

# SHRINE OF THE INFANT JESUS

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IJ matters

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# A word before.....



The month of November is a reminder of the Saints who have gone and still go marching on. It is also a reminder of all our beloved who have departed from this world into the next.

In India, Diwali this year was at the beginning of November. This is the festival of lights and reminds us of what Jesus challenges us to be in the Gospel of Matthew 'You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.' (Mt 5:14-16). Jesus does not only compare his disciples to light, he challenges them to BE Light. This means that if they are not light, they are not true disciples. The Church is invited through the Synod on Synodality to be a Church that is inclusive, participatory and open to the promptings of God's Spirit.

Jesus shows us how to be this light through the example he gives as Universal King. His kingdom and kingship is not of this world. He is a king who bears witness to truth and is truly light and life. This is because he kept himself open to listen to God's voice and to DO God's will. He keeps reminding us that we must have the attitude of children if we are to enter the kingdom.

In this endeavor we will have to climb mountains and swim seas, but we can and we will through the grace and strength God gives us in Jesus. We will be optimistic that no matter how high the mountain or how rough the sea, we will overcome.

Fr. Errol Fernandes SJ





# The Commemorations

## OF ALL THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

STRATEGIC  
THE RESE

### IMITATING THE SAINTS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

*Deacon Wesley D'Costa SJ, Our Lady of the Sea, Uttan*

*“Saints are those who managed to love more than we did.” – Sorin Cerin. On the 1<sup>st</sup> of November we celebrated 'All Saints Day' and on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of November we celebrated 'All Souls Day'. These are two very significant days in the life of the church. In this article, I would like to reflect on the importance of these two days during the time of the Covid-19 pandemic. The Covid-19 crisis was an opportunity to imitate the examples set before us by our saints by trying to imitate their great acts of charity in times of need in order to reach out to those who are poor and suffering. We lost many loved ones during this crisis of the covid-19 pandemic and we were left wondering at what the future holds for us. “We may not know what the future holds for us but we know who holds our future”. It is the important aspect of 'Surrender and Trust' that will help us imitate our saints and trust in God during struggles and grief.*

The church places before us many great saints. They have led exemplary and holy lives. Who is my favourite saint? Is it St. Francis Xavier? Probably, his great zeal to save souls and spread the faith has

inspired us. Is it St. Francis of Assisi? His love for creation and for his brethren was outstanding. Is it St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta? She served the ones who were rejected and cast out from society. All the saints were made of the same flesh and blood like each and every one of us, yet they stood out because of their incredible love for all those who were poor and suffering. We love our saints, we admire them but we dread the thought to actually imitate them. However, that is precisely what the church keeps inviting us to do.

The Vatican II document '*Lumen Gentium*' speaks about the Universal Call to Holiness. Before Vatican II, it was considered that a life of holiness was restricted only to priests and religious. However, after Vatican Council II it was emphasized that the church believed in the universal call to holiness. The invitation was especially for Christians to sanctify the secular world. The laity were very much involved in their daily work and activity, and it was all an opportunity to bear witness to the Christian values and our Lord Jesus Christ.



Pope Francis in his Apostolic Exhortation, '*Gaudete et Exsultate*' which means '*Rejoice and Be Glad*', invites us to rejoice and be glad about the fact that we are all invited to lead lives of holiness and become saints. He gives an example of an ordinary person who goes to work and then exhibits values of kindness, politeness and charity while dealing with all those one interacts with.

The Covid-19 crisis witnessed many people suffering due to a lack of basic necessities like food and medical care. Children were deprived of educational facilities. Migrants were struggling. It was in these times that we considered it to be an opportunity to reach out to all those in need. There were many real life heroes who went out of their way to reach out to those in need. By doing so they imitated the courageous witness of our saints. The Gospel parable of the *Good Samaritan* (*Luke 10:25-37*) very similarly encourages us to reach out to our neighbours irrespective of caste, creed or religion. Our country India is blessed with a diverse mix of people from various cultures and religion. It gives us an opportunity to place our prejudices aside and to reach out to them in love. The parable also encourages us to use our resources very generously in order to help the needy. Most importantly, just like the Samaritan collaborated with the inn keeper, we too are invited to collaborate with other people of good will. In these ways we are invited to imitate the saints

and work towards fulfilling our call to holiness.

All souls day is another significant day that we celebrate. This year during the pandemic this day becomes even more important. It was during the second wave that many people lost their lives. It was a real tragedy that many of those who lost their lives were rather young. Pope Francis in his '*Urbi et Orbi*' message spoke about the passage of Jesus calming the storm. In this passage we find that the disciples are petrified of the storm and they ask Jesus, '*Are you not afraid?*' (*Mk 4:38*). Jesus then calms the storm. In our lives today we place our trust in Jesus that he will calm the storms that are wreaking havoc in our lives today. Similarly, in the gospel according to John, chapter 11, the raising of Lazarus, we find that the sisters of Lazarus tell Jesus, '*Lord if only you had been here a little earlier, our brother would have been alive*' (*Jn 11:21*). Jesus then proclaims that he is the resurrection and the life and whoever believes in him will not perish but will have eternal life. In this situation when we have lost our near and dear ones. There have been those who have been the sole breadwinner of the family. Some children have been left orphaned. In all this we trust that Jesus is with us as he guides and protects us in the storms of life and assures us that he is the resurrection and the life. It is during these difficult times that we especially pray for the grace of surrender and trust to God.

**"I am the light of the world.  
Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness,  
but will have the light of life." - John 8:12.**

JDH  
Jesus the Divine Healer



# Diwali – The Festival of Lights

Ms. Priscilla Kolge  
Asst. Teacher, St. Xavier's School, Nasik Road

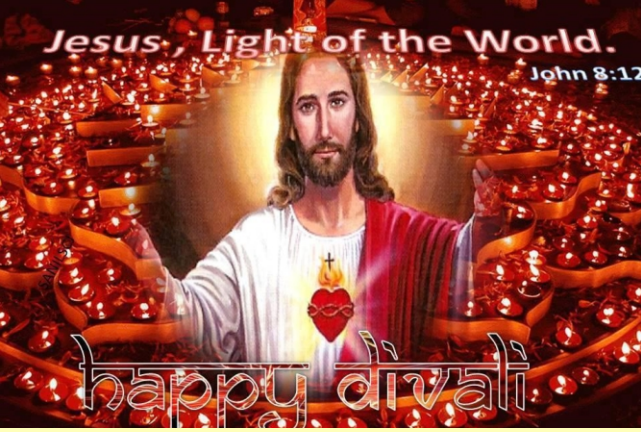


Diwali is one of the biggest and loved festival celebrated in India. Dipawali means row or series of lights. It symbolizes the spiritual victory of light over darkness, good over evil and knowledge over ignorance. The festival is widely associated with goddess of prosperity. Diwali is not only celebrated in India but it is celebrated with much more fervor and enthusiasm all over the world.

America is introducing a resolution to declare Diwali as a federal holiday and if it is passed, Diwali will be a national holiday in the U.S just like it is in India. Every year The White House lights Diya on Diwali. The tradition was started by the president Barack Obama. The Canadian Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau also lights Diya on Diwali. It is also celebrated in the temples of Cambodia, on the beaches of Bali, on the islands of Mauritius. There is a public holiday in Fiji & Malaysia. It is one of the prominent festivals in Sri Lanka, Nepal, too, celebrates its animals on Diwali.



This festival is all about lights and of course we all love light. Light dispels darkness. We hate darkness, in fact many of us are afraid of darkness. Why? Because darkness represents ignorance, uncertainty, chaos, confusion, evil. Darkness makes us so uncomfortable. On the other hand, light represents illumination, clarity, truth, purity, goodness of life, hope and freedom. No wonder we all love light. All the religions of the world use light as one of its main symbols.



In the Bible (John 8 :12) Jesus said 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.' ....2000 years ago, Jesus claimed 'I am the way, the truth and the life (John 9:5). Which means, true light is actually a person who brings joy and happiness in others life. To know God is to know true light within us. We are all aware

,from the year 2020 many people around us have affected adversely due to the pandemic. The corona virus has induced shock to the economy crippling businesses of all sizes and leaving millions of Indians out of work and homeless. This Diwali lets each one of us be a light in their hearts by helping them in some or the other way. With the gleam of auspicious Diyas and the holy chants, may happiness and prosperity fill their life forever.



In Sanskrit it is said ,*Tamso Ma Jyotirgamaya* (तमसो मा ज्योतिर्गमय) – meaning-May the light of knowledge remove the darkness of ignorance.

On this auspicious and sparkling festival of lights, may the glow of lamp illuminate your life and brings you joy, prosperity and happiness. Wishing you and your family a very Happy and a Prosperous Diwali!



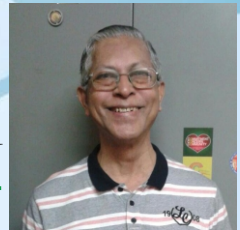
**CHILDREN'S DAY: 14<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2021**

**HAPPY  
CHILDREN'S  
DAY**



**Fr. Bosco D'souza SJ**

Asst. Chaplain The Shrine of Infant Jesus



It was 14<sup>th</sup> November 2021. I was with a group of friends, enjoying some tea and snacks, when one of them asked this question. 'Can CHILDREN'S DAY be celebrated every day?' "Well, why not?" I replied. I then began thinking aloud, that if life is so short, then for how long can we remain being CHILDREN? So I said, "Do we really grow old?" And one of them answered, 'AGE is only a number. I can therefore be OLD at 18 or YOUNG at 90, depending on what I choose to be.' Another who is in his late 70's said, 'I'm not old. I've just been keeping young for a very long time. Old is when you give up living. Until then you are SPECTACULAR.' 'Wow! That is great! Can we remain spectacular for a longer time? On the other hand, we should never regret growing older, because it is a privilege denied to

many. We should therefore begin our day with this positive mantra: 'I'm not growing old, but I'm getting better,' I replied.

I once remember an elderly man who was living in a rather big bungalow with his bachelor brother and 2 spinster sisters who had also grown in years, and who had a self-contained room to himself. He had been married some years earlier, but his wife had left a few years after the marriage. He got into depression and would lock himself in his room, as he did not want to meet anyone. His food was placed on a table outside his room, so that he could take it whenever he felt hungry and eat it. After some time he fell ill and his family asked him whether they could get a priest to anoint him and hear his confession.

That was the first time he agreed to allow a non-family member to enter his room. Being the Parish Priest, I was asked to meet him. After I anointed him he made his confession and received Holy Communion. I then spent some time with him and had a nice friendly chat with him. All this time his face was lit up and he had a beautiful smile on his face. He then called for his family members and requested them to help him tidy up his room, so that his friends and relatives could come to visit him. After a few days his family told me that he was now a changed person, always having a smile on his face, while welcoming everyone who came to visit him. Ever since he had fallen ill, he had grown very weak, because he had not been looking after himself for a very long time. Within a few weeks he passed away, after having made peace with God and with those around him. He had experienced Jesus as a loving friend and brother, and instead of remaining BITTER, he had changed for the BETTER. A little love can help us remain young forever.

One of the friends in the group who was in his late 60's said 'I just want to spend the rest of my life, LAUGHING.' Staying young is something we can all do, by laughing to one's heart's content, especially with a group of friends. This laughing therapy has been started in small

groups all over Mumbai, and it has helped people of all ages to remain young. Do I really believe that I can stay young forever? An elderly person who was practicing this laughing therapy regularly said, 'I don't believe in age; I believe in ENERGY, and I get plenty of it to keep myself young and going. Ever since I joined this laughing group, I have begun counting my life by my SMILES and not TEARS and age by the number of FRIENDS and not YEARS.

Another group of people in their 60's who meet regularly to have fun and enjoy life, say, 'We are not SENIOR CITIZENS but RECYCLED TEENAGERS. We sing and dance as in our younger days, play cards and share some chilled beer once in a way, go to the beach and enjoy swim or two, and crack jokes to keep our spirits high. It is like re-living our younger days once again, and living our life to the fullest.

Thus I can truly say that BEAUTIFUL OLD PEOPLE are works of art, and AGE has made them so. Now returning to my question, 'CAN CHILDREN'S DAY BE CELEBRATED EVERYDAY,' I can say without hesitation, 'Yes, to do it is possible!' All we have is to forget our AGE and re-live our childhood experiences once again, enjoying every moment with lots of laughter and to save



# JESUS CHRIST THE UNIVERSAL KING



Fr. Errol Fernandes SJ  
Chaplain, The Shrine of Infant Jesus



Quas Primas - which is Latin for “In the first”, was an encyclical of Pope Pius XI. It was titled such because these are the words that begin it. It was promulgated on December 11, 1925, and introduced the Feast of Christ the King. World War I (1914-1918) had ended, and had not brought real peace, but more hatred, more anger, and more violence. Coming as it did after the War, the encyclical sought to give the whole world a new idea of kingship. The encyclical asked the world to look at Christ, the Universal King, and see how he lived out his kingship. Christ is a King who totally identifies with his subjects and, of these, with the marginalized, the downtrodden, the scum of society, and the poorest of the poor.

The feast of Christ the Eternal King is celebrated every year on the last Sunday in Ordinary time, just before the season of Advent begins. It may be seen as a feast that is both a conclusion and a new beginning. It concludes the ordinary time of the year and is a new beginning or preparation for the

coming Messiah.

The readings chosen for the feast of today make two interrelated points. The first is that everlasting dominion is given to Christ who is eternal king. The second is that this King is the one who had been crucified, died, and raised.

The first reading, from the book of Daniel, focuses on the first point. In the vision that Daniel sees, the empires of this world are rendered powerless. The reason for this is because now, all authority is given to one person who is “one like a Son of Man”. He only looks like a human being, but he is not. Also, he is not an earthly figure because he comes from heaven and not from earth. It is to him that sovereignty, honour, glory, and kingship over all peoples, nations, and languages is given. While many link this figure to the Archangel Michael, there is no doubt that, when interpreted in the light of the Gospels, the words fit much better the resurrected Christ.



He is the one whose dominion is indeed everlasting and to whom has been given all power and glory.

However, as the Gospel reading of today makes explicit, the kingship of Jesus was not won by force, coercion, intimidation, or violence. It was won on the Cross. In the second of the seven scenes in which Jesus is inside, the people outside and Pilate vacillating, the kinship of Jesus is explained. The question which Pilate asks Jesus “Are you the king of the Jews” is a question that is found in all four Gospels. It is extremely significant and relevant because it is one which determines who Jesus really is and what kind of king he has come to be. In his response, Jesus turns the tables on Pilate and instead of being the one who is questioned, becomes the questioner. However, Jesus' question is also asked to find out if Pilate has understood the true meaning of kingship. Pilate, however, like the others who have condemned Jesus shows that he has not understood. He refuses to see. He dare not understand. Still, Jesus tries to explain to Pilate the true meaning of kingship and authority. Very clearly his kingship is not one that is won by force or violence. It is a kingship that has as its basis truth, justice, peace and unconditional sacrificing love. It is a kingship in which the king does not expect people to die for him; rather he goes to his death for them. It is a kingship in which no matter how badly he is abused and reviled, he will continue to be a king who will give and keep giving without expecting anything in return.

That this is indeed Jesus' kingship is confirmed by the second reading from the Book of Revelation, in which John tells us

that we were loosened from the bonds of sin and selfishness by the blood of Jesus on the Cross. It is through this one act of altruism and unselfishness that Jesus has become king and that we have been made his brothers and sisters. Since he is not merely a God who was but also, a God who is, he invites, beckons, and challenges us to the same selfless service and unconditional love. He beckons us and invites us to his way of life.

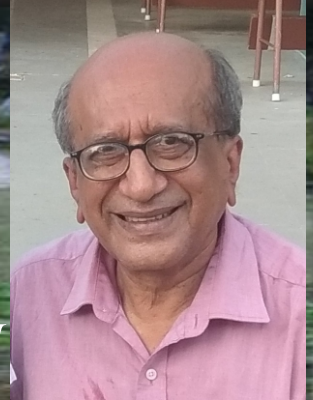
His way of life is not only a life of words, but a life of action as well. It is a life in which we, as followers of this eternal king, will forget ourselves and concentrate on how we can make the lives of those around us better. It is a life in which we wake up from our stupor and move out of the islands that we have built and become aware of the cries and needs of people, especially the poor. It is a life through which we will keep proclaiming that violence, domination, hostility, bloodshed, and aggression can never be the answer. It is a life where authority means service and greatness means to be last of all.

Thus, the good news we celebrate today is that we have a King who, unlike the kings of this world, pays attention to us and helps us, not only when we are needy and disadvantaged, but especially when we are needy and disadvantaged. The challenge for us today is to forget our own need for love and happiness. The challenge is to reach out in love, as Christ the Eternal king has shown, to make someone else happy, someone who may be in greater need. Are we willing to celebrate and extol such a king?

# INCOUNTERS – 3 :THE MOUNTAIN

photo montage : ruchi palan

Fr. Terry Quadros SJ  
querry2@gmail.com



*It wasn't easy.*

*All day long I had been toiling upwards.*

*Behind me was so much that I had traversed. Ahead there seemed to be so much more.*

*It had started off well, really.*

*Some months back I had seen the mountain from a distance. It looked a small enough mountain to me.*

*And the peak thrusting above into the belly of low lying clouds looked like a reasonable challenge.*

*I had read about challenges like these in books of adventure.*

*So many enterprising men and women had accepted similar challenges and scaled heights to glory and fame.*

*I could do it too. I really wanted to do it too.*

*So I prepared myself for a while. And early one morning I set off to conquer this mountain .*

*It has always been that way with mountains. One does not just climb them. One conquers*

The challenge of the mountain against my determination - whatever the odds that were there in store for me.

The early part of the climb was gradual and easy. Rough shod broken paths, here-and-here shrubs I could take support from,

oxygen enough for my not-too laboured breathing.

I moved upwards at a steady enough pace.

Ahead of me the peak. Always the peak. That's where I had to get to. That was the challenge. There would be the conquest.

I moved on upwards.

Things began to change as I climbed on. The incline was steeper, the loose shale under my feet kept slipping and made the ascent more difficult,

the oxygen seemed rarer, affecting my breathing.

I wasn't all that confident any more.

I was having second thoughts

about this urge of mine to climb the mountain.

Perspiration dripping down my face soaking my clothes. Weary in body and spirit I looked up at the peak in the distance.

That is when, ahead of me along the steep narrow path, I saw him again. The holy man seated placidly on a rock, waiting for me to come up to him.

Somewhat breathless and quite exhausted, I arrived.

It was a large rock. I sat down next to him wondering what he might have to say this time.

He waited until the gentle pattern of my own breathing matched his.

"It isn't easy," he said.

I looked back down the slope that I had ascended. The valley was so far far away. Everything seemed so small from where we were.



I turned around and looked ahead. Everything seemed so far up ahead. There was still so much to climb. And I was very tired.

"Yes, it isn't easy," I agreed.

There was another period of silence.

"There is more to the mountain than just the climb," he said softly.

I looked around me. A little up front from where we were sitting, the side of the mountain dropped into a lush green valley below.

The lower levels played a quaint game of hide-and-seek through the patchwork mist that blanketed the valley.

Across the valley was the shoulder of the next mountain. And beyond that there were others disappearing into the distant horizon.

A yellow-orange sky backdrop-curtained the whole scene.

I shut my eyes and breathed in the distances. Messenger breezes played caresses on my

cheeks.

The holy man was right. There was more to the mountain than just the climb.

I turned my gaze to him. He was all still. His eyes closed as his face bathed in the peaceful afterglow of the setting sun.

I did not want to disturb him.

I sat there for a little while longer, comforted and refreshed. Then I got up and moved on.

There was luxuriant green on the mountain slopes, and splashes of coloured flowers everywhere.

And the leaves danced to the silent tunes of the playful breezes.

I was in no hurry now. The peak was up there ahead, true, but the mountain was all around me.

I moved on.

Slightly ahead of me, to the left of the now not tiresome path, I heard the clear-toned song of the mountain thrush.

सिनड: 2021--23.!!



..... वेन्सी डिमेलो एस.जे

रोम शहरी पोप फ्रान्सिस ह्यांच्या नेतृत्वाखाली निवडक बिशपांची जागतिक धर्म परिषद (सिनड) भरली आहे. ह्यात द्वितीय वॅटिकन 1962-65 परिषदेमधील दुरगामी व पुरोगामी द्रष्ट्या निघालेल्या फतव्यांच्या निर्णयाच्या अमलबजावणीवर भर देण्यात येणार आहे. "जनतेचे ऐक्य" Communion. त्यांचे "ऐकून घेऊन" त्यांचा "सहभाग" Participation आणि "नवमानवतेसाठीचे मिशन कार्य करणे." Mission हे जुनेच मुद्दे आहेत.

मात्र ते 50 - 55 वर्षानंतरही अमलात का आले नाहीत? किंवा कूर्मगतीने का अमलात आणले जात आहेत? काय अडथळे अडचणी आहेत? ह्यावर ह्या परिषदेतील चिंतन डोहात धर्म तज्ज्ञांचा "आतला आवाज" ऐकून, आणि पारख करून पाहिले जाणार आहे. जगाच्या कल्याणासाठी संताच्या ह्या विभूती सारेजण मिळून हा विचार विनिमय करणार आहेत.

आपण सारी ह्या वसुंधरेवरील विधात्याची, एकाच निर्मात्याची "देवाची प्रजा" आहोत. एकाच देवाची लेकरे आहोत. "वसुधैव कुटुंबकम्" आहोत.

धर्म नि उपासना प्रत्येक धर्माच्या सोयीनुसार, संस्कृती, भाषा, रीतीरिवाजानुसार वेगळे असले तरी आपण सारे एकाच प्रेम आणि सत्याच्या शोधात आहोत. "ईश्वर सत्य है सत्यही ईश्वर है". ह्या समजुतीपर्यंत सारेच धर्म आज जगात एकवटले आहेत. मग अडचण नेमकी कुठे आहे.?

धर्मांना संख्यात्मक बळाची भीती आहे का? विज्ञानाची

भीती आहे का? संस्कृती लोप पावेल ह्याची भीती आहे का? धर्मग्रंथ धर्मस्थळे ह्यावर ह्या विज्ञानकाळात आणि प्रयोगशील तंत्रज्ञान धर्माला आव्हान देणारे विज्ञान ह्यामुळे धर्माला कुठे गालबोट लागेल का?

तत्व हेरण्यात लिओ टॉलस्टॉय माहीर होता. म्हणून तो महर्षी.

त्याने बायबलमधील चमत्कार भूतेखेते ही भाषाबदलून मुलांवर नीतीचे संस्कार होतील असे तर्कशुद्ध बायबल लिहिले. ते

पारंपरिक चर्चने मान्य केले नाही.

गांधीजींनीही बायबलातील येशूची मानवतावादी प्रतिके शोधून

तत्वे मांडली. त्याचाही हवा तसा स्वीकार झाला नाही. बदलासाठी भाविक तयार नसल्याचे कारण देऊन चर्च त्यांची पारंपारिक शिकवणच देत राहिले. जी पूजाअर्चा तंत्रमंत्रविधी आज विज्ञान मान्य करू शकत नाही.

देवाचा शब्द प्रामाण्य मानणारे चर्च बायबलमधील देवाचा शब्द कसा बदलायचा? म्हणून अडून बसले आहे.

आध्यात्म नि विज्ञान हे एकमेकास परस्पर पुरक आहेत. ह्या विचारात विज्ञान वरचढ होईल ह्याची भीती धर्मसंस्थेना वाटते का? त्यामुळे अल्ला, ईश्वर, गाँड ही संकल्पना धोक्यात येईल का? की त्यांचे अस्तित्वच धोक्यात येऊन मग धार्मिक चॅरिटेबल ट्रस्ट तेथील धर्माधिकारी, त्यांच्या प्राॅपर्टीज विस्थापित झाल्यास त्यांच्या पुनर्वसनाचे काय करायचे? आदि अडचणी आहेत का?

पौराणिक धर्म ग्रंथावर छद्मविज्ञानी पौराणिक विचारांवर ह्या प्रगत विज्ञानाने मात केल्यास मग त्याचे करायचे काय? असे अनेक प्रश्न भाविक नि भक्तांपुढे उभे ठाकणार आहेत.

असे प्रश्न उभे करणाऱ्या सत्याला, विज्ञानाला, आधुनिकतेला आपले उत्तर काय असेल? आणि ते नसेल तर आपण काय करायचे? ह्यावर ह्या धर्म परिषदेत चिंतन Discernment विचारविनिमय होणे अपेक्षित आहे.

"विज्ञानाच्या प्रकाशात श्रद्धा कशी जोपासली जाईल"? हे धर्म परिषदेपुढे आव्हान आहे. आणि त्याला ही धर्म परिषद कशी उत्तर देते ह्याकडे साऱ्या जगाचे लक्ष लागले आहे.

विज्ञान सत्यप्रेरक आहे. महास्फोट सिद्धांत (Big Bang Theory) हा विश्वनिर्मितीवरील एक महत्त्वपूर्ण सिद्धांत आहे. आल्बर्ट आइन्स्टाइनने इ.स. 1915 मध्ये मांडलेल्या व्यापक सापेक्षता सिद्धांताचा आधार घेत इ.स. 1927 मध्ये बेल्जियम मधील कॅथॉलिक धर्मगुरू आणि कॉस्मॉलोजिस्ट जॉर्ज लेमेत्रा यांनी असे मांडले, की विश्वाची निर्मिती एका अणूपासून, एका महास्फोटातून झाली असावी. आधुनिक काळात फिजिसीस्ट स्टीफन हॉकिंग्सनी आपल्या डॉक्टरल प्रबंधात बिग बॅंग थियरीची पुष्टी केली. आज बहुतांश शास्त्रज्ञ ह्या थियरीशी सहमत आहेत. अशा वेळी उत्पत्ती विषयी चर्चची भुमीका काय असावी ?

मॉनसिनियर लेमेत्रांप्रमाणे श्रद्धा व विज्ञानाची पुरक सांगड घालून अथवा दोहोंना आपापल्या जागी श्रेष्ठ मानून भाविकांपुढे सत्य मांडण्याचे धाडस आमच्या धर्मपंडीतांनी दाखवावे हे उचीत नव्हे का ?

अशी अनेक आव्हाने पुढे ठेवून ही धर्मपरिषद साधक बाधक विचार

करणार आहे. ह्यात कर्मठ हट्टी धर्मांध धर्माधिकार्यांमुळे यश आले नाही तर परत एकदा बुरसटलेल्या विचाराने चालणारी धर्म संस्था अशीच

ओळख जगापुढे सर्व धर्माप्रमाणे ख्रिस्ती धर्माचीही रहाणार आहे.

धर्मातील मानवी उपयोगाचा नि कल्याणाचा सेवाभाव आणि नीती धर्म तेवढा सोडला तर आज तरी जगासाठी देण्यासारखे धर्म संस्थांपुढे त्यांच्या पारंपरिक धर्मात गंभीर असे काही शिल्लक नाही. त्यामुळे विज्ञाननिष्ठ होणे गरजेचे झाले आहे. धर्मग्रंथांना विज्ञानाचे अधिष्ठान देणे. ह्याहून गत्यंतरच नाही. ह्याची चाहुल नि जाणीव दूरदृष्टीच्या पोप फ्रान्सिस आणि त्यांच्या काही पुरोगामी सहकाऱ्यांना आहे.

तरी देखील ते एकंदरीत वातावरण पाहून नि व्यवहार पाहूनच अंदाज घेऊनच या विज्ञान नवधर्माला कलेकलेने टप्प्याटप्प्याने आकार देण्याचा प्रयत्न करतील. एकदमच भाविकांच्या श्रद्धांना तडा जाईल नि ते मनोरुग्ण बनतील. असे वागणार नाहीत हे निश्चित.

आणि हे सारे विज्ञाननिष्ठ निर्णय ख्रिस्ती धर्मातील कर्मठांची आणि सोबत्यांची त्यांना कितपत पुरोगामी साथ लाभते ह्यावर अवलंबून राहणार आहे.

मात्र ह्या धर्मपरिषदेमुळे जग ढवळून निघेल. समुद्र मंथन होईल हे ठाम आणि निश्चित आहे.



# Run your fastest

The last time I ran in a race of sorts was in 1954 in St. Aloysius' School in Vishakapatnam. I was in Std.V then. I ran my little heart out confident that I would leave the competition way behind.

I came last in that race. I so remember that. I can still see myself flailing my legs and arms furiously, refusing to believe what was happening as everyone else surged ahead spiritedly. Although I took to regular sports and games after that, I never ran any kind of sprint race ever again.

Some time in my forties things took a turn in my attitude towards competition. By then many things fell into place as wins and losses scattered in the things I ventured on.

It dawned on me that running your fastest, doing your best, was what winning was all about.

I haven't looked back since then. And I can smile when I remember that race in 1954 when I came last but I ran my fastest.

That's the secret of being a winner in whatever one does - doing one's best under the circumstances... and making the circumstances as favourable as possible for what one is doing.



*being a winner  
is more about  
running your fastest*

*than about  
coming first in the race...*

quote: terryq

photo: kevin d'cruz

At the end of every race or competition there is no regret regardless of what the results are if one has done one's best. Of course there is some amount of disappointment if one does not officially "win" but that can be handled as life goes on towards new challenges.

I am a winner now, doing what I can as well as I can and enjoying the running rather than worrying about the results.

Ah well, we live and learn!

And I will continue running the many of life's races as I have been doing for so many years already now.

Hope things are well and wonderful for you and you continue being a winner in whatever running you yourself are doing!

-Fr. Terry Quadros SJ

# Be Optimistic



Fr. Errol Fernandes SJ  
Chaplain, The Shrine of Infant Jesus

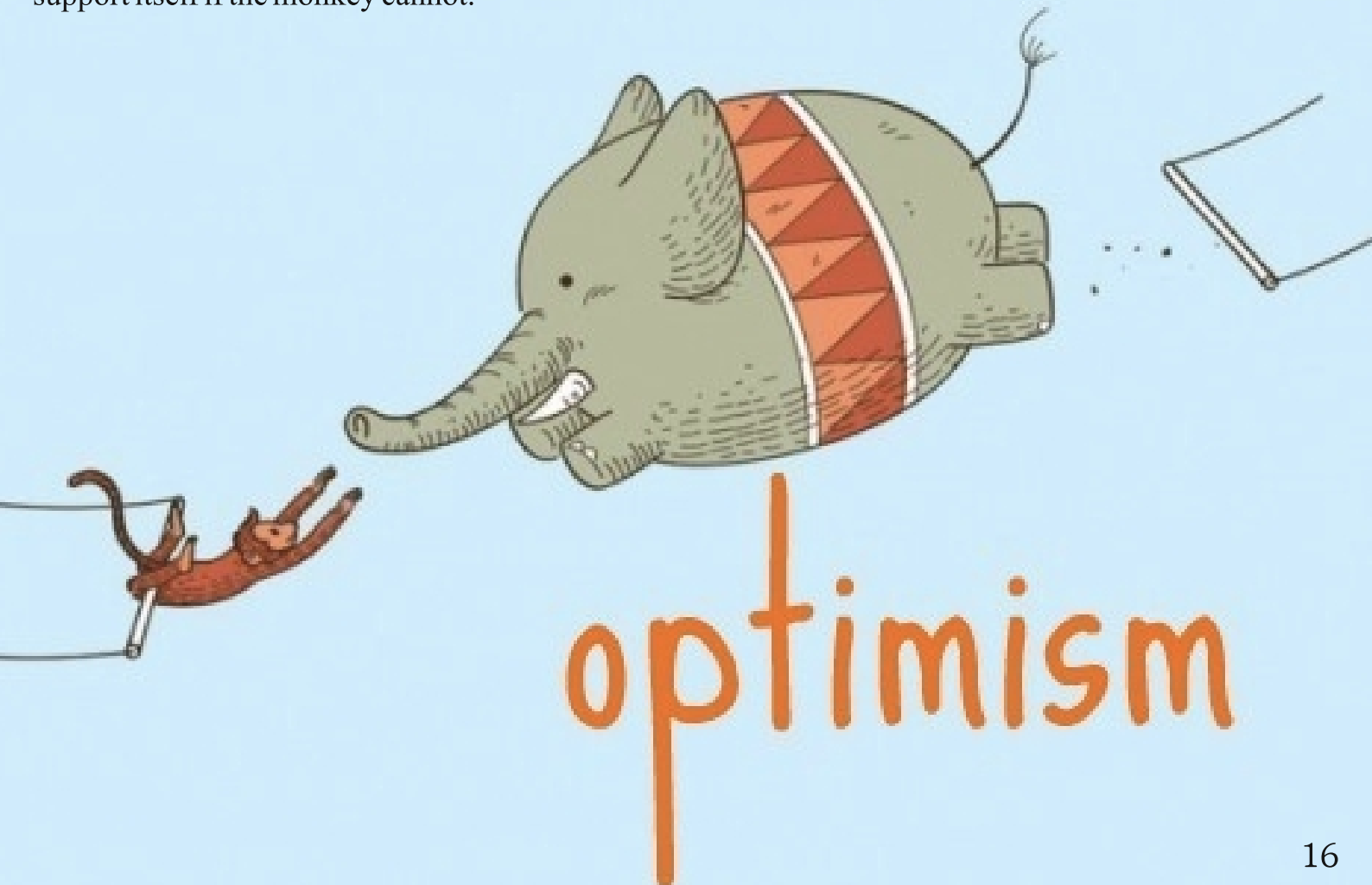
**O**ptimism has been defined as confidence, buoyancy and the ability to keep your chin up. While these synonyms are true, optimism is primarily a positive outlook at life. It is also the ability to look at the bright rather than the dark side of life. It is the ability to look at the light and not at the shadows.

An optimist does not deny the fact that there may be or are challenges. However, this is precisely what the optimist sees, challenges that are to be and can be overcome. They are not seen as problems or obstacles that are insurmountable.

In the picture above the elephant has decided to let go of the security of the swing. It possibly has confidence in the ability of the monkey to be able to support it. It is also possible that it has confidence in its own ability and will manage to support itself if the monkey cannot.

The word psychosomatic is made up of two Greek words. These are 'psyche', which is translated as 'the inner being' and 'soma' which is translated as 'body'. It is when the inner being is pessimistic or negative that the body is affected negatively. Most of our ailments today are caused by a negative attitude that we have of ourselves, others and of life itself. Almost every psychologist would agree that it is better to be optimistic than pessimistic and that an optimistic person is able to achieve much more than a pessimist. Almost every doctor would agree that having a positive and optimistic outlook would help healing. As a matter of fact, an optimistic attitude is often more effective than external medicine.

Are you an optimist by nature? Do you usually look on the bright side? Do you see problems as challenges or as obstacles?

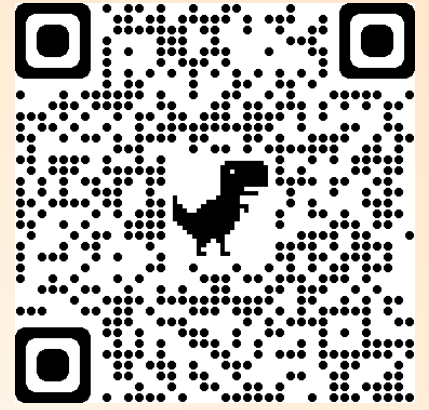






## Daily Reflection

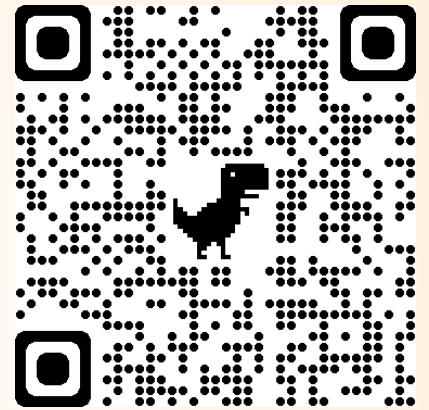
I have a youtube channel and I post reflections on it every day. You can reach my channel by scanning the QR Code or Tapping on the QR Code. Do subscribe to My channel. **Subscription is Free**



-Fr. Errol Fernandes SJ



The Shrine of the Infant Jesus, Nashik also has a youtube channel. On this channel the 12 noon Mass is live online everyday. You can reach this channel by Scanning the QR Code or Tapping on the QR Code. Do subscribe to this channel. **Subscription is Free**



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