

LOCUSTS & HONEY

For Private Circulation

Vol. 2, No. 12

19 March, 2006

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 & 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 7pm.**Baptisms:** Sunday: 10.15 am**Marriages:** Weekday at 5.15 pm.

Sunday: 5.30 & 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 Fridaysat 6.15 p.m. except on 1st Friday**Night Adoration:**at 8 p.m. on 2nd 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**ASHEN-FACED**

Beautifying the face and looking gorgeous and glamorous has become a modern day pastime .A gentle application of a fair and lovely cream with a touch of lip-stick and eye-liner for women, and a splash of lotion for men will do the magic. Facial crafting has become a state of the art practice. Good-looking people are better off than others get priority in work places and make more money.

How about ASH for a make-up. Do I have the impertinence to say it? Then may I ask what am I doing as a Christian at the beginning of lent to allow a makeover of my face with an inscription on my forehead with ash. Do I not sanctimoniously permit this makeover with Ash, and it certainly does accentuate the face. I remember a little boy who once told his father "Your forehead is a smooth landing strip for insects'. The boy had mistaken the ash inscription for an insect. For the 'faith -filled 'the ash face -lift is of a different kind. We are surrounded with signs .We use signs to communicate some reality. Everyday God is making signs too us and we make signs to God. On the first day of lent we use the most despised of residual substances ASH to put a SIGNature on our fore-heads expressing a 180 turn around from living an "Eccentric" life to a "Centric" life in Christ. Alas at least one day in the year "ASH" can rival the competition of Garnier, Old Spice. Ever Yuth and AXE effect*

--Rev. Fr. Gerry Fernandes

CHRIST DRIVING AWAY THE TRADERS FROM THE TEMPLE.

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3rd Sunday of Lent 19th March, 2006.

This week's Announcements, 19th March, 2006..

- On Sunday, 19th March the CWF committee will meet at 10.30 a.m.
- *Children's Way of the Cross will be on Sundays after 8.00 a.m. Mass.*
- *Monday 20th March is the FEAST OF ST. JOSEPH, HUSBAND OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY.*
- *On Monday after the 7.00 p.m. the film of "Mary of Nazareth" part II will be shown.*
- *Way of the Cross in Marathi on Wednesday at 6.15 p.m.*
- *Way of the Cross in Konkani on Thursday at 7.30 p. m*
- *Friday, the Way of the Cross in English at 7.30 p.m.*
- *Saturday, 25th March is the SOLEMNITY OF THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD. It is also celebrated as PRO-LIFE DAY.*
- *During the season of Lent, Lenten alms are collected in aid of the seminary. Two boxes are placed on the side-altars for your Lenten alms*
- ***On Sunday, 26th March, 2006 from 6.30 p.m. to 8.30 p.m. Bishop Bosco will conduct a seminar for all the animators and coordinators. Attendance compulsory.***
- *On Sunday 26th March, the morning 6.00 a.m. Mass will be in English. Instead the 9.15 a.m. Mass will be celebrated in Konkani on the occasion of St. Joseph's feast, given by St. Joseph's Association.*
- *On Thursday, 30th March from 4.30 p.m. to 7.00 p.m. a special Lenten Recollection will be held in the pavilion for the members of all the associations, including Eucharistic ministers, lectors and SVP members*
- *The collection at Masses on last Sunday, amounted to Rs.,.25,953.00*
- *The collection from the box in front of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour frame amounted to Rs1,396.00.*

Rt. Rev. Bishop Bosco will conduct animotrs' Meeting on Sunday, 26th March, 2006 from 6.30 p.m. to 8.30 p.m. All the zonal coordinators and animators will please, keep the above date free for the session.

20/3 to 26/3 This week's readings:

Mon.	St. Joseph husband of Mary 2 Sam 7: 4-5,12-14; Ps 88: 2-3,4-5. n 29; Rom 4: 13. 16-18,22;Lk2:41-51
Tues.	Dan 3:25,34-43; Ps24:4-9; Mt 18:21-35
Wed.	Deut4: 1,5-9; Ps 147: 12-13,15-16,19-20; Mt5: 17-19
Thurs.	Jer7:23-28; Ps 94:1-2,6-9; Lk 11:14-23
Friday	Hos 14:2-10; Ps 80:6,8-11,14,17; Mk 12:28-34
Satur.	The Annunciation of the Lord Is 7:10-14; 8:10; Ps 39:7-11; Heb 10:4-10; Lk 1 :26-
Sunday	2 Chr 36:14-16,19-23; Eph 2:3-10; Jn 3:14-21.

All India Catholic Union

The Western Region Lay Leadership Training Program to be held from 29th April to 1st May at the Retreat House, Kane Road, Bandra, Mumbai. Contact: Mr. Dolphy D'Souza by email: aarmiktravels@vsnl.net by 30th March.

The Retreat House, Bandra announces "A PATHWAY TO INNER HEALING"

– a five day retreat experience
from March 28 to April 2, 2006.

Contact 2641 6653/2645 5296/2642 2095

PRAYER FOR THE PROMENDAE ISSUE

"Unless the Lord builds the house, they labour in vain who build the city. Unless the Lord guards the city, in vain does the guard keep vigil."

These words of the psalmist of psalm 127 instill hope in us, Lord, as we stand face to face with the problem of the promenade coming up right in front of your own dwelling place, our New Jerusalem. Bless the efforts put in by our good people to create awareness among the citizens about the ill-effects of this project on our present youth and our future generation. Lord, we now place this cause into your loving hands, trusting that it is You, who are watching over our city & it is You, who will bring everything to its perfect fulfillment. Guard our city of Thane against all evil. May peace be within its ramparts and prosperity in each of its homes. May there be a growing awareness of the existing injustice & oppression. Create an awakening to liberation in the souls of people and in the structures of our society. We make this prayer through Christ, Our Lord, Amen

YOUR CHURCH CARES FOR YOU.

In the issue of Locusts & Honey V. 2, No. 7, a write up was published on the above topic with the following paragraph stating how the generosity of the parishioners was utilized for various charitable activities from 1-4-05 to 31-12-05:

It may be interesting to know how your generosity has strengthened the hands of those responsible for assisting the needy in the community in this year [1-4-05 to 3-12-05]:

Organization	Service	amount
CVF Committee:	medical assistance	Rs. 50,000.00
"	To SVP for the poor	Rs. 1,00,000.00
St. John the Baptist School	Fee concessions	Rs. 1,58,805.00
The SVP	on adopted families	Rs. 4,41,047.50
Parish Church	medical assistance etc.	Rs. 053,058.00
	Donations to churches	Rs. ,90,074.00

It seems, it has given a rise to some misunderstanding. **The title of the article clearly indicates that it is our church that cares for us not merely through the CVF funds but also through the various associations and organizations of the church.** Please, therefore, note the charities mentioned above are done from various receipts, donations, contributions and collections made not merely by way of 1% tithing. Hence under the column "organizations", it is shown which organizations made which charities. In addition to its own funds, the SVP has been also given a donation from the CVF funds for the charities they will do in the present year. All these charities were clubbed together to show that the church is involving more and more in the needs of the parishioners.

The funds collected by way of 1% tithing contribution, amounting to Rs. 8,90,180/- in year 2005, is to be disbursed as per the circular from Archbishop's House, published in the last year's Locust & Honey Issue of October 2003, as follows: 4,50,090/- i.e. 50% towards medical/educational needs; 133527/- i.e. 15% for zonal/SCC activities; 178036/- i.e. 20% for church maintenance and 133527/- i.e. 15% for parish reserve fund and on administrative expenses of CVF funds..

I therefore sum up the clarification with the following paragraph that was published under the title, "YOUR CHURCH CARES FOR YOU".

The Lord has shown us the way of service to others. When we give lavishly and generously, it is a joy for all us. It makes us proud in the good sense of the term that our parish community and the church is enabled to give away large-heartedly. The church is not an insurance agency. However, we all need to feel secure in the support we can offer to all the members of the parish community, specially those who are disadvantaged in their crying needs. Let all the needy parishioners feel rest assured that if your need is genuine and you really can not cope with it with the means at your disposal, the parish community will be at your service through its organizations such as church, school the SVP and the CVF. We are a caring family of God!

Parish Priest.

ZONAL/SCC ACTIVITIES; The sum of Rs.133527/- i.e. 15% is set aside for zonal/SCC activities. However upto now only Rs. 36,320/- has been taken by some of the zones. So far only one zone has taken both the installments, some have taken only one instalment and a few have taken nothing. I request and urge all the zonal leaders to make sure you update your accounts, hand over to the parish office, receive both the instalments latest by 25th March, 2006 as the financial year is coming to a close by 31st March, 2006.

The allocation received by the zones as on 13-3-06

Name of Zone	Members	1st Inst.	Dt. Pd.	2nd Inst.	Date Paid
Brindavan	487	4870	12.12.05		
Cherai North	359	3590	17.01.06		
Cherai South					
Horta Magheri					
Khopat Pratap	640	6000	25.05.05	6800	22.01.06
Kolbad	485	4800	13.07.05		
Kopri	488	4800	26.12.05		
Kvilla	321	3000	25.05.05		
Louiswadi	307	3000	18.07.05		
Naupada I	126	1260	29.10.05		
Naupada II					
Rabodi					
Satguru Anand Park	146	1500	25.05.05		
Utalsar	354	3500	13.07.05		
	3713	36320		6800	

Allocation of CWF Collection for 2005 (Jan - Dec)

Allocation Towards	%	Jan - Dec	Amount Utilised	Balance
Total		890,180.00		
Zonal / SCC Activities	15%	133,527.00	43,120.00	90,407.00
Medical & Educational Assist	50%	445,090.00	191,500.00	253,590.00
Church Maintenance	20%	178,036.00	0.00	178,036.00
Parish Reserve fund	10%	89,018.00	0.00	89,018.00
CWF Office Administration	5%	44,509.00	8,356.00	36,153.00

The 1% tithing contributors are requested to enter your code number along with your name and address on the contribution envelope, as it makes easy for the parish office to enter your contributions in the computer. Those who do not have the code numbers are requested to take the blank census form from the parish office, complete it with your information and hand over to the office to give you a code number.

3rd Sunday of Lent 19th March, 2006.

All Mumbai Annual Walking Pilgrimage

The All Mumbai Annual Walking Pilgrimage to pray for Peace in Our Country and Our Homes will be held on 25th March 2006, starting at 10.30 P.M. from Cross Maidan and terminate at Mount Mary's Basilica, Bandra at 5.30 A.M.

with the celebration of the Holy Eucharist. The Statue of Our Lady Queen of Peace will lead the penitential walk.

The route of the pilgrimage is. Cross Maidan Dhobi Talao, Sonapur Church, Marine Lines, Chami Road, Opera House, Nana Chowk, Tardeo, Haji Ali, Worli Naka, Parbhadevi, Salvation Church, St Michael's Church, Mnhim Causeway, Bandra Reclamation, Hill Road, Mount Mary's Basilica Bandra.

ST. JOHN'S HEALTH CELL

The St. John's Health Cell gives free health guidance and medicine to the poor helpless patients. It is located near the Church Cemetery, behind the St. John the Baptist Special School. Its working hours:

Tuesday 5.00 p.m. to 7.00 p.m.

Wednesday 5.00 p.m. to 7.00 p.m

Saturday 5.00 p.m. to 7.00 p.m

Sunday 5.00 p.m. to 7.00 p.m

N.B. Parishioners may direct the poor and needy patients for guidance and medicine.

--Parish Priest.

FOR YOUTHS.

The Diocesan Youth Centre, Bandra is organizing a mini-retreat for college and working youth from 29 – 31 March 2006. For details please look up the notice board or contact the Parish youth.

FOR SSC/ICSE STUDENTS

A special announcement for the students of our parish who are appearing for their SSC / ICSE examination. The ICYM Bombay (DYC) is organizing the "Teenagers Orientation Program" (TOP) on 30th March 2006 from 09.30 a.m. to 04.30p.m. at St. John The Baptist School Hall.

Kindly, give your names to the youth members sitting outside the sacristy after Sunday Masses with the registration fee of Rs.30/-.