

LOCUSTS & HONEY



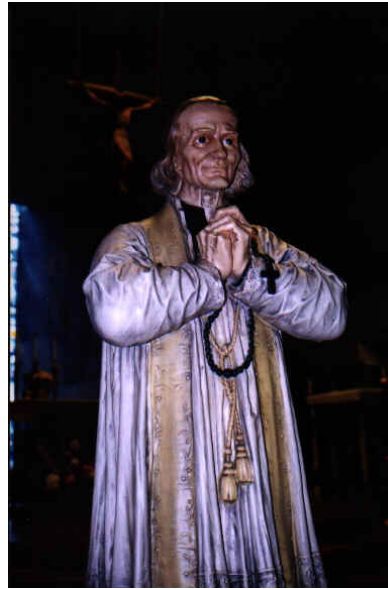
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH, THANE.

For Private Circulation Parish Weekly

Vol. 3, No. 32

05 August, 2007

HAPPY VIANNEY SUNDAY TO OUR DEAR FATHERS!



Parish Team:

Fr. John Rumao.

Fr. John Lopes

Fr. Gerry Fernandes

Fr. Victor Dalmat.

Srs Amala & Joan – Pastoral Work

V-President PPC: Mr. Francis Fernandes

P' SCC Coordinator: Mr. Eustace de Cunha

APC Representative: Mr. Kirk Gonsalves

PPC Secretary: Mr. Anthony Alphonso

CWF Secretary: Mrs. Jessie Sequeira

In-charge: Sunday School: Sr. Ancy

RCIA/School Catechism: Ms. Ida D'Silva

Mass Schedule:

Sunday: 6,7,8,9.15 a.m. & 5.30 , 6.30p.m

At Kopri: Every Sunday at 10.30 a.m.

Weekday: 6 & 6.45 a.m., 7.00 pm.

and at 6.30 a.m. in Holy Cross Convent

Mass in Marathi: 3rd Sunday at 7. a.m

Mass in Konkani: 4th Sunday at 7. a.m.

Mass in Hindi: 5th Sunday at 7.00 a.m.

Tamil Mass: 2nd Sunday at 11.00 am

Confessions: Saturday: 6 to 7 p.m.

Baptisms: Sunday: 10.15 a.m.

Marriages: Weekday at 5.15 p.m.

Sunday: 5.30 p.m. & 6.30 pm

Funerals: Any day: 10 to 11.45 a.m &

4 p.m. to 5.00 p.m.

Sacrament of the sick: on request.

House Blessing: With prior arrangement.

Novenas: St. Anthony's: Tuesday 7.30pm

Perpetual Succour Novena:

After 7 p.m. Mass on Wednesday.

Charismatic Prayer Service [English]

On Tuesdays at 7.30 p.m.

Divine Mercy Devotion: On Fridays at 6.00

p.m. except on 1st Friday

Sunday School: after 8.00 a.m. Mass

Night Adoration: at 8.00 p.m. to 11.00 p.m

on last Saturday

Office Timings: 9.00 a.m. to 12.30

5.00 p.m. to 07.00

Sunday: 9.00 a.m. to 11.00 a.m.

Parish Tel. No. 2534 8671; 2543 5411

Website: www.stjohnthebaptistthane.com

THE GREATNESS OF PRIESTHOOD

A priest is a man who lives to serve.

*A priest is a man who has crucified himself
so that he too may be lifted up
and draw all things to Christ.*

A priest is a man in love with God.

*A priest is the gift of God to man.
and of man to God..*

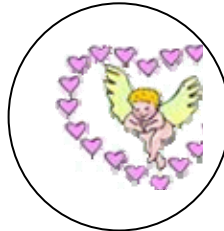
A priest is a symbol of the Word made flesh.

A priest is the naked sword of God's justice.

A priest is the hand of God's mercy.

A priest is the reflection of God's love.

- Bsrness de Hueck Doherty



The priesthood is the love of the Heart of Jesus -St. John Vianney

***This week's announcements
August 05, 2007.***

1. Today, 5th August is celebrated as Vianney Sunday. Please pray for your priests.
2. Today Mass at Our Lady of Hope Church, Ghormal at 10.00 a.m.
3. Monday, 6th August is the solemnity of the Transfiguration of the Lord.
4. Next Sunday, Parish Council meeting at 10.30 a.m. in the meeting room.
5. The collection at Masses last Sunday, amounted to Rs.25,137.00
6. The collections from Perpetual Succour box amounted to Rs.1,760..00.
7. The collections from Perpetual Succour box during previous week amounted to Rs.1,482/-

This Week's Liturgical Readings

6/Mon THE TRANS FIGURA TION OF THE LORD Dn
7:9-10,13-14 or 2 Pt 1:16-19; Ps 96:1-2,5-6,9; Lk 9:28b-36
7/Tue Ss. Sixtus II, Pp & Comps, mm Or S. Cajetan, pt
Nm 12:1-13; Ps 50:3-4,5-6ab,6ed-7,12-13; Mt 14:22-36
8/Wed S. Dominic, pt - mem Ms of mem Nm 13: 1-2,25-
14: 1,26-29,34-35; Ps 105:6-7ab,13-14,21-22,23; Mt 15:21-
28
9/Thu S. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross, vg m Nm 20:1-
13; Ps 94:1-2,6-7e,7d-9; Mt 16:13-23
10/Fri S. LAWRENCE, de m - Fst 2 Cor 9:6-10; Ps
111:1-2,5-6,7-8,9; In 12:24-26
11/Sat S. Clare, vg - mem Dt 6:4-13; Ps 17:2-3a,3be-
4,47&51ab; Mt 17:14-20 .
12/Sun Wis 18:6-9;Heb 11:1-2,8-19;Lk 12:32-48

SCHOLARSHIP

The following St. John the Baptist Church Parish Catholic candidates have so far applied for the scholarship award published in the Locusts & Honey Issue of 15th July, 2007.

S.S. C.EXAMINATION MARCH 2007

S.No	Names of applicants	Percentage
1	Pimenta Akshaya James	90.46
2	Pinto Melissa Marie William	90.46
3	D'souza Preeti Peter	87.38
4	Rangel Merlyn Edward	87.38
5	Aranha Daisy Sophia D.	86.30
6	Bardekar Casilda John	86.15

H.S.C. EXAMINATION FEB. 2007

Sr.no	Names	Percentage	Stream
1	Pinto Deepika Albert	87.5	Science
2	Pereira Tiara Virendra	78.5	Com.

N.B. Applications were invited latest by 20th July, 2007. The date for receiving applications has been further extended to 12th August, 2007, after which date, the names of the highest ranking recipients will be awarded scholarships.

OFFICIAL I - VIANNEY SUNDAY

On Sunday, August 05, we celebrate the feast of St John Marie Vianney, patron of priests engaged in the pastoral ministry. I invite our clergy, religious and faithful to pray very specially for our priests and seminarians, for vocations to the sacred priesthood, for our retired clergy and for those priests who have already gone to their heavenly home.

May I take this occasion to thank all the priests in our Archdiocese who are engaged in the pastoral ministry. I know the dedication and commitment with which you work for our people. May God through the intercession of St John Marie Vianney inspire you to give your best in your priestly ministry.

I express my sincere gratitude to all those who support our Diocesan Seminary, Goregaon and the Clergy Home, Bandra with their prayers and their offerings. I thank the Administrators and the whole Staff of-the Clergy Home who together with the Pious Disciples of the Divine Master dedicate themselves so selflessly for the service of our retired clergy. I thank the Rector and Staff of St Pius X College who together with the Poor Sisters of Our Lady care for' our seminarians. It would interest all to know that this year there have been eighteen new admissions to the Diocesan Seminary, five being candidates for the Archdiocese of Bombay. God willing, we should have six Ordinations to the Priesthood for our Archdiocese next April.

The collection at all the Parish Masses on Vianney Sunday and cheques made out in favour of "Archdiocese of Bombay" are to be sent to the Diocesan Fund, for sick and retired priests, at Archbishop's House by the end of August 2007.

+ Oswald Gracias
Archbishop of Bombay
July 28, 2007

Smile, Giggle, Laugh!

The vicar, awarding prizes at the local dog show, was scandalized at the costumes worn by some younger members of the fair sex.

"Look at that youngster," said he, "the one with cropped hair, the cigarette and breeches, holding two pups. Is it a boy or a girl?"

"A girl," said his companion. "She is my daughter."

"My dear Sir," the vicar was flustered. "Do forgive me. I would never have been so outspoken had I known you were her father."

"I am not," said the other. "I'm her mother."

When a woman asked St Francis de Sales if it was a sin to use rouge, he replied, "Some theologians say so, others think it is a harmless practice." "

"But" she gushed, "What do you advise me to do?"

"Why not follow a middle course" St Francis de Sales said, "and rouge only one cheek."

OFFICIAL II - SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONES (SEZ)

Pope John Paul II, in his Apostolic Letter 'Novo Millennia Ineunite', reminds us that no one can be excluded from our love and concern since "through the Incarnation the Son of God has united Himself in some fashion with every person". The Gospel emphasizes that there is a special presence of Christ in the poor, and this requires the Church to make a preferential option for them. (Post Synodal document, Chapter 6)

During the last few years our country has been promoting Special Economic Zones (SEZ). It is proposed to set up a multi product SEZ over an area of 1000 hectares in the first phase in the Gorai-Manori region and this is likely to extend ultimately to other parts of our archdiocese.

This policy often brings hardships to the peasantry who are deprived of their lands which are then handed over to multinationals and international partners. Rural artisans, fisher-folk, toddy-tappers and agricultural labourers will all be adversely affected. A worldwide study conducted in 2004 by the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions revealed that despite the incentives promised by governments, the welfare and rights of the poor are often trampled upon in such schemes.

The Church is particularly concerned about the long term effects of this policy for the people of the area. They may be dispossessed of the land of their forefathers and are ill equipped to take up any meaningful employment in new areas.

All our Catholics are therefore invited to be intelligently involved in the issue of the SEZ and to document and study its various facets. We encourage our people to join public rallies and lobby with other groups to ensure that they do not have to endure any ill effects from the SEZ. We urge the Government to consult the local people of the area in all decisions that affect them. Last, but not the least, we invite our faithful to pray for the light of the Holy Spirit in our efforts to understand the SEZ and its implications for our people.

+ Oswald Gracias Archbishop of Bombay
N.B. The Parish Team urges every parishioner to garner full support to the people of Uttan-Gorai-Manori in their struggle to retain their ancestral property against the SEZ.

SENIOR COLLEGE IN THANE!

[letters to the editor]

** *** **

July 25, 2007 .
 The Parish Priest,
 Thane.

Dear Rev. Father,
 Re: ARTICLE IN THE LOCUST & HONEY DATED 8th
 JULY, 2007.
 Sub: STARTING OF A SENIOR COLLEGE.

This is The DIRE NEED OF THE HOUR "to establish a Degree College in Thane" by St. John the Baptist Parish.

It will not be pertinent to state that putting up a Degree College will have fourfold advantage:

- a) The students of Thane will not have far to commute, thereby saving time and expenses.
- b) Taking into account the rigours of traveling.
- c) Students of Thane will not have to run around seeking admission, reducing stress and strain, including that of parents.

If we go about this with a positive frame of mind, much can be achieved. We do have the infrastructure and the resources and the will to implement this proposal.

Unforeseen teething trouble and challenges are expected, such as, administration, having competent staff which we will have to focus upon from the very inception.

If you accept that EDUCATION IS A MUST, then why not seek this opportunity to set up a Senior College which will benefit the students of Thane Parish and other neighbouring parishes and ultimately be a boon to the parishioners of Thane at large.

Anticipating a favourable response.

Horace Soeiro.
 Parishioner - Utalsar Zone.

Cyril Benny D'Souza Mana Co-Op Hsg.Society Flat A-2,
 Ground Floor sector 7 • Shire Nagar Wagle Estate,

Date: 11th July-2001.
 Deal' Fr Rumao,

While going through the 'Locusts & Honey' dated 15th July 2007 the write up "A Degree College" caught my attention.

Being a parishioner of St Lawrence Wagle Estate, I was particularly delighted to read that the benefit of a degree college at St. John's will be extended to other parishes too.

May the seed that is being sown, grow into a mighty tree and in due course become a post graduate college as much as a college is not available in this area.

I wish this venture success and wish to thank all those who are involved in it
 With best wishes.
 Yours truly,
 Cyril Benny D'Souza.

Date: 16th July, 2007 To,
 Fr. John Rumao Parish Priest
 St. John the Baptist Church Thane

This publication of 'Locusts & Honey' which has graduated from a monthly to a weekly is able to reach out, to all parishioners seeking their support to a degree college. Would there be any dissenting voices? Probably not. This is for the common good and let us all support a good cause. A big "thank you" to all those involved in this task.

From
 Oliver Fernandes



ARNOLD SERRON 201 Serron Villa, Charai,
Thane (W), 400601
16th July 2007.
Rev. Fr. John Rumao Parish Priest
St John The Baptist Church Thane (W),
400601.



Dear Rev. Father,

The prospect of a degree college for the benefit of Thaneites as reported in the 15th July issue of "Locusts & Honey" was sweet music to the ear.

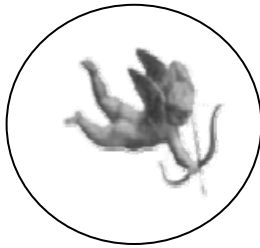
The college should have been founded long back; may be after founding the junior college in the 80s. However, today when some parishioners have come out with this proposal with your blessing and co-operation, we cannot but laud the idea.

We are aware that the colleges in Thane are not able to cater to the needs of Thaneites. The proposed college will go a long way in meeting this need of Thaneites and our parishioners in particular. We are sure that the dedication and high standard maintained by our institutions will attract students from all over Thane.

We wish the college every success.

Arnold Serron.

"Lily Niketan" 36 K'Villa, Thane
16th July, 07
Dear Fr. Rumao,



This is with reference to the article published in "Locust & Honey 8th July, 07.

We fully support a Degree College in our parish. As Oliver Colaco mentioned in his article "Locust & Honey 15th July, 07, a degree college will benefit the children of our parish and also the neighbouring parishes. At present College students waste precious time travelling to colleges outside Thane. This travel time could be put to better use.

We hope "His Lordship begins the process of obtaining the necessary permission to commence the project as soon as possible. We pray that this will materialise and become another jewel in the crown of St. Johns.

Yours truly,

Yorrick Hendricks & family
9/7 Jawahar Jyothi Soc, Louiswadi
Thane West 400604

15th July 2007

Dear Fr. Rumao

Let me share with you and with my fellow parishioners my recent experience.

My daughter passed her tenth standard board examination from St. John the Baptist High School with 85.38%. She got enrolled at St. John the Baptist Junior College on the very first day of admission. It was an anxiety free admission process.

Looking back, the other college in Thane and Mumbai, which we had eyed closed admission on percentages bordering on 90%. Although 85.38% is

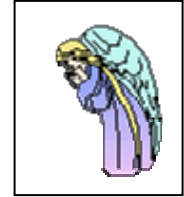


fairly good, it is not good enough today. To such students, a degree college of our own will help a great deal in preparing them for a career.

A certain degree of guarantee in admission, a fairly high standard of education and the good Catholic atmosphere of the college is what we parishioners would be looking for.

May this dream come true.

Yours Sincerely
Alphonse D'souza



Mr. Ronald A. Saldanha.
8, Highway Ashirwad CHS Ltd.
Opp. Nitin casting Co. Thane (West) 400604
Dated 16.07.2007
Dear Rev Fr. Rumao

Sub: Opening of Senior College

I the undersigned Mr. Ronald A. Saldanha parishioner of your parish affiliated to Lewiswadi zone residing at the above address suggest that our parish should at all cost go for a Senior College as it is the need of the hour.

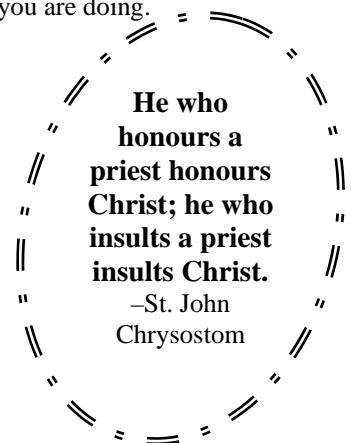
There are many Catholics in and around Thane, who find it difficult to come across a full fledged Christian College which can cater to the need of Christians.

Fr. We are quite confident and wholeheartedly give full support for your venture, which is not new as I have been told from reliable sources that you have been promoting education from the time you were elected to the Pastoral office.

May the good Lord Jesus keep you going from strength to strength for the good work you are doing.

Thanking you
Yours faithfully
Ronald A. Saldanha
(Lewiswadi zone)

To,
Rev. Fr. Rumao
Parish Priest
St. John the Baptist Church
Thane



Respected Fr. Rumao

I Mrs Gail Serpes a parishioner of St. John the Baptist Church fully support the project of having a full fledged degree college to take care of the university education of our children. I promise to lend my support to this project.

Thanking you

(Gail A. Serpes)
55 K'villa
Thane

26th July 2007 From,
V. S. Cardoza

***A priestless parish is
not a sick parish,
it is a dead parish.
- Cardinal Suhard***

C 7/602 Vedant Complex Pokhran Road No. 1 Thane 400 606

To,
The Rev. John Rumao Parish Priest
St. John The Baptist Parish Thane 400 601

Dear Rev. Father,

It may surprise you to receive this letter from a parishioner of Little Flower Parish, but we are regulars at St. John The Baptist Church having been your parishioners for many years.

Through "Locusts & Honey" dated 8th and 15th July, 2007, we have come to know about the proposed Degree College. What impressed us is that this College will cater to the needs of "neighbouring parishes" as well. This aspect of the proposal has to be applauded and we fully support this venture.

The "very good" to "excellent" results of the XII standard and X Standard respectively of the Mumbai Board have given us the confidence about the competence of the management of St John The Baptist High School and Junior College to run a Senior College. May the new college flourish and help all Thaneites.

Yours truly,

Valerian & Bernadette Cardoza

A DEGREE COLLEGE Locusts & Honey of 15.7.07

When a good idea is proposed, it should be supported. Hence, we the undersigned residents of Serron Villa and its neighbourhood in Charai, address our strong support to the proposed degree college and wish this venture all success.

1. Shirlye Fernandes, Serron Villa, Cherai
2. Tony D'Souza , Serron Villa, Thane
3. Austin A. Pereira, 107 Pereira Hs, Cherai
4. Owen Pereira 107, Cherai,
5. Franklyn Leo Gomes, Anand Villa, Cherai.

For every high priest taken from among men is appointed for men in the things pertaining to God, that he may offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. - St. Paul, Hebrews 5:1



PARENTS' DAY 29-07-07

This year there was better attendance of parents at the Parents' Day function in the hall, thanks to the parish youth and PYAT. The total expenses for the function amounted to Rs Rs. 48,320.00 . Rs.8,505/- was from the proceeds on the sale of entry passes and the balance amount of Rs.39,815/- was sponsored by the parish church. We thank the PYAT members, youths and all those who were responsible for the happy event.

|| = = = = = ||
 " After God, the priest is everything. "
 " Leave a parish twenty years without priests; ||
 || they will worship beasts. "
 " - St. John Vianney
 = = = = = ||

PARISH VISITATION

This Monday, 06 August Fathers will be visiting Cherai North. Animators are requested to accompany Fathers on their visits to families under your care.

To a Friend Preparing for Ordination

"The priest... is something transcendent; through baptism he brings souls to birth, through the sacrament of penance he purifies them; through communion he gives them our Lord's Body as He Himself did at the Last Supper. and at their death He helps them to appear before the Beloved by giving the final forgiveness and the strength ... Every single day of of his life, a priest does what Jesus did during His three years of ministry – He teaches men to know , love and serve their good Master. What a vocation!

By Charles De Foucauld.

Bible Study

Bible study (Character study) classes are being held every Sunday at 7.30 p.m. in the St.John's School classroom adjacent to the chapel. The book of "Job" and qualities of 7 such great men of the bible is the on going series for the next 6 months. All parishioners are invited to attend.

A free V.C.D. / DVD cum Christian reading library consisting of 250 VCDs and approx.700 books are available for lending to those interested in learning more about the bible. The library presently has around 210 members utilizing this facility.

The library Address
Mr.Sanjay Almeida
102 Angel's Paradise,
Next to Maharashtra Vidyalaya
Naupada Thane

Dear Rev. Fr., Rumao,

The proposal of starting a Degree College in Thane is a very novel idea. I earnestly hope this will come to fruition soon and benefit the students of Thane as also the neighbouring parishes. The idea of Degree in Hotel Management and other allied educational streams could also prove beneficial and could be steadily added on.

Now that the Church has been painted it looks very bright and clean. The Stations of the Cross are done up exotically. What needs attention now is the Main Altar which looks decrepit and shabby. It definitely needs a facelift. Likewise, the graveyard also needs to be spruced up. I hope you will consider these suggestions in the right perspective.

Louanne D'Souza

Naupada - II Zone.

Dear Rev. Fr., Rumao,

The proposal of starting a Degree College in Thane has been a longstanding need and a very welcome proposition. I earnestly hope this will come to fruition soon and benefit the students of Thane as also the neighbouring parishes.

Dear Fr Rumao, you have seen 72 summers, of course life has not been a bed of roses for you. During your priestly tenure, you have always been innovative and thoughtful of the parishioners under your care. More like a Good Shepherd, I would say! Thane Parish is very fortunate is having you as Parish Priest. Our Parish has seen a lot of development and improvements during your tenure at Thane. You have succeeded in founding schools and colleges in the recent past during your Ministry in the vineyard of the Lord. I am sure, with the support and trust of the community of Thane and with your past experience, this will not be a hurdle for you to surmount, but will be another feather in your cap.

I am sure your strong convictions and your burning zest to implement your plans once you decide on them, will see you through all odds. You have a wonderful team of Fathers /Parishioners to co-ordinate and support you in this noble endeavour. The Degree College will definitely be a boon to the students and Parents of Thane and its surrounding areas and will alleviate a lot of hardships that are now being faced by them to achieve their academic goals.

Viva Fr. Rumao and his team! Joyce D'Souza
Naupada -II Zone.

**Attention- School Teachers/College
Girls/Women
St. John the Baptist Polytechnic College
St.John The Baptist Special School 2nd Floor.
64109529**

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9322875500

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*The priest is the common father of the whole
world. -St. John Chrysostom.*



For the benefit of the parishioners a talk on "Time Management " by Mr. Conrad Saldanha has been organised by the youth group in the Pavillion on Saturday ,4th August at 7.30p.m.

CHOSEN BY GOD

They could have reached a height many call Fame,
 But they changed direction to glorify God's name.
 The Sa:viour beckoned them to be a light
 Upon the paths where others grope through the night.
 He empowered them to change simple bread and
 wine
 Into th e body and blood of His Self divine.
 Conferring power of forgiving sin,
 Granting God's mercy, seeking souls to win.
 Their sound goes forth to every land and race,
 Bringing forth abundant fruit, assuring God's grace.
 In times of their loneliness, in times of their pain,
 They look up to Him when their effort is in vain.
 Their hands bless us from the cradle to the grave,
 Those pure hands singled out the world to save.
 Let us kneel to thank God with a grateful prayer,
 For their love for us, their Fatherly care.
 May He shower them with blessings of peace and
 health,
 HIS :CHOSEN ONES - OUR PRIESTS - THE
 CHURCH'S WEALTH.

--Ella.

STEWARD OF MERCY

"As the steward of the sacrament of Reconciliation ... [the] priest is the witness and instrument of divine mercy. It is in the confessional that his spiritual fatherhood is realized in the fullest way. It is in the confessional that every priest becomes a witness of the great miracles which divine mercy works in soul which receive the grace of conversion.... As a steward of God's mysteries, the priest is a special witness to the invisible in the world. For he is a steward of the invisible and priceless treasure belonging to the spiritual and supernatural order.

By Pope John Paul II