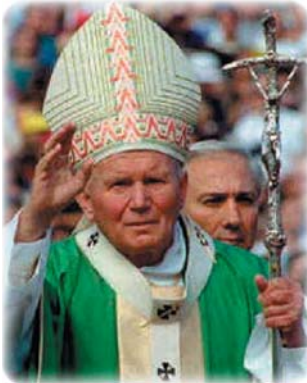


Gethsemane Newsletter

“Come & See”



A Simple Tribute To Our Beloved Pope John Paul II



“(Lord!) When the moment of our definitive “passage” comes, grant that we may face it with serenity. For in meeting you, after having sought you for so long, we shall find once more every authentic good that we have known here on earth, in the company of all who have gone before us.” Pope John Paul II in his 1999 Letter to the Elderly.

On October 16, 1978, Pope John Paul II began his papacy by proclaiming, “Be not afraid!” His papacy was an amazing journey of undying faith, undimmed hope, and boundless love.

Pope John Paul II lived what he preached. He courageously blazed one trail after another—a trail of love, of youthful enthusiasm and exuberance, of love of life in all its stages, of reconciliation, of ecumenism, of hope and of suffering too—and called all of us to follow after him in faith and trust in the Lord.

Now the race is finished – on April 2, 2005. Karol Wojtyla has fought the good fight. He has won the race. He has seized the prize of eternal life with God. We can just imagine the Father in heaven saying to him, “Well done, good and faithful servant” (Luke 19:17). May we continue to live in his footsteps!

We Welcome Pope Benedict XVI

(Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger) as he answers the call as the successor of St. Peter. In all humility, in his first message as Pope, says, “If the weight of the responsibility that now lies on my poor shoulders is enormous, the divine power on which I can count is surely immeasurable.” Let us remember the Holy Father in our daily prayers that the wisdom of the Holy Spirit will guide him in every task that he must undertake.

The Holy Father considers it very significant that his pontificate begins in the year dedicated to the Eucharist. According to him, “The Eucharist makes the Risen Christ constantly present, Christ Who continues to give Himself to us, calling us to participate in the banquet of His Body and His Blood. From this full communion with Him comes every other element of the life of the Church, in the first place the communion among the faithful, the commitment to

proclaim and give witness to the Gospel, the ardor of charity towards all, especially towards the poor and the smallest”.



As a Cardinal, he was noted to have said, “Having a clear faith, based on the creed of the church, is often labeled today as fundamentalism, whereas relativism, which is letting oneself be tossed and swept along by every wind of teaching, looks like the only attitude acceptable to today’s standards” (CBC News, April 19, 2005). Therefore, as Pope, he is of the view that, “The Church today must revive within herself an awareness of the task to present the world again with the voice of the One Who said: ‘I am the light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life’”. The new Pope knows that his task is to bring the light of Christ to shine

before the men and women of today. (Greater portion of this text is courtesy of the Vatican Information Service, April 20, 2005).

The Month Of May



The Month Of May – is very special – throughout the month we celebrate the tenets on which the Church is built – The Ascension, Jesus ascends into heaven in order that the promise of the Father might be fulfilled through the Holy Spirit, celebrated in the feast of Pentecost. The love and oneness of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit is manifested to us through the feast of the Holy Trinity. To express this love for us frail humans, and to nourish us in a very tangible form, Jesus gave us His Body and Blood, which is celebrated in the feast of Corpus Christi and like Pope John Paul II, we intercede, “Stay With us Lord”.

The month of May is dedicated to Our Lady, the Mother of Jesus, His Church and us. During this month we also celebrate our own ‘Mother’s Day’ honoring our earthly mothers. Let us remember our own Mother with love and gratitude for all the sacrifices in moulding each of us and helping us to be where we are today.

May is also the worker’s month and let us pray to the patron of labor St. Joseph and implore his intercession in helping us reflect his beloved Son in our workplaces. Let us thank God for blessing us with work and let us through the intercession of St. Joseph pray for those who are seeking employment.

Gethsemane Youth Summer Camp

Come and enjoy a few days of fun in the relaxing atmosphere of the Ignatius Formation Centre at Deemerton in the town of Mildmay, part of the South Bruce. Enjoy the fresh air of farm country - watch cattle graze, dairy products being produced, modelling of agricultural equipment, power generation and the mystery of lighthouses ...all of this while focusing on the "SOURCE OF EVERY BLESSING - JESUS" - through Prayer and Fellowship, Holy Mass and Adoration.

DETAILS:

- **Date:** Saturday August 6, 2005 to Wednesday August 10, 2005 (5 days).
- **Departure:** Saturday morning, return to Toronto on Wednesday evening (pick up and drop off locations to be announced later).
- **Age group:** 10 and above
- **Seats Avail.:** 50-60
- **Cost:** \$180/child (including food, accommodation and transportation).
- **Registration:** First come first serve basis, by Saturday May 14, 2005.
- **Contact:** Alwin Fernandes (English Prayer Group) Usha Jacob or Suja Lukose (Malayalam Prayer Group).

Upcoming Events

- **The National March for Life - Thursday, May 12, 2005** - in Ottawa, organized by Campaign Life Coalition, to "unite pro-lifers across Canada in prayer, helping to bring our nation closer to the day when it will legally protect unborn children". You may participate through your parish or for more information contact Campaign Life Coalition at (416) 204-9749 or 1-800-730-5358.
- **Youth Conference: Fri, May 13, 2005, Ottawa** - an all day session will be held for youth at the Carleton University. Keep our Gethsemane youth in prayer - they will be providing the music for this conference.

Personal Testimonies To The Power Of Prayer

Grace - I pray daily for the safety of all drivers and pedestrians in good weather and in bad, and I want to specially thank God for protecting my family members over the past several months:

- November 2004 - our 17-year-old son was returning from his friend's home. He was in the left lane on the 401 when two tires went flat, from construction nails. Through God's grace he managed to steer the car to the right shoulder, where the Police assisted him.
- December 2004 - My 17-year old nephew was driving on the highway with his younger brother with a cake for their youngest sister's birthday. His car skidded and hit the guardrail. The car was a write-off. Praise the Lord, the boys were saved without any injury to them.
- January 7, 2005 - My husband was driving home from work in the evening. A trailer banged into the car and the car spun around, thereby being hit both on the driver and passenger's sides. Through God's grace, my husband moved to the next seat and slowly opened the other door and was able to get out of the car. The traffic was already moving very slowly because of an earlier accident, thereby preventing my husband from being struck by any speeding car. The driver of the trailer admitted that it was his fault. The car required major repair and we did not have to pay for any of the repairs. Above all, I praise and thank God for saving my husband - for bringing him out of the accident without any injury. Praise the Lord!
- February 4, 2005 - Our daughter was returning home. As she was getting ready to turn, the car in front of her stopped suddenly. She had to brake in a hurry, thereby rear-ending the car in front. However, through God's grace nothing happened to my daughter or to the driver of the other car.

Shanton - I want to thank the Lord and everyone who prayed for me - I have been healed of the pain in my abdomen.

Bino - I had my Professional Engineering Exam. I prayed prior to the exam and on the day felt the Lord's presence with me.


I passed the exam and want to glorify the Lord for His presence and guidance.

George - I was finally successful in getting a job in my own field as an Electrician, however, my co-workers who were senior to me did not treat me fairly. I would have the difficult jobs assigned to me and most often would have to work out side in the cold. I was upset and experienced pain all over my body. I prayed to the Lord to give me the strength to accept any job, as if it were from Him and also prayed for my colleagues who were treating me badly. One day I was called by my manager and was told to work with his team inside the office. This came as a surprise to me. Now all my colleagues who had given me a hard time in the past have to come to me for everything. I praise and thank God for His blessing. Also, I no longer experience any pain in my body. Praise the Lord!

Benny - My sister-in-law who lives in Bombay was diagnosed with Blung cancer. She has two young children. I requested Brother Suresh and all of you to pray for her. After a year's treatment with chemotherapy, a person who was not expected to live has been healed. She is back from the hospital and was able to attend the Holy Week services. Praise the Lord!

Irene - I want to praise and thank God for blessing me in so many ways - with peace and happiness. He also blest me with a permanent job, which is close to a Church, reminding me to praise and thank and worship Him every day.

Kim - I am a TTC user and need it to get to school. The threat of a strike made me nervous, since my exam was scheduled during the week of the potential strike action. I lifted up my fear to the Lord in prayer, especially during the Divine Mercy novena. The Lord had brought me this far and He would see me through to the end of my course. On Sunday, we heard the news that the strike had been called off! Thank you Lord! Praise you Lord!

~ sing praises to our  always! ~

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, Wilma Ambrose or Michael Fonseca