

## Being Open and Closed

It has been more than three months, 100 days, since we were confined within the four walls in India. It is the case more or less in the other parts of the world. The world which until recently claimed to be a global village with easy access to people and nations, products and information with swift communication and fast conveyance is shrinking itself within narrow streets and compound walls. We were living in a world of right now, instant gratification, no time to spare, no patience to wait. No one thought that we would have to wait in such long queues for a cup of milk or for a bag of groceries. It was unprecedented that taking a walk along the street you could be fined by the police. The common phrase found in every corner of the world today is CLOSED. TV shows and social media are full of tips on how to boost our energy level, how to cope with the quarantine, how to improve our immune system etc. But in spite of all these tips and tools, a kind of uncertainty, boredom creeps into our lives. Everything looks blank, when our neighbors and friends die in the hundreds and thousands; a sort of fear grips us and smothers our hope. Is there any way out?

I want to encourage you with the simple and powerful words of The Vicar of Christ, the Pontiff, "Be consistent in prayer no matter what life throws at you or what good or bad you do". The mind-blowing icon he sets before us for this moment is King David who resembles us in most of the dimensions of life: "David was 'saint and sinner, persecuted and persecutor, victim and executioner,' which is a contradiction. David was all this, together. And we too often have opposite traits in our

lives; in the plot of living, all men often sin inconsistently." But despite these contradictions, closed to the essentials of life, the prime opening he had was the consistent "thread" of prayer. "David the holy prays; David the sinner prays; David the persecuted prays; David the persecutor prays; David the victim prays. Even David the executioner prays," he stated. Let us continue in this contact with our Creator who knows what we the creatures need, as a child who keeps on having contact with the mother even when the child and the mother are engaged in different activities. Let us be open to the will of the Lord and strong in our belief: Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? (Rom 8,35)

We express our heartfelt condolences to both Fr. Peter Sebastian and Fr. Antony Xavier who have lost their beloved mothers in the recent past and let us continue to keep them in our prayers and encourage them with solidarity.

As we officially begin the reshuffling of the communities during July in India, I wish the confreres who assume new responsibilities to above all build communion where they are inserted and thank the confreres for their witness of life who are relieved of their former responsibilities. Let us keep before us our fraternal life with the family spirit from which flows the witnessing mission and works of charity.

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July 2020

Volume 13 Number 7



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Pope Francis

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## Dying to Be Heard

By Fr. Franklin, SdC

Have you ever heard this statement? Or have you ever experienced it in your life? How hard it must have been for Jesus whose words so often fell on deaf ears. This month is dedicated to the “Precious Blood of Jesus”: each drop of the blood of Jesus that fell on the ground was seeking to be heard. It was inviting us all to listen and understand the significance of God’s love for all of His creation. The blood of Jesus, given for all of us, emphatically asserts His proclamation: “I am the way, Truth and Life.” Through Jesus we all know that there is no limit to the measure of the love of God the Father. He sent judges, prophets, and the righteous to His people; but, just as we do today, they hardened their hearts and did not listen. So, finally, He sent His only Son and repeatedly in the Gospel tells us to, “Listen to Him!” Instead, we were ready to kill Him rather than listen. Just think about a few situations when you are dying to be heard by others, and others failed to listen to you. How did you feel? How much pain, suffering, or humiliation did you undergo? This is especially true when people bully, ridicule, or criticize. Today there are voices of the innocent dying to be heard. Are we ready to listen?

There are many of our brothers and sisters to whom we should pay attention and listen, but we don’t have time; either we are too busy with our own agendas - or we impose our thoughts, views, and ideas on them. Maybe this is the time to reflect on how often, with an open mind and heart, we have truly listened to others. Today’s society is facing a problem where everyone wants to talk, and nobody wants to listen. It becomes a noisy world, one where consensus on issues seems impossible and only more problems are created. Yet, the solutions are hidden in the blood of our Lord Jesus. When Jesus shed His blood, He did not speak. He always listened to others – was always patient, loving, and considerate. Even while He was experiencing excruciating pain, He never failed to listen to others.

The devotion to the Most Precious Blood of Jesus is one of the most ancient of pious Church practices. It is said that the Blessed Virgin venerated the Most Precious Blood of her infant Son on the day of His circumcision as she collected the first relics of His Precious Blood on a piece of cloth. On that momentous occasion, she united

her tears with that of the Word Incarnate not so much because of His pain but because of His supernatural sorrow for the hard-heartedness of mortals. It was the first of seven Blood sheddings of our Divine Savior, the rest are:

2. During The Agony in the Garden – He never condemned his disciples; instead He encouraged them to pray and stay with Him.

3. At the Scourging at the Pillar – Imagine this scene from the Passion of Christ, the copious amount of blood shed around the pillar; and yet He was mourning for those who were persecuting Him.

4. With the Crowning with Thorns – He was silent; He did not fight but asked the soldiers to be righteous.

5. During the Way of the Cross – He welcomed help from Simon, gave a precious gift to Veronica, offered advice to the women of Jerusalem, and comforted His mother.

6. At the Crucifixion – He forgave the repentant thief and everyone who participated. He never held a grudge against His persecutors but begged forgiveness for them. He died that, sinners though we are, might live!

7. The Piercing of His Heart – finally, blood and water flowed from His Sacred Heart, and the Church sacraments were born. Through His outpouring of blood and water from His Precious Heart gushed forth a fount of Mercy for all sinners.

While these seven Blood sheddings of Jesus teach us the need for mercy and forgiveness, He died that we might listen to Him. His Precious Blood calls us to respect life and to listen to the cry of those who cannot speak. To understand this better, watch *Dying to be Heard* or *Unplanned*, movies which have a very important life message for all of us. They share the stories of the unborn, those innocents who are killed by the millions and cannot speak for themselves, or defend themselves. Christian martyrs died for a cause; they died for the love of Jesus, but these unborn fetuses have no voice. They are dying to be heard. Therefore, as we reflect on the “Most Precious Blood of Jesus,” let us continue to reflect and think about those who are dying to be heard in our families, in our communities, and throughout the world.



### A Month of Eucharistic Joy

**BANGALORE** - The Guanella Preethi Nivas community, including the parishioners, celebrated the solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity with holy Mass on June 7th. The newly professed brothers went with Fr. Gabriel, SdC to Mr. Dominic's home (GC treasurer) for a special blessing. Also the GPN community wished farewell to brothers who are going for regency and those who are moving onto philosophy studies.



On June 13th GPN gathered again to celebrate the feast of St. Anthony of Padua with a special Mass. The parish people served coffee and buns afterward outside the chapel. The community offered some special programs that day. They also spent time distributing charity on these last days of corona relief in Bangalore.

The GPN community held a Eucharistic procession including



brothers and parishioners on the campus for the solemnity of Corpus Christi June 14th. The evening event was planned and animated by the community fathers. It was a wonderful occasion for sharing a meal with the people who attended holy Mass.

GPN hosted a grand celebration on

June 29th to commemorate the solemnity of the great pillars of the Church, Sts. Peter and Paul, beginning with a morning Eucharistic celebration. Everyone prayed especially for all the feast day celebrants during Mass. Fr. Peter and Bros. Peter and Maria Paul were felicitated before supper with the cake cutting. It was a joyful way to end a month filled with celebrations.

### Most Sacred Heart of Jesus

**CHENNAI** - In the Guanellian Family there is a tradition in the month of June, as we honor the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, that the priests also renew their religious vows during the holy Mass. Prior to the Solemn Celebration, on June 16th, Don Guanella Major Seminary along with the fathers from the DPP arranged a day of Recollection for their spiritual nourishment as a preparation for the solemnity. Fr. Ronald, SdC preached the recollection and a priest from OMI heard confessions. On June 18th, there was a meaningful celebration of the Sacred Heart, where Fr. Benson, SdC celebrated the Holy Eucharist and gave a homily. After Mass all the members of the community renewed their vows.



### Vocations Celebrated

**BANGALORE** -On June 19th the Guanella Preethi Nivas community celebrated the feast of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus with the parishioners. The



newly professed brothers and other brothers renewed their vows beside their formators during holy Mass. Time was also spent that day doing mission work at the Aged Home. Bro. Antony Samy, regent of the Bangalore community, officially transferred to his new responsibility at the aged home as a regent, he received a warm welcome from the Director and all the elderly residents.

The community celebrated the ordination anniversary of Fr. Joseph Peter SdC with the community members and



especially with Guanellian Cooperators and Lay Movement members on June 23rd. There was cake cutting with residents of the Aged Home, and prayers for Father and his confreres during morning Mass.

### A Decade of Joy

**CHENNAI** - Every new day adds joy to life, more so when we have a special reason to celebrate. On June 23rd Fr. James Stanly



Babu celebrated his ordination anniversary, but he was on his home visit on that particular day, therefore the community celebrated on June 29th. He presided over the Holy Eucharistic celebration and preached a homily and towards the end he also thanked the community superior,

Fr. Benson for giving the opportunity to mark the day as he enters into the tenth year of his ordination anniversary. To foster community spirit a cake was cut by Fr. James.

### COVID Awareness Program

**BANGALORE** - Indeed this is a challenging time for the whole world and COVID has no discrimination of people that are infected. We have been blessed so far and protected by God. During the Lockdown in Bangalore at the Aged home we have taken utmost care to keep the residents free from infection.

Though it was not easy. Due to our mission, we cannot stop as long as there are poor knocking at our doors for help. However, God has been good to us and kept our elderly 'good children' protected.

We understood that the aged in our home were more vulnerable and with compromised immunity hence, needed much attention. Stella John, Guanellian Cooperator, extended her support and prepared a session on COVID Awareness & Self Hygiene. Because she has visited the residents often in the past, connecting with them through this session was easy. It was also good that she could converse with them in their local languages. During the session on June 28th she spoke about the origin of the virus, how it spreads, measures to protect oneself, and provided updates on the vaccine. It was an interactive session, residents asked questions and it was very interesting to watch them participate.

There was more emphasis made on wearing a mask, washing hands regularly, cough hygiene and distancing when one has symptoms of a cold or fever. With easing of the lockdown by the Government, we now have visitors, and it is important to tell the residents not to shake hands and maintain social distancing. She also mentioned that they must care for those who cannot take care of themselves and make sure they do not get too close to the visitors. She concluded the session by saying that they were important to us and there is no need to panic. Since, this was quite a serious topic and 'good children' could have been stressed, Stella sang their favorite songs which they enjoyed by clapping their hands and singing along. Mr. Kumar closed the session by thanking Stella and leading the closing Prayer.



## A New Kind of Graduation

**E. PROVIDENCE** - In order to honor graduates this year Sacred Heart School had to come up with a new kind of celebration. The graduating eighth graders this year gathered, with proper social distancing, on the school steps for a group photo. They each had a sign in the front yard where they stood as the faculty, staff and many of the school families drove past in their cars with shouts of joy for the graduates. It was a bittersweet send-off for these six students.



On Friday, June 5th staff of the Washtenaw Intermediate School District visited SLC to celebrate the graduation of Matthew Lamerson from their special education program. Michigan's special ed program provides instructional programs for people with special needs up to the age of 26, and Matthew was acknowledged for completing his program this year.

On Matt's special day, a group of seven cars and one truck lined up to drive around the flag pole traffic circle at St. Louis Center to wish him well and to deliver a special sign, gifts and cards for his graduation. Once the parade started, each well-wisher rolled slowly by with their windows open and expressed their love for Matthew. Several adult residents from Fr. Guanella Hall

also came out to clap and cheer for Matt as the vehicles drove slowly by. Matthew was grateful for the attention everyone paid to him this day, and St. Louis Center thanks the WISD staff for the developmental time



spent with Matthew through the years to help him reach this special moment in life.

Danny Avery and Kayla Canfield also graduated this year.

## Mass at Calvary

**GRASS LAKE** - Fr. Leo Joseph is seeing increased numbers of the faithful coming to the Pious Union for Sunday Mass. Because of the fear of the pandemic, people



are overjoyed that Mass is celebrated outdoors with ample space for proper social distancing. On Father's Day, June 21st there were more than 100 people attending. Some sat in benches, some brought their own chairs and even more remained in their cars. Fr. Leo patiently and reverently distributes communion to all those seeking this vital spiritual food.

## St. Louis Center July COVID Update

**CHELSEA**- SLC has persevered through the COVID pandemic for another month, as the campus lockdown continued through the month of June with no residents or staff becoming ill from the virus. The spread of the virus is slowing now in the State of Michigan, however we must remain vigilant to keep our residents safe. As of July 1st, there have been 63,870 confirmed cases in Michigan since the outbreak, and 5,947 confirmed deaths attributed to the virus.

The campus lockdown will continue until 11:59 p.m. July 24, 2020, staff will continue to have their temperatures checked upon entry, and they will continue to be required to wear their face masks while on duty. We pray for the Lord's guidance and protection for our residents and staff, and hope for the discovery of a vaccine soon for the health of everyone.

## Special Graduates, Special Celebrations

**CHELSEA** - Graduation 2020 continues to be full of surprises, as our young people are celebrated for their accomplishments when they complete their school programs. Teachers from Washtenaw Intermediate School District's Chelsea Young Adult Program surprised Ray Black Friday, May 29th with a 'graduation ceremony' at St. Louis Center. Several teachers arrived with a sign, gifts and even a trombone serenade of 'Pomp and Circumstance.' Ray was speechless. He was overcome with

emotion and truly wanted to get close to the teachers who remained socially distanced. He was given the promise of a proper ceremony and celebration in the fall.



## July Calendar of Events

- 3 **St. Thomas, Apostle  
Foundation Day - India**
- 4 **Anniversary of the First Communion of  
Blessed Clare Bosatta (1869)**
- 12 **Grass Lake: Mother of Divine Providence Day-  
PUSJ**
- 16 **Our Lady of Mt. Carmel  
Chelsea: Italian American Delegates Golf  
Outing to Benefit - SLC**
- 18 **St. Camillus de Lellis  
Chelsea: Virtual Memorial Golf Outing to  
Benefit - SLC**
- 19 **Grass Lake: St. Joseph Day- PUSJ**
- 22 **St. Mary Magdalene**
- 25 **St. James, Apostle**
- 26 **Sts. Joachim and Anne**

## Best Wishes and Prayers to:

- 1 **Fr. C. Lourduraj: birthday**
- 8 **Fr. Arulraj: birthday**
- 10 **Fr. Benson, Bro. Arun Kumar A., Bro. Jestin  
Jeromin A.: birthday**
- 11 **Fr. Vellington: birthday**
- 15 **Fr. Maria Arokiadass: ordination day**
- 18 **Dcn. Bosco Yesuraj M.: birthday**
- 20 **Bro. Philomin Raja S.: birthday**
- 22 **Fr. Sebastian: ordination day**
- 23 **Bro. Arockia Jayaseelan M.: birthday**
- 24 **Fr. Satheesh: ordination day**
- 25 **Fr. James Stanley Babu: feast day**
- 26 **Fr. Nevis: ordination day**
- 28 **Fr. M. Jeyaseelan, Bro. Karre Yohan: birthday**
- 30 **Fr. M. John Paul: birthday**
- 31 **Fr. Loyola Diraviam: feast day**



Have questions or comments about this newsletter?  
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