



Don Bosco's FATIMA Messenger

Vol. 10, Issue 2

March - April 2020



True Original Painting
(1934) of the
DIVINE MERCY by the
Painter
Eugeniusz Kazimirowski

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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.

GIVE GENEROUSLY ... Lent is a time for GIVING.

* *A rich landlord asked his parish priest, 'Why does everybody call me stingy; when I die*

I will leave everything I have to the church?'

* *The priest said; 'There once was a pig and a cow in this village. The pig was unpopular and the cow was loved by all in the village. This puzzled the pig. The pig said to the cow,*

** " people speak warmly of your good nature and your helpful attitude. They think you are very generous because each day you give them milk, butter and cheese. But what about me? I give them everything I have. I give them the famous Goa sausages, bacon and ham. I also provide ingredients for mouth-watering sorpotel. Yet no one likes me. Why is that??' * The priest continued: ' The cow answered? 'The Cow said, 'Perhaps it's because I give while I am still living.'*



From the Editor's Computer...

Dear Devotees of Our Lady and Don Bosco,

We welcome Lent wholeheartedly, as we have entered into it with Ash Wednesday. The ashes remind us of the consequences of death. But Jesus, our Saviour has risen to tell us of our glorious morning too when we shall keep company with the glorified Christ. Our many temporary "Hosannas" – our mini pleasures of earth must lead us to the eternal chant of "Alleluia"



The season of Lent purifies our mortal bodies of the dross of sin and puts us on track to Heaven. We have to do penance for our sins and those of the family and the world. Indeed, a vast mission to which we are all called collectively. We will rejoice to know that our names will be written in Heaven. Sacrifices done in Lent are normally done to benefit others and whatever is collected by way of money is usually sent for charity purposes.

A VERY HAPPY EASTER TO YOU.

Be assured of the prayers of our boarder-students, aspirants, seminarians and of course the Salesians who benefit the most from your generous prayers and contributions. We too pray for you, especially during this Lenten and Easter season. You are remembered at all our Masses celebrated in the Shrine.



We pray especially for our students appearing for Board and University Examinations. May God bless their efforts, crown them with success and direct them to an honest career.

Fr. Lody Pires s.d.b.

YOUR LENTEN ALMS & TITHES

You can drop them in the Shrine's LENTEN ALMS BOX.
80G receipt, on request, with complete address + Pan card copy, if you have not given it earlier.

ONLINE DONATIONS AND MASS BOOKINGS

Visit www.donboscopanjim.com and click 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

- Goa Salesian Society. SB Credit A/c 198001000001112,
 - Indian Overseas Bank, Taleigao, Branch. * IFSC : IOBA0001980
- OR Goa Salesian Society Saving Account 12131000006972
HDFC Bank, DonaPaula Branch * IFSC: HDFC 0004848

Once the NEFT/IMPS/RTGS Transfer is done, kindly inform us the details below, via:

** Text or WhatsApp message: 7020153696*

** Email dbshrinetrust@gmail.com (for Don Bosco Shrine)*

** Email: ecokonkangoa@gmail.com (for Goa Salesian Society)*

1. Name of Donor:
2. Address:
3. Contact No.
4. PAN: if not sent earlier: (mandatory for donations Rs. 20,000/- and above)
5. Name of the Bank from where amount is transferred:
6. Date of Tranfer:
7. Amount
8. Purpose of Donation.

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

N.B. Please send separate cheques for Masses and Donations

- Shrine Office timings: Weekdays: 9.00 am to 1.00 pm; 2.30 pm to 5.00 pm.
- Address: Don Bosco's Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima, M.G. Road, Panjim, Goa. 403001. Telephone: 0832-2221986 Ext. 276;
- * Mobile: (Fr. Loddy): 0091 + 8762801749. Email: loddyp@gmail.com

YOUR MONEY IS SAFE IN GOD'S HANDS – VERY SAFE WITH HIGH INTEREST!



In view of the Golden Jubilee of the Shrine in 2020,
we have undertaken Renovation work, to offer you better facilities.
Your generous contribution will be much appreciated.
You could pay in small instalments, according to your
possibility.

God bless you for your generosity.



THE IMAGE OF THE DIVINE MERCY

Sr. Faustina experienced the first revelation of the Merciful Saviour on 22 February 1931 in Plock, Poland. She had just made her first vows as a Sister of Our Lady of Mercy. In 1933, after her perpetual vows, she was directed to go to the convent in Vilnius to work as a gardener, where she lived until 1936. In Vilnius she had more visions of Jesus, guided the painting of the image, and received from our Lord the message of His divine mercy for the world. He requested her to “paint an image according to the pattern you see, with the words, 'Jesus, I trust in You.' Sr. Faustina obediently carried out this request and the result was this image of Divine Mercy. **It is one of the most venerated images in the world.**

Jesus said to Sr. Faustina, “I promise that the soul that will venerate this image will not perish. I also promise victory over [its] enemies already here on Earth, and especially at the hour of death. I will defend it as My own honor” (Diary 48).

Another nun, Sr Christine, later stated that rays of light from the window were visible that night and attracted the attention of people standing on the other side of the street, implying that this was a "physical" appearance rather than an interior vision.



In Vilnius, Sr. Faustina met Fr. Michal Sopocko, the confessor to the nuns. Fr. Sopocko supported Faustina's efforts and arranged for the first painting of the image by the artist Eugeniusz Kazimirowski, which was the only rendition Sr. Faustina saw. After Faustina's death, a number of other artists painted their own versions of the image, with the depiction by Adolf Hyla being among the most reproduced.

Sr. Faustina spent most of her time at a convent in Lithuania, and wrote her diary there. So it is not surprising that she chose an artist from Lithuania, Eugeniusz Kazimirowski. He painted the image according to her instructions and completed it in 1934. The original painting of Divine

Mercy, is in the Shrine of Divine Mercy in Vilnius, Lithuania.

Over the years it was taken to several different churches. Then on the Feast of the Divine Mercy, April 18, 2004, the Metropolitan of Vilnius, Cardinal Audrys Juozas Backis, reconsecrated the renovated church of the Holy Trinity in Vilnius into the Shrine of the Divine Mercy. Pope John Paul II visited the shrine and prayed before the sacred image in 1993.

However, it was not easy to keep the image in a safe place. In the past it had been stolen, bought and even buried. This is according to journalist David Murgia in his book "Saint Faustina and the face of the Merciful Jesus." "The book recounts the true story about this image of Divine Mercy. Usually people think about the version in Krakow.

However, the original image of Divine Mercy is the one here on the Cover page.

Kazimierowski depicted Jesus in the way Sr Faustina saw Him in her visions. He had painted religious images before, but this task was difficult for him. Sopocko himself posed as Jesus for the image, wearing an alb, and both he and Sr. Faustina regularly visited the painter's workshop. The final painting satisfied neither Fr. Sopocko nor Sr. Faustina, who later wrote that Christ told her, "Not in the beauty of the colour, nor of the brush lies the

greatness of this image, but in My grace'. The true beauty would be the blessing that Jesus would bestow to the people by the means of the painting.

• **Letter written by Fr. Sopocko in 1958 explain the details as per Sr. Faustina's directions.:**

1. The image represents Christ in a walking posture against a dark background in a white garment, girdled by a band.
2. With the right hand, raised to the height of the shoulder, He is blessing, and with the left one (with two fingers) He is opening the garment somewhat in the area of the Heart (not visible), from which are coming out rays (on the viewer's right a colourless one, and on the left a red one, in various directions, but principally toward the viewer.
3. The right hand not be raised above the shoulder, not to bend forward, and only place the left foot forward to indicate movement, that the garment be long and somewhat fallen into folds at the bottom.
4. Jesus' gaze be directed a bit toward the bottom, as it happens when, standing, one looks at a point on the ground a few steps away, that the expression of the face of Jesus be gracious and merciful,
5. The fingers of the right hand be upright and freely lie close together, and on the left [hand], the thumb and index fingers hold open the garment;
6. The rays not be like ribbons hanging down toward the ground, but

that with intermittent strips they be directed toward the viewer and lightly to the sides, colouring to a certain degree the hands and surrounding objects:

7. These rays be transparent in such a way that through them the band and garment be visible; that the saturation of the rays with redness and whiteness be greatest at the source (in the area of the Heart) and then slowly diminish and fade away.

8. The pale ray symbolizes water cleansing the soul; the red symbolizes blood, the life of the spirit. Together, these rays shelter souls from the righteous anger of our Heavenly Father, just as they did 2,000 years ago as blood and water flowed out from Jesus' pierced side when He offered Himself on the cross to the Father in our place, in atonement for our sins.

9. The water, in turn, symbolizes the healing Sacraments of Baptism and Reconciliation while the blood points to the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist. The Sacraments truly are springs of grace, refreshment, and healing in the life of the Christian.

10. The Saviour asked that the words **"Jesus, I trust in you"** [Polish: **Jezu ufam Tobie**] be inscribed at the bottom of the image. This prayer reminds us that trust is the key to live a life in union with God.

Jesus had expressed to Sr. Faustina His wish that the image be put in a place of honour, above the main altar

of the church. In 1937, on the first Sunday after Easter [now Divine Mercy Sunday] the image of Merciful Jesus was hung in the Church of St. Michael next to the main altar. Sr Faustina, however, never saw Jesus' wish fulfilled. She fell sick in March 1936, so she was transferred from Vilnius back to Poland by her superiors. In October 1938, at the age of 33, she died near Kraków, where she was buried. After her death, her diary (entitled Divine Mercy in My Soul) was read and unveiled much of the mystery of the revelation of Divine Mercy.

HYŁA PAINTING:



Another painting of the Divine Mercy was made by Adolf Hyła, as a votive offering. Through painting this picture, Hyła expressed his gratitude for the survival of his family during World War II. Hyła was given the descriptions from Faustina's diary by the nuns at the convent, and a small copy of the first painting.

Hyła's image is somewhat different from Kazimierowski's.

- Hyła figured Jesus as a **"Divine Physician"**, walking the earth and healing people. His Jesus is approaching the viewer instead of standing.

- Christ's right hand is lifted up high in benediction, and He is looking into the eyes of the viewer.
- The original version of this painting had a country landscape in the background, which was removed in a later replica as it was deemed "non-liturgical".
- The Hyła rendition is also called the **"Kraków Divine Mercy Image"** because it is kept in the sanctuary at Kraków-Łagiewniki.



A number of other artists have painted the image, but Hyła's rendition remains the most reproduced one. The Divine Mercy Shrine, Misamis Oriental, in El Salvador City, Philippines was built in 2008, and has a 15.24-metre (50 foot) statue of the Divine Mercy towering above the shrine.

There is a major difference between the two images.

"The eyes of this true Divine Mercy image, Jesus does not look at the person, but looks down."

- God does not impose Himself, but

invites. He does not look directly into your eyes because He does not want to intimidate you. For this reason, He directs His gaze downward."

- The image has been in Poland, Lithuania and Belarus. It has survived both the Nazi and Soviet invasion. If it had not been for the nuns and people who hid and found it, few people would know of its existence today.

This drawing of the Divine Mercy is based on the vision given to St. Faustina, shows Jesus raising his right hand in a gesture of blessing, with his left hand on his chest from which gush forth two rays, one red and one white. The picture contains the message "Jesus, I trust in You!"



The rays streaming out have symbolic meaning: red for the blood of Jesus, which is the life of souls and white for the water which justifies souls. The whole image is symbolic of the mercy, forgiveness and love of God.

10TH APRIL: DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

The Second Sunday of the Easter season is celebrated as Divine Mercy Sunday. It invites us to reflect on God's infinite love and mercy for

His people, as detailed in the Bible and as lived and taught by Jesus, and to practice corporal and spiritual works of mercy.

St. Faustina of Poland is the well known apostle of Divine Mercy. On the 30th of April, 2000, the Second Sunday of Easter, at 10:00 a.m. Pope John Paul II celebrated the Eucharist in Saint Peter's Square and proceeded to the canonization of Blessed Sister FAUSTINA. The new Saint invites us by the witness of her life to keep our faith and hope fixed on God, the Father, rich in mercy, who saved us by the precious blood of His Son. During her short life, the Lord Jesus assigned St. Faustina three basic tasks:

1. to pray for souls, entrusting them to God's incomprehensible Mercy;
2. to tell the world about God's Generous Mercy;
3. to start a new movement in the Church focusing on God's Mercy.

At the canonization of Sr. Faustina, Pope John Paul II said: "The cross, even after the Resurrection of the Son of God, speaks and never ceases to speak of God the Father, who is absolutely faithful to His eternal love for man. Believing in this love means believing in mercy."

• **Pope Francis had prayed in front of the image in Krakow.**

One day as St. Faustina was offering all her prayers and sufferings so that the Feast of Mercy would be established as Our Lord desired, she said to Jesus: "they tell me that there is already such a feast and so why should I talk about it?" Jesus answered: "And who knows



anything about this feast? No one! Even those who should be proclaiming my m e r c y and teaching people about it often do not know about it themselves.

That is why I want the image to be solemnly blessed on the first Sunday after Easter, and I want it to be venerated publicly so that every soul may know about it" (Diary, 341).

On Good Friday, April 19, 1935, at three o'clock in the afternoon when St. Faustina entered the chapel, Jesus said to her: "I desire that the image be publicly honoured". On the following Friday, just before the Feast of Divine Mercy, St. Faustina's confessor, Fr. Sopocko gave a sermon about Divine Mercy and when he began to speak about the great mercy of the Lord, **the image came alive and the rays pierced the hearts of the people gathered there, but not all to the same degree. Some received so much more.** Sr. Faustina wrote: Today I saw the glory of God which flows from the image. Many souls are receiving graces, although they do not speak of it openly.

In spite of satan's anger, the Divine Mercy will triumph over the whole world and be worshipped by all..

ST. JOSEPH: PATRON OF A HAPPY DEATH.

Little is known concerning the life of St. Joseph, foster father of Jesus. He is mentioned only a few times in the Gospels, and never says a word.

Most biblical scholars believe Joseph died prior to Jesus' crucifixion. Joseph was not present at the crucifixion and in the Gospel of John, Jesus entrusts his mother to someone outside the family (John 19:27).

Keeping in mind this historical scenario, many traditions hold that Joseph died in the arms or presence of Jesus and Mary. This has led the Church to proclaim Joseph the patron saint of a "happy death."

There are numerous accounts of this moment, but one that is particularly touching is from the writings of Venerable Mother Mary of Jesus of Agreda (the bi-locating nun). She wrote about the episode in "Mystical City of God," and it is recorded as a private revelation.

"Then this man of God, turning toward Christ, our Lord, in profound reverence, wished to kneel before Him. But the sweetest Jesus, coming near, received him in His arms, where, reclining his head upon them, Joseph said: *"My highest Lord and*

God, Son of the eternal Father, Creator and Redeemer of the World,



give thy blessing to thy servant and the works of thy hand; pardon, O most merciful King, the faults which I have committed in thy service. I extol and magnify Thee and

render eternal and heartfelt thanks to Thee for having, in thy ineffable condescension, chosen me to be the spouse of thy true Mother; let thy greatness and glory be my thanksgiving for all eternity."

The Redeemer of the world gave him his benediction, saying: *"My father, rest in peace and in the grace of my eternal Father and mine; and to the Prophets and Saints, who await thee in limbo, bring the joyful news of the approach of their redemption."*

At these words of Jesus, and reclining in his arms, the most fortunate St Joseph expired and the Lord himself closed his eyes.

O BLESSED JOSEPH: *who yielded up thy last breath in the arms of Jesus and Mary, obtain for me this grace, O holy Joseph, that I may breathe forth my soul in praise, saying in spirit, if I am unable to do so in words:*

"Jesus, Mary and Joseph, I give Thee my heart and my soul." Amen.

THE APOSTOLIC PARDON: Gift of Grace for the Dying



As a person draws closer to the doors of death, there is one blessing in particular that the Church reserves for this most sacred moment: the Apostolic Pardon. It is a pardon that can be given by ANY PRIEST and has the SPECIAL POWER OF REMOVING ALL TEMPORAL PUNISHMENT DUE TO SIN. "The anointing [of the sick] is ordinarily succeeded by the conferring of the Apostolic benediction, or 'last blessing,' as it is commonly called. To this blessing a PLENARY INDULGENCE is attached, to be gained only at the hour of death. It is conferred in virtue of a special faculty granted to the bishops and by them delegated quite generally to their priests.

The conditions requisite for gaining it:

- 1) invocation of the Holy Name of Jesus at least mentally,
- 2) acts of resignation by which the dying person professes his willingness to accept all his sufferings in reparation for his sins and submits himself entirely to the will of God.

St. Augustine: 'However innocent your life may have been, no Christian

ought to venture to die in any other state than that of the penitent'" {Catholic Encyclopedia}

The prayer is a supreme act of mercy and has great power, drawing on the authority given to St. Peter to "bind and loose" (Mt 16:19). It is a gift to souls on their deathbed and has the added benefit of giving peace to family and friends, assuring them that they have done all they could do to bring the soul closer to the gates of Paradise.

The Apostolic Pardon is typically preceded by the Sacrament of Confession, to the extent that the dying person is able to participate in the sacrament. The priest then prays the "last blessing."

"Through the holy mysteries of our redemption, may Almighty God release you from all punishments in this life and in the life to come. May He open to you the gates of paradise and welcome you to everlasting joy. R. Amen

Or as it was traditionally prayed in years past, adding some additional context and noting where this prayer comes from in the Bible:

*** May our Lord Jesus Christ, who gave to His blessed apostle Peter the power of binding and loosing, mercifully accept your confession and restore your baptismal innocence. And I, by the power**

Contd on pg 14

SALESIAN GENERAL CHAPTER 28 BEGINS AT VALDOCCO-TURIN



General Chapter (GC28) of the Salesians of Don Bosco on the themem,

" What kind/type of Salesians for the young people of ay?" began on Sunday 16 February, with the inaugural Eucharist at 6.:30 pm in the Basilica of Mary Help of Christians-Turin,. It will end on Saturday 04 April 2020.

It has over 240 Capitulars, at the Salesians of Don Bosco Mother House in Turin-Valdocco.

The General Chapter is for Salesians, the body that holds the supreme authority in the Society. The participants at the GC 28 as **per Regions::**

Africa-Madagascar: 28; America South Cone: 22; Asia-Oceania: 25

South Asia: 33; Interamerica: 26

Mediterranean 31; Central & Northern Europe: 37;

Observers/Guests/Delegates: 20

Regions with the largest number of participants:

Central & Northern Europe: 37:

South Asia: 33; Mediterranean: 31

The 3 Nations with the most participants

India: 31' Italy: 19; Brazil: 12

This Chapter will also elect our

New Superiors. Those who finished only one term can be re-elected.



Fr. Pascual Chavez – Rector Major Emeritus with Fr. Felix Fernandes (INP Provincial) and Fr. Clive Tellis)INP Vice-Provincial) at the Chapter in Turin, Italy.

DO YOU WANT TO BE A SALESIAN OF DON BOSCO?

Priest or Brother ? working for young people?

* The Salesians work in 132 countries and number 15,700, the second largest religious community of men in the Catholic Church.

* Don Bosco's vision of a community made up of lay and ordained ministers was unique.

* Salesians are celibates, living for the sake of Jesus Christ and his

Gospel. We make a vow, to live our lives in the Salesian community and serve in the ministry for youth.

* We call ourselves Salesians of Don Bosco (S.D.B.). We minister to young people in schools, colleges, street children homes, boardings, hostels, parishes, youth centres, missions and in youth animation.



The Community of Panjim

* **Panjim-Konkan Province** has its headquarters at Odxel, near Goa University. We work in the dioceses of Sindhudurg, Goa, Belgaum, Karwar, Udupi, Mangalore. We also allow Volunteers for the Missions abroad.

For more information contact:

Email: avincarvalho@yahoo.com or loddyp@gmail.com

What does JESUS say about "CONFESSION"



St. Faustina has recorded in her Diary that Jesus indicated to her that He Himself is right there in the confessional.

"When you approach the confessional, know this, that I Myself am waiting there for you. I am only hidden by the priest, but I Myself act in your soul. Here the misery of the soul meets the God of mercy. Tell souls that from this fount of mercy souls draw graces solely with the vessel of trust.

If their trust is great, there is no limit to My generosity."

"Come with faith to the feet of My representative...and make your confession before Me. The person of the priest is, for Me, only a screen. Never analyze what sort of a priest, I am making use of; open your soul in confession as you would to Me, and I will fill it with My light."

* "Here the misery of the soul meets the God of mercy." "Oh, how miserable are those who do not take advantage of the miracle of God's mercy! You will call out in vain, but it will be too late." "Tell aching mankind to snuggle close to My merciful Heart, and I will fill it with peace."

THERE IS NO MISERY THAT COULD BE A MATCH FOR MY MERCY.



Pray for your priests who will be available to assist you to make Lent a fruitful and holy experience.

Pray for Priests, especially on MAUNDAY THURSDAY, the Day Jesus instituted the Holy Priesthood.

given to me by the Holy See, grant you a plenary indulgence and remission of all sins; in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**** By the sacred mysteries of mankind's restoration may almighty God remit for you the punishment of the present life and of the life to come, and may He open to you the gates of Paradise and admit you to everlasting happiness.**

***** It does not guarantee someone will go straight to Heaven, but it clears everything off the road, so to speak, so that the soul can freely choose to run toward the arms of Jesus.**

A WITNESS TELLS:

A dear friend let me know that her dad had been placed in hospice care

and that the end was imminent. My friend was raised Catholic but is now an atheist, and I sorrowed over the extra weight she was carrying in facing the end of her dad's earthly life. She assured me that he had received Anointing of the Sick and had friends bringing him Communion.



I started mulling over what I could write to this relative stranger who was dying, but I didn't come up with anything. I searched through my greeting cards with saint quotes, and came across one that could give me a start, but I wanted to add my own words, and say something more than just, "Hey, I'm praying for you." This is what I wrote:

Dear Mr. XX,

The other day, I was sitting on the couch with my 4-year-old and we were talking about dying and Heaven. We perhaps talk about dying often, since Mom lives with us and we're always remembering Grandpa Billy in Heaven. I said to my daughter "Honey, when you die, you'll see Jesus."

She looked at me intently, and then said slowly,, "You mean we'll actually see his face?" Probably painting a mental picture of herself and Our Lord, physically together, as she examined his face. I said, What a gift our faith is, isn't it?

Why, yes... yes, yes indeed. We shall see his face. We shall ...

Have you read the Last Testament from Benedict XVI? I've been reading it and loving it.

❖ *Q: The believer trusts that 'eternal life' is a life fulfilled.*

❖ *Benedict: Definitely! Then he is truly at home.*

❖ *Q: What are you expecting?*

❖ *Benedict: There are various dimensions. Some are more theological. St. Augustine says something which is a great thought and a great comfort*

here. He interprets the passage from the Psalms 'seek his face always' as saying: this applies 'for ever'; to all eternity. God is so great that we never finish our searching. He is always new. With God there is perpetual, unending encounter, with new discoveries and new joy. Such things are theological matters.

❖ At the same time, in an entirely human perspective, I look forward to being reunited with my parents, my siblings, my friends, and I imagine it will be as lovely as it was at our family home.

With love and prayers.

POPE BENEDICT: THE REALITY OF MERCY



Pope Emeritus Benedict in his book, *The Last Testament*. “In old age, you are more deeply practiced.” We’ve learned to do what we do and we do it better than we did when young. The gains of aging balance the losses. So there’s that.

There’s another movement in the other direction. He quotes the Catholic theologian Romano Guardini, who said, “In old age, it doesn’t get any easier, but harder.” Benedict gives an example of his own: “One feels the difficulty of life’s questions more deeply.”

You become more merciful when before you’d been more moralistic. You see yourself in the bad guys in Jesus’s parables. And you also feel more deeply the world’s pain. It

“complicates the narrative,” as an academic might say. Words that once seemed to settle the matter don’t comfort you anymore.

“I won’t claim any great advance in charity, but I do see better now how much pain there is in the world.. My own need for mercy from other people as well as from God has become much clearer to me, along with the knowledge that it’s not as clear as it should be. I know better why Jesus said “Judge not.”

Guardini says you have some wisdom, when before you had only some knowledge, which you misapplied. Not only will your knee hurt but you’ll feel the world’s pain more deeply, and have a keener feeling of your own failings and sins, of the things wrongly done and the things wrongly left undone.

But Benedict says there’s another side to Guardini’s insight that life gets harder as you get old, not easier. We may feel the difficulty of life’s questions more deeply but then one

also finds the greatness of Jesus Christ's words." Jesus is "always great and full of mystery. The depths of the Word are never fully plumbed." Benedict gives examples from his own life: "I now find many statements from the gospels more challenging in their greatness and gravity than I did before. ... Some words of wrath, of rejection, of the threat of judgment, certainly become more mysterious and grave and awesome than before." Even in old

age, he adds, the truth "comes close to you as something completely new."

In other words, life becomes harder because we see more clearly, but we also see more deeply into the Gospel, which makes life easier. I think the reality of mercy is one of those things. We get to know our Lord better and in ways we could not when young. I suspect this is true of the saints, but it's certainly true of us unsaints. "It is a gift," he says.

IN THE LIGHT OF THE MASTER: [63 – 73]

Many theories about what constitutes holiness abound, with various explanations and distinctions. But it is more enlightening to turn to Jesus' words and seeing his way of teaching the truth.



- **THE BEATITUDES:** They are a Christian's identity card. (Mt 5:3-12; Lk 6:20-23). "What must one do to be a good Christian?" We have to do, what Jesus told us in the Sermon on the Mount. In the Beatitudes, we find a portrait of the Master, which we are called to reflect in our daily lives.
- The word "happy" or "blessed" becomes a synonym for "holy" - those faithful to God and his word, by their self-giving, gain true happiness.
- **GOING AGAINST THE FLOW:** Jesus' words may strike us as

poetic, but, they run *counter to the way* things are done in our world. Even if we find Jesus' message attractive, the world pushes us towards another way of living. *The Beatitudes are trite or demanding.*

- We can only practise them if the Holy Spirit fills us with his power and frees us from our weakness, our selfishness, our complacency and our pride.
- Let us listen to Jesus, with all the love and respect that the Master deserves. Allow his words to unsettle us, to challenge us, and to demand a real change in the way we live.
- Otherwise, holiness will remain no more than an empty word. (Mt 5:3-12).

1. “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven”

• *The Gospel invites us to peep into the depths of our heart, to see where we find our security in life.*

• The rich feel secure in their wealth. They think that, if wealth is threatened, the whole meaning of



their earthly life can collapse. In the parable of the rich fool, Jesus speaks of a man who

was sure of himself, yet foolish, It did not dawn on him that he might die that very day (Lk 12:16-21).

• Once we think we are rich, we can become so self-satisfied that we leave no room for God's word, for the love of our brothers and sisters, or for the enjoyment of the most important things in life. We miss out on the greatest treasure of all.

• Jesus calls blessed those who are poor in spirit, those who have a poor heart, for there the Lord can enter with his perennial newness.

• St. Ignatius of Loyola calls it “holy indifference”, which brings us to a radiant interior freedom:

• “Train ourselves to be indifferent in our attitude to all created things, in all that is permitted to our free will and not forbidden; so that, we do not set our hearts on good health rather than bad, riches rather than poverty, honour rather than dishonour, a long

life rather than a short one, and so in all the rest”.

• St. Luke does not speak of poverty “of spirit” but simply of those who are “poor” (Lk 6:20). He invites us to live a plain and austere life. He calls us to share in the life of those most in need, the life lived by the Apostles, and ultimately to configure ourselves to Jesus who, though rich, “made himself poor” (2 Cor 8:9). **Being poor of heart: that is holiness.**

2. BLESSED ARE THE MEEK, FOR THEY WILL INHERIT THE EARTH.



• In the world, from the beginning, there has been conflict, disputes and enmity on all sides, disputes and enmity on all sides,

• We constantly pigeonhole others on the basis of their ideas, customs, way of speaking or dressing.

• Reign of pride and vanity: each person thinks he or she has the right to dominate others.

• Jesus proposes a different way of doing things: the way of meekness. This is what we see him doing with his disciples. This is what we contemplate on his entrance to Jerusalem:

• “Behold, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a

donkey” (Mt 21:5; Zech 9:9).

- Christ says: “Learn from me; for I am gentle and humble of heart, and you will find rest for your souls” (Mt 11:29).

- If we are constantly upset and impatient with others, we will end up drained and weary.

- If we regard the faults and limitations of others with tenderness and meekness, without an air of superiority, we can actually help them and stop wasting our energy on useless complaining.

- St Thérèse of Lisieux tells us that “perfect charity consists in putting up with others' mistakes, and not being scandalized by their faults”.

- St. Paul speaks of meekness as one of the fruits of the Holy Spirit (Gal 5:23). If a wrongful action of one of our brothers or sisters troubles us, we should try to correct them, but “with a spirit of meekness”, since “you too could be tempted” (Gal 6:1).

- Even when we defend our faith and convictions, we are to do so “with meekness” (1 Pet 3:16).

- Our enemies too are to be treated “with meekness” (2 Tim 2:25).

- In the Church we have often erred by not embracing this demand of God's word.

- Meekness is another expression of the interior poverty of those who put their trust in God alone.

- In the Bible the word – anawim – refers both to the poor and to the meek.

- “If I am meek, they will think I am

an idiot, a fool or a weakling”. It is always better to be meek, for then our deepest desires will be fulfilled. The meek “shall inherit the earth”, for they will see God's promises accomplished in their lives.

- In every situation, the meek put their hope in the Lord, and those who hope for him shall possess the land... and enjoy the fullness of peace (Ps 37:9.11). For his part, the Lord trusts in them: “This is the one to whom I will look, to the humble and contrite in spirit, who trembles at my word” (Is 66:2). **Reacting with meekness and humility: that is holiness.**

3. BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO MOURN, FOR THEY WILL BE COMFORTED.



- ***The world tells us: entertainment, pleasure, diversion and escape make for the good life.***

- The worldly person ignores problems of sickness or sorrow in the family or all around him. The world would rather disregard painful situations, cover them up or hide them. Much energy is expended on fleeing from situations of suffering. But the cross can never be absent.

- A person who sees things as they truly are and sympathizes with pain and sorrow, capable of touching life's depths and finding authentic happiness, he or she is consoled, not by the world but by Jesus.
- Such persons are unafraid to share in the suffering of others; they do not flee from painful situations.
- They discover the meaning of life by coming to the aid of those who suffer, understanding their anguish and bringing relief. They sense that the other is flesh of our flesh are not afraid to draw near - to touch their wounds.
- Embrace Saint Paul's exhortation:

“Weep with those who weep” (Rom 12:15).

Knowing how to mourn with others: that is holiness.

SUMMER PROGRAMMES

1. TRAIN THE TRAINER - for those involved in conducting Summer Camps. (for Religious, teachers, youngsters). 21 MARCH 6 pm to 22 MARCH 2020, 3.30 pm. Venue: Don Bosco Benaulim. Register before 15 March 2020.

2. YOUTH PASCH - 8 APRIL pm 2020, to 12 April am. (Easter) Register before 2nd April

KOBE BRYANT DIES IN A HELICOPTER CRASH



Kobe Bryant, his 13-year-old daughter, Gianna, and seven others, passed away in a helicopter crash, on 26th January 2020. May they rest in eternal peace.

On Wednesday, April 13, 2016, Kobe Bryant, one of the greatest athletes of all time, ended his 20-year basketball career with a bang, scoring 60 points in his last game.

While Bryant's stats can be recited by many - five-time NBA champion, two-time Olympic champion, 18-time All-Star and the third leading scorer in NBA history - few know about the role his Catholic faith played in helping him through one of his darkest hours.

Born in Philadelphia, Kobe Bryant was raised in a Catholic household and even spent some of his youth in Italy. Drafted into the NBA at the age of 17, he eventually married Vanessa Laine at St. Edward Roman Catholic Church in Dana Point, California. Two years later they had their first child. Bryant was at the top of his game and everything seemed to be

heading in the direction of his dreams. Then he made a big mistake.

In 2003, Kobe Bryant was accused of raping a woman in his hotel room, while he was in Colorado for knee surgery. He admitted having sex with the woman but denied rape. A judge eventually dropped the charges, but the woman went on to file a civil lawsuit against Bryant that was settled outside of court. In the midst of it all, he issued a public apology, stating that he was sincerely ashamed of what he had done.

The incident had major consequences as numerous sponsors abandoned him and his reputation was tarnished. In 2011, his wife filed for divorce.

During one of the darkest moments of his life, Kobe Bryant turned to his Catholic faith. In an interview with GQ in 2015 he explained: "The one thing that really helped me during that process - I'm Catholic, I grew up Catholic, my kids are Catholic - was talking to a priest. It was actually kind of funny: He looks at me and says, 'Did you do it?' And I say, 'Of course not.' Then he asks, 'Do you have a good lawyer?' And I'm like, 'Uh, yeah, he's phenomenal.' So then he just said, 'Let it go. Move on. God's not going to give you anything you can't handle, and it's in his hands now. This is something you can't control. So let it go.' And that was the turning point."

Though some of his past choices off the court were not without controversy, some of the greatest praise he has received was for the kind of man and dad he had become. In his last 24 hours, the Philadelphia native demonstrated this, away from the heights of the basketball hoop.

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BEGAN THE DAY WITH MASS:

On the day of his death, a Sunday, many reports have said that Bryant started his day at the Catholic church in Orange County, California, where he regularly attended. Bryant's commitment to his faith will be a great source of comfort to those who mourn him, and inspiration for others to go to Mass:

A FRIEND AND A GENTLEMAN:

Just before Bryant's death, the champion tweeted his friend, former teammate and protégé, LeBron James, who had just surpassed his record to become the no. 3 All-time Top Scorer in the NBA, scoring 33,655 career points - 12 more than Bryant. In true sportsman style, Bryant tweeted to James what was to be his last ever tweet:

“Continuing to move the game forward @KingJames. Much respect my brother.”

This gesture not only displays respect and kindness, but shows other sports fans across the world what it is be a true champ.

AGREATDAD: The helicopter ride Bryant and his daughter took was similar to many father/daughter rides to the Mamba Sports Academy, founded by Bryant. Perhaps one comfort Bryant's wife and Gianna's mom, Vanessa Bryant, can take from this tragedy was that the two died side by side, doing something they loved to share together.

After some rough years, Kobe Bryant reconciled with his wife. Together they have founded the Kobe and Vanessa Bryant Family Foundation (KVBFF), which is dedicated to, among other things, helping young people in need, encouraging the development of

physical and social skills through sports and assisting the homeless. Asked about this commitment in 2013, Bryant's answer would likely have made Pope Francis very happy:

My career is winding down. At the end of my career, I don't want to look back and just say, “Well, I had a successful career because I won so many championships and scored so many points.” There's something else that you have to do with that.

[The homelessness] issue is one that kind of gets pushed on the back burner because it's easy to point the blame at those who are homeless and say, “Well, you made that bad decision. This is where you are. It's your fault.” In life, we all make mistakes and to stand back and allow someone to live that way and kind of wash your hands of it ... that's not right.

Throughout all of his trials, and perhaps even in response to them, Bryant has realized that fame and fortune were nothing compared to the importance of faith and family. When everyone else in the world abandoned him, the Catholic Church was always there.

He may be an All-Star and NBA legend, but even superstars can use the foundational support of faith-formation, and a good priest to turn to.

LAUGH YOUR BLUES AWAY

1. CHICKEN VOCABULARY;

Dedicated to all chicken lovers.

- | | |
|--|---------------------|
| 1. Who is the father of a chicken? | * Chicken ka bab. |
| 2. Who is the mother of chicken? | * Chicken Kima. |
| 3. How do you tell a chicken to call you on your mobile? | * Kalmi chicken |
| 4. What happens when a chicken takes bath? | * Chicken showerma. |
| 5. Chicken in trouble? | * Chicken soup. |
| 6. Chicken getting injection? | * Chicken teeka. |
| 7. Chicken doing flattery? | * Butter chicken. |
| 8. Chicken on a winter night? | * Chilly chicken. |
| 9. Chicken @ retirement? | * Chicken 65. |

"A good sense of *humor* is an escape valve for the pressures of *Life*."



2. JOB PLACEMENTS

- ❖ Sir, we found 3 candidates as per your requirements. How do you want their placements, sir?"

MD: "Put about 100 bricks in a closed room. Then send the candidates into the room and close the door, leave them alone and come back after a few hours and analyse the situation:



- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. If they are counting the bricks, put them in Accounts department. | 5. If they are throwing the bricks at each other, put them in Operations. |
| 2. If they are recounting the bricks, put them in Auditing. | 6. If they are sleeping, put them in Security. |
| 3. If they messed up the whole room with the bricks, put them in Engineering. | 7. If they broke the bricks into pieces, put them in Information Technology. |
| 4. If they are arranging the bricks in some strange order, put them in Planning. | 8. If they are sitting idle, put them in Human Resources. |
| | 9. If they say they have tried different combinations yet not a single brick has been moved, put them in Sales. |
| | 10. If they have already left for the day, Put them in Marketing. |
| | 11. If they are staring out of the window, put them in Strategic Planning. |
| | 12. If they are talking to each other and not a single brick has been touched, |
| | • Congratulate them and put them in Top Management. |

3. ZOO ZIO



A businessman started a Zoo. His entrance fee was Rs. 50/- No body turned up. He reduced the fee to Rs. 25/- No one turned up. Lowered it to Rs. 15/- still none turned up.

Finaally he decided to make it FREE. The Zoo got filled in no time. He closed the gates and put up a sign HOUSE FULL and released the tigers from their cage. The crowds started running towards the gate and to their horror, they say the sign, EXIT FEE Rs. 449. This zoo is called 'Zio' [spelling wrong]



4. IDIOT

Idi Amin wanted to change the name of Uganda to Idi because he thought he could do anything with Uganda. Everybody was afraid to challenge that decision except for one man who was close to him. He

said: Your Excellency Sir, do you know Cyprus? Idi Amin asked, "what has Cyprus got to do with my decision to change our name to Idi?" Maliamu said, "the people of Cyprus are called Cypriots, so if you change Uganda to Idi, we will be called Idiots! Including your good self sir, so please let's maintain our name. Idi

Amin said aah..., you are very intelligent. In fact, more intelligent than everyone in Uganda except me.

5. PRIEST ON HOLIDAY!



- Every priest deserves four weeks of holidays each year, because
- if he is a really good shepherd, he deserves it;
- if he is not a very good shepherd, his congregation deserves it.

6. FORD CAR



After the marriage, the bride's father greeting his son-in-law said, "Son I got your message on whatsAap. Your demand was a bit strange. But we have still fulfilled it.

You have asked for FOUR underwear in red colour.

The Son-in law angrily muttered to himself,

"To hell with this auto-spell. I had asked for Ford Endeavour in red colour

PROGRAMME FOR LENT 2020.

- * WAY OF THE CROSS, AFTER 6.00 P.M. MASS.
- * Wednesdays [Konkani]; Fridays [English]



5th. APRIL: PALM SUNDAY

- ▶ Masses as on Sundays: 6.00 am & 8.00 am Konkani]
- ▶ 7.00 am: Blessing of Palms [in the school quadrangle]& Mass in the Shrine. [English]
- ▶ Masses: 9.10 am & 6.00 pm [English].



CONFESSIONS: 6th to 8th April: [Monday to Wednesday]

- ▶ 7. 00 am to 7.45 am * 5.00 pm to 8 .00 pm

9th APRIL: MAUNDY THURSDAY.

4.00 p.m. Mass in the Shrine: [Konkani]
6.00 p.m. Solemn Mass Of the Lord's Supper. [outdoors]
Eucharistic Adoration: After Mass 7.00 p.m. till Midnight.



10th APRIL: GOOD FRIDAY - DAY of Fast & Abstinence

8.00 a.m. Way of the Cross (English) [outdoors]
12 noon Way of the Cross: (Konkani) [in the Shrine]
6.00 pm. Celebration of the Lord's Passion: (Outdoors)



11th APRIL

EASTER VIGIL SERVICE & MASS: 11.30 pm



12TH APRIL: EASTER SUNDAY MASSES.

6.00 am & 8.00 am: Konkani; 7.00 am, 9.10 am: English

NO EVENING MASS ON EASTER SUNDAY



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:

avincarvalho@yahoo.com

loddyp@gmail.com