



# Don Bosco's FATIMA Messenger

Vol. 10, Issue 1

January - February 2020

God bless  
our  
New Year 2020



**STRENNA 2020**

of the Rector Major Fr. Angel Fernandez Artime



*«Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven»*

PHILIP A. S.

**GOOD CHRISTIANS AND UPRIGHT CITIZENS**

## From the Editor's Computer...

*Dear Devotees of Our Lady and Don Bosco,*

Welcome to the New Year 2020..Be of Good Cheer! Jesus Christ has come to bring us Joy and Hope. He never wants us to be sad or morose, and we will never be depressed, if we are intent on pursuing God's Will.



**“If you are happy, filled with God's grace, let your face show it.**

**Our New Adoration Chapel has been blessed on 11th December.** May many people be attracted to our Eucharistic Lord. Don Bosco used to say, You want more graces make frequent visits to the Blessed Sacrament, if you want few graces, make few visits. The Lord is always waiting for us..

***Come to me all you who labour and are overburdened and I will give you rest.***

January is the month dedicated to Don Bosco. All over the world, lovers of Don Bosco make the Novena from 22nd to 30 January and then celebrate joyfully the Feast. Make the Novena with Mass if possible, or atleast make it at home. He will bless you and your family. Happy Feast. I assure you of my prayers and those of my community, including our students.



I hope you have received our Don Bosco calendar 2020. It is gifted to you for your generosity towards our mission.

26th February is already Ash Wednesday. Christmas leads to Lent, to Good Friday and finally to Easter. Christ was born to die, yes, but to rise again from the dead. Alleluia.

**HAPPY NEWYEAR 2020 ! The Lord be with you and bless you always.**

Fr. Loddy Pires s.d.b.

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### **SHRINE INFORMATION:**

**Mass:** Daily:(English) 6.30 am; 7.15 am; 6.00 pm

**Sundays:** (Konkani) 6.00 am; 8.00 am; (English) 7 am, 9.10 am, 6.00 pm

**Adoration:** Thursdays: 6.30 pm (after Mass);

**Confessions:** *Weekdays:* During / after Mass. Saturdays: 5.30 pm to 6.00 pm.

**Rosary:** after 6.30 am and 7.15 am Mass; Before 6.00 pm Mass.

**Novena & Blessing of Mary Help of Christians:** Saturday: after/before Mass.

**ADORATION CHAPEL open from 7. 00 am to 8.00 pm.**



Anyone desirous of joining the **Salesians of Don Bosco**,  
or needing information on the Salesian way of life, can contact:

Don Bosco, Panjim, Goa. 403 001

or Email:

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## STRENNA SALESIAN RECTOR MAJOR - - 2020

\* Don Angel Fernandez Artime, S.D.B.

***“GOOD CHRISTIANS AND UPRIGHT CITIZENS”***

The 2020 Strenna embodies the essence of our Salesian education, we have received from Don Bosco, to help the young to be “good Christians and upright citizens.”

**• There's a growing fragility, and inability, in being apostles and missionaries to the young.**



**• There is the risk of not educating our young people to a strong**

**sense of citizenship, social justice, and Gospel values that lead them to make their own a life programme based on service to others:**

**\* commitment to public life, personal honesty, “allergy” to all types of corruption, sensitivity to the world of immigrants, Creation and the “common home” that has been given to us, and the commitment to protect the defenceless - those who have no say and who are discarded.**

**• This educational commitment is an expression of Jesus' words:**

**“Thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven” (Mt. 6:10).**

**• This is and will continue to be Don Bosco's true “politics of the Our Father.”**

We need to have a clear idea of what involvement in the “POLIS” of Don Bosco's time was like.

***His great “yes's” and his most firm “no's,” cannot be transferred unaltered, into our context.***

**• We reconstruct what Don Bosco thought and how he acted among the young, with the intention of preparing them for the society in which they found themselves - a society subject to dizzying changes of the Industrial Revolution, where poverty for many reached extreme levels: immense social and economic inequality, the growth of “begging”, the abandonment of “migrant” children, and so on.**

**• 1867 - Don Bosco met Pope Pius IX, who asked him with a smile, “What politics would you adopt to overcome so many difficulties [concerning episcopal appointments for Piedmont]?”**

***“My politics,” Don Bosco answered, “are the same as yours, Your Holiness - the politics embodied in the Pater Noster (Our Father). When we say it, we daily pray that God's kingdom may come upon this earth and spread over it, that it may become ever more effective, powerful and glorious. Thy kingdom come! This is what really matters.”***1



This is further illuminated by other thoughts of Don Bosco:



• Truly, we do not engage in politics with our work. We respect constituted authority,

• We obey laws that have to be observed;

• we pay taxes, we keep on going, asking only

• that they let us do good for poor youth and to save souls.

• We also play politics but in an entirely innocent way - to the advantage of any Government.

• *Politics can be defined as the art and science of governing the State well.*

*\* The work of the Oratory in every country where it has been established, working especially to offer relief to those most needy young people,*

*\* tends to lessen [sic] the number of vagabonds and unruly types.*

*\* tends to decrease the number of young wrongdoers and thieves.*

*\* tends to empty out prisons.*

*In a word it tends to form upright citizens who, far from causing grief*

*to public authorities, help them to keep order, calm and peace in society.*

***THIS IS OUR POLITICS.*** *This is the only thing we have been concerned about up till now and which will be our concern in the future.*

**1. GOOD CHRISTIANS: Living in the Faith of the Lord under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.**



• No thing takes away the dignity and divine greatness that lies within every human life as its destiny. St. Paul says this, who had before him a pagan world,

makes these words more encouraging:

*\* I pray that you, rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge - that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. (Eph. 3:14-19)*

*\* "This Society's origins are found in the simple catechetical instructions conducted by Father John Bosco...." (BM IX, 35)*

*\* We can never stop being evangelizers of the young "evangelization aims at a process of growth which entails taking seriously each person and God's plan for his or her life." (EG. 160)*

• As educators and evangelizers, from personal experience, we can say to young people with words, gestures, and actions that God loves them, that “You are important to him.” (CV. 115)

### **True Christians and educators today living Salesian Spirituality.**

• Emphasizing the spirituality of God in daily life.

• Fostering an atmosphere of friendship between the educator and the young helps for growth.

• Growing in faith, even with the help of a guide, will be impossible if there's no true friendship; that is, communication, mutual influence - a friendship that becomes truly spiritual.

• Creating a relationship between formator and young people which “must be marked by the greatest cordiality. Familiarity inspires love, and love inspires confidence.

• Young people reveal everything without fear ... because they are certain that they are loved.

### **Good Christians in the challenge of non-Christian environments.**

• The witness of Fr. Tom Uzhunnalil sdb, a prisoner in Yemen for 557 days, attests to how his

• spiritual interiority and faith kept

him “healthy in mind and spirit” in an extreme human situation, where he gave witness, even in silence, by how he lived.

### **Good Christians in the challenge of post-Christian environments.**

• Perhaps no charismatic family in the Church is involved with such

a vast number of young people - non Christians, belonging to other faiths or no longer believers.

• This puts us on a missionary path unique in its potential for witness and evangelization.

• The Church asks us to be forerunners in the Church on this front of young people..

### **A faith lived together, and in a “going-out” of ourselves.**



• To call God as Father means to see others as brothers and sisters.

• We make the world a place of encounter with God and making it a better world.

• “An encounter with God is called an 'ecstasy,'

• It takes us out of ourselves, lifts us

up, and overwhelms us with God's love and beauty.

• We experience ecstasy when we recognize in others their hidden beauty, their dignity, and their grandeur as images of God and children of the Father.

- It's always better to live the faith together and to show our love by living in community and sharing with other young people our affection, our time, our faith, and our troubles.

- The Church offers many different possibilities for living our faith in community (CV. 164)

**2. UPRIGHT CITIZENS:** The young are waiting for us in the “house of life.”

- The youth population in the world has never been as numerous as it is today, and proportionately has never been as “poor and needy,” on account of the numbers and perhaps also due to their living conditions - *“the most delicate and precious portion”* of society.[Don Bosco].

- There is a risk in various Salesian quarters of remaining easily **“within our walls,”** satisfying ourselves with attending to those who enter our doors.

- There is great cry from young people of going out to face the “real” problems they have: the meaning of life, the lack of opportunities, formation, job placement, etc.

**To educate ourselves and our young people to citizenship and social commitment.**

- The documents of the synods say, the young are becoming prophets, which go beyond that of the countries to which they belong.

- Justice greater than the one expressed by national juridical systems and our governments.

- Citizenship of the world, as a common home and the home of the future, which undoubtedly belongs more to the new generations than to ours.

- Be courageous in this demanding vision of justice, which aims at sustainable development in particular, the recent one on migration that some nations did not sign.

- Make ourselves heard against more short-sighted visions centred on narrower interests in certain categories; for example, the ecological sensitivity of the youngest and many governments' being closed to the consideration of these issues.



***Lack of credible leaders in the world today, compels us to question how we go about educating.***

***To educate ourselves and our young people to political commitment and service.***

- Young people in our houses and young men and women religious of our Salesian Family wonder

- whether the ultimate goal of our works should really be to “produce” graduates with the best qualifications for a very competitive society,

- without ever questioning the socio-economic model that lies behind all this.

- The diversity in Don Bosco's approaches need to be better perceived.

***\* In order to be faithful to his spirit, today we must use expressions almost the opposite of his.***

- The Our Father asks us to teach young people, not only as individuals, but also as a group,

- to become the protagonists of the common good, even in explicitly administrative and political fields..

- We must understand what we mean by political service and how a Christian cannot back out. It will be a "long battle," especially with consecrated men and women who have not grown up with this mentality; but it's a cry of the world and of today's young people.

- One light is the reality of volunteer work as a gradual and pedagogical path for a greater commitment to the transformation of society.

- Educate ourselves and our young people in honesty and to keep ourselves free from corruption.

- The potential of the Salesian Family in this field is truly enormous, especially in the reality of the Salesian Cooperators and the Past Pupils who are "in the world" through their presence in politics and other influential areas.

- It is a strong call to our internal consistency, especially in our relationship with the laity. I

- It will also be an opportunity to take steps to create or make more visible a culture of social ethics.

- Be sensitive and co-responsible in a world on the move, a world of migration. Young migrants were the first beneficiaries of Don Bosco's Oratory. Most of this migration, never before so great in history, is made up of young people.

***\* Should we not become SPECIALISTS in this field (by investing in "higher education," as is done for technology or philosophy?***

***\* If we are not the ones to "create culture" on this open front of human life that will expand more and more in the future, who else is?***



- Our Salesian Youth Movement is a movement for young people on the move. (Laudato Si', 13)

- The vision of ecology proposed by Laudato Si', is not an

extra commitment: it is a horizon that questions the whole of our culture, faith, lifestyle, mission - of our education and evangelization.

- In ecology and the rights of minors, the direction to follow has already been clearly marked out by the magisterium of the Church and now strongly marked out by Pope Francis.

- Integral ecology also speaks of an integral educational program in its



human and spiritual values.

**In the defense of human rights and especially the rights of minors.**

- The purpose of the Salesian Family is to give our whole life to minors, to the young, boys and girls, giving priority above all to the most defenseless, the neediest, the most fragile, the poorest.

- We must be experts in the defense of all human rights, especially the rights of minors, and ask for forgiveness to the point of tears when we have not done so.

- We cannot be accomplices of any abuse, meaning by this the abuse of “economic, conscience, or sexual power”.

**3. WITH THE HELP OF MARY, OUR MOTHER**

- The presence of Mary in Don Bosco's educational system has a fundamental importance.



- Don Bosco presented her to his children as the Immaculate, as the simple and sweet woman who joyfully lives the plan that God has for her.

- He also presented her as the Help of Christians, as a loving Mother, concerned that all her sons and daughters fully live the dream that God has for each of them.

- Mary's presence has a dimension not only devotional but also “political”: she is the Mother who helps her sons and daughters to live fully their commitment to God and to the created world.

**This is the “politics of the Our Father.”**

**ONLINE DONATIONS AND BOOK MASSES:** go to our province website: [www:donboscopanjim.com](http://www.donboscopanjim.com), clicking on the **DONATE** tab, fill in your details and send.

**OR send cheques directly OR transfer to: Don Bosco Shrine:** Current: A/c No. 50200030360229, HDFC Bank, Panjim, Branch,

**\* IFSC code : HDFC0000059**

**For 80G Donation Receipt: The Goa Salesian Society.** SB Credit A/c 198001000001112,

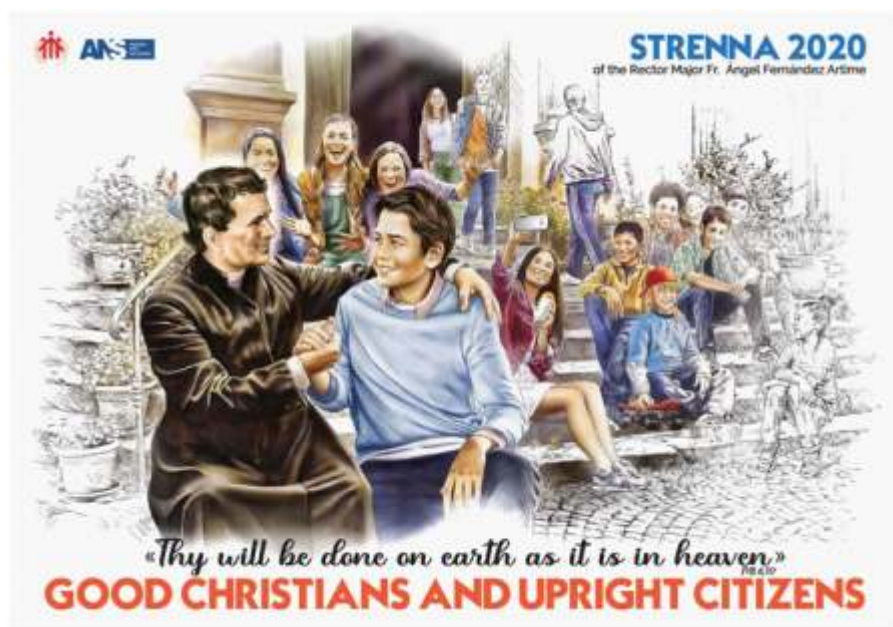
Indian Overseas Bank, Taleigao, Branch. \* IFSC : IOBA0001980

**ALL DONATIONS & MASS OFFERINGS** can be sent to: **Fr. Loddy Pires** *sdb*

**Shrine Office timings:** Weekdays: 9.00 am to 1.00 pm; 2.30 pm to 5.00 pm.

**Address:** Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima, Don Bosco, Panjim, Goa. 403001.

**Telephone:** 0832-2221986 Ext. 276; **Mobile:** (Fr. Loddy): 8762801749



The Strenna poster 2020, makes us go back in memory to the beginnings of Salesian work.

*\* There was a stairway near the large market of Porta Palazzo, where young people sat to laugh, joke and have a snack. Don Bosco goes to meet them there. "Out there", where they normally meet and hang out. He does not lecture to them; he simply offers his friendship.*

*\* In the poster, at the top of the staircase there is an open door. It is the door of the house of Don Bosco, the door of the church and the door of life.*

*\*\* Today, young people often find only closed doors. Don Bosco wants the young to have open doors. Those of a future and a happy and responsible life, those of a mature and satisfying faith, those of joy, solidarity, open and free creativity. This is why the Salesian Family exists.*

*\*\* The poster is a page from the Gospel according to Don Bosco: "Jesus called forth a child, put him in their midst and said: 'Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.'" (Mt 18, 1-5).*

\* The Strenna poster is designed by the artist Stefano Pachi.

## Pope Francis' Apostolic Letter 'Admirabile Signum'



### Meaning and Importance of the Nativity Scene

*Pope Francis, in his Apostolic Letter, has written on the meaning and importance of the Nativity Scene. He signed it on December. 1, 2019, the first Sunday of Advent, in the Franciscan Shrine in Greccio, where St. Francis of Assisi made the first ever Nativity Scene.*

- The nativity scene is like a living Gospel rising up from the pages of sacred Scripture.
- As we contemplate the Christmas story, we are invited to set out on a spiritual journey, drawn by the humility of the God who became man in order to encounter every man and woman.
- *Great is his love for us that he became one of us, so that we in turn might become one with him.*

**The Pope encourages the beautiful family tradition of preparing the nativity scene before Christmas, setting it up in the workplace, in schools, hospitals, prisons and town squares.**

- Great imagination and creativity is shown in employing the most diverse materials to create small masterpieces of beauty.
- As children, we carry on this joyful tradition, which encapsulates a wealth of popular piety.
- We hope that this custom will never be lost and wherever it has

fallen into disuse, it can be rediscovered and revived.

**The origin of the Christmas crib is found in details of Jesus' birth as related in the Gospels.**

- Mary “gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn” (Lk.2:7).



- **MANGER:** the nativity scene is known in Italian as a “**presepe**”. Latin “**praesepium**”.

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Entrance



Stained glass  
window



Pews

## ADORATION CHAPEL BLESSED

*The Adoration chapel, attached to Don Bosco's Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima, Panjim, was blessed and inaugurated on 11th December 2019 by Rev. Fr. Felix Fernandes, Salesian Provincial of Panjim-Konkan Province.*

*The Decree of Erection from the Most Rev. Felipe Neri Ferrao, Archbishop of Goa and Daman, was read by Fr. Avin Carvalho, Rector. After the Post Communion Prayer, the Sacred Host was solemnly taken to the New Chapel and placed in the monstrance attached to the Tabernacle.*

*\* The faithful attending the Service were all in awe on seeing the grandeur and décor of the chapel. The Mass was concelebrated by Fr. Clive Tellis, Fr. Avin Carvalho, Fr. Marwin Vaz, Fr. Loddy Pires. Cake was served to celebrate the occasion. Our sincere thanks to all our Benefactors, the Architect, Contractor and labourers. God bless them all for their contribution towards this holy enterprise.*



Our sincere hope is that the Chapel will be well used to worship the Lord, pray for a repentant spirit, thank Him for His blessings and obtain even more. St Theresa of the Child Jesus used to say, **"Thank God for one blessing and He will give you 10, thank Him for 10 and you get a hundred and more"**.

\* This is Our Lord of generosity.





## BEST TIME FOR THE LORD.

**When we put no limits to the glory given to His Son in the Blessed Sacrament, God puts no limits to the outpouring of graces on the people! The Lord is asking us to have Perpetual Adoration so that His Kingdom may come. The power of continual prayer before the Blessed Sacrament will bring about Christ's Kingdom on Earth.**

*The effect of spending time every day before the Blessed Sacrament, will bring on such a surge of insight and love, into a human soul.*

9-year old Annabel Beam in Texas with her family. She was afflicted with an incurable ailment until a tree climbing accident that threatened her life ended up both restoring her to full health and telling a tale of Jesus and light. As related in the book and movie “Miracles from Heaven,” Annabel fell headfirst into the trunk of a cottonwood tree, where she

remained stuck and unconscious for 5 hours before being rescued. She told her mother that she had seen heaven and her deceased grandmother - and that she told Jesus she would like to stay but He said she must not. She also said “I always thought that God had a big heart and He does - His heart is so big that it glows. His eyes shine like gold glory reflected in the sun.” Regarding heaven, Annabel later told a reporter, “Everything glowed. The light came from everywhere, from the flowers and the plants — even the grass gave off light as you walked on it.”

What Annabel Beam describes seems very much like the “peaceable kingdom” we see described in the eleventh chapter of the prophecies of Isaiah: “A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots...The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.”

**Infinite Goodness Everywhere:** In truth, the insight into what it is like to “see light” is remarkably consistent, whenever someone tries to communicate it, whether in the modern era or the past. In the 19th century, Marie-Victoire-Thérèse Couderc - a simple woman from the French countryside — helped to

*Contd on pg 19*



- Place where animals feed. Hay became the first bed of the One who would reveal himself as **“the bread come down from heaven”** (Jn 6:41).
- St. Augustine was impressed by this symbolism: “Laid in a manger, he became our food”
- For the origins of the Christmas, imagine you are in the Italian town of **Greccio, near Rieti.**
- St. Francis stopped there, on his way back from Rome, where on 29 November 1223 he had received the confirmation of his Rule from Pope Honorius III.
- Francis had visited the Holy Land, and the caves in Greccio reminded him of Bethlehem.
- The “Poor Man of Assisi” had been struck by the mosaics in the Roman Basilica of St. Mary Major depicting the birth of Jesus, close to the place where, according to tradition, the **wooden panels of the manger are preserved.**
- Fifteen days before Christmas, Francis asked John, a local man, to help him realize his desire “to bring to life the memory of that babe born in Bethlehem: to see with my own bodily eyes the discomfort of his infant needs, how he lay in a manger, and how, with an ox and an ass standing by, he was laid upon a bed of hay”
- On 25 December, friars came to Greccio from various parts, together with people from the farmsteads in the area, who brought flowers and



torches to light up that holy night. When Francis arrived, he found a manger full of hay, an ox and a donkey.

- All present experienced a new and indescribable joy in the presence of the Christmas scene.
- The priest solemnly celebrated the Eucharist over the manger, showing the bond between the Incarnation of the Son of God and the Eucharist.
- At Greccio there were no statues; the nativity scene was enacted by all who were present.
- Thomas of Celano, the first biographer of Saint Francis, notes: one of those present saw the Baby Jesus himself lying in the manger.
- St. Francis carried out a great work of evangelization. His teaching

touched the hearts of Christians and continues to offer a simple, authentic means of portraying the beauty of our faith.

**Why does the Christmas crib arouse such wonder and move us so deeply?**

*1. It shows God's tender love:*

*\* the Creator of the universe lowered himself to take up our littleness.*

*2. The gift of life makes us realize that the Son of Mary is the source and sustenance of all life.*

*3. Jesus is given to us as a brother who comes to seek us out when we are confused or lost,*

*\* a loyal friend ever at our side.*

*4. The Father gave us his Son who forgives us and frees us from our sins.*

• The Crib invites us to “feel” and



“touch” the poverty that God's Son took upon himself.

• It summons us to follow Him in humility, poverty and self-denial, from the manger to the cross.

• It asks us to meet Him and serve Him by showing mercy to those in greatest need (Mt 25:31-46).

**+ The Pope reflects on the elements of the nativity scene, to appreciate their deeper meaning.**

**STARRY SKY** wrapped in the darkness and silence of night.



\*We think of those times when we experienced the darkness of night.

\* Even then, God does not abandon us, but is there to answer our questions about the meaning of life.

**\* Who am I? \* Where do I come from? \* Why was I born at this time? \* Why do I love? \* Why do I suffer? \* Why will I die?**

• God's closeness brings light where there is darkness and shows the way to those dwelling in the shadow of suffering (Lk 1:79).



## THE LANDSCAPES

- Frequently the ruins of ancient houses or buildings, replace the cave of Bethlehem.
- These ruins relate to a pagan belief that the Temple of Peace in Rome would collapse when a Virgin gave birth.
- The ruins are the visible sign of fallen humanity, of everything that inevitably falls into ruin, decays and disappoints.

*This scenic setting tells us that Jesus is newness in the midst of an aging world, that he has come to heal and rebuild, to restore the world and our lives to their original splendour.*



*The mountains, streams, sheep and shepherds remind that, as the prophets had foretold, all creation rejoices in the coming of the Messiah. The angels and the guiding star are a sign that we too are called to set out for the cave and to worship the Lord. (Lk 2:15).*

- Unlike so many people, busy about many things, the shepherds are the first to see the most essential thing of all: the gift of salvation.
- It is the humble and the poor who greet the event of the Incarnation.
- The shepherds respond to God who comes to meet us in the Infant Jesus by setting out to meet him with love, gratitude and awe.

**SYMBOLIC FIGURES:** *Beggars and the others who know only the wealth of the heart.,*

•



God became man for the sake of those who feel most in need of his love and who ask him to draw near to them.

- We cannot be fooled by wealth and the fleeting promises of happiness.
- These additions show that in the new world of Jesus there is room for whatever is human for God's creatures.

*From the shepherd to the blacksmith, from the baker to the musicians, from the women carrying jugs of water to the children at play: all this speaks of the everyday holiness, the joy of doing ordinary things in an extraordinary way, born whenever Jesus shares his divine life with us.*

**THE CAVE**, where we find Mary and Joseph.



**MARY** is a mother who contemplates her child and shows him to us.

- We reflect on the great mystery that surrounded this young woman when God knocked on the door of her immaculate heart.
- Mary responded in complete obedience. (Lk 1:38),
- Mary became the mother of God's Son, consecrating her virginity.
- The Mother of God does not keep her Son only to herself, but invites everyone to obey his word and put it into practice (Jn 2:5).

**SAINT JOSEPH**, staff in hand, or holding up a lamp. He is the guardian who protects his family.

• When God warned him of Herod's threat, he did not hesitate to flee to Egypt (Mt 2:13-15).

• Later, he brought the family back to Nazareth, where he was to be the first teacher of Jesus as a boy and then as a young man.

**THE INFANT JESUS** in the manger, makes the nativity scene come alive.

• God appears as a child, for us to take into our arms. Beneath weakness and frailty, he conceals his power, that creates and transforms all things.



• God wished to reveal the greatness of his love: by smiling and opening his arms to all.

• The birth of a child awakens joy and wonder; it sets before us the great mystery of life. "Life was made manifest" (1 Jn 1:2).

• Mary and Joseph, as they looked at the Infant Jesus, sensed God's presence in their lives. God's ways are astonishing.

*We see God acting exactly as we do: he sleeps, takes milk from his mother, cries and plays like every other child!. He is unpredictable, constantly doing what we least expect.*



### **THREE KINGS.**

- Observing the star, those wise men from the East set out for Bethlehem, in order to find Jesus and to offer him their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.
- These costly gifts have an allegorical meaning: gold honours Jesus' kingship, incense his divinity, myrrh his sacred humanity that was to experience death and burial.
- People can come to Christ by a very long route. Men of wealth, sages from afar, a thirst for the infinite, they set out on the long and perilous journey that would lead them to Bethlehem (Mt 2:1-12).
- Great joy comes over them in the presence of the Infant King. They are not scandalized by the poor surroundings, but immediately fall to their knees to worship him. Kneeling before him, they understand that the God who with sovereign wisdom

guides the course of the stars also guides the course of history, casting down the mighty and raising up the lowly.

- Upon their return home, they would certainly have told others of this amazing encounter with the Messiah, thus initiating the spread of the Gospel among the nations

**These memories make us conscious of the precious gift we have received from those who passed on the faith to us.**



- \* Share this same experience with our children and grandchildren.
- \* The Christmas Crib speaks to us of the love of God,
- \* The God who became a child, to make us know
- \* How close he is to everyone, regardless of their condition.
- \*\* Like Saint Francis, may we open our hearts to this simple grace, so that a humble prayer may arise: a prayer of thanksgiving to God, who wished to share with us his all, and thus never to leave us alone.



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establish a religious order of sisters, known as the Sisters of the Cenacle, who took care of pilgrims and the spiritual education of retreatants. With the growth of the community, a woman of higher standing was put into leadership and Sister Thérèse, was relegated to working in the kitchen and the garden, invisible to retreatants, but steeped in prayer.



In 1866, she related her experience with seeing light: "I saw as in letters of gold this word, **GOODNESS**, which I repeated for a long while w i t h a n

indescribable sweetness. I saw it, I say, written on all creatures, animate and inanimate, rational or not, all bore this name of goodness. I saw it even on the chair I was using as a

kneeler. I understood then that all these creatures are good and all the services and helps that we receive from each of them are a blessing that we owe to the goodness of our God. ***The name of the well-born woman who replaced Sister Thérèse is forgotten, but this ignored visionary of the light in the world we now call "Saint."***

Jesus is the light at which we may look directly, without discomfort or glare or fear, because it is the very light with which we are created. Gaze at Jesus in the monstrance. Tell him to increase your faith and let His Light penetrate your whole being. And carry the light into your home and wherever you go, blessing others with the Light of Christ.

**"Let yourselves be taken over by the light of Christ, and spread that light wherever you are." – St. Pope John Paul II**

## KING HEROD'S DOMINATING EGO



**T**he Ego is the great obstacle to spiritual growth.

The Ego is the **SELFISH SELF**, in contrast to the true Self or the **SELFLESS SELF**.

We all have somewhere deep down in us

A true Self that is willing and able to transcend selfishness.

Often this has been pushed very deep down by the insecurity creating events in our life's journeys.

The Ego is the part of us that wants to dominate, to be seen and heard and appreciated.

It is always watching for what-is-in-it-for-me, and sees others as potential rivals or threats.

**The Ego is a source of positive energy if it is well handled.**

When the Ego dominates the heart there is little room there for God and the values of the Gospel.

It is only by dislodging or disciplining the Ego that we can be at our own centers And from there reach to God.

The feast of the Epiphany gives us a wonderful picture of an egotistical person,

Of someone who is a tyrant himself but who has an ego within him that tyrannizes him.

We get a picture, too, of people who are freed from their Egos.

Prayer leads to freedom from the tyranny of the Ego.

*Herod was power in Jerusalem. He had command over the army.*

*He could send them out to slaughter infants and they would obey.*

*He had the finest palace and he was the wealthiest and most prestigious person in the land.*

*He had access to Scriptures and had the chief priests and the scribes to interpret them for him.*

*But in spite of all of this he was totally insecure.*

*He had a big Ego outside and was a*

*scared child inside.*

*When he heard that the infant Jesus was born, he and all of Jerusalem were thrown into turmoil.*

**The wise men were very different. They were searchers for the truth, On finding it through natural means, they were ready to leave all to follow it.**

**They left their homeland and their families to follow the star.**

**They were people who could let go. They were people who were free. They could seek and ask their way. They were flexible and could adjust their plans.**

How different they were to Herod who resorted to lies and murder when his plans were frustrated. Herod was dominated by his ego while they were free to find their true selves.

**The search for truth sets us free even if we never actually find it.**

**To find God is to constantly seek him. To pray is to constantly seek to pray.**

**They had that inner eye by which they were able to see and recognize that infant**

**As the Christ, the promised Messiah.**

St. Augustine tells us that if we are to be restored to God we must first be restored to ourselves, to our own centres, and make that a

stepping stone from which we rise to God.

**The greatest obstacle to being at that centre is the EGO.**

.....

**The greatest way of disciplining that Ego is the practice of daily meditation and prayer.**

## LAUGH YOUR BLUES AWAY



### 1) SPIRITUAL HEALING.

Frustrated Husband: "When my wife makes me angry, I look at her through the fork .... and visualize that she's in jail. *\*It heals me spiritually.\**



### 2) LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

A Parliamentarian during told a story.....

A father gave Rs.100 to each to his 3 sons and asked them to buy things and fill up a room completely.

- The first son bought hay for Rs.100 but could not fill the room entirely.

- The second son bought cotton for Rs.100 but could not fill the room entirely.

- The third son bought a candle for Re. 1, lit it up and the room was filled with light completely.

The Parliamentarian added, "Our Leader is like the third son. From the day he has taken charge of his office, our country is filled with the bright light of prosperity"



*A voice from the backbench asked "Where is the remaining Rs. 99??"*

### 3) SCOTCH ?

**Caitan:** What are you doing patrao??

**John :** Just finished Dinner with wife... and now holding Scotch..

**Caitan:** wow which... Black Label or Red Label???

**John:** "Scotch Brite" re baba....haandio ghasham.(I'm washing the dishes).



### 4) EASY FLIGHT

Fighter planes had arrived and a squadron of pilots were under training.

" This one is easy to fly", said the trainer, "anyone should be able to operate it! You press this button to go up, this one to go left and this one for turning right!"



"But how do we come down?" asked a pilot..

*"Oh," said the trainer "leave that to the enemy!"*

### 5) HYMNS FOR EVEEVERY OCCASION.



One week a pastor preached on commitment, and how we should dedicate ourselves to service. The director then led the choir in singing, **'I Shall Not Be Moved.'**

The next Sunday, the pastor preached on giving and how we should gladly give to the work of the Lord. The choir director then led the song, **'Jesus Paid It All.'**

The next Sunday, the pastor preached on gossiping and how we should watch our tongues. The hymn was **'I Love To Tell The Story.'**

The pastor became disgusted over

the situation, and the next Sunday he told the congregation he was considering resigning. The choir then sang **'Oh, Why Not Tonight.'**

When the pastor resigned the next week, he told the church that Jesus had led him there and Jesus was taking him away. The choir then sang, **'What A Friend We Have in Jesus.'**

### COOL QUOTES.

- If you think your boss is stupid, remember:

you wouldn't have a job if he was any smarter.

- Way to help your wife out with housework such as washing the dishes and doing the laundry. Let her wash them, and you let them dry.

- A hero rescued some beer that was trapped in a discarded bottle.

- Alcohol kills brain cells slowly, but that never bothers a drunkard, because he is not in a hurry.

- When my boss asked me who is the stupid one, me or him? I told him everyone knows he doesn't hire stupid people.





Fr. Christovan Cardozo   Fr. Bryce Rodrigues

**On 18th December 2019, two Salesians, Fr. Bryce Rodrigues and Fr. Christovan Cardozo were ordained priests at Our Lady of Patrocinio chapel, Benaulim, Goa, by the Most Rev. Felipe Neri Ferrao, Archbishop of Goa and Daman. Both the priests hail from Benaulim.**

The New Priests will celebrate Mass in our Shrine  
on 11th January 2020 at 6.00 p.m.

All are cordially invited to participate in the Mass and pray for the New Priests and to receive their priestly blessing. This is also an occasion to thank all our “Vocation Benefactors”, as also to pray for more good and holy priests.

***DIVINE SAVIOR, JESUS CHRIST,***

*who has entrusted the whole work of your redemption, the welfare and salvation of the world, to priests as your representatives,*

*\* I offer you through the hands of your most Holy Mother Mary, this present day, whole and entire, with all its prayers, works, and sacrifices, its joys and sorrows, for the sanctification of your priests, and for all those preparing for the priesthood.*

*\* Give us truly holy priests, inflamed with the fire of your divine love, who seek nothing but your greater glory, and the salvation of souls.*

**MARY, MOTHER OF PRIESTS,**  
*protect all priests from dangers to*

*their holy vocation, and with the loving hand of a mother, lead back to the Good Shepherd those unfortunate priests who, unfaithful to their exalted vocation, have gone astray. Amen.*





## INTERCESSION OF ST. DOMINIC SAVIO



**SHARLEEN & LEROY ALMEIDA**,  
thank God for the gift of a baby girl  
**SOPHIA** born on 8th March 2019,  
through the intercession of Our Blessed  
Mother Mary and St. Dominic Savio.



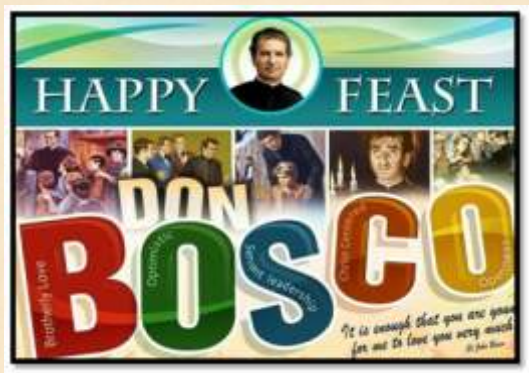
**NOELA DOS MARTYRES & CLYDE D'SOUZA**  
are grateful to God for the gift of a  
baby girl **MILANIA MONICA**  
**D'SOUZA**, born on 1st July 2018,  
through the intercession of  
Mother Mary, St. Dominic Savio  
and St. Anthony.



**St. Dominic Savio, pray for all Mothers**



Don Bosco's Solemn Novena & Feast Mass  
22nd to 31st January at 6.00 p.m.



The Salesians of Don  
Bosco extend their  
Festal Greetings and  
invoke God's Blessings  
on all our Benefactors &  
Friends, Members of  
the Salesian Family,  
Collaborators and  
Beneficiaries of our  
Mission to Youth.

TOGETHER,

We are a large, mighty Army in the SERVICE OF THE KING,  
OUR LORD, JESUS CHRIST.

**BLESSINGS ON THE NEW YEAR 2020**