

Gethsemane Newsletter

“Come & See”



“Create In Me A Clean Heart, O God” ~ Psalm 51



Let this be our prayer every day during this holy season of Lent. As we begin this season, the Church draws our attention to the elements that lead to a newness of heart: “Prayer, which refreshes our relationship with God; fasting, which revives and strengthens our will to be better disposed to hear God’s voice; almsgiving, which promotes detachment, directing our focus to share with others in need”, Living with Christ, February 2005, Vol. 29, No. 2.

The ashes we receive to mark the beginning of the Lenten season is a reminder to us of how human we are – sinful and weak and of the redeeming love of our God for this sinful human being. He calls us to a renewal everyday - to live our lives in what we believe to be true. The truth is that God still loves us and through the power of His Holy Spirit all things are possible – a renewal of our hearts, so accustomed to sin. God’s love for us was confirmed through Jesus’ death on the Cross. Therefore, accepting God’s love also requires that we accept the suffering and hardships of our daily life. His grace is sufficient for us. Therefore let us renew our hearts – through prayer, fasting and almsgiving, so as to remain rooted in the loving person of our Lord Jesus!

Pope Grants Plenary Indulgence For Year Of The Eucharist



“A Plenary Indulgence is granted to all faithful and to each individual faithful under the usual conditions, each and every time they participate attentively and piously in a sacred function or a devotional exercise undertaken in honour of the Blessed Sacrament, solemnly exposed and conserved in the tabernacle. The Pope’s decree granting this indulgence will be in force during the Eucharistic year.”

Sacramental confession, Eucharistic communion and prayer in keeping with the intentions of the Supreme Pontiff, with the soul completely removed from attachment to any form of sin constitute the usual conditions of Plenary Indulgence.

Adapted from Vatican Information Service, Vatican City, January 15, 2005

Our Shepherds Speak Out



“An extraordinary thing is happening in Canada. We are allowing four false assumptions to paralyse us at a moment of great importance, when the foundation of our society is about to be radically changed.

FALSE ASSUMPTION #1: Everyone accepts the redefinition of marriage-no debate.

FALSE ASSUMPTION #2: We are powerless. The Charter of Rights and Freedom has been invoked and the Supreme Court of Canada has spoken.

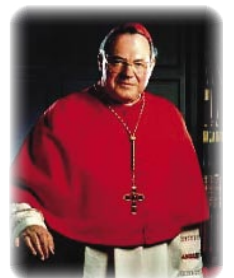
FALSE ASSUMPTION #3: The rights of churches have been protected and therefore they have nothing more to say.

FALSE ASSUMPTION #4: Those who object are bigots who hate gays and lesbians.”

– *Most Reverend Terrence Prendergast, Archbishop of Halifax.*

“As Catholics we have a duty to make our voice heard, we have a duty to make our voices heard in the public realm. Your members of parliament need to hear from you. They need to know what you consider to be for the good of future generations. As lay people, you are the ministers of the sacrament of marriage. You are its beneficiaries. Let it be known where you stand by writing, e-mailing or faxing your M.P. with a copy to the Prime Minister, Paul Martin.”

– *Aloysius Cardinal Ambrozic, Archbishop of Toronto.*



~ Upcoming Events ~

- ◇ **Monthly Youth Program:** Saturday, February 12, 2005 - Youth please attend and bring a friend along!
 ◇ **Youth 2005 Summer Camp:** Please watch for details of a one-week Youth Summer Camp being planned for the Summer.

~ Personal Testimonies To The Power Of Prayer ~

Tessi and Mohan - We are grateful to God for all the blessings He has bestowed on us and our family through the Gethsemane Ministries. As we prepare to leave for Virginia, we realize how much we have been blest through the Ministry - it has helped us in our personal growth and members supported us with their prayers through our many challenges. Our children - Monica, George and Abraham, enjoyed being in the Youth Ministry, with the greatest gift being the strength for them to stand up for their faith wherever they were, especially in school. We experienced God's presence in our lives, as we were able to willingly accept the times we were corrected and God turned every situation into good. We learnt that marriage is a vocation and that when we pray together things really change. We prayed about my husband's job - for guidance to make the right choice since he had received several offers. We want to go out and continue to bear fruit. We wish everyone who comes to Gethsemane the same experience - the experience of God's love and mercy, through the power of His Holy Spirit. January 7, 2005

Thomas Lazarus - I had not written an exam in 35 years and I was preparing for one. I prayed and wrote my exam knowing and believing that we have a loving God. I felt I had done reasonably well in the test. However, when the results were out, I was amazed to note that I had scored 73% and I know that it was only prayer that helped me achieve this score. Praise the Lord! - December 17, 2004.

Assuntha - My hands were getting numb, similar to a problem I had encountered earlier, for which I had to undergo surgery. I was certain that I would require surgery again. I went to the doctor and he recommended Physiotherapy. I continued praying and the good Lord healed me of my pain, without surgery or physiotherapy. - December 17, 2004

Robert - It was the first time I had come to the Gethsemane fellowship. Two weeks ago, near Christmas, I felt lost and was

experiencing great difficulty at work. At the prayer meeting, I was touched and was made to realize that if I trusted the Lord, everything would work out fine. Praise the Lord! - January 7, 2005

Alohma - My husband was supposed to be laid off from work, just before Christmas. We were sad and wondered how we would manage Christmas - we would like to get Christmas gifts for our four children. We went to the children's Christmas concert and the principal said to me that they had a lot of presents for our four children and that we might not have enough room to load them in the car. I thought he was joking. However, this was no joke - our van was loaded with the presents - there were so many of them - there was no place to keep them, nor was there anywhere we could hide them from the children. We had enough gifts for our children and also to share with others. I remembered our sadness and felt so grateful to God because He not only answered our need, but He provided in abundance! Praise the Lord! - December 17, 2004.

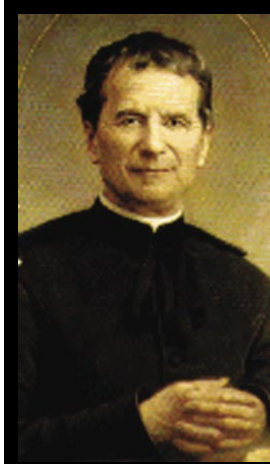
Sheldon - I thank God for the blessings I have received this year. To highlight a few, I received an extension on my job contract, even though it is with lesser pay, I am happy because I can continue to attend Mass etc.

I also thank God for my brother whose paperwork for immigration is almost complete. He is waiting for completion of his medicals.

I also thank God for my friend who had to undergo surgery for a tumour and it was confirmed that there is no malignancy.

Praise the Lord for all these blessings! - December 17, 2004

Tina - My mother went to the hospital Emergency and it was determined that she would have to undergo surgery. I called Suresh and requested him to pray for my mum. The Lord blessed us with a good doctor and the surgery was a success. I thank my God and Suresh for his prayers. Praise the Lord! - December 17, 2004



St. John Bosco

(1815 - 1888)

Friend of Youth

Ordained in 1841. Worked with youth, finding places where they could meet, play and pray, teaching catechism to orphans and apprentices.

Chaplain in a hospice for girls. Wrote short treatises aimed at explaining the faith to children, and then taught children how to print them.

Founded the Salesians of Don Bosco (SDB) in 1859, priests who work with and educate boys, under the protection of Our Lady, Help of Christians, and Saint Francis de Sales. Founded the Daughters of Mary, Help of Christians in 1872.

Prayer For Direction

Lord God, it is not clear to me
 how I should spend my life.
 It is not clear to me the way I should go.
 I am often confused

So many attractive things
 hold out empty promises for happiness.
 Help me through the prayers of
SAINT JOHN BOSCO
 who was a friend to any young
 person in need, to know your will for me
 and give the courage to follow it.

May I know the true joys that are found
 in giving my life to others.

Our weekly evening prayer and fellowship is held at
Madonna Catholic Secondary School, 20 Dubray Avenue, near Keele and Wilson.
 In English: Friday at 7:30 p.m. | In Malayalam: Saturday at 6.30 p.m.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE NEWSLETTER?

This is our newsletter. We are happy to hear from you. Feel free to contribute articles, testimonies and your feedback, at the prayer meeting, to:
 Stan Rodrigo, Mathew Pongonthara, Joseph Kulathinal or Michael Fonseca