

# LOCUSTS & HONEY

For Private Circulation

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04 June, 2006

## Holy Spirit, Come On Us.



A little girl was visiting her grandmother one beautiful spring morning. They walked out into grandmother's flower garden. As grandmother was inspecting the progress of her flowers the little girl decided to try to open a rosebud with her own two hands. But no luck! As she would pull the petals open, they would tear or bruise or wilt or break off completely. Finally, in frustration, she said, "Grandma, I just don't understand it at all. When God opens a flower, it looks so beautiful but when I try, it just comes apart." "Well, honey," Grandmother answered, "There's a good reason for that. God is able to do it because He works from the inside out!"

God works from the inside Out. That is the great message of Pentecost Sunday, isn't it? This is what the disciples finally came to understand at Pentecost. Jesus had ascended into heaven. And He had told the disciples to wait in Jerusalem for the Holy Spirit.

Here is where the story of Pentecost picks up. The disciples are back in the Upper Room waiting and wondering and some of them were probably grumbling impatiently and nervously. What in the world are we doing here? All this waiting around is driving me up the wall! There's no use. He's gone and without Him, we are nothing. It's over! We'd just as well face it. What is this Holy Spirit business anyway? Maybe we misunderstood Him.

Just then they heard a sound. The breath of God began to blow on that place like the rush of a mighty wind. Images of fire danced around them. Suddenly, their fear was gone, replaced by peace and confidence, courage and strength and unity and they began to speak and communicate the word of God boldly and amazingly people from all different backgrounds heard and responded and 3,000 people were converted that day.

It's interesting to note that the three classic symbols for the Holy Spirit in the Bible remind us of how God works through us and how God works from the inside out. Do you remember what they are? The three traditional symbols of the Holy Spirit in the Bible: Breath: the symbol of Life; Fire: the symbol of Power; The descending dove: the symbol of Peace.

In our spiritual journey to our heavenly Father, we need all the three – life, which Jesus has come to give us in abundance; power to fight the spiritual combat with the evil one and the peace that comes from the forgiveness of sin for renewed commitment to the risen Lord.

**Parish Team:**
**Fr. John Rumao.**
**Fr. John Lopes**
**Fr. Gerry Fernandes**
**Fr. Victor Dalmat.**
**Fr. Joe Rodricks**

Bro. Joseph Pimenta, deacon

**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

**Mass Schedule:**

Sunday: 6,7,8,9.15 a.m.

5.30, 6.30 p.m.

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

In Holy Cross Convent::6.30 am.

**Mass in Marathi:**

 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday at 7. a.m

**Mass in Konkani:**

 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday at 7. a.m.

**Tamil Mass:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday at 11.00 am

**Confessions:** Saturday: 6 to 7pm.

**Baptisms:** Sunday: 10.15 am

**Marriages:** Weekday at 5.15 pm.

Sunday: 5.30 &amp; 6.30 pm

**Funerals:** Any day: 10 to 11.45 am

4 to 5.00 p.m.

**Sacrament of the sick:**

Any time 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 1<sup>st</sup> Friday

**Night Adoration:**

 at 8 p.m. on 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday;

at 10.30 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.**

Website:

[www.stjohnthebaptistthane.com](http://www.stjohnthebaptistthane.com)

**This week's Announcements, 04<sup>th</sup> June, 06.**

- ✍ Sunday, 4<sup>th</sup> June is the feast of the Pentecost.
- ✍ Sunday, 4<sup>th</sup> June there will be Mass at Ghormal at 10.00 a.m. Bus will leave the church premises at 9.00 a.m.
- ✍ Next Sunday is the feast of the Holy Trinity.
- ✍ Next Sunday, Parish Council Meeting at 10.30 a.m.
- ✍ **Those who want to join the Parish youth group are requested to give their names to Fr.Victor or in the Church Office**
- ✍ The collection at Masses on last Sunday, amounted to Rs.,20,722.00
- ✍ The collection from the box in front of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour frame amounted to Rs 1,925.00.

***Jr. K.G. Admission forms will be issued on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2006  
From 08.00 a.m. to 10.00a.m.***

**Those who want to join the Parish youth group are requested to give their names to Fr.Victor or in the Church Office**

**05/06 to 11/06 This week's readings:**

05/Mon (R)	St Boniface, bp m - mem 2 Pt 1:2-7; Ps 90; Mk 12:1-12
06/Tue (GIW)	St Norbert, bp 2 Pt 3:12-15a,17-18; Ps 89; Mk 12:13-17
07/Wed (G)	2 Tim 1:1-3,6-12; Ps 122; Mk 12:18-27
08/Thu (G)	2 Tim 2:8-15; Ps 24; Mk 12:28b-34
09/Fri (G/W)	St Ephrem, dc, dr 2 Tim 3:10-17; Ps 118; Mk 12:35-37
10/Sat (G/W)	2 Tim 4:1-8; Ps 70; Mk 12:38-44
11/Sun	Deut 4:32-34,39-40;Ro 8:14-17;Mt.28:16-20.

## Adult Faith Formation

### **Dias: Prove conversions are forced**

-reported in The Asian Age 25-05-06

Mumbai, May 24: Cardinal Ivan Dias of Mumbai on Wednesday responded to the ongoing criticism from what he called a "tiny politico-religious fraction unrepresentative of ,the religious majority in India" against Pope Benedict XVI's comments on India's conversion laws and said any opposition to genuine conversion is an "unwarranted interference in God's competence in the matter"~

Cardinal Dias, recently appointed Prefect of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples, said conversion from one' religious belief to another is strictly a personal matter, between God and the individual concerned, and that freedom of conscience and the right to freely profess, practise and propagate one's religion have been enshrined in the Constitution of India. He said "conversion should never be induced by fraud or allurements".

Cardinal Dias has challenged critics of the Pope to "produce factual evidence providing a single forced conversion to the Catholic Church in India as a sign of its "bonafide intentions". He said all allegations made in this regard have been proved false.

Cardinal Dias mentions only the Catholic Church, and not Christians. Cardinal Dias points out that Christians in India number only 2.3 per cent of the total population: of these 1.8 per cent belong to the Catholic Church. Despite being such a tiny minority, the Christians cater to 20 per cent of all the primary education in the country, 10 per cent of the literacy and community healthcare programmes, 25 per cent of the care of orphans and widows, and 30 per cent of the care of the handicapped, lepers and AIDS patients. The vast majority of those who avail themselves of these institutions belong to faiths other than Christianity.

He said the critics would do well to examine how much it is doing in favour of the educational, health, and social uplift of the Indian people, and should not take it amiss that some members of the religious majority in India feel attracted to follow a religion whose founder, Our Lord Jesus Christ, told His followers that He had come, not to be served, but to serve and who commanded them to love one another as He had loved them".



**JUNE 2006 – Intentions.**

**Holy Father's General Intention:** That Christian families may lovingly welcome every child who comes into existence and surround the sick and the aged, who need care and assistance, with affection.

**Missionary Intention:** That Pastors and the Christian faithful may consider inter-religious dialogue and the work of acculturation of the Gospel as a daily service to promote the cause of the evangelization of Peoples

**PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT** (say It meditatively)

O, Holy Spirit, soul of my soul, Life of my life, I adore you, I worship you, I bow down before you.

**GUIDE ME:** In all my work and actions. (Pause mention the particular work)

**STRENGTHEN ME:** To overcome all my weakness (Mention particular weakness)

**COMFORT ME:** In all my disappointments and failures (Mention them)

**SANCTIFY ME:** From all my sins (especially this particular sin-name)  
Purify me and make me Holy.

**HEAL ME:** Of all my wounds, physical, emotional & spiritual (Mention particular Area).

**HELP ME:** To forgive and love all those who hurt me ( Pause to remember the names to forgive and ask forgiveness).

Lead me in the way of my Father. Reveal Jesus my Saviour to me. Open my eyes and my heart to the Word of God. Teach me to pray. Help me to love as Jesus loves

***EUCCHARIST MINISTERS MEETING***

***ON SATURDAY 10th JUNE 06***

***AT 6.15.P.M.***

***IN THE MEETING ROOM***

***PLEASE BRING YOUR CERTIFICATE***

**God treats all humans as equal**

THERE IS always a tussle between believers and non-believers. Believers develop ego as they feel they are nearer to God and God in return, looks after them with special care. Non-believers on the other hand can't blame anyone for anything that goes wrong. But in the eyes of God, all are equal and he takes care of all of them. We are not doing God a favour by our faith in Him. It is only through our actions and thoughts that we can hope to please God.

There is a nice story I heard about the Prophet Abraham on this. One day Abraham was sitting outside his house when he saw a very old and frail man walking with the aid of a stick. Abraham went to that man and said, "Come in and accept my hospitality for today. Have a bath and have some food. Take rest for the night and go in the morning."

The man said that he would be fine under the nearby tree. However Abraham persuaded him to come along and accept his hospitality.

After they had food and it was time for prayers, the old man sat in a corner and did not show any interest. Abraham felt very bad and asked the old man to join him. The old man refused and said, "I do not believe in God."

Abraham got very angry and threw him out of the house. After his prayers Abraham went to sleep.

At night God asked Abraham: "Where is that old man I sent to you to be looked after?"

Abraham replied: "My Lord, that man neither believes in you nor says any prayers. Therefore I gave him a good thrashing and turned him out of the house."

God said, "Abraham! I know he does not believe in Me, but I have looked after him for the past 98 years - and you could not look after him for one night?"

Abraham begged pardon of God and fetched the old man back.

--Hindustan Times

**INTER-ZONAL TOURNAMENTS**

Inter-zonal football and throwball tournaments will be held on 18<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> June, 2006. Forms will be available with zonal leaders. Maximum two teams per zone will be allowed.

**PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT (ST. AUGUSTINE)**

Breathe into me Holy Spirit, that my thoughts may all be holy. Move in me Holy Spirit, that my work too may be holy. Attract my Heart Holy Spirit, that I may love only what is holy. Strengthen me Holy Spirit, that I may defend all that is holy. Protect me Holy Spirit, that I may always be holy.

**PRAYER TO HOLY SPIRIT**

Come Holy Spirit, Replace the tension within us with a holy relaxation.

Replace the turbulence within us with a sacred calm.

Replace the anxiety within us with a quiet confidence.

Replace the fear within us with a strong faith.

Replace the bitterness within us with the sweetness of grace.

Replace the darkness within us with gentle light.

Replace the coldness within us with a loving warmth.

Replace the night within us with your light.

Replace the winter within us with your spring

Straighten our crookedness, till our emptiness.

Duff the edge of our pride, sharpen the edge of our humility,

Light the fires of our love, quench the flames of our lust.

Let us see ourselves as you see us, that we may see you as you have promised and be fortunate according to your word, , ,

'Blessed are the pure of heart, for they shall see God',

**YOUTH**

Why do the politicians make use of the youth? The youth have energy and dynamism. The energy has to be used. If it is not used positively, they use it negatively. And so the youth are to be guided and motivated not to waste their energy. The youth, which is supposed to be the best time of our life, if wasted, cannot return.

Once an octogenarian lady was found disturbed and searching for something .A 20year old youth who used to loaf around wasting his time, doing nothing, wanted to make fun of the old lady. He said “Hey old lady, what are you searching for?” A bit disturbed but mildly, the old lady said “ My child, I am looking for my youth days “ The youth laughed and mockingly said.” How can you get back your youth” You will never get back. It is gone for ever”. At this juncture the old but wise lady said “Yes my son, you have rightly said that whatever is gone /wasted will never come back. I, an old but experienced lady want to give you same advice .Do not waste a single moment of your youth .Use yourself and your talent profitably Yes, my young ones, let us take the advice of this lady. Let us use ourselves fully like the candle burning for others. Time wasted never returns. Let us know ourselves better and use ourselves for the society and for the parish. Let us never keep ourselves idle for idleness is devil’s workshop. The parish gives us ample of opportunities to get ourselves trained, organized and to use our youthful days for our good and for the good of our society. In our parish there are over 1000 youths including those who are confirmed recently. The future of the parish and the society is in the hands of the youth. Why don’t we realize this? Our elders have high hopes in us. Let us get ourselves organized, first in our own zones by joining Zonal youth Group. Showing our willingness and talents our elders will guide and train us to take the reins in our hands. Now is the time at our disposal Let us not waste any more time .Let us say YES and join our Zonal –Parish Youth Association and under the guidance of the priests and other elders let us get ourselves moulded and take our parish to the top and make it model parish. Let us take up the challenge.

Fr. Victor Dalmet