause than to ask them to repent and change their lives?
2. Jesus instructed the Twelve to carry nothing of importance with them on their mission to the surrounding village. What does this say about Jesus' attitude about seeking wealth?
3. Why is it that people who are unhappy with their lives are more open to repentance and conversion?
4. The disciples were sent out to evangelise. Evangelisation means going out and spreading the good news of God's love for all of creation. What role do you see yourself taking up in this vital areas of evangelisation?

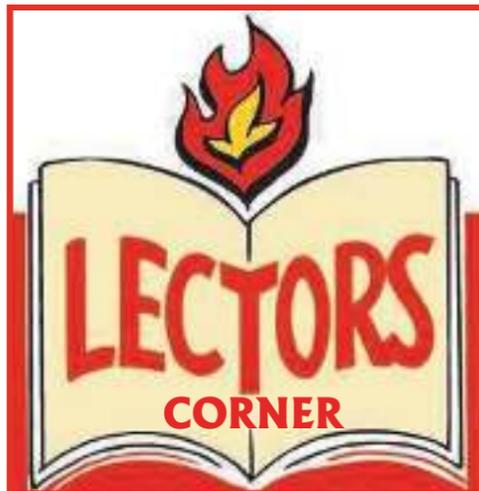
Step 3: Accepting the message of God's Word in your life of faith.

Whenever you feel that God is not doing anything about the evil in the world, you must remember that God has already done something. And that something is simply that God made you. You yourself have to answer the question of what you can do, that is, what is the special gift or talent God has given to you as an individual. It is a challenge to be an active follower of Christ, to be givers instead of receivers.

Step 4: Something to think & pray about

1. Reflect on the fact that we are to carry out the mission of Jesus here on earth. Think about what you have to do to prepare yourself for this great mission.
2. Today's Gospel shows how Jesus shared his mission with his followers. Try to answer the question of what you can do to help with this mission.
3. Remember also to give support and encouragement to all those who are actively involved in this mission, especially our priests and lay ministers. ❖

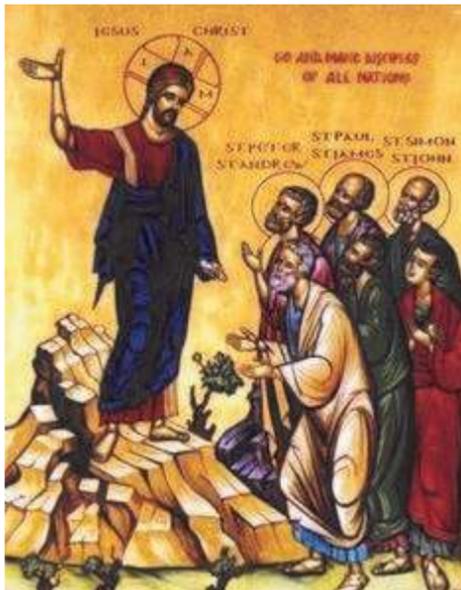
[From: *Journeying with the Word of God*, The Religious Education Department, Diocese of Georgetown, Guyana]



Proclaiming the Word of God

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

July 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 Amaziah 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 Lec-tionary 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.



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

"They were like sheep without a shepherd."



The Word this week

"Sheep without a shepherd." This is the simple theme of today's readings.

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

Notes for Readers

First Reading: Jeremiah 23:1-6

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

Second Reading: Ephesians 2:13-18

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

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



Synod for the
AMAZON

Prayer for the Synod for the Amazon

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

You embrace with your tenderness all that exists.

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

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

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

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

that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction.

Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain

at the expense of the poor and the earth

Teach us to discover the worth of each thing,

to be filled with awe and contemplation,

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

Bless your Church which is here in Guyana

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

Bless our Holy Father Pope Francis Our own Bishop Francis

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



Children's Page

Jesus Sends Out the Twelve

Dear Boys and Girls,

When he was on the earth, Jesus travelled around from village to village teaching, healing people, and casting out demons. One day, he called his twelve disciples to him and said, "I want you to go out two by two. I am giving you all of the authority you need to cast out evil spirits."

That sounds like a pretty big task, doesn't it? That meant that they would have to travel from town to town just as Jesus had been doing. We imagine the disciples thought to themselves, "Wow! I had better go home and start packing!"

But then Jesus gave them further instructions. "Take nothing for your journey except a walking stick -- no food, no traveller's bag, and no money. You can wear sandals, but no extra clothing."

No food, no money, no extra clothes -- how could the disciples possibly make this journey? They found people who would welcome them and they stayed with them in their homes. These people fed them and gave them everything they needed for the journey. The Bible tells us that the disciples went out telling everyone they met to repent of their sins and turn to God. They also cast out many evil spirits and they healed many sick people. In other words, they did exactly what Jesus told them to do and he gave them the power to do it.

Jesus told us to go and make disciples. Sometimes we delay following his command because we think we aren't ready. If we would just go, like the Twelve did, he would give us the ability to share the Good News with others. What do you think? Let's go!

Father, we know that many people need to hear the Good News. Jesus has told us to go and make disciples. Help us to be willing to go. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen. ❖



Calling the Twelve to him, he sent them out two by two.

Mark 6:7 (NIV)

JESUS SENDS THE 12 APOSTLES

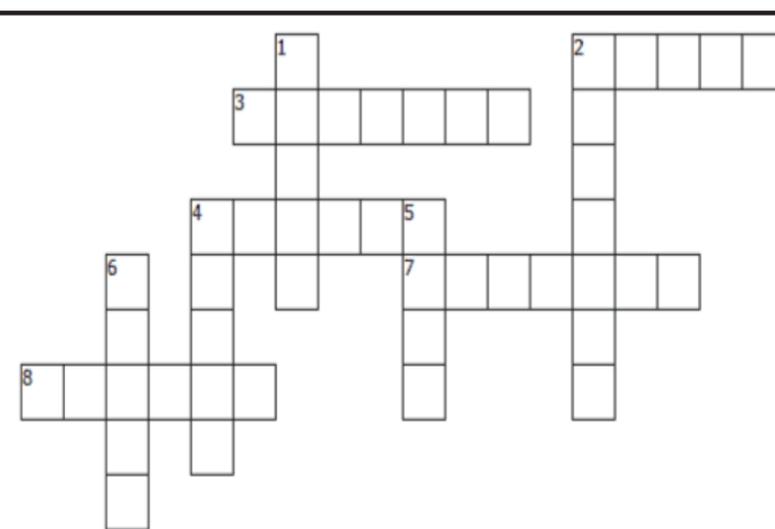


Go out in pairs! You don't need to take anything spare! Preach the Good News to everyone. I give you the power to make miracles too!

Draw 2 pictures of the apostles ...

1 PREACHING

2 MAKING MIRACLES



ACROSS

- 2. A stick or cane carried as an aid in walking or climbing
- 3. A trip over a great distance
- 4. The number of disciples Jesus chose
- 7. A community where people live that is smaller than a town or city
- 8. To deliver a sermon; to proclaim the Word of God

DOWN

- 1. Coins or bills used to buy things
- 2. Shoes consisting of a bottom part held onto the foot by straps
- 4. To instruct, train, or give knowledge to others
- 5. Something that is bad or wrong; wicked
- 6. A basic food made from flour, water, and yeast mixed together and baked

MONEY PREACH BREAD EVIL TEACH
 JOURNEY TWELVE VILLAGE SANDALS STAFF



BREAD	HAVERSACK	PURSES
TUNIC	HOUSE	WELCOME
DUST	FEET	SIGN
DEVILS	OIL	CURED



If we read the newspapers, secular magazines, best selling books; If we watch television and movies the message we often get is: "If it feels good, do it! If it is wrong, just don't get caught." We do not agree with this rather breezy attitude towards life and living.

Good values! We hear so little of these in the world today. We believe that children need to be taught values, to know what is right and what is wrong, and the best place to learn these values is at home - from mom and dad, and any other adults in the home.

There is a difference between right and wrong. Beginning in toddler days and continuing through their teenage years, we need to teach our children that certain things are right, and other things are wrong. We need to let them know that there exists a firm moral code - not to be thrown away. If we give up and use excuses, saying that we are tired of telling them over and over, this only weakens our responsibilities and diminishes our moral code of living.

Let us teach our young ones, and our older ones too, that it is wrong to use foul language which blasts and curses people, or the Lord. This causes us to examine the language we, as parents, use. If we swear, insult and curse others, our children will surely hear this, and they will imitate our words.

Let us teach our young ones that they must honour, respect and obey their parents. Parents are here to love and teach children, nurturing and nourishing, them into adulthood. Good parents are to be honoured, respected and obeyed. This part of our moral code.

Let us teach our boys and girls that it is good to honour God - to worship

Our Moral Code of Living



By Chris & Noelma Lam

together, receive the Sacraments, to pray and to love God. Moral values are enhanced when prayer, and respect for God, are part of our family life.

Let us teach our children that we cannot steal from one another and from others. This includes stealing goods, money, and the good name which each of us possess. If we spread bad stories about others we are also stealing away their reputation.

Let us teach our sons and daughters that we do not kill. Killing is wrong. We do not use guns, weapons or other devices to harm each other. When we inflict injury on another person, either hurting or killing them, we are not living with correct moral code.

Let us teach our young people that we must respect the laws of marriage. Adultery means voluntary sexual intercourse between a married person and a person other than their spouse. Fornication is sexual intercourse between a male and female not married to each other. Adultery and fornication are wrong.

Let us teach our children that it is good to enjoy and value our possessions; that it is bad to jealously crave and covet the possessions of others. If we appreciate our own things while not looking, with evil envy, at the goods of others, we are living a good life.

Let us teach our boys and girls to be truthful in all they think and say and do. If we lie, we get into big trouble when we are caught. Let us teach them that they must always tell the truth; it is sometimes a difficult thing to do, but it is the only right way to live.

Let us all remember that we all make mistakes. No one of us is perfect. If we want to be forgiven for our individual mistakes, we must learn to forgive others. Forgive and forget and start again. When we teach our children to say "I forgive you" we are giving them a chance to show how grown up they can be.

Forgiveness is basic to healthy happy living. If we hold grudges for all the wrong things done to us, and to members of our family, our backs will collapse with the weight of it all. Yes! We have to teach our children that forgiveness gives people a chance to start again and, if or when our youngsters fall down, people will. Hopefully, forgive them too,

Good moral values are as important today as they were two thousand years ago. They are a vital source of goodness which we hope all children will learn to understand, appreciate, and use every day of their lives. If we parents can impart these values to our sons and daughters, we are helping them to become good people, people who will handle their lives in a worthy manner, filled with respect for themselves, and for others. ❖

Pope's Intentions

July Monthly Intention:

Priests and their Pastoral Ministry

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

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TitBits

-- This Week's Reflection:

In spite of how beautiful life can be, there are also moments of loneliness, rash decision-making, and gloomy, seemingly hopeless hours. We all go through similar days in our lives where we are blinded from seeing the beauty that's right in front of us. Although some situations seem difficult for us to contend with at a particular moment in time, they actually enable us to learn from them later on, accepting them as little life lessons. God Bless You! Have a Great Week!

-- This Week's Bible Question:

Q. Who lived in the valley of Sorek?

-- This Week's Teaser:

Q: Why do hens lay eggs?

-- Today's Bible Verse:

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

-- Today's Marriage Tip:

Every anniversary write love letters to each other and take a "couple" picture. Put them together in a binder to treasure for years to come.

-- Humour:

Little Johnny had the habit that, when anyone asked his name, he would reply, "I'm Mrs. Smith's son." Johnny's mother told him this was wrong, he must say, "I'm Johnny Smith."

It was difficult to break him out of the habit, but his mother consistently corrected him until he could give the correct answer.

One day the priest spoke to him in Sunday School, and said, "Johnny, aren't you Mrs. Smith's son?" Little Johnny replied, "I thought I was,

but my mother constantly says I'm not."

- A Card Hallmark Would Never Print: I never hated you enough to give your diamonds back.

-- Conflicting Proverbs:

Clothes make the man.
 Don't judge a book by its cover.

-- Signs Found at Church:

As you pass this little Church, be sure to plan a visit, so when at last you're carried in God won't ask: "Who is it?"

-- This Week's Truism:

Make peace with your past so it won't screw up the present.

-- Answer to Bible Question:

Delilah. - see Judges 16:4
 Afterward it happened that Samson loved a woman in the Valley of Sorek, whose name was Delilah.

-- Answer to Teaser:

If they dropped them, they'd break. ❖

Mind Puzzler Corner

Our Last Brain Teaser was:

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)

Answer: Andrew.

This Week's Brain Teaser:

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

Look for the Answer next week

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Lessons from World Cup Football 2018

By Fr. Jerri Melwin Dias SJ

The Football World Cup in Russia has been a wonderful experience for many of us. It has also taught many emotional and spiritual lessons. There have been myriad opportunities to showcase our love and talent for football. It has been a positive experience to learn and to know not only about the game but about the culture and tradition of other nations. It has helped me to admire and celebrate the uniqueness of each people represented in the world cup. I have gathered five lessons from the 2018 World Cup. I discuss them here before we forget about this World Cup. Let this World Cup remain with us always.

Spiritual Goal: *“Everyone who competes in games undergoes strict training.”* (1Cor 9:25). It is important to pay attention to the hard work and rigorous training any athlete undertakes to become the popular star. We would like to associate ourselves with famous footballers such as Lionel Messi, Ronaldo, Neymar Jr, Modric, Harry Kane and many more. Do we even think of them outside the televised game?

I think that is where all the action of strict training, strict dieting, strict feedback is followed by these athletes. Their dedication to the sport helps them to climb the mountain of fame and success. An Orthodox priest from Russia says, ‘football offers a way to elevate man’s physical and spiritual culture and it should be a tool for the Church. The task of an athlete is the same as that of a monk; without self-control, there can be no success.’

Our faith in God must teach to be disciplined in our lives and to be disciplined we must follow the certain strict training of our own senses. We are body, mind and spirit. Our physical and spiritual self must complement each other. In other words, our prayer must reflect on our body; our spiritual self must be seen in our body. If a person is spiritually grounded, we can see that person is cheerful and gracious.

Respect Women’s Goals: Now that the Football World Cup is taking its last breath, allow me to express my disappointment at the discrimination against women.

I was appalled to read about four separate incidences in which women were discriminated against by boisterous men at the football world cup.

In two cases male fans attempted to kiss reporters. Julia Guimaraes from the Brazilian Globo TV had the courage to tell off the fan right on camera. She expresses her disapproval of disrespect towards women by men. This incident created an uproar in Brazil which was a catalyst for other women in media to speak up by saying ‘Enough is enough.’

In another incident, a group of male fans surrounded a woman from another country and made her repeat indecent words in a language she is not familiar with. This incident has taught women that they could be the target of discrimination and harassment by men who have no respect for women. I was further alarmed that some men on social media criticized women for such incidences. I want to emphasize that respect for women

begins at home. Men who disrespect other women most often do not respect women in their own family. In some cases, men might live on a false philosophy of ‘male superiority’ in which women must stoop down. I want us to think about how we treat women in our families and society.

No Racism Goal: This World Cup also rebuked discrimination based on race under the tagline ‘no to racism’. I am always thrilled to witness the football teams with such diversity. The teams live by the mantra, ‘united we stand, divided we fall’ or I would put it as ‘a truly united goal for a win.’ I am so happy to see teammates believing in each other’s ability and this belief makes a great team and most often an unbeatable team. The world cup gives yet another opportunity to prove our belief that we can achieve much together. Our energy is not wasted in entertaining opinions of division and colour. Our race nepotism takes away the gift of each other. It takes away our peaceful coexistence, it makes us suspicious about others and drains our energy. If any of the footballers is suspicious about his colleague of a different colour, he would be draining his energy on it hence he will not be able to succeed.

No building wall goal: We pick our team to support. We pick our country first and when our country loses we pick our continent and when that fails we choose our favourite player and so on. We do this picking teams without any barrier of division. We can move away from supporting our country to supporting another with much ease.

This is a crucial lesson from football as we live in world of division and strict borders. Football gives us an exposure to other countries. It makes us know and admire other countries that we have never heard of before. It makes us relive the experience of the joy of others.

The football commentary is the best way to learn about other countries where we can hear about the uniqueness of the country. Every nation is unique and beautiful. Football makes us break the boundaries of our own little world and allows us to think globally. It breaks down the wall of division and unites us as people of the same wonderful planet. Our uniqueness becomes another’s awesomeness. We learn to admire other traditions and customs that have made them a nation.

In conclusion, the lessons that the World Cup has taught us must remain with us and increase our love for each other. As we come to admire football stars, we shall admire each other. Every nation and its people are a gift from God to the planet earth and we are given the opportunity to experience those gifts from other people at this time. We learn to break the barriers that divide nations and traditions and embrace the richness of other nations. Football has brought minds and hearts together for a better future. Let us keep at it and carry on. Our goal is to be human. Let us remember we are born humans and we must die as humans. We are humans from the cradle to the grave.



Bible seminar at Maruranaui (From back page)

Wapichan to facilitate and heighten the participation of those attending. We briefly studied the Gospel of Mark and also did some praying and bible reflections together.

To facilitate the understanding of the Gospel, the participants used the ‘proclaimer’ an electronic audio player that has the Gospels in Wapichan recorded on it. Most of the youths listened to the Gospel in the local language with the device and a few including myself accompanied the readings in English. When finished we all shared about what we heard and understood in the Gospel. We put our selves in the bible stories and connected them to our current reality such as how we care for the environment, the local culture and beliefs, social issues facing indigenous peoples and the Gospel response to these.

From all the different sharings about the Gospel, I perceived that Christianity among the Wapichans, (which is the Catholic religion in the South Rupununi), has a rhythm that has been assumed by the people, and it can no longer be said that it is something from outside, since they themselves part take in it and also integrate elements of their culture such as their language and other elements.

Initially, some Christian practices seemed to suppress some traditions, but simultaneously some elements of Wapichan traditional

culture were transformed.

In this context, I realize that Catholic Christianity is culturally related to the Wapichans as in the perception of God and creation, the environment, the recognition and the communion with the indigenous beliefs are in close relation.

During the hunting and harvest time, God or Tominkar in Wapichan is perceived as the Creator who offers them everything they need as long as they collaborate in the maintenance of the harmony of this part of the world. That is why, work is not linked to too much with profit among the indigenous peoples, but it is instead considered as an interaction with Mother Earth as mentioned in Laudato Si.

In this way the practice of traditional beliefs of the indigenous are absorbed into Catholicism by a people who possess a deep spirituality and who seek salvation and to live in harmony with nature. Hence, it is not by chance that the Wapichans associated these two religious traditions and made the process of enculturation in dialogue with the Catholic Church richer and more meaningful in the South Rupununi.

The greatest contribution of the indigenous communities to the Churches and to society is their concept of the centrality of God, which has governed our lives since before the first evangelization, and which is the foundation of everything. ❖

Cathedral Widowed, Separated & Divorced group hosts medical outreach

From Paula Bess

On June 16th, members of the Widowed, Separated and Divorced (WSD) group hosted a medical outreach programme at the Catholic Life Centre, Brickdam.



Sister Lynette Holder RN taking the blood pressure of one of the participants.

Dr. Saska Sertimer spearheaded this event. Other members of the team were Dr. Philicia Findlay, Dr. Nwanekezi Erastus, Dr. Gerimia Rangel and Ms. Cotebor Chase, (Nutritionist) and Mr. Roshan Cox - a medical student. Two nurses, Ms. Jacqueline David and Ms. Lynette Holder also assisted.

The event consisted of talks on hypertension; breast, ovarian and uterine cancers; high cholesterol, the importance of exercise and a healthy diet. Blood pressure and sugar testing were also done for the many parishioners and others who attended.

Special thanks were extended to all who helped to ensure the success of the event. ❖

Bilingual boosting up in Bible at Maruranau

From Medino Abraham

I had an interesting faith experience last Saturday July 7th in Maruranau Village in the east end of South Rupununi. I was invited by the community to give a little boost in Bible study mainly to the youngsters of the above village.

Maruranau is a beautiful community comprised predominantly of the Wapichan people and a few others like Arawaks and Macushis from other villages who married local people. According to the Wapichan researchers, most of the Southern Rupununi villages have local names that originate from the local ecology such as the plants and animals found in abundance in the Region - for example Maruranau, the name of the village, means giant armadillo in Wapichan.

The indigenous community is predominantly Catholic but there are a few other Christian groups. The Catholic church in Maruranau is named for Saint Augustine. The main language is Wapichan, spoken by 90% of the residents. English is also spoken, but the majority of people prefer to converse in Wapichan.

The Bible seminar was held in the church building. It was done in English and ([please turn to page 11](#))



The Youths and Elders who participated in the Bible study at Maruranau (Photo: Medino Abraham)

St. Thomas church, Enmore celebrates Feast Day



From Jennifer Kanhai

The parishioners of St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church, Enmore celebrated the feast day of their Patron Saint, St. Thomas last Sunday, July 8th. Bishop Francis Alleyne OSB officiated along with Father Joseph.

An acrostic was done on St. Thomas by the children and the life of the Patron Saint was read by Ms. Marissa Gendon. Snacks were served to all present after Mass.

We were truly grateful to have had both Bishop Alleyne and Fr. Joseph in our presence.

Saint Thomas the Apostle is informally referred to as "Doubting Thomas" because he doubted Jesus' resurrection when first told (in the Gospel of John account only), followed later by his confession of faith, "My Lord and my God," on seeing Jesus' wounded body.

Saint Thomas is traditionally believed to have sailed to India in AD 50 to spread the Christian faith, and is believed to have landed at the port of Muziris, in modern-day Kerala state. He is believed to have established seven communities in Kerala. ❖

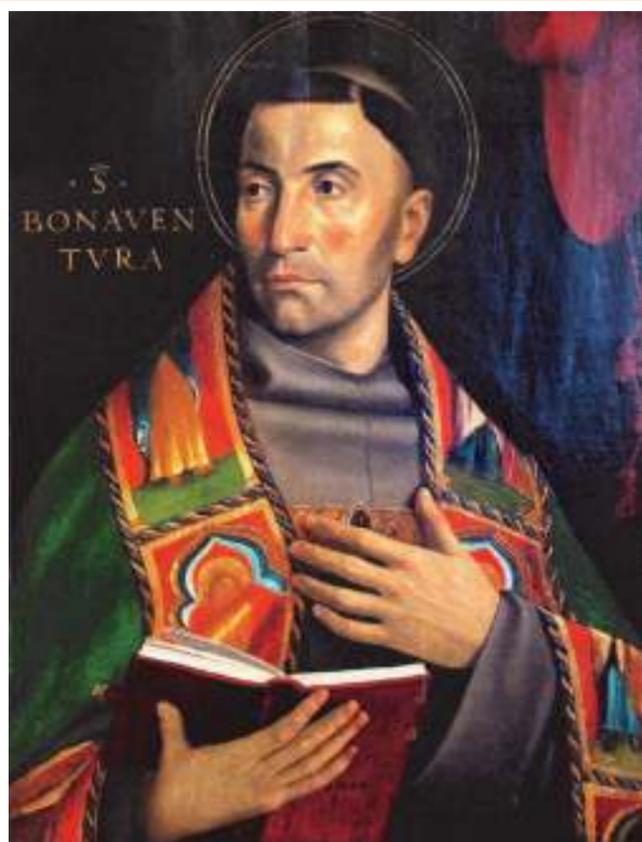
Saint of the Week

July 15th
St. Bonaventure

Saint Bonaventure was born in Italy in 1218. He entered the Franciscan Order in 1243 and gained a Master's degree in Philosophy at the University of Paris.

Bonaventure eventually became Minister General of the Order and Cardinal Bishop of Albano near Rome. He is remembered for his spiritual works and teaching. He died in 1274. ❖

[From: salfordliturgy.org.uk & wikipedia.org]



On the Lighter Side

