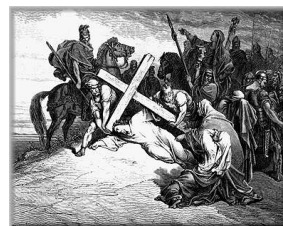


LOCUSTS & HONEY



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH, THANE.

For Private Circulation Parish Weekly

Vol. 3, No. 12

18 March, 2007

Parish Team:

Fr. John Rumao.

Fr. John Lopes

Fr. Gerry Fernandes

Fr. Victor Dalmet.

Srs Amala & Joan – Pastoral Work

Vice-President PPC:

Mr. Francis Fernandes

Parish SCC Coordinator:

Mrs. Margaret Mascarenhas.

APC Representative:

Mr. Anthony Alphonso

PPC Secretary:

Mr. Eustace D'Cunha

CWF Secretary: Jessie Sequeira

Sunday School In-charge: Sr. Ancy

RCIA & School Catechism:

In-charge: Ms. Ida D'Silva

Mass Schedule:

Sunday: 6,7,8,9,15 a.m. & 5.30, 6.30 p.m.
10.30 a.m. at Kopri Chapel.

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

In Holy Cross Convent: 6.30 am.

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

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

Tamil Mass: 2nd Sunday at 11.00 am

Confessions: Saturday: 6 to 7 p.m.

Baptisms: Sunday: 10.15 am

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 [Eng.]

On Tuesdays at 7.30 p.m.

Divine Mercy Devotion: On Fridays at

6.00 p.m. except on 1st Friday

Night Adoration:

at 10.00 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

PARISH WOMEN'S DAY

(on the occasion of International Women's Day)

Feminine in Women

Pope John Paul II in his Letter to Women written in 1995 in the context of Beijing World Conference invites us all to give importance to feminine qualities when he says; " [the] beneficent influence [of women's contribution] can be felt as a force which has shaped the lives of successive generation, right up to our own .To this great, immense feminine "tradition" humanity owes a debt, which can never be repaid. Women have contributed to history as much as men and more often than not, they did so in much more difficult conditions. I think particularly of those women who loved culture and art, and devoted their lives to them in spite of the fact that they were frequently at a disadvantage from the start, excluded from equal educational opportunities, underestimated, ignored and not given credit for their intellectual contributions...Many women have been continue to be valued more for their physical appearance than for their skill, their professionalism, their intellectual abilities ,their deep sensitivity; in a word, the very dignity of their being!"(No3)

Reflecting on this irreplaceable contribution of women, John Paul II writes in this Apostolic Letter on the Dignity and Vocation of Women " The Church gives thanks for each and every woman—for mothers, sisters for wives; for women consecrated to God in virginity; for women who watch over the human persons in the family ,for women who work professionally, and who at times are burdened by a great social responsibility; for 'perfect' women and for 'weak women' –for all women as they have come forth from the heart of God in all the beauty and riches of their femininity; as they have been embraced by his eternal love; as together with men ,they are pilgrims on this earth, which is transformed sometimes into a' valley of tears' as they assumes ,together with men, a common responsibility for the destiny of humanity according to daily necessities and according to that definitive destiny which the human family has in God himself (No 31).'

It is a known fact that the feminine values of love, compassion, generous self-giving, forgiveness, acceptance, warm relationships etc. are the glue that holds families and societies together. And these are not the prerogative of women alone. They reflect the immense bounty and goodness of God, and as such, all of us need to nurture them within ourselves, in our neighborhoods and in our nation if we want peace, prosperity and happiness to flourish all around us.

Hence, celebrating this International Women's Day, we are all invited to cultivate, as John Paul II would say, the "genius"

--excerpts from Bishop Bosco's Semron Notes.

He whosins for profit shall not profit by his sins –D.L. Moody.

This week's announcements

March 18, 2007.

- *During this week the devotion of the Way of the Cross will be in Marathi on Wednesday at 6.15 p.m., in Konkani on Thursday at 7.30 p.m. and in English on Friday at 7.30 p.m. For children the Way of the Cross will be on Sundays after 8.00 a.m. Mass..*
- *Sunday school classes will remain closed from 18th March to 8th April. **The Sunday School annual day will be held on 15th April after 8.00 a.m. Mass. .***
- ***Brindavan Zone:** All are requested to assemble at the main bus stop at 7.00 p.m. on Sunday, 18th March for the Way of the Cross at the families of the sick and the home-bound.*
- ***On 23rd, 24th, and 25th Discipleship Programme Service from 7.30 p.m. to 9.30 p.m.***
- *During Lent Lenten Alms are collected. Please, place your offerings in the boxes meant for it.*
- ***The Kolbad S.C.C.** will be conducting special Lenten Healing Service at the residences of the Homebound Senior Citizens on the 11th & 18th March at 7.p.m. All Community members are requested to attend*
- *The ICYM, Bombay (Diocesan Youth Centre, Bandra) is organizing the **TEENAGER'S ORIENTATION PROGRAMME ("Top')** for you on 31st March 2007 from 9.30a.m. to 4.30p.m. at St.John the Baptist School ,Hall. Students or their parents are requested to collect the invitation letter from the Youth Desk outside the Church after this Mass. (or wherever or from the Parish Office etc.) Details of the programme are available on this invitation letter. Please collect one and register as soon as possible. Parents are requested to encourage their children to attend **"TOP programme***
- ***The Utalsar Zone** will be having a Lenten Prayer Service at The Holy Cross Convent Chapel on 25th March Sunday at 6.30p.m*
- ***CHERAI SOUTH WAY OF THE CROSS (FOR THE HOSE BOUND)** On Sunday the 18th March, 2007 at 6.30p.m. At the Cross Opp. Jayanand hospital all are requested to be present with your families and be a part of this Lenten season. All are requested to bring a candle along*
- ***Kopri Zone** will be conducting the Way of the Cross every Friday at 8.15 p.m. at Koliwada Cross, opposite Anand Bharati Sports Club, Thane (East).*
- ***Next Sunday** 7.00 a.m. Mass will be in English. St. Joseph's Konkani Association will be having a special Konkani Mass at 10.15*

a.m. in the pavilion on the occasion of St. Joseph's feast.

- *Women's Cell Meeting on Sunday 1st April 2007 at 5.30 p.m*
- *The collection at Masses on last Sunday, amounted to Rs.25,533.00*
- *The collections from Perpetual Succour box amounted to Rs 1942.00.*

This Week's Liturgical Readings.

19IMon	St Joseph Sol 2 Sam 7:4-5a,12-14a,16; Ps 88:2-3, 4-5,27,29; Rom 4:13,16-18,22; Mt 1:16,18-21,24a or Lk 2:41-51a
20Tue	Ezek 47:1-9,12; Ps 45:2-3,5-6,8-9; In 5:1-16
21/Wed	Is 49:8-15; Ps 144:8-9,13-14,17-18; In 5:17-30
22Thu	Ex 32:7-14; Ps 105:19-23; In 5:31-47
23/Fri	St Turibius de Mogrovejo, Mem Wis 2:1,12-22; Ps 33:17-21,23; In 7:1-2,10,25-30
24/Sat	Ier 11:18-20; Ps 7:2-3,9bc-IO,11-12; In 7:40-53
25/Sun	Is 43:16-21;Phil 3:8-14;Jn 8:1-11.

OFFICIAL

2007: YEAR DEDICATED TO HEALTH

At the recent Meeting of the Deans of the Archdiocese, it was recommended that the year 2007 be dedicated to Health. In consultation with my team of Bishops, I am happy to accept this recommendation from the Deans and to declare 2007 as the Year of Health for the Archdiocese of Bombay. .



Healing played an important part of Jesus' ministry. Our Lord came that we "may have life, and have it abundantly" (John 10:10). Health, all of us appreciate, is a basis for the overall growth of the human person. For us, disciples of Jesus, health becomes an integral part of our ministry.

Health must be considered in all its aspects: Preventive, Promotive and Curative. In order to build up awareness of this fact it is necessary to have structures that constantly keep enlightening and motivating us with regard to the many avenues available to us in today's fast expanding and progressing health care field. Hence, on the occasion of the Year of Health, I urge all our parishes in the Archdiocese to organize Parish Health Cells consisting of the Parish Priest and four or more lay persons, who 'will meet regularly and plan ways and means to build all round health awareness in the parish, and visit and spend some time with the sick and home-bound of our people.

They would later also be responsible in assisting the Parish Priest when our Corpus Fund for the Poor and the Marginalized becomes operational.

I also propose that each parish finds ways and means to appreciate the health care work done in their parishes, particularly showing appreciation to Health Care Personnel. Also, during this year, special Eucharistic celebrations could be organised occasionally (at least twice) in every parish for the sick and home-bound with special liturgies. .

May I also remind you of the Health Promotion Trust of the Archdiocese which has the Hello Doctor Mobile Clinic scheme. This scheme needs to be encouraged by support (logistic and financial) so that these services already organised can benefit many more of our people all across the Archdiocese.

May Our Lord bless these efforts to bring health to all our people and other in this Archdiocese of ours.
+Oswald Gracias Archbishop of Bombay

-Oswald Gracias

Archbishop of Bombay Archbishop's House
21, Nathalal Parekh Marg, Mumbai 400 001.
March 01, 2007

MARCH 2007 Gospel Reflections at SCCs.

PRO-LIFE: Becoming life-enhancing families John: 10:7-11

1. An appropriate hymn (e.g. "The Lord is my Shepherd ")
2. A brief period of silence
3. Read Gospel text: John 10:7-11
4. Read the following input slowly and clearly:

Marriage is the only sacrament where lay persons (spouses) are ministers. They are called to be life-givers, not to be understood in a narrow sense (procreation) but as giving LIFE to each other - BUILDING each other through the service of LOVE. Sustaining a life-long relationship through healing, forgiving and caring. When spouses and family members hurt each other, they retard each others' growth, then family life becomes a death experience.

Spouses have to be life-givers to each other first and then to their children. For example, if a husband comes home after work tired and sapped-out, it is his encounter with his wife that becomes a moment of life-giving: It is not only the hot cup of tea that will revive him but, more importantly, it is the warm welcome, the joy of receiving her beloved back and the subsequent warm conversation that becomes a life-giving experience for both.

Marriage & family life is therefore a loving life-giving relationship. Spouses and family members give life to each other through a deeply loving and caring relationship by:

- Spending quality time together,
- For Spouses: by loving each other,

- Accepting each other as they are, • Little acts of kindness
- Loyalty and faithfulness,
- Apologizing and forgiving every day,
- Listening and responding to each other,
- Affirming each other each day and enhancing self-esteem, etc.

With marriage a couple starts a family. A family sustains and nurtures life from its moment of conception. God couldn't be everywhere; therefore he created mothers and fathers. A human being is the most helpless creature at birth; therefore s/he needs family care for many years. Parents are called co-creators because they cooperate with God to create new life. This power to bring forth new life stems from their God given fertility. As spouses and family members we are called to nurture and sustain life in society.

5. Spend a few moments in silent reflection

6. Questions for discussion

i) How does family life become an unpleasant experience for many families in our community?

ii) How can family members spend quality time together?

Give examples of family bonding activities

iii) Name three things couples must do in order to have a happy marriage.

7. Sharing in groups I 8. Intercessions ; 9. Concluding Prayer. 10. An appropriate concluding hymn.

RINGS & RAINBOWS – 2007 “

11th February, 2007 World Marriage Day was organised by Family Cell of St. John the Baptist Church by hoisting “Rings & Rainbows - 2007” for Thane Deanery in which 43 couples from Parishes of Vikhroli / Powai to Ambarnath participated.

The event commenced with the Eucharist at 5.30 p.m. celebrated by Fr. Gerald Fernandes of



St. John's Thane who in his homily focused on the issue of love among couples and family, acceptance of spouse as they are, building bonds of love that strengthen the marriage foundations. During the Eucharist the couples renewed their marriage vows.

This was followed by a skit interwoven in an audio

visual presentation on “Communication between Couples” by Desmond DSilva who highlighted

verbal and non verbal channels of communication, skills in communication for a better married life and various danger areas which originate distorted communications between couples leading to cracks



within marriage and family. The couples participated in various skill games & shared married life experiences, intermingled and unwinding in an ambience atmosphere of fun, music and entertainment, taking back memories of wonderful, enjoyable and unforgettable evening cumulating into sumptuous dinner.

St John's Parish Priest Fr. John Rumao made time available to spend a few moments with the couples advising them to a positive communicating approach cumulating to a healthy and more meaningful married life.

St. John's Thane Parish Family Cell thanks Fr. Gerald Fernandes who rescheduled his appointments committing himself to this event and Fr. John Rumao for his advice, guidance and financial sanction without which this Thane Deanery event would not have materialized. Based on the overwhelming response from the couples, St. John the Baptist Thane Parish Family Cell have planned many more events for the family in the coming year.

Desmond & Marina Dsilva
Secretary, Parish Family Cell
St. John the Baptist Church, Thane

OUTREACH PROGRAM

**By Bro. Trevor Lewis of
Jeevan Jal Ministry
[Catholic Renewal
Ministry] to be held from
19th April to 22nd April,
2007 from 6.30 p.m. to
10.00 p.m. in the
quadrangle**

Smile, Giggle, Laugh!

It was an exclusive party. Among the many VIP's present, was an Ambassador whose eyesight was not too good.

When dancing commenced, he saw someone with whom he wished to dance. Approaching the person he said: "Hello you beautiful lady in red, may I have the pleasure of this waltz?" "Certainly not," was the answer. "In the first place this is not a waltz, it is a tango. In the second place I am not a beautiful lady in red, I am the papal Nuncio."

WHEN SHOULD WE SAY 'NO' TO OUR CHILDREN?

Psychologist Seema Hingorrany gives you tips on when and how you can say no to your children:

- Saying 'no' increasing your child's endurance level
- Be honest with your kids
- Teach them the concept of money and savings
- Inculcate moral values and discipline by explaining to them
- Teach them to value things
- Do not give in to their unreasonable demands
- If you want to gift something, give it as a reward or token of praise.

THE SCHOOL OF DISCIPLESHIP

Being a Christian is not merely about being baptized in Christ. It isn't merely about receiving the Sacraments either. Being a Christian is about being like Christ - being holy like he was; pure; perfect.

Discipleship is the journey that we take towards achieving this holiness, this purity, this perfection. As you can imagine,

I this isn't an easy task, and most I people will have you believe that it is impossible. But God believes that it is possible (Matthew 5:48; 1 John 3:3; 1 Peter 1:15,16) - and so do we.

We invite you to begin this journey at our parish. Your guide for the journey will be Aneel Aranha, founder of the Catholic Apostolate Holy Spirit Interactive, respected retreat leader and preacher, and author of several books.

THE JOURNEY BEGINS

March 23, 24, 25 7-30 p.m. to 9.30 p.m.,

St John the Baptist Church, Thane. I

**AN OPEN INVITATION TO DOCTORS,
NURSES, COUNSELORS, VOLUNTEERS
AND THOSE DESIRING TO WORK ON
THE ST. JOHN'S HEALTHCARE CENTRE
FOR A MEETING**

ON SUNDAY, 25TH MARCH, 2007

AT 10.30 A.M.

IN THE PARISH MEETING ROOM.

Public health and the health of the poor is our concern. Do come and share your knowledge and expertise.

--Parish Priest.

YOUTH THE FUTURE OF TOMORROW'S CHURCH ???????????

24th Feb'07 was not just another day for the Parish Youth Group (PYG) of our Parish, but, rather a very special day for them, when the entire team of the Diocesan Pastoral Center (DPC), Bandra, consisting of



of Rev Frs John Barretto and Ruben, along with Br. Vincent conducted a Personality Development Program, organized by the Parish Youth Animators Team (PYAT). Twenty-Two very enthusiastic youth participated.

The program consisted of "Ice Breakers" - Catch Phrases and Recognize the Personalities. This was

nt -18th March, 2007.-

followed by a “Creativity Session”, where, three Groups were formed and three different topics were given; “A Prayer Meeting for the father of a member of the Youth Group has passed away”; “A Day Out for Senior Citizens” and “A Career Guidance Program for the SSC Students”. They were given just 10 minutes to get their proposed program together and “A Leader” helped out by their teammates elucidated how the program would be conducted. Sitting back and listening to them was indeed a wonderful treat, which also inspired us and gave us much hope, for, the ideas of our young budding members of “Tomorrow’s Church Leaders” were indeed unique and inspiring. In fact and we ourselves learnt some innovative ways of conducting the programs in a more interesting manner.

Frs. John Barretto and Reuben also enlightened us on how to have a more dynamic PYG and to form / conduct Neighbourhood Youth Groups (NYGs) in the Zones itself, where perhaps two or three zones could also join and have just one group, till such time the numbers grew and then it could be sub divided further. They also gave us many ideas on how to conduct activities for the youth in their zone itself. This last session would have been very enlightening to all the Parish Co-ordinators and the Zonal Animators / Youth Animators. They also promised us that they were willing to come and help set up NYGs whenever called upon – the numbers they said did not matter.

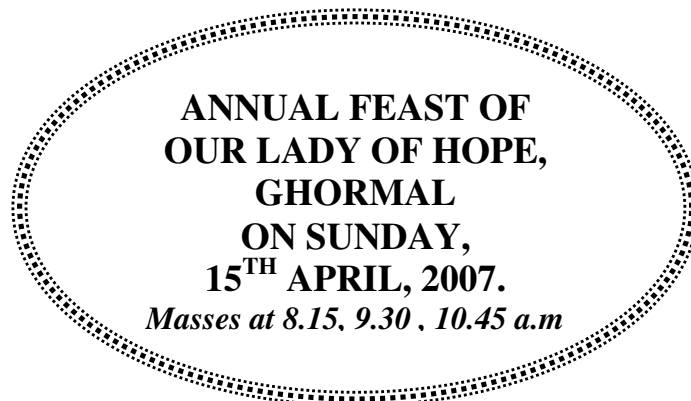
We take this opportunity to appeal to the Parents of all our Youth, to send their children to these programs which are held regularly every 4th Saturday. Announcements are made through the Locust and Honey or the Sunday Announcements. Perhaps we could be even more optimistic of even asking you Parents to ask your young children (between 16 to 25 years of age) to join the PYG, which have their weekly meetings every Saturday from 7 pm to 8 pm. Those interested in joining the Parish Youth Group or attend the monthly programs, can give in their names and contact Fr. Victor, the Director of our PYG.

PYAT Council, St. John the Baptist Church

NEW MEMBERS		
Name	<i>Dt. Of Baptism</i>	<i>Dt. Of Birth</i>
Mercy Konar	07.01.2007	25.06.2003
Faith S.D’souza	07.01.2007	26.11.2006
Samuel Nicolas	08.01.2007	04.11.2006
Samuel David	14.02.2007	27.11.2006
Shannon D’souza	14.02.2007	17.11.2007
Shaloni Koli	21.01.2007	08.09.2006
Nathan Estibeiro	21.01.2007	09.12.2006
Dean Lobo	09.02.2007	30.06.2004
Hema Aatker	09.02.2007	31.12.1984
Sheetal Pawar	09.02.2007	08.01.1980
Vivian Shettiyyar	11.02.2007	11.10.2006
Kate D’souza	18.02.2007	09.12..2006
Janice Kinny	25.02.2007	25.01.2007

UNITED IN CHRIST		
Date	Bride	Bridegroom
02.01.2007	Avril E.D’souza	Brijesh Patel
03.01.2007.	Preeti N.Barnes	Bryan N. Pinto
06.01.2007	Helen Rodrigues	Richard Fernandis
06.01.2007	Sharon S.D’souza	Rajiv Dalvi
06.01.2007	Rita	Muthu Swami Konar
07.01.2007	Niloufer J Pais	Alban L. Quadros
13.01.2007	Lydia C.D’souza	Tellis A. Pereira
13.01.2007	Gloria C.Valladares	Oswald B. D’mello
21.01.2007	Greta Buthello	Louis Fernandes
27.01.2007	Ida Pinto	Godfrey A. Lobo
28.01.2007	Tina L.Santiago	Roman Pereira
28.01.2007	Stella R. Nadar	Vibin Nadar
03.02.2007	Mary S. Puthenveetil	Roland Valluppara
10.02.2007	Celine D’souza	Ivan C. D. Noronha
11.02.2007	Regina Mendonca	Johnny R.D’mello
18.02.2007	Maria C. Fernando	Kasinathan

OF LATE MEMORIES	
<i>Date</i>	<i>Name</i>
<i>02.01.2007</i>	<i>Stanny Fonseca</i>
<i>04.01.2007</i>	<i>Emily Rebello</i>
<i>20.01.2007</i>	<i>Lilly Nair</i>
<i>26.01.2007</i>	<i>Letitia D’souza</i>
<i>27.01.2007</i>	<i>Bertha Azavedo</i>
<i>05.02.2007</i>	<i>Anthony Mendes</i>
<i>14.02.2007</i>	<i>Rita Dey</i>



.....
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 • Timing :- 09:30 a.m, - 12:30 p.m.
 • 02:30 p.m, - 05:30 p.m, Monday to Friday
 • E-Mail:- dbrsbosco@rediffmail.com
 •

PARISH COUNCIL ELECTION NOMINATION OF CANDIDATES

The following candidates have filed their nomination forms for parish council elections as on 14th March from some of the zones.:

1	Brindaban	Mr Joseph Francis Fernandes
		Mr Michael (Larry) Gonsalves
2	Cherai N	Mr Ignatius Bhalerao
		Ms Leena Rodrigues
3	Cherai S	Mr.Cyril Fonseca
		Mr.Kirk Gonsalves
4	Horta Margeheri	
5	Khopat	Mrs Lidwin Fernandes
		Mrs Mercia D'silva
6	Kolbad	Mrs Linda Miranda
		Mrs Jessie Sequeira
7	Kopri	Mr.Gilbert E.Fernandes
		Mr.Nickel Susai
8	K'villa	Mr. Francis Vaz
		Mrs. Lourdes Almeida
9	Louis wadi	Mrs Rosie Rodricks
10	Naupada I	Mrs Hortencia Barretto
11	Naupada II	Mrs Juliana Aguiar
12	Rabodi	Mr. Sebastian D'Souza
		Mr. Ashley Raivellor
13	Satguru / Anand Park	Mrs Ruby D'souza
14	Utlasar	Mrs Iris Soeiro
		Mr.Oliver Fernandes

Please note, besides the above candidates, if there are any parishioners from the above zones wish to file the nomination form and stand for the election to parish council may avail of blank forms from the parish office and submit it to the office duly completed latest by 18th March, 2007.

CWF Committee will meet on Sunday, 18th March 2007 at 10.30 a.m

TEENAGER'S ORIENTATION PROGRAMME

Here is a special announcement for the student of our parish who are appearing for their SSC or ICS examination:

The ICYM, Bombay (Diocesan Youth Centre, Bandra) is organizing the TEENAGER'S ORIENTATION PROGRAMME ("Top") for you on 31st March 2007 from 9.30a.m. to 4.30p.m. at St.John the Baptist School ,Hall

Students or their parents are requested to collect the invitation letter from the Youth Desk outside the Church after this Mass. (or wherever or from the Parish Office etc.) Details of the programme are available on this invitation letter. Please collect one and register as soon as possible. Parents are requested to encourage their children to attend "TOP programme

VELANKANI SEVA KENDRA

Velankani Seva Kendra has been Inaugurated by Rev. Fr. John Rumao on the auspicious occasion of International Women's Day on 8th March 2007 at 11AM by cutting the Ribbon followed by Lighting of Lamp by Fr..Rumao, Lion K.J Paul, D,strict Chairman (Activities), Lion Lawrence Dsouza, Zonal Chairman of Lions Club International, Preident and Ex President Lions Club Thane Upawan Lion Atreyee Sudeep Mondal and Lion Deepenwita Biswas and Lion Dr Santosh Katrekar. A beautiful Prayer Dance was performed by five little girls of Kopri to whom the Lions Club presented a Gift of Rs.1000/- to meet their educational needs.

Several eminent leaders gave speeches. Fr. John Rumao in his speech thanked the Lion's Club, Thane for their donation of five sewing machines to the Velankani Seva Kendra and for their assurance of part payment of the honorarium to the instructor. The project of tailoring classes has been sponsored by Lions Clubs International for empowering the marginalized. Lion Lawrence Dsouza assured the audience that the Club would provide two computers to the Seva Kendra for the computer courses being opened shortly. They have also shown their willingness to adopt this Kopri Village and assured all kinds of help like medical, educational etc.

The function was concluded with Vote of Thanks to one and all followed by refreshments

--Mrs. Nirmala.

STAYING CONTENT



Stories of Long Ago

They say that as you grow older you forget the recent past and remember more clearly the distant past .This has been so with me.

Looking at to-days world of greed, I am remembering my childhood and youth days of contentment. To-day my grandchildren have toys costing thousand of rupees and like most other present day children, will always want more. I had just one toy as a child, a doll, I never asked for more. My Father could not afford giving his four daughters a Christmas dress every year and we did not mind it. During my school days I would come home for the lunch break. Sometimes only the rice was ready so I would eat rice and pickle and get back to school. Those were not the days of murmuring and complaining.

I used to be shocked at the contented way my mother lived. My father made her just one present on her engagement day, a prayer book and no present after that.What was surprising was that my mother never craved for one her entire married life. I remember her selling eggs to pay for my Prelim fee.

As for my father, he had just two sets of Khaki clothes –he had no need of more. He had an umbrella which he used for thirty years. He supported 7 members of our family earning Rs.200/- a month and never in his life did he borrow money.

And I could laugh at the beggar in me when I took off for my honey moon with only Rs5/- in my purse. Those days have gone and may never return. They were days we learned to stay content by example.

To –day it is

More!

More!

& More!!!

Where have I landed

Ella Almeida

[This page is sponsored by the author]

The Psychological Aspect of Cancer

The word **CANCER** fears everybody. Today, research in the field of cancer has advanced by leaps and bounds, and now cancer is curable if detected at an early stage. However, people especially in the developing world still remain ignorant of this fact, and continue to fear this dreaded disease.

As soon as an individual learns that one has contracted a disease called cancer, all life's activities come to a sudden halt. One's life is turned into darkness. One feels lost in a dark world in which finding light is a distant dream. One loses interest in everything, as depression conquers the mind. A series of negative reactions set into motion, and one feels unwanted by society. Some individuals go to the extent of committing suicide, for fear of an uncertain future.

The psychological reaction that sets in after being attacked by cancer , makes the diseased person very weak mentally, and gives cancer an opportunity to become aggressive. The diseased person shows total hopelessness and is least interested in fighting back. Lack of proper diet, refusal to undergo treatment , and constant negative thought patterns makes matters worse.

Cancer is such a disease that health professionals will have to view it in a much broader sense. Treatment directed not only towards the symptoms but also towards correcting the psychological aspects, will help in alleviating human suffering caused due to cancer.

Malcolm Nobre

Mother Teresa and I

[A testimony of an actress]

--by Lata Kushbuchandani



Her film career and personal life have been the focus of gossip magazines for several decades. What readers may not know is that our very own vamp Shashikala spent nine years of her life serving with Mother Teresa, a privilege many would give their eye-teeth for *[Shashikala's name has been announced for the Padmashri this year. Here is her life with the mother in her own words.]*

I was passing through a period of extreme frustration in my life when I went to visit my daughter Shailla in Kolkata.I saw Mother Teresa at the airport and felt a strange force pulling me to her. Once in Kolkata.I I tried to get an appointment. But Mother was ill at the time. I met Sister Agnes, her right hand. They thought that I am an actress and I was doing this for publicity. I

told Agnes everything: my personal and professional troubles and felt sorry I couldn't meet Mother. The sister Superior told me that to serve here was not easy. I responded that I would do whatever they asked me to.

For three days they put me to cleaning toilets – and you can imagine toilets used by insane and sick people. Then they made me clean the dormitories. I did that too. Then they asked me to do dressing of leprosy patient and I did that. Then one day a very sick patient was brought in and they asked me to help with him. He was undressed and I saw maggots crawling out of his wounds. It was an unbelievable sight. I suddenly understood that I had little to complain about. I had health, I had money, I was not dependant anyone. I was sent to dress a patient who had huge wounds and just looking at him was difficult. But I felt a current pass through me as if someone was giving me strength to do this work and I continued serving at the Home.

One day I told my daughter, let's try and see if Mother will meet me. We saw Mother talking to some foreigners and waited. After the visitors left, Mother called us and soon as I looked at her I broke down and cried my heart out. I told her, "Mother, god has given me everything but I have no peace within me."

She told me to come the next day. After that I served there for nine years, looking after the diseased and the wounded, feeding them, caring for them, holding them when they were dying. Mother sent me to different places –near Dum Dum to a kid' ashram, then to Nirmal Hriday where they had a home for destitute people. I served there .all this took my mind off my own situation. I told mother "I have forgotten my past". Mother replied, "past is like ash. Why hold on to it?" When I watched Mother, I learnt what service was she'd wear a sari that was torn and darned; her food consisted of one banana, a biscuit and cup of tea. It cost a rupee only. Even when she was ill she only ate that. Even if she was raging with fever she continued working. She'd give a discourse on Christ and we'd all listen.

She sent me to Asansol where only leprosy patients are kept. The work there was to sit on a stool, count the tablets given to leprosy patients and put them in small boxes. This drives you up the wall because you are bent over the table counting these tiny tablets. The patients live as normal a life as possible; they marry, they have kids if the kids have leprosy they are treated. I saw so much peace and contentment in these people. So often they had to get a finger or toe amputated-they'd go very normally and get it done like it was no big deal, there was so much acceptance in them.

I found myself changing. I had found a kind of peace within myself. I returned to the film industry. Mother cautioned me not to repeat my past mistakes. I had gone to Calcutta in 1989 and spent nine years in mother Teresa's ashram. My eldest daughter was suffering from cancer. One morning I felt heavy and suffocated. Suddenly a cross appeared on my left hand and the heaviness disappeared. Then the statue of Jesus appeared on my right hand. I called mother and told her this and she explained that Jesus is saying you will have to bear your own cross.

Again I saw Mother, Jesus and a child. This gave me hope that my daughter would recover but she

passed away. I made her say the gayatri mantra, I told her to forgive all those who had harmed her and ask forgiveness from others. She did all this and passed away peacefully. I called mother and told her. She said that we will pray for your daughter's souls and then she said 'God bless you' in my ear thrice-something she never did.

The strength from her words sustains me till today. Marathi playwright Mohan Wagh wanted Mother to inaugurate his play. She obliged and his play All the Best became superhit. Once Saira Banu and Dilipsaab asked to meet mother-They came along with Naseem Banu; Mother was very happy. She loved seeing happy couples and blessed them. They asked about Sanjay Dutt and she said she'd pray for him. Filmmaker Sawan Kumar Tak wanted to meet Mother and donated Rs 50 lakh to her ashram. Later he told me that he hadn't received a receipt that he wanted for tax purposes. I told mother and she personally wrote a note thanking him and sent the receipt.

My grand daughter Sonia wanted to meet Mother. Mother looked divinely radiant that day and her face was shining incredibly as she blessed us. Next day she passed away.

The Sisters told me that we were the last people she blessed, and that the letter to Sawan Kumar was the last letter mother wrote to anyone, so could they have it back if he didn't mind?

--extract from Mid Day.

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