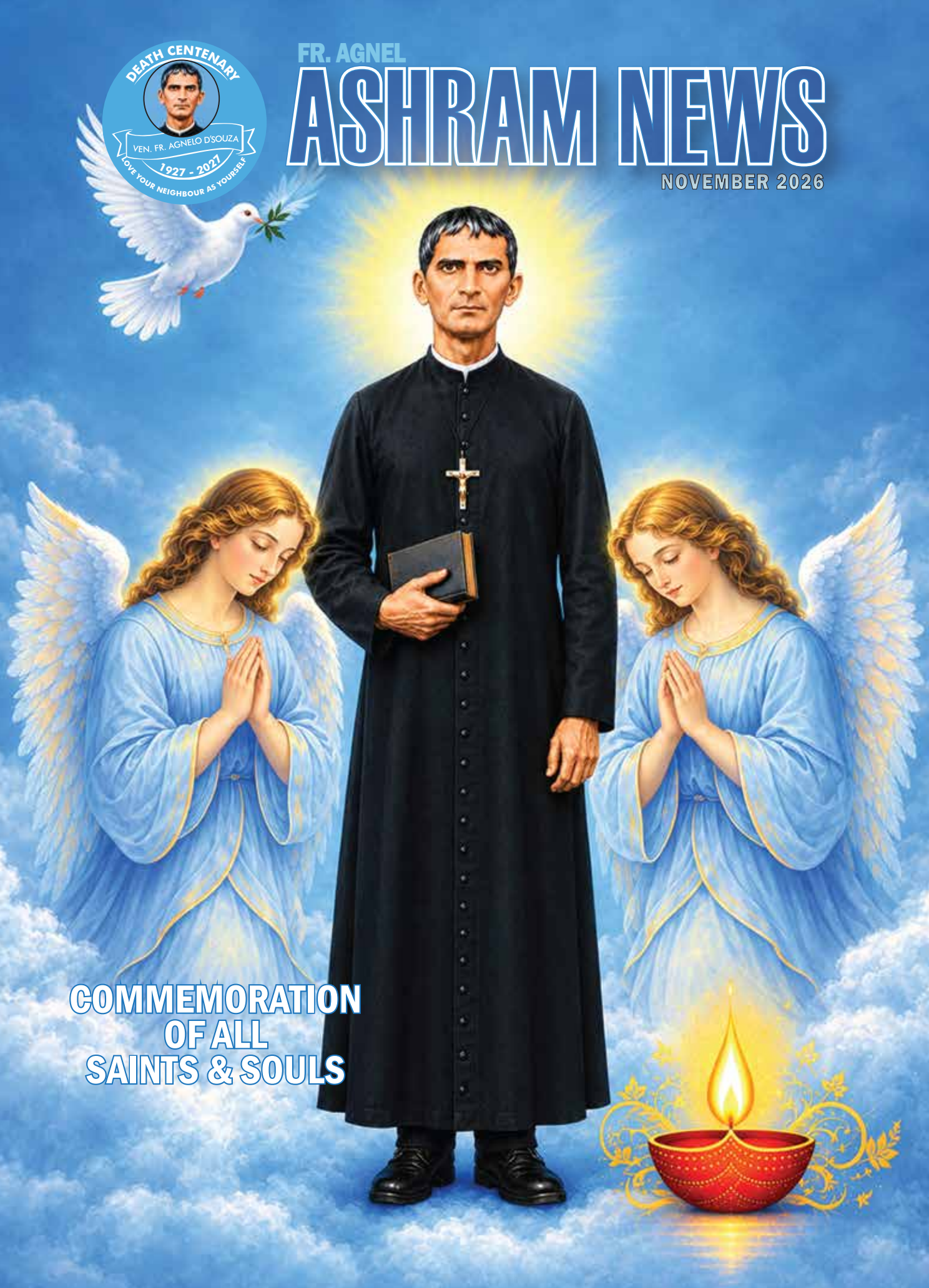
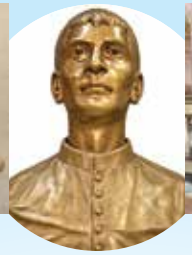


FR. AGNEL

ASHRAM NEWS

NOVEMBER 2026

COMMEMORATION OF ALL SAINTS & SOULS


99th Death Anniversary Novena Program of Ven. Fr. Agnel D'Souza

at FR. AGNEL ASHRAM

Bandstand, Bandra

from 11th to 19th November, 2026

MORNING	EVENING
7:00 am & 9:30 am	6:00 pm
ENGLISH	ENGLISH
Holy Mass and Novena Prayer	Holy Mass and Novena Prayer

On Sunday15th November, all Masses and Novena Services will be held as on normal Sundays.

On Sunday15th November, Novena Service will be in Gujarati at 3:00 pm

FRIDAY, 20TH NOVEMBER
MASS FOLLOWED BY NOVENA PRAYERS IN ENGLISH
7:00 AM & 9:00 AM

FRIDAY, 20TH NOVEMBER AT 6:00 PM



SOLEMN EUCHARISTIC CELEBRATION BY

MOST REV. BERNARD LANCY PINTO
BISHOP OF AURANGABAD

Through the loving intercession of Ven. Fr. Agnel, countless favours and remarkable cures, including those from cancer, TB and paralysis, have been received.

With faith in God and trust in his intercession, devotees may send their petitions and testimonies to the following address:

REV. FR. SUPERIOR

FR. AGNEL ASHRAM

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FR. AGNEL

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What Christmas really means ....

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DECEMBER

GUEST EDITORIAL

WORLD TELEVISION DAY

World Television Day, observed globally on 21 November each year, is an opportunity to reflect on the immense influence television has on our daily lives and on society as a whole. The Day was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly in 1996 to recognize television as an important medium for informing, educating, influencing public opinion, fostering fair communication, as well as global understanding.

Since its inception, television has developed from a technological novelty into one of the world's most powerful means of communication. Despite the rapid growth of the Internet and social media, television remains an important source of information and entertainment for millions of people. Its simplicity and convenience have contributed greatly to its popularity. With the press of a button, viewers can access news, educational programmes, documentaries, cultural content, sports and entertainment from around the world. Television continues to serve as a window to the wider world, bringing distant events and different cultures into our homes.

Television has also played an important role in education, public awareness and social development. In India, television broadcasting began experimentally on 15 September 1959 through All India Radio under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. The initiative was undertaken in collaboration with UNESCO to explore the use of television for education and community development. Initially, broadcasts were limited to a small area around Delhi and focused largely on school education and rural development. Over the decades, television expanded across the country and became an important platform for public-service communication, development messages, national integration and social awareness.

Television is sometimes criticized as the "idiot box" because some programmes promote sensationalism, superficial entertainment, inappropriate language and unhealthy lifestyles. Excessive television viewing can encourage inactivity, reduce time spent interacting with family and friends, and contribute to social isolation. Prolonged screen time may also lead to problems such as eye strain, poor posture and neck discomfort, while excessive exposure to unsuitable content can negatively influence children and affect young minds.

Young viewers, in particular, can be influenced by what they repeatedly see on television. Programmes that glorify violence, bullying, substance abuse, irresponsible behaviour or unhealthy lifestyles may contribute to harmful attitudes and habits.

Television can also expose children and adolescents to content that is inappropriate for their age. Spending excessive amounts of time watching programmes and films may come at the expense of outdoor activities, education, creativity, meaningful relationships and real-life experiences.

Yet it would be unfair to blame television itself for these problems. The real issue is how television is produced, presented and consumed. A powerful medium can be used either constructively or even be distructing by itself.

Television can bridge cultural and geographical gaps, bring people together during times of crisis, provide access to important public information and give a voice to issues that might otherwise remain unnoticed.

Therefore, broadcasters have a responsibility to give greater priority to educational, informative and value-based content rather than focusing solely on commercial entertainment and sensationalism. At the same time, viewers must become more discerning. Media literacy is essential so that people, especially young viewers, can distinguish reliable information from misinformation, responsible reporting from sensationalism, and constructive entertainment from harmful content.

World Television Day should therefore not be seen merely as a celebration of television, but as a reminder of the responsibility that accompanies its power. Television has the potential to educate, inform, unite and inspire, but it should not become a substitute for real-life interaction, physical activity, creativity and meaningful relationships.

Let us therefore use television wisely and encourage content that promotes knowledge, understanding, compassion and social responsibility. In doing so, we can ensure that television remains not merely a source of entertainment or distraction, but a positive and constructive force for education, awareness, unity and social change.

Jubel D'Cruz



CRESCENDO 2026
ASCENSION: RISE BEYOND

Where innovation Meets Ambition
& Young Minds Rise to New Heights

4
Days

16
Competitions

Countless Ideas

1
extraordinary celebration of engineering excellence





The campus of Fr. Conceicao Rodrigues College of Engineering (FRCRCE), Bandra, came alive with innovation, creativity and youthful enthusiasm as it hosted the 26th edition of its flagship technical festival, CRESCENDO 2026, from 29 October to 1 November 2026. Organized by the Students' Council under the inspiring theme "ASCENSION – RISE BEYOND," the four-day extravaganza celebrated the spirit of engineering, entrepreneurship, technology and healthy competition.

Rev. Fr. Valerian delivering the introductory address, Ms. Mayuri Sakhardande addressing the gathering, and Dr. Sapna Prabhu felicitating the Chief Guest.

The festival was inaugurated by Ms. Mayuri Sakhardande, Associate Director, UBS, in the presence of Rev. Fr. Valerian D'Souza, Director; Dr. Sapna Prabhu, Principal; Dr. Joseph Rodrigues, Dean of Students' Welfare; and Dr. Monali Shetty, CRESCENDO Faculty-in-Charge.

A significant highlight of this year's edition was the expansion of Students' Council events from an intra-collegiate to an inter-collegiate platform, welcoming participants from other institutions for the first time. The eleven technical events organised by the college's clubs and student chapters showcased an exciting range of talent and innovation. These included SharkTank 2026 (ACM), Escape Room (CodeStorm), Glitched (GDA), Ohm My God! (IEEE WIE), AeroCraft (Rocket Team × Mavericks), The World After the Fall (GDG), Techneek (ASME), The Double Cross (CSI), Formula Unicorn (E-Cell), Hack into PCell (Project Cell) and Agnirakshak (Robix). Each event challenged participants to apply their knowledge, think creatively and explore solutions much beyond stereo types and conventional boundaries.

For the upcoming issue.....

Students can share their views

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Students showcasing the AgniRakshak firefighting robot by Team Robix

Among the major attractions was RoboWars 2026, conducted in association with the Rotaract Club of Fr. CRCE. The 8 kg combat robotics competition witnessed 14 teams and 70 participants, including students from external institutions. Team Hindsbotz emerged as the winner, making the event a spectacular showcase of mechanical design, electronics and engineering precision.



An electrifying atmosphere as the crowd cheers on the thrilling RoboWars battles!

Another major highlight was Synergy, an eight-hour engineering failure diagnosis and rebuild competition. Its two specialised tracks, Elexathon and Mechathon, brought together 30 teams and 105 participants, including students from 16 external institutions. Challenged to diagnose engineering failures, simulate solutions and defend their designs before an industry jury, participants demonstrated remarkable analytical and problem-solving abilities. Team Rebel emerged as the winner of Elexathon 2026.



The CRESCENDO 2026 Organising Team with the members of the Students' Council and Faculty Coordinators.

Beyond competitions and accolades, CRESCENDO 2026 reinforced the importance of experiential learning, collaboration and innovation. It provided students with opportunities to transform classroom knowledge into practical skills while developing confidence, leadership and a spirit of teamwork.

ASCENSION was more than a theme; it was a reflection of the FRCRCE spirit – the courage to innovate, the determination to excel and the ambition to rise beyond ones boundaries and limitations.

At FRCRCE, we don't just prepare engineers for tomorrow;
we inspire young minds to create it!



FEAST OF OUR LADY OF PILAR

The Feast of Our Lady of Pilar commemorates the Blessed Virgin Mary's appearance to Saint James in Zaragoza, Spain, according to Catholic tradition. Mary encouraged him to continue his missionary work. The pillar associated with this apparition symbolizes strength, faith, and perseverance.

The Feast Day of Our Lady of Pilar is a memorable and grace-filled occasion for the Pilar Fathers and Sisters at Greater Noida. In preparation for the feast, a nine-day novena was conducted, with each day focusing on a special theme relevant to the children and highlighting the virtues of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The eight houses of Balbhawan and the utility staff participated actively in the novena, making the spiritual preparation a meaningful and unifying experience.

Many priests, religious fathers, brothers, and sisters joined the celebration in prayer and thanksgiving. Their presence added solemnity to the occasion and strengthened the bond of unity and devotion among all those gathered.

The feast served as a reminder of Mary's loving care, unwavering faith, and constant guidance towards Jesus Christ. It inspired everyone to grow in faith, practise genuine love, serve others selflessly, and remain steadfast in their commitment to God.

The Feast of Our Lady of Pilar was truly a joyful and spiritually enriching occasion for the Pilar community at Greater Noida. May Our Lady of Pilar continue to guide, protect, and inspire us to follow her example and become witnesses of faith, love, and service in our daily lives.

The feast was celebrated on 17 October 2026, with the theme "Mary, Our Mother: Growing in Faith, Love and Service." The solemn Eucharistic celebration was presided over by Most Rev. Bishop Simiao Fernandes the Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Goa. The celebration provided an opportunity for everyone to deepen their devotion to Mother Mary and reflect on her example of faith, humility, love, and service. A solemn procession with the statue of Our Lady on a beautifully decorated palanquin was organized on the ground. The prayerful recitation of the Holy Rosary added to the spiritual atmosphere. The staff participated wholeheartedly, sharing the responsibility of carrying the palanquin with devotion and reverence. The procession became a visible expression of faith, unity, and love for the Blessed Mother.

Fr. Jovito Vaz s.f.x.



FR. AGNEL BALBHAVAN GR. NOIDA

THE FEAST OF

Our Lady of Pilar

Eucharist Main Celebrant

Bishop Simiao Purificacao Fernandes

Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Goa & Daman

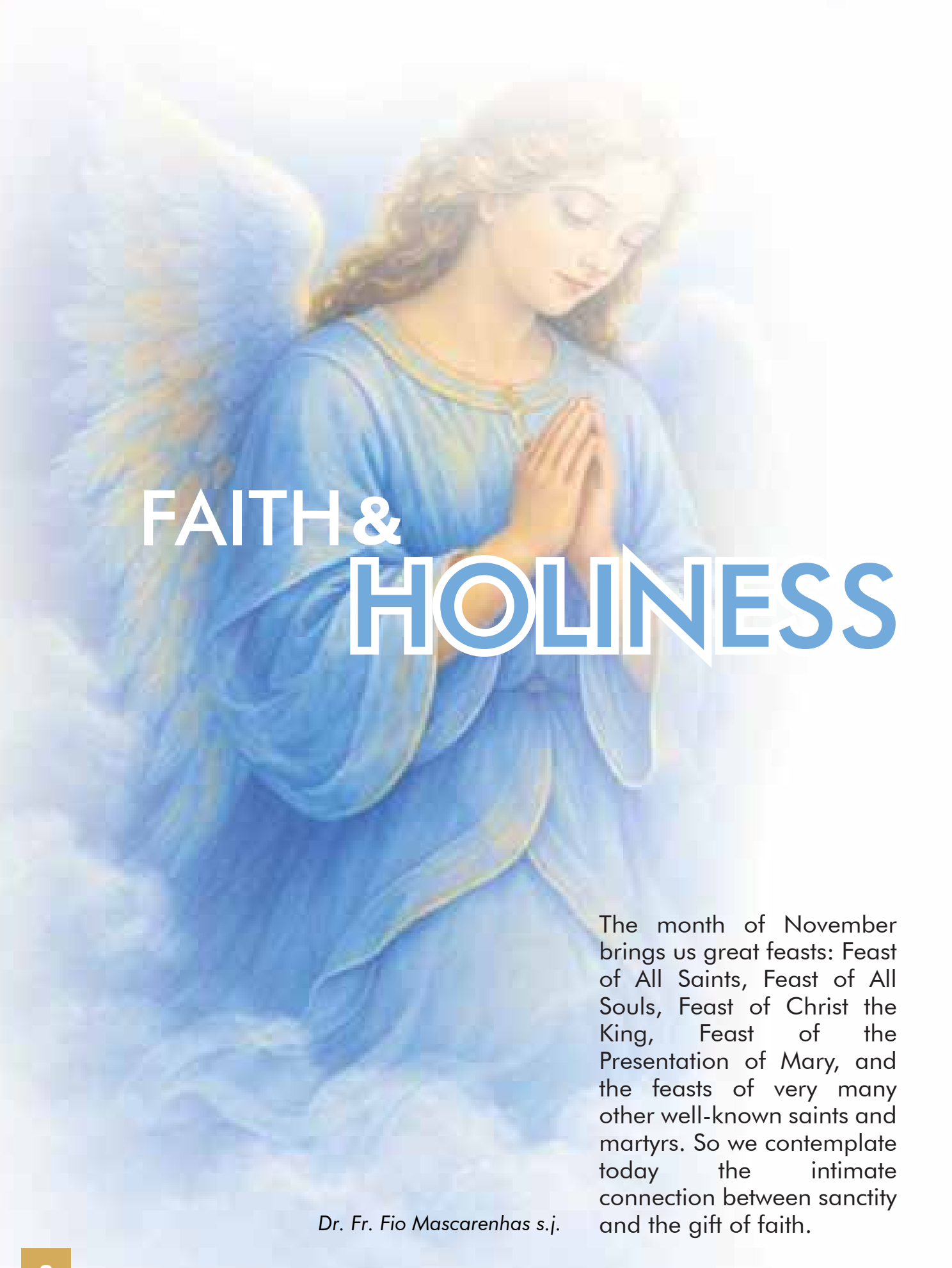












FAITH & HOLINESS

The month of November brings us great feasts: Feast of All Saints, Feast of All Souls, Feast of Christ the King, Feast of the Presentation of Mary, and the feasts of very many other well-known saints and martyrs. So we contemplate today the intimate connection between sanctity and the gift of faith.

Dr. Fr. Fio Mascarenhas s.j.

As regards All Souls Day, we cannot forget a very interesting anecdote told by Jesus (in Lk 16:19-31) about a dead rich man who (hypothetically) goes to "hell." From there this man tries to "intercede" on behalf of his five (very selfish) brothers on earth, asking that they be converted through a miracle! But he is told by Abraham: 'They have Moses and the prophets; let them listen to them.' But the man said, 'No, father Abraham; only if someone goes to them from the dead they will repent.' Abraham replied, 'If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead!'

From this parable we must conclude that even fantastic or frightening miracles do not necessarily lead us to conversion and new faith! Remember Jesus also said: "This generation… seeks a sign, but no sign shall be given to it except the sign of Jonah" (Lk 11:29). And most importantly, Jesus said to Thomas, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe" (Jn 20:29). Therefore, Vatican II declares significantly: "Human beings must have the grace of God, the interior helps of the Holy Spirit, to move and assist them, before they can exercise faith" (Dei Verbum, n.5).

Faith therefore is a gift, but it can only be received by those whose hearts are open to receiving it with a childlike spirit! A miracle alone cannot automatically result in a person coming to faith because, faith is not just belief in some theoretical proposition, but a Spirit-led "inner assurance of things hoped for, and the conviction of things not seen" (Heb.11:1). One must reflect prayerfully on the miraculous happening, and so allow the Holy Spirit to breathe faith into one's inner self.

Pondering over important texts spoken by Jesus (Lectio Divina) is probably the most favorite means of the Spirit to bring us to true practical faith, in an ongoing way, throughout life! "Faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the word of Christ" (Rom 10:17). To be empowered to live holy lives in today's hyper-secular world, the most important spiritual gift of God to us is Faith. That is why the New Testament assures us, "This is the victory that conquers the world, our faith" (1Jn 5:4).

The annual celebration of All Souls Day reminds us not only to pray for all God's people who are deceased but to remind us too to prepare for own deaths by living daily holy lives of Faith (including a daily Lectio Divina)!

And All Saints Day reminds us happily of the millions or billions of "childlike" people (Christians and also many good people of other faiths) who are part of the People of God enjoying heavenly bliss now (the popular song, "O when the saints come marching in, I want to be in that number…!!!" is going on in my head right now, making me tap my feet). It all leads to the Feast of Christ the King, whose Death and Resurrection is the mainstay of Christianity! The Kingdom of this King is not an external worldly Kingdom (of politics, etc) but a spiritual Kingdom of justice and peace, and daily prayer, and even suffering for the good of neighbor.

To conclude, here are some powerful prayers of faith from the Church's Divine Office that we can pray often, precisely in order to grow more in faith. (Select one or two per day, and pray it from the heart, meaningfully according to your need, not distractedly with ten other things in your mind at the same time)!

1. Father in heaven, Ever-living source of all that is good, From the beginning of time you promised salvation through the future coming of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Help us to drink of his truth and expand our hearts with the joy of his promises, so that we may serve you in faith and in love, and know forever the joy of your presence. Amen!

2. Almighty Father, Strong is your justice and great is your mercy. Protect us in the burdens and challenges of life. Shield our minds from the distortion of pride and enfold our desire with the beauty of truth. Help us to become more aware of your loving design so that we may more willingly give our lives in service to all. Amen!

3. Our Father in heaven, God of power and Lord of mercy, from whose fullness we have received. Direct our steps in our everyday efforts. May the changing moods of the human heart and the limits which our failings impose on hope never blind us to you, source of every good. Faith gives us the promise of peace and makes known the demands of love. Remove the selfishness that blurs the vision of faith. Amen!

4. Abba Father, the hand of your loving kindness powerfully yet gently guides all the moments of our day. Go before us in our pilgrimage of life, anticipate our needs and prevent our failing. Send your Spirit to unite us in faith, that sharing in your service, we may rejoice in your presence. Amen!

5. Lord our God, in you justice and mercy meet. With unparalleled love you have saved us from death and drawn us into the circle of your life. Open our eyes to the wonders this life sets before us, that we may serve you free from fear, and address you as God our Father. Amen!

6. Father God, all truth is from you, and you alone bring oneness of heart. Give your people the joy of hearing your word in every sound, and of longing for your presence more than for life itself. May all the attractions of a changing world serve only to bring us the peace of your kingdom which this world does not give. Amen!

7. God our Father, Gifts without measure flow from your goodness to bring us your peace.

Our life is your gift. Guide our life's journey, for only your love makes us whole. Keep us strong in your love. Amen!



CALL to MISSION

Norma Kamath

'Mission' as understood by Catholics is to be 'sent' by God through his authority, the Church, to do some organised religious work, evangelism or humanitarian aid to a community or foreign land.

The Father sent Jesus his son to the world, with a Mission. He was born of a Jewish woman Mary, a virgin, through the Holy Spirit. As man he learnt humility through submission to his mother, and Jewish foster-father, Joseph. 'And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and became strong in spirit, in favour with God and man'.(Lk2:52)

Humility, an important virtue, is a foundation of all the virtues, to grow in holiness and in relationship with God and man.Through prayer, scripture reading at the synagogue, and an understanding of the old testament prophecies, Jesus' mission slowly began to unfold.

BAPTISM

Baptism of Repentance. Led by the Spirit, Jesus came to the river Jordan, where John the Baptist was preaching the baptism of repentance, and consented to John baptizing him. He went up immediately from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and alighting on him; and lo, a voice from heaven saying, "This is my beloved Son with whom I am well pleased." He understood his true identity as a man, 'the first born of creation'.

BAPTISM - Through Baptism, we are baptized into the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus, and receive the Holy Spirit. In Jesus we become the 'first born', sons and daughters of Abba

Father, and joint heirs with Jesus our Brother.

DISCIPLESHIP

Through obedience to God's word and the sacramental life of the church a believer grows in grace and truth. God gives him the choice to follow him closely through his call to discipleship, 'Come follow me.' A disciple follows in the footsteps of his master and remains faithful through life's trials. Mission is a consequence of faithful discipleship.

MISSION

After Jesus was baptized, he was led by the Spirit into the desert, and spent forty days in prayer and fasting. He resisted the temptations of the devil through the power of God's word, and gained mastery over the world, the flesh and the devil. Filled with the Spirit he entered the synagogue, and read the scroll. He read, 'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me because he has anointed me to preach the good news to the poor....acceptable year of the Lord.' He said, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."(Lk4:18-19) (Is 61-1-4). He then started his mission to preach, teach and heal in the region of Galilee and across Judea, and the surrounding areas.

The proclamation of the word was first given to the Apostles.(Lk.9:1-6) Later, Jesus appointed seventy others and sent them two by two into every town.

THE GREAT COMMISSION

Finally before he ascended ito heaven, Jesus gave the Great Commission to the Church, and to all believers. "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.....age"(Mt 28:18-20)(Mk16:15-18). The key parts of the command are; Go; Make Disciples; Baptize; Teach; The Promise.

THE HOLY SPIRIT

We are called to be faithful to the mission God has called us to. Jesus went through suffering, opposition, rejection,
threats to his life, and finally the humiliation of death on the cross, but he was faithful to the Mission entrusted to him by his Father in Heaven, to the end. By his Passion, Death and Resurrection we have been set free, with the promise of eternal life.

Though the Apostles were discipled for three years, they succumbed to the fear of suffering and death, and abandoned their master in his hour of trial.

Trusting in his Father Jesus was faithful to the end. (Jn16:32) His mother Mary was also faithful to her call and mission.
After Jesus' Ascension into Heaven he was seated at the Father's right hand, and made the Lord of Heaven and earth. The Apostles received the promise of the Father, at Pentecost, the empowerment by the Holy Spirit to become witnesses to spread the gospel to the ends of the earth, willing even to suffer martydom. Without the Holy Spirit, Mission is impossible.

St. Paul exhorts us, Do not quench the Spirit. (Thess 5:19) Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God. (Eph4:30) Be filled with the Spirit. (Eph5:15)

BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Today there is a new stream of grace in the church, the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, a renewal of the same Baptism received at birth. Through a charismatic retreat, one goes through a deep repentance for sin, and a close encounter with Christ, through God's word and sacraments. With the laying of hands, and a powerful anointing of the Spirit, the recepient receives the Baptism of the Spirit, also called the Baptism of Fire, like the Apostles received at Pentecost. The Charisms, gifts and fruit of the Spirit received at Baptism are activated and manifested.

THE CHARISMS, GIFTS, AND FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT.

The first gift we receive is the gift of tongues, whereby the Holy Spirit prays through our tongue in a language only he understands. It is a powerful gift, used to edify ourselves, to intercede, to praise God, and for spiritual warfare and deliverance. It is a gateway for the other gifts. The other word gifts are interpretation of tongues, the gift of prophecy, the gift of preaching and teaching. The revelation gifts are the word of knowledge, the word of wisdom, and discernment of spirits. The power gifts are faith, healing, deliverance and the working of miracles.

The fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control; against such there is no law. But the greatest of all the gifts is love, which has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit.(Rom5:5) It is referred to as the fifth gospel, which mankind is waiting to experience through the followers of Christ.

Besides these charismatic gifts, which are spiritually discerned, there are varieties of gifts which God gives every believer to be used in the parish, the neighbourhood, and in society.

All gifts given by God are to be used to build the kingdom of God, and his church and must be used in a spirit of humility, love and unity, to glorify God.

ARMOUR OF GOD

For all who are involved in mission, especially in the use of the charismatic gifts, St Paul recommends that they use the armour of God to protect themselves against the wiles of the devil.(Eph 6 :10-18)

Daily personal prayer to grow in intimacy with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit is recommended. Regular attendance at mass and the sacraments, scripture study and reflection, adoration before the Blessed Sacrament, prayer of protection through the precious blood, works of charity, good works and praying in the spirit. All help to grow in maturity and holiness and acts like a shield.

Every baptized Christian is called to Mission. It is not just a call of Jesus, but it a command to evangelise, given to every believer, through the Great Commission. (Mt28:18-20) (Mk16:15-18)



ALL SOULS DAY

'Whoever utters blasphemy against the Holy Spirit will be pardoned neither in this age nor in the age to come' Mt 12:32.

What is this 'age to come'? Sin has consequences. If we accept that there is only Heaven and Hell, that it is impossible to enter Heaven with unforgiven sin, then it would follow that we are doomed to Hell. Therefore, there must be a period of final purification for certain temporal sins. Our mortal sins are washed away when we make an honest confession. It is important to understand that the purifying fire spoken of for these lesser faults comes from God and is different from the fire of Hell, which comes from the evil one. Souls in purgatory 'The Church Suffering' can do nothing more, neither good nor bad. These souls awaiting cleansing, cannot pray for themselves because their time of earning merit has ended.

'We are God's children … just as He is pure' 1 John 3:2-3. 'Without holiness no one will see the Lord' Hebrews 12:14. 'Nothing unclean will enter … only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life' Rev 21: 27. Few people even among devout Christians are fully cleansed of sin and its effects when they die. How then can we enter Heaven immediately at death if we aren't yet perfected in holiness? The process of purification begins in this life as we submit in faith to the dealings of God that help to make us holy. Purgatory is simply the name given as the process continues after death. Like the Holy Trinity, Purgatory is not a term occurring in Scripture, but the reality it refers to is implied by Scriptural truths, confirming that the Church is composed not only of saints in the making but also of sinners. Judas Iscariot, thief and traitor was chosen by Jesus Himself!

What then is Purgatory? Often imagined as a place, it is actually a condition. Someone who dies in God's grace (at peace with God and men) … needs purification … God face to face … Purgatory CCC [1030-1031]. When Peter betrayed Jesus, the Lord turned around and looked at him. "And Peter went out and wept bitterly", a feeling like being in

Purgatory, awaiting most of us at the moment of our death. The Lord looks at us full of love and we experience shame and remorse over our wicked or unloving behaviour. Only after this purifying pain will we be able to meet His loving gaze in heavenly joy.

The writer of 2 Maccabees praises the offering of prayers and sacrifice for the dead. Why do the departed need such assistance from us? So that their sins may be fully blotted out. 'One day as the Jewish general Judas Maccabees and his men … secretly practising idolatry'. Scripture says, 'they prayed that the sinful deed might be fully blotted out. Then Judas took out a collection … he made atonement for the dead that they may be freed from their sin' 2 Maccabees 12:39-46. This was done because Judas and his companions believed in the resurrection of the dead. The parables of The Weeds and The Net Mt 13:24 -30, Mt 13:47-50 testify that separation happens only at the end.

Why did the bygone Jews pray for their dead and for the living? It was an act of fraternal charity. They recognised that the departed needed their help to be cleansed of their sins. They were confident that such spiritual works would benefit the dead and those still living. The first Christians who were Jews continued this noble practice. St. Paul prayed for Onesiphoras, who was apparently deceased 2 Tiomthy 1:16-18. Though we don't know more about that ancient rite, it definitely would have included prayers and early believers assumed that it would help the departed in some way. It is not surprising to find inscriptions on ancient Christian tombs ask the living to intercede for those buried within. Clearly, from earliest times, the Church has offered prayers and sacrifices for the faithful departed.

Some Christians object to praying for the dead. Their reasoning: those in Heaven, don't need our prayers, for those in Hell our prayers are useless. But these are faulty assumptions. As mentioned earlier most people who go to Heaven still require purification before they are ready to live with God forever. Our prayers as 'The Church Militant' can help. Secondly, we do not know for sure who is in Hell. So, we should pray in HOPE for even the worst of sinners. God does not reject any penitent soul, even one who has been wicked all his life, yet repents at the last moment.

The good thief who gained Paradise, represents those who accept their suffering as salvific and purifying. As a dying man he recognised in another dying man, 'The Source of Life', accepted Him as Saviour and Messiah, and was able to suffer martyrdom. Humbly, he asked Jesus to save him from his sins, unlike the bad thief who only wanted to be saved from the Cross (Lk 23:39-43). Souls in Hell are damned, but others, after purification, will behold what is called the 'Beatific Vision', the eternal sight of God's face, which grants perfect blessedness and complete union with Him. This is HEAVEN. The Christian hope of Heaven anchors and transforms our lives, even while we are on earth. Charity demands that we should pray for the dead, Humility demands that we should ask others to pray for us when our day comes to depart from this life.

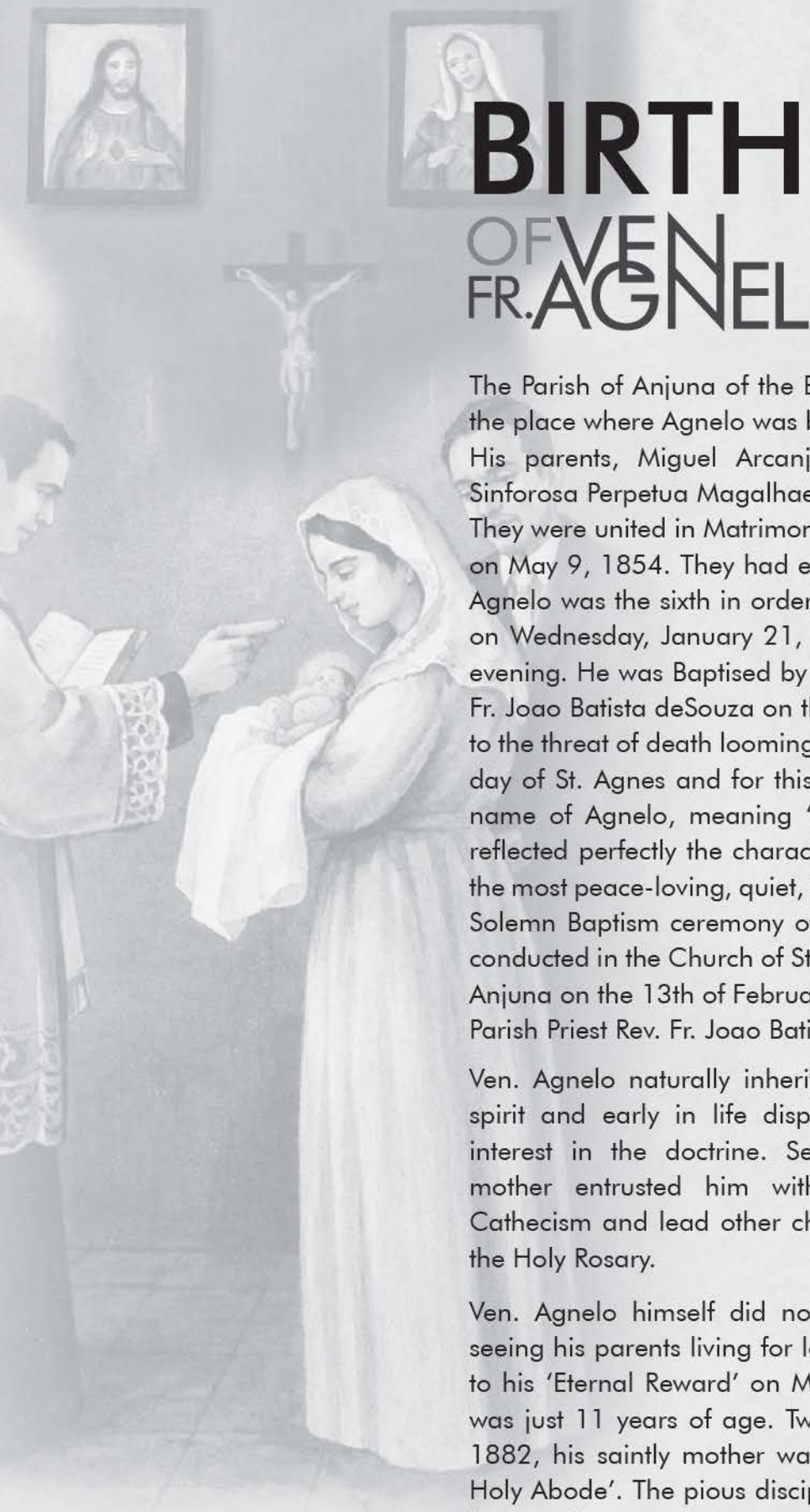
God does not purify us instantly in this life by waving a magic wand, bypassing the cooperation of our free will. We shouldn't expect Him to do so at our death either. Since God's work to heal us of the effects of sin is usually painful now, the Purgatorial process will likely be painful as well. Just as a surgeon's cauterization brings healing to our bodies, any pain we might experience in Purgatory will heal our souls.

Can we help the departed who are in the condition of Purgatory? Yes! 'Since all those who are baptized …. the living can also help the souls of the faithful departed to Purgatory'- CCC [1032,1414]. 'When a man is dead … the time of active probation is past, but … the faithful departed … through our fasting, prayers and good works but especially through the celebration of The Holy Eucharist, we can obtain grace for the departed'- YouCat – 160.

"Let us not hesitate to help those who have died and to offer our prayers for them"- St. John Crysostom. "At the evening of life, we shall be judged on love"- St. John of the Cross.

In the end it is all the work of God's Mercy.

Ninette D'Souza



BIRTH OF VEN FR. AGNEL

The Parish of Anjuna of the Bardez district in Goa was the place where Agnelo was born.

His parents, Miguel Arcanjo de Souza and Maria Sinforosa Perpetua Magalhaes were both from Anjuna. They were united in Matrimony in the Church of Anjuna on May 9, 1854. They had eight sons and a daughter. Agnelo was the sixth in order, and saw the light of day on Wednesday, January 21, 1869, at 7 o'clock in the evening. He was Baptised by the Asst. Parish Priest Rev. Fr. Joao Batista deSouza on the same day at home due to the threat of death looming over him. It was the Feast day of St. Agnes and for this reason he was given the name of Agnelo, meaning 'a little lamb'. This name reflected perfectly the character of the Boy, for he was the most peace-loving, quiet, humble and obedient. The Solemn Baptism ceremony of Ven Fr. Agnelo was also conducted in the Church of St. Michael the Archangel in Anjuna on the 13th of February 1869 by the same Asst. Parish Priest Rev. Fr. Joao Batista deSouza.

Ven. Agnelo naturally inherited his mothers apostolic spirit and early in life displayed an eagerness and interest in the doctrine. Seeing his proficiency, his mother entrusted him with the task of teaching Cathecism and lead other children in the recitation of the Holy Rosary.

Ven. Agnelo himself did not enjoy the happiness of seeing his parents living for long. His father was called to his 'Eternal Reward' on May 6, 1880 when Agnelo was just 11 years of age. Two years later on May 22, 1882, his saintly mother was called to rest in 'God's Holy Abode'. The pious discipline of his saintly mother, bestowed twin love of God & study in Agnelo.

MOTHER OF VEN FR. AGNEL

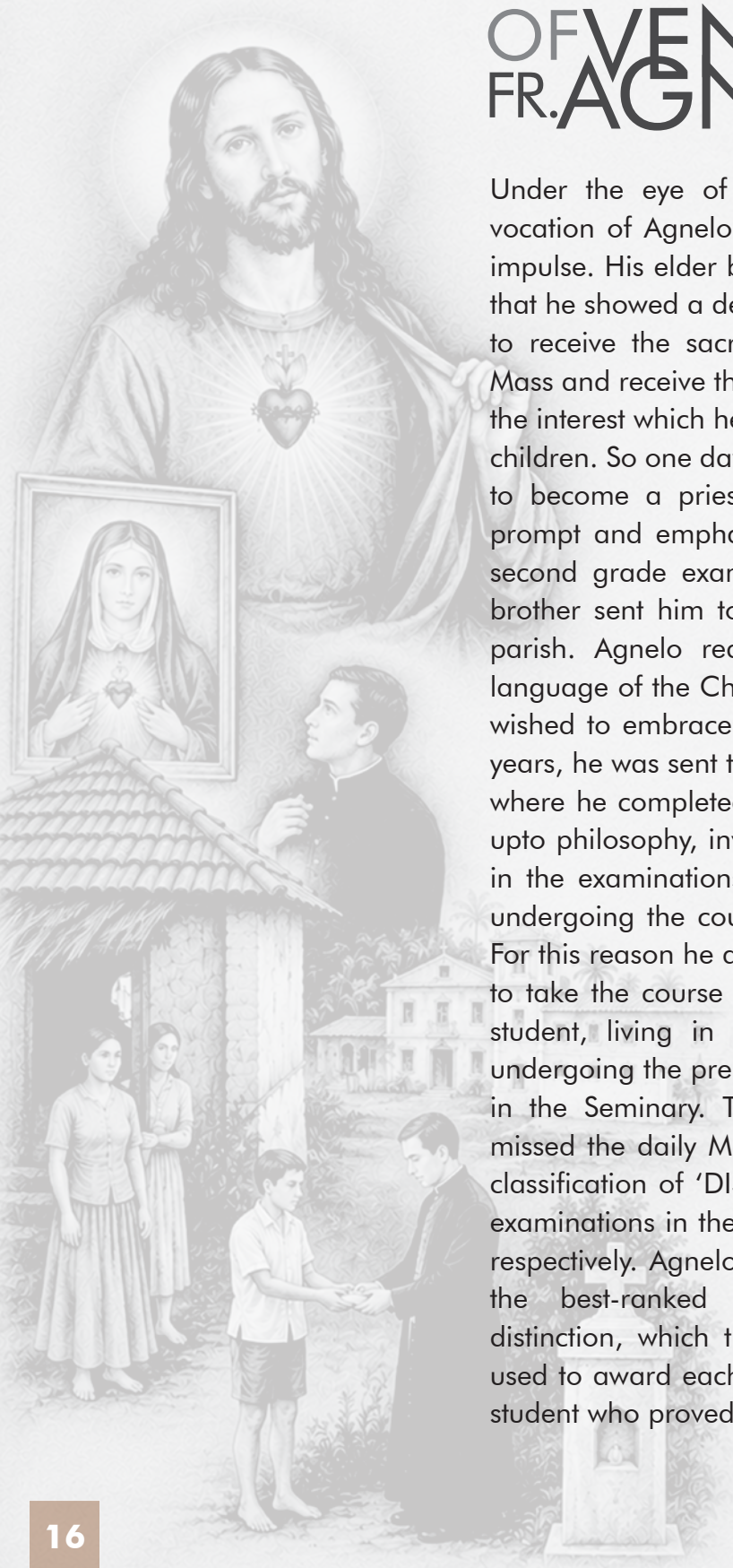
Maria Sinforosa Perpetua Magalhaes had summoned all her children about her and pointing out to the picture of 'Our Lady' that hung on the wall above her bed spoke out: "My darlings, I am about to depart from you for good. From now on, your true mother is 'Our Lady' to whom you should turn in all your needs."

'OUR LADY OF SORROWS', HIS TRUE MOTHER

How Ven. Agnelo obeyed to the letter these testament - like words of his mother may be guaged from the great devotion he himself had not only for 'Our Lady of Mount Carmel' and in particular for 'Our Lady of Sorrows', but in the way he worked enthusiastically to inculcate these devotions in others, particularly within the Seminary students. Ven. Fr. Agnelo's vocation to priesthood and later on, his vocation to the 'Society of Pilar', were attributed to his devotion to 'Our Lady of Sorrows' and reciting the Rosary everyday.

GROWING UP IN KNOWLEDGE AND PIETY

Proficient in the mastery of 'Christian Doctrine', Agnelo was early admitted to 'First Holy Communion' at the age of eight. On the evening preceding his 'First Holy Communion', he confessed himself and remained confined to his home without speaking or allowing himself to be distracted, a thing which evoked admiration at his age. Day after day Agnelo was growing up not only in years, but also in knowledge and piety before God and men. Endowed with qualities of head and heart, Agnelo was sent to the 'Government Primary Portuguese School' of the parish. Agnelo happily had for his teacher an exemplary priest, Fr. Inacio Valeriano Rebello of Betalbatim.



STUDENT DAYS OF VEN FR. AGNEL

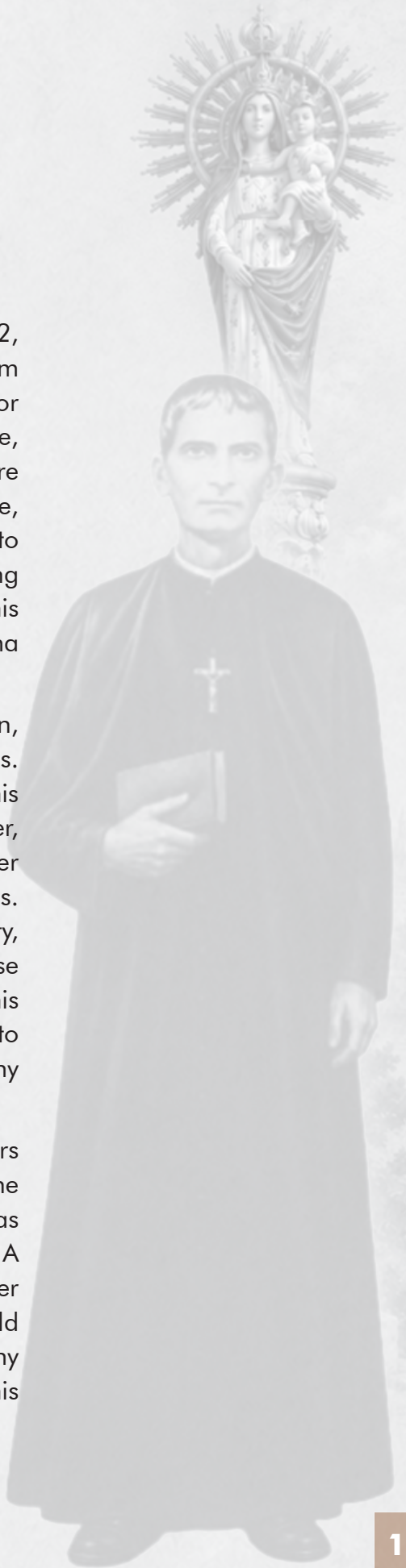
Under the eye of Fr. Inacio Valeriano Rebello, the vocation of Agnelo to the priesthood received a fresh impulse. His elder brother, Fr. Manuelinho had noticed that he showed a decided inclination to pious practices, to receive the sacraments of Confession and attend Mass and receive the Holy Communion, not to mention the interest which he displayed in teaching catechism to children. So one day he asked Agnelo if he also desired to become a priest and Agnelo replied him with a prompt and emphatic yes. Thus, after completing his second grade examination of Primary curriculum his brother sent him to attend Latin Classes in the same parish. Agnelo redoubled his efforts to master the language of the Church, whose ministry he so ardently wished to embrace. After having studied Latin for two years, he was sent to the 'Affiliated Classes' at Mapusa, where he completed all the studies of Minor Seminary upto philosophy, invariably securing the highest marks in the examinations. During the last four years while undergoing the course of Sacred Theology, he felt ill. For this reason he applied for and obtained permission to take the course of Sacred Theology as an external student, living in a chummery with other students, undergoing the prepatory course and attending classes in the Seminary. Thoughout his ill health, he never missed the daily Mass and painstakingly obtained the classification of 'DISTINCTION' and 'ACCESSIT' at his examinations in the third and fourth years of Theology respectively. Agnelo secured high distinctions and was the best-ranked student, achieving the highest distinction, which the Council of studies of Seminary used to award each year, after a secret scrutiny, to the student who proved to be the most proficient of all.

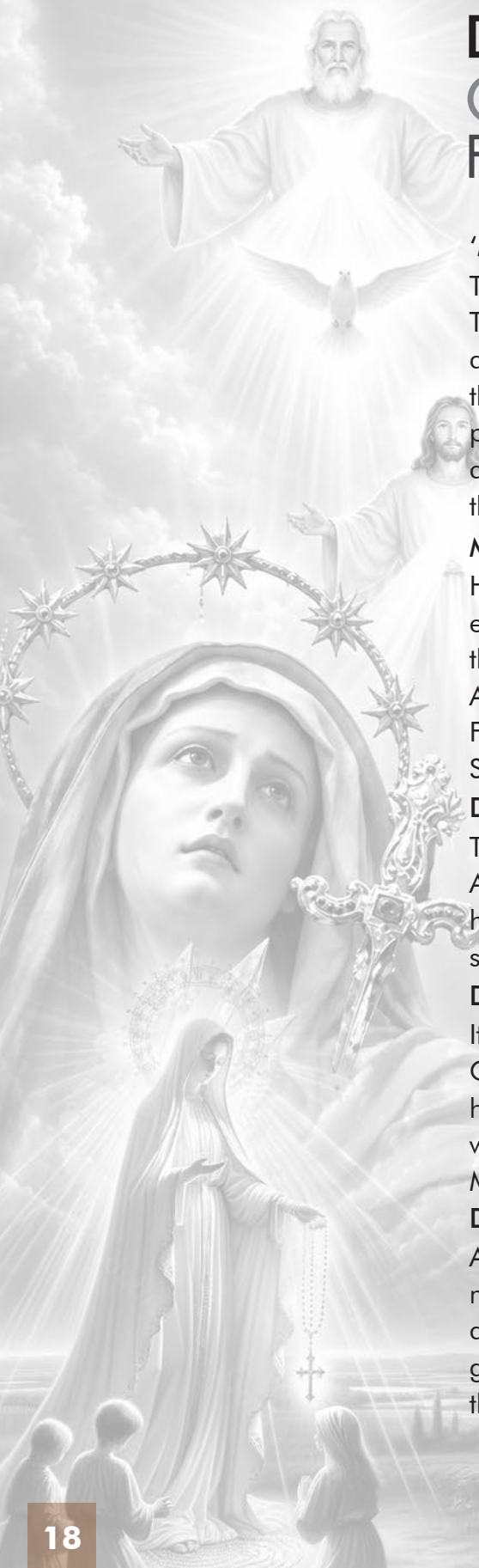
LIFE OF VEN FR. AGNEL

After completing the course of Theology on March 22, 1893, his professor in the Seminary, Rev. Jose Joaquim deSousa B. D. selected Agnelo to serve as the perceptor of his nephews and offered him his house at Calangute, in Goa so that he might set up a school there. Here Agnelo over three years taught Latin and Portuguese, according to the curriculum of the Lyceum studies to many children of the same and the surrounding villages. Later in 1896 he transferred the activities of his for one year to the house of his cousin, Felicio Santana deSousa, also in Calangute.

In the last year of his life of a teacher, as sub-Deacon, Agnelo passed through a severe crisis of scruples. Likewise some doubts assailed his spirit as to his suitability for the life of a priest. His prudence, however, induced him to consult and receive guidance from other priests who helped him in this difficult spiritual pass. When in the following year he joined the Pilar Society, the Superior there helped him to rid himself of all these scruples and to be ordained Deacon and Priest. This crisis, in all probability, helped him later on in life to understand and guide with confidence the many scrupulous persons who appealed to him.

Agnelo received the Minor Orders during the four years which he spent teaching in Calangute. He received the Minor Orders on December 22, 1895 and was ordained sub-Deacon on December 19, 1896. A student of his school in Calangute writes: " He was ever a friend of theirs as if they were his children. His mild and kindly look would be sufficient to call to order any transgressor. Thus the boys derived great profit from his instruction and many embraced ecclesiastical career."





DEVOTIONS OF VEN FR. AGNEL

'MOST BLESSED TRINITY'

The mainspring of his devotion was the 'Most Blessed Trinity' and to honour it he directed all his thoughts, desires, actions and sufferings. By all things he sought the glory of the august 'Holy Trinity'. But he cherished a particular devotion to the Second Person - and dedicated the month of November to the Holy Ghost, the great Sanctifier of souls.

MYSTERIES OF 'JESUS'

His devotion to 'Jesus the Redeemer', was intense, especially in the mystery of the 'Holy Eucharist' and of the 'Sacred Heart'. He intensely promoted the Apostleship of prayer and the practice of the nine first Fridays. Our Lord raised him up on the Feast day of his Sacred Heart as if to reward him for his devotion.

DEVOTION TO 'MARY'

The devotion to 'Our Lady' was the most dear to Ven Fr. Agnelo after that of Jesus. His filial and unlimited trust in her assured him in the belief that she would lead him someday to heaven.

DEVOTION TO THE 'SORROWS OF OUR LADY'

It is not only the Holy Mother, but even her Son Jesus Christ who is interested in spreading this devotion, for he promises liberal and prompt rewards to those who with tender devotion venerate the Sorrows of His Holy Mother.

DEVOTION TO 'OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY'

Agnelo persisted in this pious exercise instilled by his mother. She prayed the Rosary with her children twice a day: Once at dawn after the catechetical instruction, she gave to her sons as well as the other children who spent the night in their house and the other before supper.

DEVOTIONS OF VEN FR. AGNEL

DEVOTION TO 'OUR LADY OF CARMEL'

This was another devotion Agnelo loved much perhaps on account of the great promises 'Our Lady' made for those who wear the Scapular. Those who were present at his last moments saw him holding the Scapular and kissing it constantly. The devout wearing of the Scapular was for him a sign of good death.

DEVOTION TO 'ANGELS'

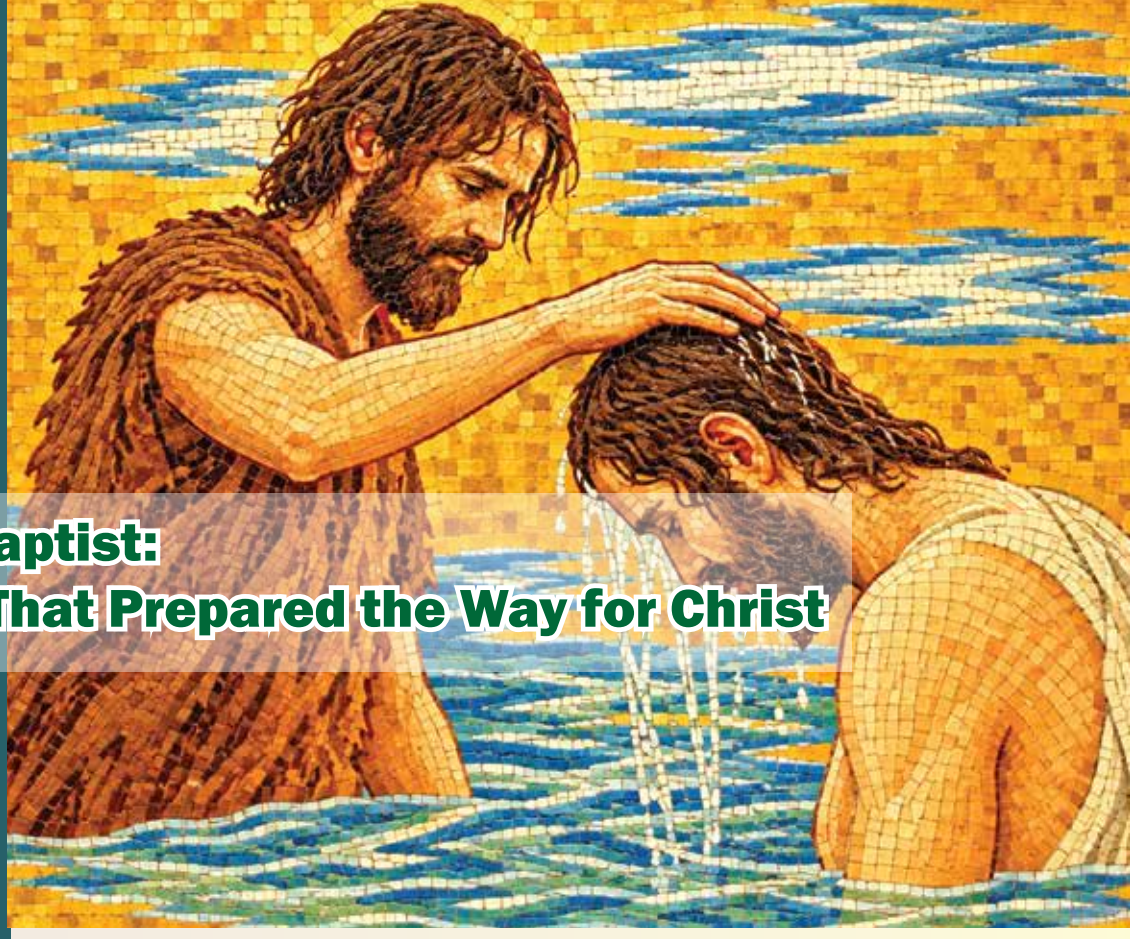
He had a particular devotion to the 'Guardian Angel' and he recommended it to the Seminarians, saying that we ought to be very grateful to him for the care he takes of us by his timely, continuous and saving inspirations. He venerated the 'Archangel Michael', as the protector of the 'Holy Church'

DEVOTION TO 'SAINTS'

Among the saints he honoured, we must name St. Anne, whom he called our Mother; St. Joseph, Patron of Good Death; St. Francis Xavier, whose zeal for the glory of God and the salvation of souls he desired to imitate by joining the Missionary Society of ST. Francis Xavier, Pilar; the holy parish priest of Ars; St. John Baptist Vianney, as his model in the parish work, St Ignatius Loyola, St. Vincent of Paul, St. Aloysius Gonzaga and St. Therese of the child Jesus, whose admirer he was.

DEVOTION TO THE 'HOLY SOULS IN PURGATORY'

This devotion was very dear to Agnelo. He strained every nerve to help poor souls in diatress. A priest asked him once why he had his hand in his pocket when reciting the Breviary. He replied "It is because when I say Our father and the Hail Mary, I wish to gain the indulgences attached to the beads. In this way we can help the holy souls a little."



John the Baptist: The Voice That Prepared the Way for Christ

A Prophet of Courage, Repentance and Humility

Imagine living in a world filled with uncertainty, injustice and longing for hope. The people of Israel were waiting for God to fulfil his promises and send the Messiah. Into this atmosphere came a remarkable man whose life and mission were centred on one purpose: to prepare the people to welcome Jesus Christ. His name was John the Baptist, the prophet who boldly proclaimed, "Prepare the way of the Lord."

The Meaning of His Name and His Historical Context

The name John comes from the Hebrew name Yohanan, meaning "The Lord is gracious" or "God has shown favour." His title, the Baptist, refers to his practice of baptising people in the Jordan River as a sign of repentance and preparation for God's coming Kingdom.

John lived in the first century AD, during the Roman occupation of Judea. Herod Antipas, a son of Herod the Great, ruled Galilee, while Pontius Pilate governed Judea as Roman prefect. The Jewish people continued to worship the one true God, following the Law and the traditions of their ancestors. Many longed for liberation and awaited the promised Messiah. It was in this setting that John emerged as a prophetic voice, calling people to spiritual renewal.

A Miraculous Birth and a Divine Calling

John's story begins with his parents, Zechariah and Elizabeth, who were righteous before God but had no children because Elizabeth was barren and both were advanced in years. While Zechariah was serving as a priest in the Temple, the angel Gabriel announced that Elizabeth would bear a son. He was to be named John and would be filled with the Holy Spirit even before his birth.

When Zechariah initially doubted the angel's message, he became unable to speak until the child was born. At John's naming, his speech returned, and he praised God. Even before his birth, John was set apart for a special mission: to prepare a people ready to receive the Lord.

A Voice Crying in the Wilderness

John lived simply in the wilderness, wearing clothing of camel's hair and a leather belt, and eating locusts and wild honey. His austere lifestyle reflected his complete dedication to God's mission.

His message was direct and challenging: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." He invited people to turn away from sin and demonstrate genuine conversion through their actions. He challenged even tax collectors and

soldiers to practise honesty, justice and contentment.

John did not merely preach repentance; he called people to a changed way of life. His baptism in the Jordan expressed their desire for forgiveness and renewal.

The Humble Witness to Jesus

When Jesus came to be baptised, John recognised the greatness of the One who stood before him. Although he initially hesitated, Jesus insisted on fulfilling all righteousness. At Jesus' baptism, the heavens opened, the Spirit descended like a dove, and the Father's voice declared Jesus to be his beloved Son.

John understood that his mission was not to draw attention to himself but to direct others towards Christ. He declared, "He must increase, but I must decrease." He also identified Jesus as "the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" In these words, John pointed towards Jesus' saving mission and the sacrifice through which humanity would be reconciled with God.

Courage in the Face of Opposition

John's fearless commitment to truth eventually brought him into conflict with Herod Antipas. He publicly condemned Herod's unlawful relationship with Herodias, his brother's wife. For this, John was imprisoned and eventually beheaded at Herod's command.

His death reminds us that fidelity to God can demand great courage and sacrifice. John did not abandon his convictions to gain favour or protect his position.

What John Teaches Us Today

John the Baptist remains an inspiring model for Christians. His call to repentance challenges us to examine our consciences, seek reconciliation and practise justice in our families, workplaces and communities. His courage encourages us to speak the truth with charity, even when it is unpopular. His humility reminds priests, religious and laypeople alike that Christian service is not about personal recognition but about leading others to Christ.

In a world filled with noise, competition and self-promotion, John invites us to become authentic witnesses to the Gospel. Like him, we are called to prepare the way for the Lord through prayer, integrity, compassion and lives shaped by the love of God.

John the Baptist's greatest achievement was not that people followed him, but that he led them to Jesus. May we, too, become humble voices of hope, helping others recognise Christ's presence and welcome him into their lives. "He must increase, but I must decrease" - this is the heart of John the Baptist's mission.

Quiz: John the Baptist — The Voice Preparing the Way for Christ

Test your knowledge of the life, mission and spiritual qualities of John the Baptist.

Part A: True or False

1. John the Baptist was the son of Zechariah and Elizabeth. True/False

2. John the Baptist lived in a royal palace and wore fine clothes. True/False

3. John the Baptist baptised Jesus in the Golden River. True/False

4. John the Baptist encouraged people to repent and turn away from sin. True/False

Part B: Multiple-Choice Questions

5. What does the name John mean?

(a) God is my shepherd (b) God is powerful (c) God is gracious (d) God is my judge

6. Who announced the birth of John to Zechariah?

(a) The high priest (b) The prophet Isaiah (c) The angel Michael (d) The angel Gabriel

7. What did John call Jesus when he saw Him coming towards him?

(a) The King of the Jews (b) The Lamb of God (c) The son of Zechariah (d) The high priest

8. Who ordered the execution of John the Baptist?

(a) Pontius Pilate (b) Caesar Augustus (c) Herod Antipas (d) Herod of Jerusalem

9. Which statement best expresses John's attitude towards Jesus?

(a) He must increase, but I must decrease. (b) I must become greater than Jesus.

(c) Jesus must follow my teaching. (d) I must rule over the people.

Part C: Fill in the Blanks

10. John preached, "Repent, for the kingdom of _____ has come near."

11. John baptised people in the River _____.

12. John's father was named _____.

13. John wore clothing made of camel's _____.

14. John was imprisoned because he spoke against the unlawful relationship of Herod Antipas and _____.

15. John's mission was to prepare the people to welcome _____.

Answer Key: Quiz on John the Baptist

Part A: True or False

1. True 2. False 3. False 4. True

Part B: Multiple-Choice Questions

5(c) 6(d) 7(b) 8(c) 9(a)

Part C: Fill in the Blanks

10. heaven; 11. Jordan; 12. Zechariah; 13. Hair; 14. Herodias; 15. Jesus

Fr. Trevor D'Souza o.f.m.


THERE ARE MORE POSSIBILITIES
IN THE UNIVERSE
NO LIMITS

THAN ONE CAN IMAGINE

From the time of our birth, we have been taught too think in terms of limits, boundaries, and restrictions. Fences surround our property, speed limits slow us down, and, some say there are even "limits to our endurance!" It has been proven, however, that all limits change as humanity progresses.

The edge of the world was pushed back and finally eliminated by Columbus and other explorers. Astronomers pushed back the earlier belief in a dome-shaped firmament covering the earth and gave us knowledge of galaxies millions of light years away. Gerontologists assure us that a life span of one hundred years is conceivable in the near future. In fact, one-hundredth-birthday celebrations are becoming more common! Athletic records are bein surpassed so rapidly that one wonders if there any limits left! So much is happening that pushes back boundaries of heretofore seeming limitation.

It may be difficult for persons born in this century to imagine the small amount of knowledge and the limited concept of the cosmos that was prevalent when the Scriptures of the major religions were written. This thought brings about a question: Do Scriptures need reinterpreting to accommodate an expanded notion of the universe?

Teilhard de Chardin called for a new theology that would incorporate the modern scientific discoveries of the "immensity of space, which imbues our accustomed way of looking at things with a strain of Universalism," and the progressive "duration of time which…..introduces….the idea of a possible unlimited Progress Futurism." Because of these two concepts, universalism and futurism, Teilhard believed we now posses a higher and more organic understanding of the cosmos, which could serve as a basis for new spiritual information.

Canadian Psychiatrist, Richard Maurice Bucke wrote in his book Cosmic Consciousness, "The immediate future of our race is indescribably hopeful. In contact with the flux of cosmic consciousness all religions known and named today will be melted down. The human soul will be revolutionized. Religion will absolutely dominate the race….The evidence of immortality will live in every heart as sight in ever eye. Doubt of God and of eternal life will be as impossible as is now doubt of existence; the evidence of each will be the same……Each soul will feel and know itself to be immortal, will feel and know that the entire universe with all its good and with all its beauty is for it and belongs to it forever."

Life is consciousness! If we are conscious of limitations in our life, then so it will be for us. If we believe with the poet (Jonathan M. Swell), "No pent-up Utica contracts our powers but the whole boundless universe is ours," then our lives may be boundless. There is no place in the world that is truly empty, without substance or energy. Wherever we look, we see some form of life, of growth, or vitality. All around us is the matter from which we build and create. Spanish philosopher, George Santayana, offers an interesting perspective: "The universe, as far as we can observe it, is a wonderful and immense engine…..If we dramatise its life and conceive its spirit, we are filled with wonder, terror and amusement, so magnificent is that spirit."

If we turn from the physical world and look within our minds for an empty space, we may quickly realize that the mind is constantly active - filled with ideas and thoughts. Even the great mystics of the ages taught that to still the mind is to simply realize an unseen power and activity far greater than ourselves.

This speaks of a great truth of another law of life: There is no limit in the universe. Look around at the many objects that have been made by humans. Now, look beyond those things and see before you the vastness of the resources from which objects are created - and the greatest of these resources is the mind. Our minds are filled with ideas and thoughts that show us how to build or create the things that our imagination can conceive.

Ibonio D'Souza

Share your innovative ideas at

fragnelashramnews@gmail.com

and let us continue to inspire, innovate and showcase your thinking.



Fr. Agnels' BLESSINGS

FOR SAFE DELIVERY AND RECOVERY OF HEALTH FROM CANCER
Eugine Paul – Bandra

FOR SETTLEMENT OF COURT MATTER
Nevil Gomes & Family – USA

FOR GIFT OF CHILD AND BLESSINGS ON BUSINESS
Manuel Fernandes – Mumbai

FOR SPECIAL INTENTION TO SELL LAND
Blessy C. V. – Mumbai

FOR HEALING FROM BACK PAIN
Steve Joseph – Mumbai

FOR HEALING FROM HIP PAIN
Hazel Carvalho – Goa

FOR EYE IMPLANT AND SUCCESSFUL RECOVERY
Hazel Carvalho – Goa

FOR PEACE AND GOOD HEALTH IN THE FAMILY
Mani & Saji – Mumbai

FOR GOOD HEALTH IN THE FAMILY
Mina Taibu – Vasai

FOR PEACE IN THE FAMILY
Neena Joseph

FOR GOOD HEALTH OF FAMILY
Princy Lazarus – Vasai

FOR GOOD HEALTH OF FAMILY
Simon Alex – Belapur

FOR GOOD HEALTH OF FAMILY
Sara Moro – Vasai

FOR GOOD HEALTH OF FAMILY
Priscila Pereira

FOR GOOD HEALTH OF SELF
Juzar Zaveri

FOR BLESSINGS ON BOAT
Sandesh Bendyacha

FOR BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS
Ursala Fargos – Vasai

FOR BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS
Dicky Alphonso – Mumbai

FOR PEACE IN THE HOME AND COMPLETION OF BOOK
Sr. Ivai

FOR SAFE PREGNANCY
Rinu Jose

FOR SEEKING A JOB IN BANGALORE
Maria - New Delhi

TO PASS EXAMINATIONS AND RECEIVE A GOOD PROPOSAL
William Rodrigues - Vasai

TO BLESS OUR JOB AND WELL-BEING OF FAMILIES
Basil Pereira - Vasai

FAVOURS RECEIVED

Salomi Jadhav, Mumbai
I thank you for your prayers in providing me a good job.
I ask your prayers to help me carry out the work efficiently and also pray for Good Health in my family.

Christabel & Family, Malad
I thank you for your prayers and favours received by our families.

Agnelo Gonsalves
Thanks to Fr. Agnel and all the Priests.



There is no JOY GREATER than the THE JOY OF GIVING

Savio Santan D'silva, Andheri
We are Donating Rs. 1,00,000/- this month towards the education of any one kid as you please. We hope the Ashram is in good shape and is able to continue to help the needy children for the coming time as well. Thanks for praying for us.

Rajesh Gohil, Baroda
I have made a contribution of Rs.1,000/- towards the education and medical aids for the Balbhavan boys.

Natasha Carol Fernandes, Andheri
I am pleased to offer a humble donation of Rs.15000/- through EDC as a full sponsorship for a Balbhavan child.

Joseph Johny Puthur, Powai
I am pleased to donate an amount of Rs.15000/- through NEFT for the sponsorship of a Balbhavan boy in the ashram.

Joanita Sequeira, Andheri
Im delighted to contribute an amount of Rs.30000/- through UPI for sponsoring food for the Balbhavan boys.

Dicken Thomas, Chembur
I am contributing an amount of Rs.2000/- through EDC for the Balbhavan boys.

Leena D' Souza, Goregaon
I am happy to donate an amount of Rs.12000/- through EDC as a thanksgiving for the various favours received & for the daily expenditure fulfilment of Balbhavan boys.

Gaurang & Poonam Mehta, Kanjurmarg
I am happy to provide Rs.15000/- through EDC as the full sponsorship (education) for one year for the Balbhavan boy.

Ankitkumar Vinubhai Parmar, Anand
I have remitted an amount of Rs.25,000/- via UPI for fulfilling all the required needs of Balbhavan boys.

Juzar Zaveri, Borivali
I am donating an amount of Rs. 10,000/- as mini-sponsorship for 2 Balbhavan boys.

Melini Joseph D'souza, Dadar
A small donation of Rs.10,000/- via NEFT for all the services given to Balbhavan boys in Fr. Agnel Ashram.

OUT OF THEIR BOUNTY



Sharon Amelia Dabreo	Mumbai	50000
Sosamma Saji	UAE	40000
Kayomarz Homi Mistry	Kerala	30000
Agnelo D'souza	Vasai	15000
Aileen Joseph	Thane	15000
Dr Niket Shastri	Gujarat	11463
Alka Patil	Thane	10000
Melini Joseph D'souza	Mumbai	10000
Cynthia Dsouza	Karnataka	10000
Sahil S.mehta	Mumbai	10000
Santosh Fernandes	Palghar	10000
Josephine M. Machado	Mumbai	10000
Vinith Varghese	Mumbai	8000
George Tom Varghese	Kerala	6000
Lavina R. Barbozakar	Karnataka	6000
Subramaniam R. Huf	Mumbai	5250
Mr.leslie Ivan D Souza.	Mumbai	5000
Susan Cheryl Dantis	Thane	5000
Geeta Naik.	Mumbai	5000
Philomena Pinto	Karnataka	5000
Jacob Francis	Kerala	5000
Lorna Mira Lobo	Mumbai	5000
Anthony Crasto	Thane	5000
Mukesh P Macwan	Gujarat	5000
Neriosang N. Sethna	Mumbai	5000
Rodney Valentine	Mumbai	4000
Kurian Thomas	Kerala	4000
Michael Noronha	Mumbai	3000
Techno Products.	Tamil Nadu	3000
Renjitha Jayan	Kerala	3000
Kochuthressia Jose	Kerala	3000
Sebastian Fernandes	Mumbai	2500
Heli Shah	Mumbai	2001
Nancy Belinda Carlo	Mumbai	2000
K. Chettiar	Mumbai	2000
Neville S Ramon	Gujarat	2000
Morris Clement Dmello	Vasai	2000
Malcolm Sequeria	Mumbai	2000
Vivian Fernandes	Mumbai	2000
Sabina Fernandes	Mumbai	2000
Rhea Allwyn Chaves	Mumbai	2000
Blossom Leo Dabre	Vasai	2000
Rosily Joseph	Kerala	2000
Cecil Thomas Varghese	Bharain	2000
Ashwini Ubale Surve	Navi Mumbai	2000
Attely Anto Kuttikadan.	Thane	2000
Ramprasad Joshi	Mumbai	2000
Jose T.K.	Kerala	2000
Solly Thomas	Kerala	2000
Isabel Hendricks	Tamil Nadu	2000
Babychan Antony	Kerala	2000
Lina Rajesh Sandewal	Mumbai	2000
Linda Vincent Dias	Mumbai	2000
Sumant B Hannikeri	Karnataka	2000
Meeta Dhaval Vashi	Mumbai	2000
A.r. Elavia	Mumbai	2000
Vasillie George	Kerala	2000
M . Jesu Elango	Palghar	2000
Kamal Gorasia	West Bengal	2000
Marian Fabian D'souza	Mumbai	1519
Pratik Jesrani	Mumbai	1500
Paul Joseph Nazareth	Karnataka	1500
John Colaco	Mumbai	1500
Anthony Thevar	Mumbai	1500
Anthony Lukas Pagare	Thane	1500
Yashwant Sodha	Mumbai	1251
Sairus J. Rangoonwala	Mumbai	1100
Geeta K Bhatt	Mumbai	1100
Jihaan Gandhi	Mumbai	1000
Sargent Jacob D'mello	Virar	1000
Rita Noronha Gomes	Mumbai	1000
Elizabeth Pious	Kerala	1000
Norbert Dkhar	Meghalaya	1000
Anthony Thomson	Kerala	1000
Georgie K. George	Kerala	1000
Shalet D'mello	Virar	1000
Dhruti Parikh	Mumbai	1000
Chetan Asher	Mumbai	1000
Jefferson A. Saldanha	Mumbai	1000
Hiren Gala	Kalyan	1000
Nora F Saldhana	Karnataka	1000
Maryantony	Kerala	1000
Joseph P	Kerala	1000
Delma Joyal Foss	Palghar	1000
Anita D'costa	Mumbai	1000
Justin & Jose Varghese	Navi Mumbai	1000
M.d. Mathai	Kerala	1000
Remya Joseph	Kerala	1000
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THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO...!

I must confess I did a shameful thing while watching a funeral video that suddenly appeared on my phone. I smiled. There were at least a dozen priests around the departed gentleman, sprinkling holy water and conducting solemn proceedings. Enough clergy, I thought, to make heaven wonder whether an entire parish was arriving.

"**There's nothing you can do!**" I wanted to shout. Unfortunately, phones allow people to shout at us, but have yet to develop a facility for shouting back into recorded funerals. Otherwise, several politicians would have received valuable feedback from my drawing room.

Now, before somebody sprinkles holy water on this column, let me explain. Funerals comfort the grieving. Prayers, scripture and a loving presence help families through terrible loss. But surely we cannot treat the ceremony as an emergency repair workshop for the departed soul, with twelve priests accomplishing what one priest might struggle to finish.

In Luke 16:19–31, Jesus tells of a rich man and a poor man named Lazarus. After death, Lazarus is comforted beside Abraham, while the rich man suffers. Abraham speaks of a great chasm that cannot be crossed. No mention of an undertaker offering a premium package with a bridge included.

The rich man had enjoyed splendid clothes and sumptuous meals while Lazarus lay suffering at his gate. He had apparently noticed the poor fellow only after discovering that the seating arrangements in eternity differed considerably from those at his dining table.

Hebrews 9:27 says that people die once and afterwards face judgment. A sobering appointment. No secretary to telephone, no influential friend to recommend us, and certainly no opportunity to explain that our charitable intentions were awaiting clearance from our accountant.

And yet, how carefully we arrange the departure! Polished coffin. Expensive flowers. Impressive attendance. Someone whispers, "Such a grand funeral!" As though the deceased might sit up and say, "Thank you! I always wanted my final achievement to be upholstery."

Ephesians 2:8–10 reminds us that salvation is God's gift through faith, and that we are created in Christ for good works. Grace cannot be purchased through funeral expenditure. Nor can the kindness we postponed be supplied afterwards by relatives distributing sandwiches beside our photograph.

Perhaps the question is less, "How many priests will attend my funeral?" and more, "How many people experienced compassion because I was alive?" Did my faith reach my wallet, my temper, my employees, the hungry person outside my gate? Or did it remain safely framed above the sofa?

Let the priests come to comfort those who mourn. But let us stop expecting them to rewrite a life after its author has put down the pen. The time for repentance, faith, forgiveness and love is while we can still get out of bed and practise them.

Give the poor priest some rest at his manse. He can preach the sermon, comfort your family and accompany your coffin.

But he cannot climb inside and live your life again for you…!

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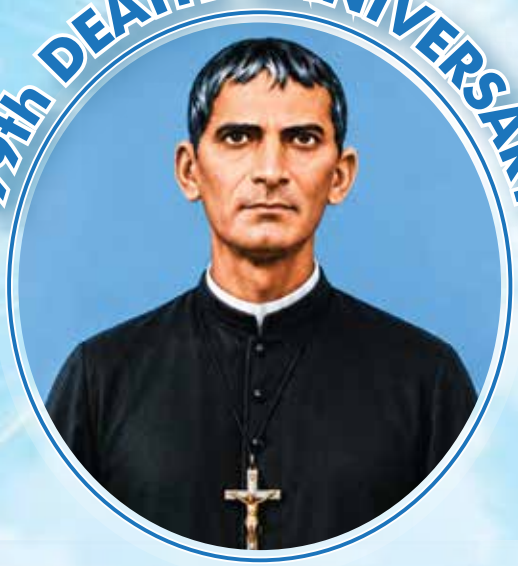
99th DEATH ANNIVERSARY



FRIDAY, 20th November 2026 Morning: 7am & 9:30am

HOLY MASSES & NOVENA PRAYER IN ENGLISH

FRIDAY 20th November at 6:00 pm
SOLEMN EUCHARISTIC CELEBRATION BY



Most. Rev. Bernard Lancy Pinto
Bishop of Aurangabad

On Sunday 15th November, all Masses and Novena Services will be as on normal Sundays.
On Sunday 15th November, Novena Service will be in Gujarati at 3:00 pm

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Happy Diwali

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