



SPIRIT AGLOW

NEWSLETTER OF THE CHENNAI SERVICE OF COMMUNION
(FORMERLY MADRAS SERVICE TEAM)

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Inside

Page 1... Editorial and Message of Chairman
Page 2 ... National day of Intercession and Sr. Loreto's Platinum Jubilee Page 3... Youth Corner & Humour
Page 4 Mission 2022 & To understand the Holy Eucharist -Part II Page 5... Planning Meet & New Prayer Groups Page 6... Christmas Rally & Senior Leaders' Meeting
Page 7 Fr. Anil Dev
Page 8 Healing & Deliverance Seminar



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Editorial

OCTOBER 2019/FEBRUARY 2020



We always see the dark side of the Coronavirus, as its victims increase at geometrical progression. But do we realise that a miracle has also happened? If before a few months we were told that the crime rate in the world would go down by fifty per cent within a few

days would we have believed? Pollution has come down. The number of Road Accidents cases have plummeted. People are spending time with their families. They are seeking God. (Spirit Aglow also did not have to wait for its annual revival)

Today God has given us plenty of time. Let us remember that whenever God gives us time, it means He is preparing us for a greater mission. Jesus was sent by the Holy Spirit into the desert for forty days, before he began His ministry (Mt, 4:1-11). So also Paul spent three years in Arabia before he started his ministry (Gal, 1:17). Let us also spend this time in preparing ourselves for God's mission.

May God Bless you all

EDITOR

An Easter Message from our Chairman, Wilson Arudayaraj



We celebrated Easter, amidst lockdown and fear of Covid 19 pandemic in our society, nevertheless, nothing was able to quench the spirit of Easter from us - children of God. With our pastors gearing up to technology and motivating us to receive spiritual communion, we had more masses and spiritual food along with our families than ever before-

Here we should take time to thank our Catholic faith, which we received through traditions and teachings of the Church which help us to grow from faith to greater faith even in a situation of trouble.

- I thank my Catholic faith because; it never taught me that Jesus or the Gospel is a way to prosperity.
- I thank my Catholic faith because, it always taught us, that sufferings are part of life and that, suffering is partaking in the Sufferings of Jesus in Calvary for salvation of sinners, along with the lives of great Saints who suffered for the Lord and with the Lord.
- I thank my Catholic faith because, it always taught us that we have to carry the cross of humiliation, with unloved feelings, disappointments and walk behind Jesus.
- I thank my Catholic faith because, it also taught us not to carry the burdens but give it all to Jesus.
- I thank my Catholic faith because; it always taught us to ask for the intercession of Mother Mary and all saints.
- I thank my Catholic faith because, it always taught us the power of Intercessory Prayers.
- I thank my Catholic faith because; it always taught us to meditate on the Way of the Cross which brought us victory over sins.
- I thank my Catholic faith because, it always taught us to be obedient to authorities, which brings in blessing and healing to the soul. **CONTD ON PAGE 2**

CONTD FROM PAGE 1

- I thank my Catholic faith because, it always taught us to obey the authority of the Pope and Bishops which helped me to experience the grace of the Lord overflowing in my life through pardon of my sins received in spirit during *Urbi et Orbi* and Holy Communion received in Spirit.

Yes, in spite of closed churches, cancellation of Chrism Mass and Washing of feet on Maundy Thursday, Diocesan Way of the Cross at Little Mount at 3.00 pm. and Easter Vigil in Church, my faith is growing, as it's not based on results and blessings, but it's based on the words of my Savior Lord Jesus and tradition of my Holy Mother our Church.

National Day of Intercession



The Jericho March

By

Leslie Martin

THE NATIONAL DAY OF INTERCESSION was celebrated with a lot of devotion and enthusiasm by the Faithful belonging to the Catholic Charismatic Renewal in Chennai. The programme was organized by the MIN along with MST on 2nd October 2019 at Church Park School Campus in Chennai. Around 120 faithful Intercessors from various prayer groups attended the programme.

The programme started with the Jericho March and was led by Br. Darryl, senior leader of Chennai CCR. The Jericho March was carried out with the recitation of the Rosary with hymns being sung most cheerfully along with Praises to our Almighty God. The experience was Spirit filled. The gathering then moved to the Church Park Chapel and the programme continued with a very vibrant and lively Praise & Worship conducted by the Members of the Jesus Youth.

This was followed by an Inspiring and Informative Talk on Prayer & Intercession by Mrs. Marguerite Rosair. It covered important aspects such as discovering God's Will in our life, Submitting to God's Will, Spending time in Personal Prayer, Why we should Intercede, etc., The talk was followed by a very serene Adoration of the Eucharistic Lord. The Presence of God was felt by everyone in the Assembly.

Platinum Jubilee of Fr. Loreto's Service in India/ 30th Anniversary of the first Kairos in India.



Sr. Loreto with FR. Paul & Fr. Thamburaj



Sr. Loreto cutting the cake

On the 29th of December 2019, a dual programme was organised by the MST for felicitating Sr. Loreto Houlihan of the Presentation convent who had completed 75 years of service in India, in view of her pioneering contribution to the Charismatic Renewal over many years and the 30th anniversary of the first Kairos (Youth Covention) in India. It started with a vibrant Praise and Worship by Sharon at the Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes in Perambur around 4.30pm. This was followed by a Thanks giving Mass concelebrated by Fr. A.J. Thamburaj and Fr. K.P. Paul who are known to be veterans of the Renewal. During the homily Fr. Thamburaj spoke of the progress of the Renewal in Chennai and about the Kairos in 1990 and the involvement of Sr Loreto in the Renewal.

After the Mass the congregation was asked to assemble at St. Dominic Savio's Hall at the Church premises for the celebration. The celebration began with Sr. Margaret, superior of the Presentation Convent presenting a shawl to Sr. Loreto. This was followed by the cutting of the cake by Sr. Loreto. Many persons such as Fr. Thamburaj and FR Paul spoke on the occasion. They reminisced the early days of the renewal and the involvement of Sr. Loreto. Br. Romeo Lobo and Sr. Candice spoke on behalf of the Youth Cell while Kavitha and others on behalf of YST to which they once belonged.

High Tea was served even while the talks were given to save time.

Before the end of the programme Fr. Thamburaj prayed for the infilling of Holy Spirit. Many gave prophecies and visions. It ended with the old hymn 'Thank you Jesus' Br. Wilson, Chairman of MST delivered the vote of thanks.

YU4C Youth Corner



FREEDOM – Gospel Musical Evening of YU4C

The silence of Stella Maris College was broken on the evening of the 19th October 2019, as the sweet music of the youth reverberated the auditorium of the college with the concert called 'FREEDOM' based on the scriptural verse 2 Cor. 3:17 which says 'Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.' The chief guest for the concert was Fr.M.Arulraj, the spiritual adviser of The Catholic Charismatic Renewal in Chennai. In his speech Fr. Arulraj said that one of the great ways of evangelisation is through music. He added that one of the ten points mentioned by our Holy Father regarding Evangelisation was that Evangelisation must be joyful and that music was an expression of joy.

After the inaugural speech by Fr. Arulraj, three melodies were sung by The Western Music Club of Stella Maris. This was followed by the hymn 'Freedom' by the YU4C youth. Their spirited gestures and pleasant music captured the hearts of the audience. Their next piece was 'In Jesus' Name' accompanied by special claps. Their third song was in Tamil titled 'Niraivaana aaviyaanavarai.' For a basically English speaking group to sing in immaculate Tamil could only be the work of the Holy Spirit as the song itself states that impossible things were made possible by the Holy Spirit. This was followed by a very touching song 'Ocean.' After a sumptuous and refreshing tea the youth of the YU4C were energised for a musical dance the words for which were composed in English and Tamil. When this ended Br. Selvarajan one of the MST members, was up on the stage, to tell the audience that they should not just stop with music but become part of one the Charismatic Prayer Meetings that takes place in the city.

Danny Master was next on the stage with his C4C (Choir for Christ) Choir. They sang two mellifluous songs, namely, 'Freedom is coming' and 'Power of the Cross.' This was followed by a Don Moen song called "Fresh Fire" sung by Stella Maris Campus Ministry. They also sang the hymn 'Here I am' and the enthralling Tamil hymn 'Vazhvai allikum Vallava Thalnta en ullamay.' Their next three songs were 'We can move the Mountains,' 'There is none like you' and 'God is Great.' After this the YU4C were back on the stage with Joseph singing 'My God is Greater' at super speed. 'Yours alone' was the next song. Their penultimate remix hymn was 'Broken Vessel /Amazing Grace.' and their last song of the day was 'Freedom' the theme of the day.

During the programme slips were distributed for Lucky Dip. At the end of the show, Fr. Paul was asked to pick the slips at random. The lucky winners were Ms Kavitha, Mr Curson Jude and Ms Cathy Lobo.

Mementos were distributed to YU4C and all groups who participated and to the sisters of Stella Maris College and to the Master of Ceremonies, Mr Michael. Vote of thanks was given by Mr Wilson Irudayaraj Chairman of MST and the closing prayer was said by Fr Riche Vincent.



Boy: Father, I stole this turkey. But now I repent. Please take it

Priest: I don't want it. Return it to the owner.

Boy: But father, if the owner does not want it?

Priest: In that case you can keep it

When the priest went home, he found his turkey missing



*Mission 2022*The
Logo

The National Service Team of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal in India celebrated on the 26th of January 2020, the start of 'The 1000 days Preparation' for the Golden Jubilee of the Renewal in India, at Colaba, Mumbai. It was attended by our Chairman, Br. Wilson Anandraj along with the office bearers, Ms. Marcia Ellens, Ms. Marie Surrao, Br. Toby Gonzaga and our Spiritual Adviser Fr. M Arulraj, apart from representatives of the Charismatic prayer Groups from all over India.

The day started with Praise and Worship by the YU4C of Mumbai. The Chairman of the Mumbai Service Team welcomed the gathering. After this, the Chairman of the National Service Team, Br. Joy Anthony addressed the participants and appraised them of the various activities leading to the Golden Jubilee Convention to be held at Mumbai between the 22nd and 25th of October 2022.

Next Most Reverend Bishop Francis Kalist, Episcopal Adviser to the National Service Team spoke about 'Charis' introduced by Pope Francis to bring all Charismatic Spirituality under one umbrella.

Thereafter the participants were asked to form groups of their own states and fill up a questionnaire regarding the activities in their prayer groups as well as the positive and negative qualities of the prayer groups. The form was filled up and submitted by Fr. Jegan on behalf of Tamil Nadu.

All participants were then asked to proceed to the 'Cathedral of The Holy Name' for Holy Mass. The Mass was concelebrated by Cardinal Oswald Gracias, CBCI Chairman and Arch Bishop of Mumbai and Bishop Francis Kalist and many other Charismatic priests including our Spiritual Adviser Fr. M. Arulraj.

After the Mass, the Cardinal unfurled the Logo of the Golden Jubilee Convention. The theme of the Convention is 'Filled with the Holy Spirit, united in Christ to Serve'

The programme ended with the adoration of the Blessed Sacrament led by Fr. Michael D'Cunha, the Spiritual Adviser of the BST. This was followed by a fellowship lunch.

See Photographs on page 7

Understand the Holy Eucharist -Part 2

Fr. Bosco Ryan

On the 26th of January 2020, Rev Fr Bosco Ryan delivered talks as a sequel to his talks on 15th August 2019 on the Eucharist, at the Little Mount Prayer Hall.

The talks were preceded by a lively Praise and Worship by Sr. Philo Benjamin at 10.45 am, which set the tone for the teaching of Fr. Bosco on his talks called **Understanding the Eucharist-Part II**.

In his first talk Fr. Bosco spoke about the importance of the Liturgy. He said that the Liturgy was the work of the Holy Trinity and that we become more obedient to God when we know and understand the Liturgy. He also stated that the Eucharist was the quintessence of God. After the first talk there was a break for lunch.

The post lunch session began with singing of action hymns lead by Ms Lima Rose. There after Fr. Bosco gave his second talk on the Eucharist. He quoted from several sections of the Catechism of the Catholic Church. He said that section 1099 states that the Holy Spirit recalls the mystery of the Church. He wanted to know whether we come to the Lord for a barter system or to be transformed. He told the gathering that CCC 1105 clearly states that the epiclesis is a prayer for invoking of the Holy Spirit to transform the offerings into the Body and Blood of Christ and that the faithful receiving them may themselves become a living offering to God. Hence he said we must examine our own disposition when we attend the Holy Mass. Quoting section 1111, he said that the Lord will reveal himself to us if we make an attempt to see Him. He also spoke about the importance of the sacraments.

There after Fr. Bosco asked the participants if they had any questions for clarification. The questions that came up were answered by Fr. Bosco with diligence and expertise.

When Fr. Bosco finished his talks, Ms. Sherene D'Costa, one of the MST members, thanked him for his edifying talks.

The programme ended with a fellowship tea.



Participants of Fr. Bosco' Programme



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Christmas Rally and Senior Leaders Meeting

Everyone looks forward for the Christmas season as it is a period of joy. This year the season of Christmas was ushered in by the Madras Service Team (Chennai Service of Communion) as early as the 8th of December 2019. A grand Christmas get-together was arranged at St Ursula’s auditorium in Church Park Convent premises.

At around 5.30 pm on the day of the Get together, it was a grand spectacle outside St Ursula’s Hall, members of the prayer Groups in the city, smiling and greeting one another while the MST members were busy serving Cakes and Tea.

Around 6 pm the compere, Ms Cathy Lobo was already on the stage with warm smiles and full of humour as she introduced Sr. Sharon who was to lead the Praise and Worship. It was indeed a jubilant adoration. The Worship hymn ‘O come let us adore him’ brought back memories of the bygone Christmas days.

The Christmas message was delivered by Br. Stephen Chinnasamy, the third chairman and first layman to occupy the post of Chairman of the Madras Service Team, after Fr. A.J. Thamburaj and Fr. V. Ignatius. He gave an inspiring talk on how Christmas is to be actually to be celebrated. This was followed by an awesome Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament by Fr. Paul, Asst. Parish priest of Lourdes Shrine, Perambur, who is also an old timer in the Renewal.

Next mementos were given to those who had served in the Renewal for many years.

Br. Selvarajan, one, of the MST members who was instrumental in organising a meeting for them earlier in the day, called out the names of the recipients and Sr. Gracie, Provincial, Presentation Sisters, handed them to the recipients.

After this began the Christmas carols by the various Prayer Groups who were called in the alphabetical order. It was good to see the Prayer Groups in healthy competition with one another. The crowd was in a frenzy mood clapping loudly for every carol that was sung. In the midst of all this a Santa Claus walked in distributing sweets and making a little jig as the song ‘Jingle Bells’ was sung. Everyone laughed and enjoyed his presence. (Only Br. Vinoo Anthony knew the agony of wearing a tight pant). We are grateful to him.

Sr. Cathy’s compering was commendable.

The programme ended with ‘Silent night with candle lights. The dinner that followed was delicious.

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The Pillars, Emeritus and old timers of the Renewals with the present active members



Santa Claus (Br. Vinoo Anthony) cheering up the kids



Br. Wilson, Fr.M.Arulraj, Ms. Marcia, Ms. Marie, Br. Toby, Br. Stephen and Fr. Jegan hold the Golden Jubilee Candle

Christ to the World – Fr. Anil Dev

The Madras Service Team (Chennai Service of Communion) and the Madhavaram Charismatic Prayer Group jointly organised a seminar on Evangelisation, from the 10th to 12th January 2020. Rev. Fr. Anil Dev of Matridam Ashram, Varanasi, was the resource person and it was held at St. Sebastian Church, Madhavaram. The programme was titled ‘Christ to the World’ Fr Anil Dev was the right choice as he has been doing a great work of evangelisation at Varanasi.

On the first day (Friday) the programme started at 5-30pm. with a Praise and Worship by Ms. Marcia Ellens, followed by Mass and an introductory talk and Adoration and Healing and Deliverance Session by Fr. Anil Dev

On the next two days (Saturday and Sunday) the programme was from 9.30 am to 5.00pm. Each day it started with the Holy Rosary, followed by Praise and Worship by the Madhavaram Prayer Group and talk in the pre-lunch session. The post lunch session started with Praise and Worship followed by talk, Adoration with Healing and Deliverance and ending with the Holy Mass and talk. On Sunday the Adoration included the Divine Mercy Prayers lead by Br. Wilson.

Apart from the first talk which was an introductory talk, Fr Anil Dev gave six talks namely. ‘Sense of Mission.’ Called to share



After attending the inauguration of Mission 2022 the MST office bearers along with the Spiritual Advisor take a stroll by Gate Way of India in Coloba, South Mumbai

‘Mission is a matter of Faith,’ ‘Holy Spirit, Primary Agent of Evangelisation,’ and ‘Mary Our Mother-Ideal Evangelist.’

During his talks, Fr. Anil Dev said that every Christian is called to evangelise. He said that a Christian who lives for himself is not a Christian. Like salt we must be prepared to dissolve ourselves for the sake of others. He added that Good News is not a book, but Jesus.

He further said that Faith had an important role to play in Evangelisation. What matters is not the number, but ourselves. He reasoned that a single person, D.G.S. Dinakaran was able to touch the hearts of thousands of people. We must believe that God is with us and that He is almighty, loving and forgiving.

He concluded that Our Blessed Mother Mary was the greatest of evangelisers as she brought Jesus into the world. She not only believed the Word, but gave her commitment to the Lord.

The talks and Healing Services were attended by over a hundred persons.



Sentinels at Youth Retreat

YU4C Prayer Meeting at Church Park

On the 29th of February 2020, the YU4C youth gathered at Church Park Convent for a special prayer meeting between 5pm and 8pm

Sr. Sherene and Br Leonard were present as elders.

Retreat at St. Dominic Savio Higher Secondary School

A retreat was held for St. Dominic Savio School, Santhome on the 23rd of November 2019, at Dyna Ashram for Catholic children studying in classes from 3rd to 5th. The resource persons were Br. Leslie Martin and Br. Selvarajan. The retreat began at 8.30 am and finished at 2.30 pm. Sr. Marie Surrao and Sr. Angeline helped in the workshops conducted.

