A CATHOLIC MAGAZINE FOR YOUTH AND YOUNG FAMILIES - ISSUE 25

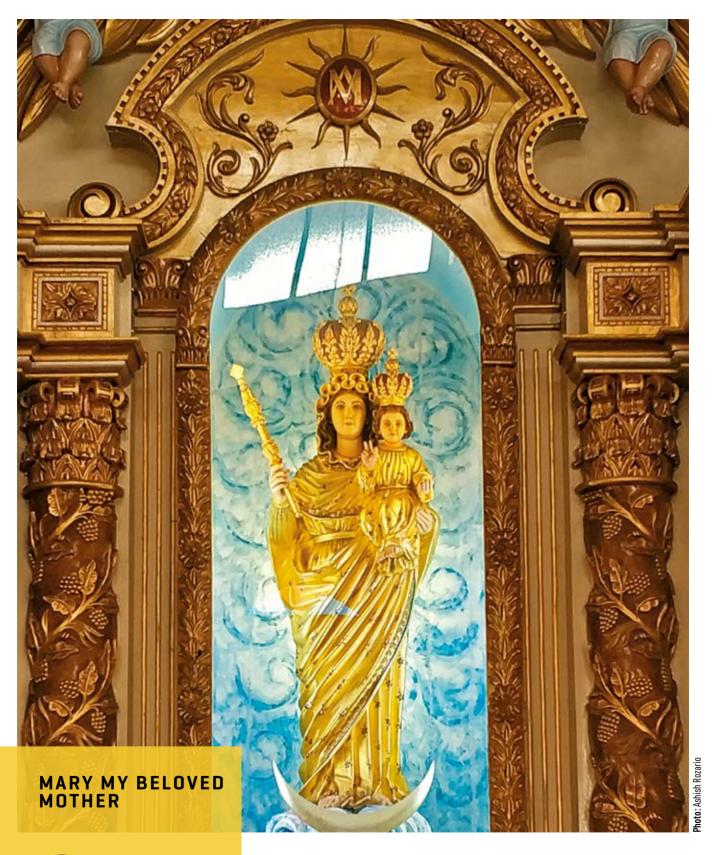
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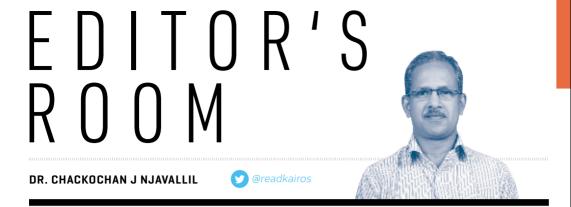
SHOY THOMAS

2 KAIROS GLOBAL





O Mother, in whose watch the young Jesus grew up in wisdom and stature, in favour with God and men, pray we intercede thee that you watch over our young people, that they may grow more in the likeness of your son, our Lord Jesus, always seeking and following His will. O Mary, queen of the universe, pray for us.



YOUTH ARF THE **TODAY AND** TOMORROW OF THE CHURCH AND THE **WORLD. THEY** ARE GOOD. LET'S **CELEBRATE THEM** 

#### YOUTH ARE GOOD

he unexpected floods that happened in Kerala in 2018 created unimaginable havoc in the lives of millions of people in Kerala. It was vacation time in the college at which I am a faculty, and during those days, I sent a message to my students requesting for volunteers to reach out to the people affected. Within hours a large number came forward to spend the next three to four days cleaning up the houses wrecked by flood waters. On returning from holidays, we made an enquiry and realised that almost 25 percent of the students had ventured out to do some physical work to help with the relief efforts during those really difficult days. It was the so called lazy, 'uncommitted' youth who don't 'have any goals in life' that ventured out forgetting all their difficulties, for nothing other than purely altruistic reasons, seeking little in return.

This happened not only in my campus but in the entire state which resulted in a change of perceptions about today's youth, who were always blamed for their addiction to mobile phones and social media networks.

Among youth there are many who are addicted to liquor, drugs and pornography. Under the influence of the these mostly 'illegal highs', many are getting involved in various crimes including sexual assaults. But the reality is that these youth are often the victims of certain vicious mafia. The people who are pulling the strings and ultimately making profit out of liquor, drugs and pornography businesses, are not youth. It is said that these mafia are sometimes so powerful as to even topple governments. The youth through various treacherous means are pulled into it, and often in reality, they are the victims who need much care and protection.

Media in general – all kinds and forms of them, are addicted to negative news and controversies. They see news value only when there are deviations from the normal and the proper. When somebody dresses properly there is no news value in it, but when the opposite happens it is highlighted. What is always projected is the negatives, and positive models are always dismissed.

In this issue of Kairos Global we are making an effort to showcase the goodness of youth, and we strongly believe that it is part and parcel of the mission of Kairos Media.

Youth are the today and tomorrow of the church and the world. They are good. Let's celebrate them.





- Bringing Jesus to a fastchanging youth world
- Jesus Youth International Assembly



How can a young man keep his way pure? By keeping it according to Your word. (Psalm 119:9)

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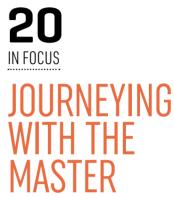


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KAIROS GLOBAL

# Fr. Bitaju Mathr the Captives (Ti Order in India a Formation Team

Fr. Bitaju Mathew, O.SS.T. belongs to the Order of the Most Holy Trinity and of the Captives (Trinitarians). He serves as the Secretary Vice Provincial of the Order in India and is currently the Chaplain of the Jesus Youth International Formation Team.

FR.BITAJU



Q. What is the significance of burning incense during Mass?

FATIMA MENDOZA / DALLAS, USA

Judaism and many ancient religions used incense as an important element of their worship. According to the scriptures, God directed Aaron the high priest, 'to burn a perpetual incense before the Lord throughout the generations' (Ex 30:8). A well-known passage from the book of Psalms is found in 141:2: "Let my prayer be counted as incense before thee, and the lifting up of my hands as an evening sacrifice". Another important reference is found in the book of Revelation where St. John describes, "the smoke of the incense rose with the prayers of the saints from the hand of the angel before God" (8:4).

In the light of these biblical passages, the primary meaning of the use of incense is to symbolize our prayers rising up to God. Secondly, incense reminds us that the priest is there to gather up our prayers and petitions and offer them up to our merciful and loving God. Thirdly, incense calls to mind the heavenly reality of Mass; our celebration of the liturgy being the meeting place between heaven and earth as pictured in the book of Revelation (8:3-4). A fourth purpose of incensing is purification and sanctification - of the Alter, sanctuary, offerings and the people of God. A fifth meaning of incensing is that it adds a sense of solemnity and mystery to the celebration of Mass. A sixth point of significance is that the sweet fragrance and the visual imagery of the smoke remind us of the transcendence of Mass, that connects

heaven and earth letting us enter into the presence of God. Finally, the smoke symbolizes the intense faith of the people of God and the fragrance represents Christian virtue.

Keeping in mind the above purposes and meaning of incensing, let us look at the different occasions when incensing is recommended during Holy Mass, which should help us appreciate incensing during Mass. As per the General Instruction of the Roman Missal, incense may be used during the entrance procession; at the beginning of Mass to incense the Alter; at the procession and proclamation of the Gospel; at offertory to incense the offerings, Alter, priest and people; and at the elevation of the Sacred Body and Blood of Christ after the consecration. The priest may also incense the crucifix and the paschal candle.

It is not very clear when exactly incense became a regular sacramental in the liturgy of the Church. In the persecution accounts of early Christians, their refusal to offer incense to false gods show that they recognized the use of incense as symbolic of prayer. For Christians incensing was a solemn gesture to be offered only to the true God. Moreover, the Jewish rituals continued to use incense in their temples during New Testament times (Lk 1:9-11). Therefore, it would be safe to conclude that Christians might have adapted its usage for their own rituals from Jews.



YOUCAT 280

# HOW DOES ONE GO ABOUT BELIEVING?

Someone who believes is seeking a personal union with God and is ready to believe God in everything that he shows [reveals] about himself.
[150-152]

At the beginning of faith, there is often an emotional disturbance or uneasiness. The person senses that the visible world and the normal course of things cannot be all there is. He feels touched by a mystery and follows the traces that point to the existence of God and gradually finds the confidence to speak to God and finally to unite himself to him in freedom. In John's Gospel it says, "No one has ever seen God; the only-begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, he has made him known" [Jn 1:18].

That is why we must believe Jesus, the Son of God, if we want to know what God would like to communicate to us. Believing, therefore, means accepting Jesus and staking one's whole life on him.



Dr. Kochurani Joseph Animator, National Professional Ministry, India

#### Holiness is the true light of the Church

Holiness permeates and always accompanies the life of the pilgrim Church over time, often in a hidden and almost imperceptible way. We must learn to see the holiness in the patient people of God: in parents who raise their children with so much love, in men and women who work to bring bread home, in the sick, in the elderly who continue to smile. The importance of recognizing the most hidden and least striking heroic sanctity is equally extraordinary as that which shines most visibly. The saints are people who have experienced the daily toil of existence with its successes and failures, finding in the Lord the strength to always get up and continue.

#### Pray and entrust yourself to the Lord

If you choose Christ, you can't turn to magicians. But even today some Christians will go to fortune-tellers, who use tarot cards or read palms to tell the future. But magic is not Christian! Christians should remember the grace of Christ brings you everything. So Pray and entrust yourself to the Lord of grace which is the leaven of every growth and would renew in us His love for the Church and for the deposit of the faith, which she preserves, to manifest the tenderness and love of the Divine Shepherd.

#### Honor the Dignity of Women for a better world in 2020

Pope Francis began the New Year with a call for the dignity of women to be honored and not exploited for profit and pornography in 2020. How many times is the woman's body sacrificed on the profane altars of advertising, profit, pornography and exploited as a surface to be used? If we want a better world, which is a house of peace and not a war zone, we have to care for the dignity of every woman. Women are sources of life. Yet they are continually offended, beaten, raped, coaxed into prostitution and to kill the life that forms in their womb. Any violence inflicted on women is a profanation of God, born of a woman.

#### Families get off their cell phones and talk to one another.

We need to retake communication within the family: parents, children, grandparents and siblings must communicate with each other. The Holy Family of Nazareth represents a choral response to the will of the Father. The three members of this exceptional family help each other to discover and carry out God's plan. The Holy Family was totally available to God's will providing an example of obedience and openness for families today. Let us entrust to Mary, 'Queen of the family,' all the families of the world, especially

LISTEN TO THE MIGRANTS' CRIES We pray that the cries of our migrant brothers and sisters, victims of criminal trafficking, may be heard and considered.

those experiencing suffering or unease and invoke her maternal protection on them.

#### "Communion" among generations is vital for human dignity and a healthy society.

There should be community of solidarity between young and old. The elderly are "a memory of the people," and valuable contributors to society. They have "wisdom and experience" that is a key to create a world that is

more respectful of everyone's rights. The elderly, particularly grandparents, have a unique and special ability to handle difficult situations. Young people are the strength of the journey of a people and the elderly reinvigorate this force with memory and wisdom.

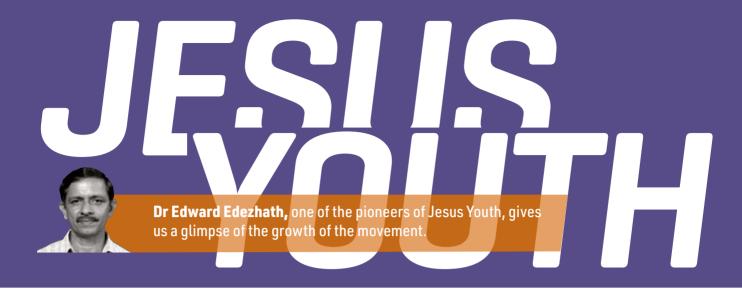
#### Martyrs are a sign that the Church is following

Persecution has always been a part of the Church's life, and that the witness of martyrdom is a blessing for all Christians. Martyrdom is the air of the life of a Christian, of a Christian community. There will always be martyrs among us: this is the sign that we are going on the way of Jesus. It is a blessing from the Lord, that there may be in the people of God, someone or someone who gives this witness of martvrdom.

Pope Francis says...

- ▶ The family is a precious treasure: we must always support and protect it.
- ▶ Old age should be viewed as a season of gift and the season of dialogue.
- ▶ St. Paul resembled Jesus, his Master and made Him present, communicating to his brothers and sisters the same new life that he himself had received from the Lord.
- ▶ The work of the pastor is to keep watch, to be vigilant, to guard the flock; but also oneself, examining one's conscience.

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# Bringing Jesus to a fast-changing youth world

As soon as this girl got into my car and settled down, she blurted out, "I cannot wait. Please tell me all about how Jesus Youth movement began. Everyone told me that you have been there from the beginning." I was going to take a session for the "Jesus Youth Cultural Exchange" program and this young JY leader from Sri Lanka was traveling to the program venue with me. (For those who don't know, Cultural Exchange is a monthlong exposure program that Jesus Youth Kerala organises every year for hundreds of young people from rural and tribal regions of India.

I am quite used to this question about the beginnings of the movement. Over the years I have developed a narrative with quick focus on a few key milestones, like 1976, 1978, 1981, 1982 and 1985. The rest of the history is a quick glossing over.

- In 1976 a group of us came together, and discovered a smiling, singing and friendly spirituality and took steps to continue it in a new youth group.
- In 1978 a challenge in the form of a letter from Fr Fio to network and bring together young people.
- In 1981 a new challenge was put forward by Fr Gino to develop a youth focused vision and also the need for a continuing search for it. This led to an informal, yet deeply committed

fellowship called 'the First Line group'.

- This group, taking up a new challenge from Pope John Paul II, prepared a very creative conference, 'Jesus Youth 85', giving the movement a name and a direction.
- During its keynote speech Fr Gino made the crowd chant, "I am a Jesus Youth" and in this way the name came to assume a new significance. Thus, the usual narrative goes on.

Each session of these story narrations brings in a flood of new light. A reflection of history helps us see God's hand in ever newer ways. This time our discussion returned to the points of 1981, when Fr Gino challenged the Charismatic Service Team to have a focused approach for reaching out to young people and giving them formation. During this car journey the rest of the discussions were around that.

#### **REVISIT YOUR APPROACH TO YOUTH**

In that September, the senior leaders had come together to plan a big national event slated for the following year. I was to prepare one thousand volunteers for all committees, but that seemed impossible. "But two years ago, you gathered a thousand youth and where are they now?" Fr Gino asked. You can bring youth together, but if you want them to continue and want them as future leaders you need

some special approach. The usual Charismatic Renewal is not enough for youth, they need a special youth relevant spirituality. But often all of us think, we know what is good for them. The youth world is rapidly changing, so don't let us presume that we know the content and the approach needed for the youth of today. All these discussions led to some very important steps. Interestingly, a team was formed that day to have wide consultations with young people and report back. I told this girl traveling with me, "I still have that report I presented to the KST". She was so excited, "Can I sometime see it?". "Sure!".

'We have to do something about our youth'. We hear this refrain at different levels of the Church and society. At national and international levels different forums discuss it; dioceses and parishes struggle with issues on youth guidance; city and village administration rack their heads; schools and neighbourhoods wonder how to help youth; and most of our families every now and then wonder about the best way to bring up the young. I often thank the Lord that we, in Jesus Youth movement, have learnt some very important lessons of youth guidance over the years.

"What does the youth of today dislike the most?" I often ask youth groups. "Advice," they usually reply.



The heart of Youth
Ministry is the very
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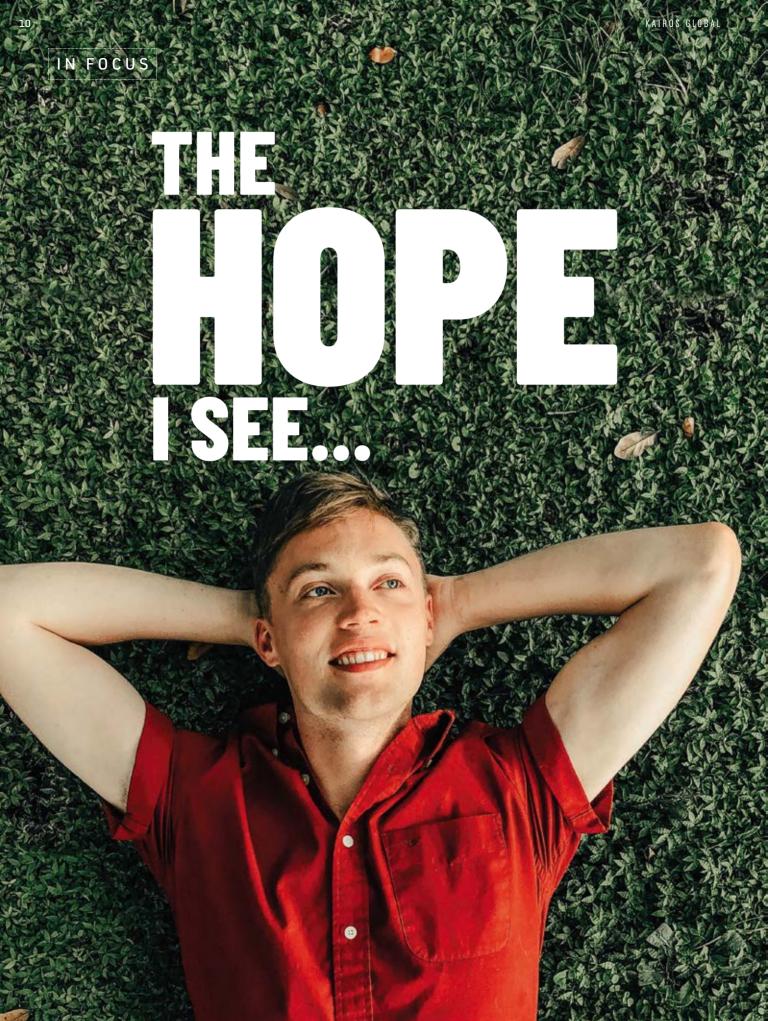
"But do you resent an advice from your charming and friendly companion?"
"NOOO! We would love it". So, what today's generation run away from is not life-tips, but the context and manner in which it is offered to them. Where Jesus Youth ministry is effective, there, some people would invariably offer to youth some very essential help for life, but in a positive and joyful way. My companion in the car was immediately mentioning how some excellent young people left groups only because some of us were quite rigid and judgemental.

Another important youth guidance tip: don't presume to know it all! A disposition of love-enriched humility along with an attitude of sympathetic listening will help you discern fresh opportunities of being useful to young people. Children and youth of every place and age presents a different challenge as well as a fresh opportunity of creative endeavour. I believe, Jesus had such a disposition and a disciple surely needs the same approach. When the Lord spoke about wine and wine skins and stitching new patch to the old cloth, what else was he hinting at? (Mt 9:16,17) The heart of Youth Ministry is the very young Jesus

and the ever-new ways in which Jesus is brought to the young, without losing the freshness of its flavour.

When we reached Ayroor, where the Cultural Exchange gathering was taking place, my friend was reluctant to get out of the car. "There is so much to learn about the way in which the Lord builds up Jesus Youth. And sorry we have to stop here." "Surely, another time," I assured her. "And I want to see that vision plan you all prepared after all the discussions". I replied, "That's not much, but I will show you, some time". Surely God has a lot of dreams about young people and he challenges them in unique ways.

Dr. Edward Edezhath, one of the pioneers of Jesus Youth movement, is a retired professor from St. Albert's College, Ernakulam. He is one of the Animators of the International Council. He lives with his wife Audrey in Kochi, India.



IN FOCUS ISSUE 25 1:

Shoy Thomas, the International Coordinator of Jesus Youth, argues the case that there is a lot of hope for future – for there is a lot of goodness in the young people around us.

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children now love luxury; they have bad manners, contempt for authority; they show disrespect for elders and love to chatter in place of exercise.

Children are now tyrants, not the servants of their households. They no longer rise when elders enter the room. They contradict their parents, chatter before company, gobble up dainties at the table, cross their legs, and tyrannize their teachers." This is a quote from Socrates who lived in 469—399 B.C. Surprising, right? When you read the quote, didn't you think it might have been yet-more-moaning about today's youth? Well, apparently, it was so even 2500 years ago.

Youth not behaving according to the expectations of elders is not just a problem of this generation; it is something that has always been there. Even when acknowledging that there might be areas of concerns in young people as well as in youth culture, in my travels and daily encounters as the International Coordinator of Jesus Youth, I have been blessed to have witnessed an abundance of goodness in the world around me, that gives me much hope for the future.

As much as many of you might describe today's youth as "having bad manners" or "showing disrespect for elders" or who "contradict their parents and tyrannize their teachers", I am here to tell you otherwise.

Some time back, as part of my travels I happened to stay with a Jesus Youth family in a country outside India. This family consisting of the husband, wife and their three children had their house open for ministry, day and night, making it the de-facto Jesus Youth hub there. During the many times I have stayed with them,

I have seen the Jesus Youth in that country, especially young people, arriving unannounced at odd times, having impromptu meetings and other discussions, spanning long hours. I was witness to this family's difficulty of planning meals and meal times, as it was common for people to arrive unexpectedly and without notice. As I could see the pains they were taking to cater to everyone and everything, once I suggested to the husband who was a youth minister there, that although I appreciated their open heartedness, I felt it would be better for them as a family to provide some guidelines to the young people in that country – about the need to give advance notice of the meetings scheduled and the number of people expected each time. After hearing me out he responded with a smile, "Of course, I can insist on a bit more discipline and that sure will help us as a family, but I doubt whether it will help in building the youth ministry here!" On the one hand, it could be true that the family is going through a fair amount of struggle because of the extreme fluidity in their daily schedules, but for that beautiful couple, they see it as a way to build the youth ministry in that country. And because of their sacrifices and struggles, the youth ministry there has a place to call home, a place where young people can meet and hangout in a safe environment. This is something that has always amazed me, which I see as a model of youth ministry and a model for youth ministers in general.

You might argue that this very thoughtful gentleman and his wife were not youth but youth ministers, hence, the goodness. But that is not entirely true. Not just youth ministers, I have seen many of our young people contribute selflessly to building youth ministry. Nowadays, academic life in colleges/ universities is extremely hectic – with regular exams, assignments and viva voce there is hardly any time available for students to do anything else. Yet, I have seen many of them eagerly go out for mission trips even during their miniscule semester breaks. For many of them, they would have had to go through umpteen struggles and sacrifices to raise the money for the journey itself. And yet they want to go to these remotes areas to share the joy of Christ as well as to experience the joy of a mission experience.

Recently, I was so impressed by three young adults, Jesus Youth leaders from a Western country, who visited us at our home in Kochi and spent the day with us. Their behaviour, the questions they asked, their genuine desire to learn about the culture of the

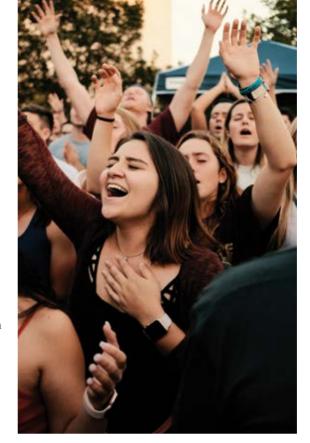
movement here and the warmth of their interactions was so inspiring, that both my wife and I were genuinely amazed at their maturity and well-rounded character. This is quite unlike what you would expect to see in young people, especially if you believe that the youth these days are disrespectful and tyrants. I believe that it is a profound testimony to the culture and character formation imparted by Jesus Youth movement that these young adults have become the people they are now.

I remember a situation that arose in a region where the coordinator of the team, early on in his term had to back away from ministry activities because of some serious personal issues. This created a huge vacuum, and in this situation, it was a young girl who stepped in bravely to fill the gap. This was a girl who was thought to be too young and too new to the movement, yet she was convinced that this was her primary call. She would go on to travel through the whole region, giving her time wholly for the youth in her region and for the movement. And her efforts brought a new sense of life into the movement in that region, with the whole team being rejuvenated and pulling together to get through the difficult situation. She played a vital role in touching the lives of the local youth for the better.

I also remember the case of a young man, who was offered an on-site assignment with a promotion and salary hike, around the same time when he was asked to take up an important office within the movement. For any other person, it would have had been an easy choice – choose the promotion, salary hike and onsite assignment, and opt out from the ministry responsibility. But not for him; he chose to take up the office of the movement as he was convinced that this was his mission place and God was calling him here. He is still very active in the place and because of his witness, he has and continues to inspire many young people and is instrumental in building the youth ministry there.

In the recently concluded International Assembly, we launched a new website called www.catholic. cafe. Also, in Kairos Global, the section called "Ask Fr Bitaju" has been running from the beginning. Both are avenues for young people to ask questions related to faith and morals. And when I see the questions being asked in both places, I sense the genuine thirst and yearning in young people to learn more about the Church, about faith and about Christian way of life. And this fills me with hope.

For the last 28 years, Jesus Youth has been running the 'Fulltimership project'. There are various fulltimership trainings happening around the world today. It is a blessing to see young people being transformed by the training and coming back and actively contributing to Jesus Youth and in their own parishes. But what is more impressive is how young they really are. These are fresh graduates of 20–24 year



All I see around are offshoots of hope and buds ready to bloom; for my reality doesn't come from news outlets but from knowing the young people in the world around me and everywhere I go, and these young people fill me with hope and a sense of wonder for the future.

old's. These young people are yearning, inspiring and hardworking – not something that you would expect from today's youth.

Yes, there are lots of young people who are going through difficult struggles around us and yes, every print and broadcast media is filled with negative news about them, constantly painting a doomsday picture for our world and future. Some claim that the youth are hopeless and cannot be relied on, and some, that they are just bad. Yet, all I see around are offshoots of hope and buds ready to bloom; for my reality doesn't come from news outlets but from knowing the young people in the world around me and everywhere I go, and these young people fill me with hope and a sense of wonder for the future.

Shoy Thomas, is a management professional currently serving as the International Coordinator of Jesus Youth. He resides with his wife Chinchu Maria Francis and his parents in Cochin, Kerala, India.



IN FOCUS KAIROS GLOBAL

"A WARM BODY DOESN'T MEAN I'M ALIVE...

I WANT TO THRIVE. NOT JUST SURVIVE"

JON FOREMAN, THRIVE

#### BEGINNING

I (Joseph) have always loved going into the woods – although for much of my life, I have opted for air conditioning, being on the internet and staying indoors, safe from the creepy-crawlies outside my door. I'm not the bravest guy in the world, and what that means is I've actually been very afraid for much of my life. I feel safer inside, scrolling through Facebook and Instagram, watching YouTube videos, and curling up on the couch. It's not exciting, but it's easy.

Oftentimes too, our culture pressures us to live in a perpetual pursuit of tomorrow – not that healthy pragmatism and preparation which is so necessary to living a balanced life, but rather an unending enslavement to the worldly view of success. In the Our Father, we ask the Lord to "give us this day our daily bread", and it is certainly intentional that it does not say "give us this bread tomorrow too". The Lord follows up on this prayer in Matthew by saying, "do not worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear." (6:25) This is a God of the present who has called us to life, and life in its abundance! Surely then, we have been made to thrive. Out in the wilderness, you have to be and stay in the present.

The first time I went backpacking, I began to see the world a little differently. I began to realise how much time I wasted daily doing things that were out of touch with my own desires, how much of my time was spent killing time. To abandon desire is often to embrace sinfulness, to live in fear, and to stifle the longings of our heart with cheap indulgent substitutes. In contrast, I found that even a moment in the mountains, an hour on the trail, or a conversation in a tent could rejuvenate, heal, and awaken my heart in ways that no couch could compete with. I cannot pretend that I don't still often find myself wasting time in the most comfortable, convenient ways available, but I see now that true joy is around the corner for pursuing my deepest desires, and that has permanently changed the way I perceive the world.

To me (Geoff), outdoors is a place of true beauty. Not just the awe-inspiring cliffs that soar into the stratosphere or the crystal clear springs that chisel their way through the winding canyons, but, more than



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anything else, in how I see others and myself. When you are backpacking, all of the societal pressures of what it means to be beautiful go out of the window. The spotlessness of your skin, smell of your body, straightness of your hair, or style of your clothes loses its hold. In that is a new freedom. A freedom to live out in a deeper way the person that God created you to be. And in that freedom is an incredible source of beauty. I also found myself appreciating the beauty of others so much more while backpacking. The outdoors prompt us to look outside of ourselves, where there are no mirrors to tempt us, getting caught up in our appearance. This allows us to truly see our fellow brothers and sisters without worrying about how we present ourselves. Herein lies a true beauty, a beauty that the wilderness can awaken.

"The world promises you comfort, but you were not made for comfort. You were made for greatness." - Pope Benedict XVI

#### JOURNEYING

During Johny's third year in college and Geoff's final year at Penn State University, we went backpacking with a few friends near the Cherry Springs State Park in Northern Pennsylvania. This trip was an incredibly beautiful experience for all of us, although it was only for a couple of nights. We went for a weekend in the middle of the semester and came back with a newfound peace and joy

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go out of the
window

Above: Visiting a hot spring

**Left:** Crossing one of the many streams in Gila National Forest from stepping out of the hectic semester and simply being in God's creation. We also encountered each other in a new, fresh way that we had not known before.

Following on from our experience of the trip, Geoff and I began to throw around the idea of creating a backpacking retreat. Around the same time, I had spoken to another friend, Fr. Joe Papes from Florida, about doing some kind of outdoor program for Jesus Youth. A few phone calls, Google searches, colourful spreadsheets, and an abandoned plan to go to Colorado later, our dream became a real plan.

And with this desire in our heart, we reached out to a few friends that had expressed an interest in going into the wilderness and we began to put together a group. We were like the George Clooney and Brad Pitt of Ocean's Eleven (the jury is still out on who is who), but planning a Catholic backpacking retreat instead of a casino robbery. This was a beautiful stage of the journey, as it involved many personal conversations and connecting

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**Above:** Thrivers on the last day!

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Right: Joseph "Johny" Abraham and Geoff Merz -Using our Geoff designed branch-toaster to make tortilla pizzas



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with people in this shared passion. It was exciting to hear people share what was stirring in their hearts or see how immediately a nurse would block off days from work during our first conversation! And so, the anticipation grew in our hearts and we awaited the time to retreat into nature.

"I rejoiced when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the LORD.'" - Psalm 122:1

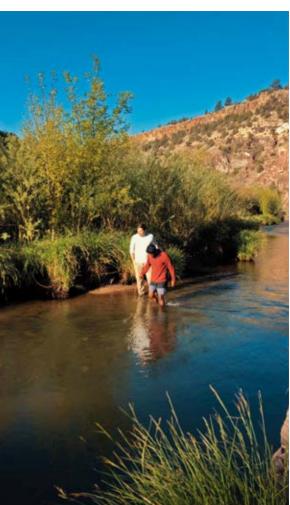
#### THRIVING

A few months later, the conversations and invitations became a reality. After assembling our motley JY crew of 18 adventurers in Dallas Texas, we set out in our series of caravans (minivans) to the Gila National Forest for the first ever THRIVE backpacking retreat. Thirteen hours later, we found ourselves at the bottom of the canyon. The sun blazed down through the crisp and dry air as we filled up our last water bottles in the parking lot and set out for our first campsite. The ample number of stream crossings provided some relief from the heat, but also left our feet quite wet. It turns out that waterproof boots are as good at keeping the water out as they are keeping it in! It also became readily apparent that this was not your conventional retreat; but in fact, it was truly a retreat from the barrage of tasks in life. Instead of talks and planned group discussions, our days were filled with viscerally awakening experiences, genuine conversations, cooking feats, Holy Mass and adoration, and simply being together.

On the trip, we found ourselves caught up in various escapades, including but not limited to grossly overestimating To step back
from trying
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through the
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of experiencing
creation

**Above:** In the Pennsylvania Wilderness with friends from school.

**Right:** Searching in the water for some lost glasses



our group walking capacity, losing and finding two pairs of glasses in the same stream in the same morning, cooking the most delicious Hiker's Mash, going on dramatic expeditions to find water, climbing immense rock formations, playing Telephone with murderous intentions, and visiting hot springs infested with brain eating amoebas! Luckily, in the process, we lost no limbs and had no fatalities (with the exception of a few Word Assassin kills that were particularly brutal). You may think this sounds more like "fun" than a retreat, but that is part of the point. To step back from trying to create a theological experience, but rather, to see God revealed through the beauty and joy of experiencing creation.

The trip itself was an exciting and beautiful adventure, with enough stories to fill up many, many text documents, that this one alone could not contain. Perhaps when you meet one of these people they will share some stories with you! Until then, we hope you bring the Lord into your passions and share them with others. And if you get a chance, come out into the woods and revel in the beauty of God's creation with your brothers and sisters.

Joseph "Johny" Abraham is a senior at Penn State University, USA doublemajoring in Statistics and Film, **Geoff Merz** is a Fulbright Scholar teaching English in Senegal. IN FOCUS KAIROS GLOBAL

# SOARING ON EAGLE'S WINGS

Melwin James recounts the story of a dream and how God, working through the seemingly innocuous dream, took him on a journey across the state of Tamil Nadu.

ravelling to spread 'His Joy' – is indeed a blessing. And yes, I travelled over 5000 kilometres across the Indian state of Tamil Nadu, precisely to spread this joy. But, the greater blessing was to recognise how my good Lord took notice of a "stupid" dream and demanded it of me.

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It was during the preparation for the "Tamil Nadu Campus Meet 2018" that we had the arduous task of reaching out to colleges/universities across Tamil Nadu to mobilize for the three day program #KalluriKondattam at Salem from 21-23 September. A regional campus meet was happening after 6 years, and we were running short of time and resources.

In a span of three weeks or so, we made it a point to personally meet the management (and students) of all the 50+ colleges that we had identified. Spread across the state, and having coming across the name of some of these colleges for the very first time, we had to personally meet the management of each college and invite them for the gathering. I might have travelled around 5000 kilometres. Along with several travel partners, I covered a vast array of places

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including Chennai, Pondicherry, Vellore, Salem, Erode, Coimbatore, Kotagiri, Trichy, Tanjore, Madurai, Theni, Tirunelveli, Tuticorin, and Nagarcoil (the list is non-exhaustive), which kind of covers the entire length and breadth of Tamil Nadu.

Yet, we did not miss Holy Mass even on a single day. We continually recited rosaries during travel. We freshened up in public washrooms, slept in buses and went to colleges armed just with a recommendation letter and some posters. Somehow at my college IIT Madras also, everything got arranged accordingly to facilitate my travel plans. We took our rosaries and prayed along with Mother Mary as we approached colleges, definitely in recognition of our weakness and inability to convince colleges, and acknowledging that it would be the work of the Lord.

What motivated us to travel with such an earnest desire was the grace of God. Earlier at several times and in several gatherings, I had heard that "to do mission in Tamil Nadu, and to build ministry – means to travel". However, never before had I experienced the want or desire to do the same. Instead, I was happy with the little responsibilities I was given at my Regional Campus Team. Moreover, I had always felt that travelling was not my cup of tea.

I had several inhibitions – my academic pressures, fear of travel, a complete lack of understanding of ministry in Tamil Nadu as well as my general "awkwardness" in dealing with people. But, even through all this, I felt the beautiful love of the Lord, His grace, and a desire to "seek His kingdom and righteousness" before anything. Travelling across Tamil Nadu gave me a first-hand sense of the ministry and its possibilities in Tamil Nadu. It was a time when we really felt the presence of the Lord.

One fine morning, I remember being stranded at Madurai in front of the Cathedral Church, not knowing where to go as none my plans for the day was working out. After making a few failed phone calls, I complained in front of the cathedral, "why did you bring me here?". I entered the church and looking at the altar, my pain melted away. On the altar was the image of Mother Mary holding the motionless body of the Lord taken down from the cross. I was guilt ridden – whom am I complaining to? And what am I complaining about? For all the pain He had borne on the cross, what merits have I to complain that he doesn't care? That day turned out in the end to be a beautiful day.

Another day – three of us were travelling along the coast of Nagarcoil, walking from parish to parish with brochures in hand. It was around 2 pm, and we had not had any lunch. Tired, sweating and hungry, we decided to rest for a while in a church. The main junction was another 30 minute walk away. Coming out of the church, we see a lady in her 60's approaching us and with so much love told us, "you look so tired and weak!

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You should definitely have food from my house." Though we politely refused, that smile and that love out of nowhere gave us the much needed energy.

In the end it was definitely a dream come true. But the dream was not to travel. Travelling was His providence. In fact, He was demanding something – which I had surrendered to my good Lord, when I had told him to "make me work for You". Rewind back to our regional campus team meeting of early 2017. In the "most-wildest-dreamfor-TamilNadu" dream sharing, along with the other "stupid" dreams of others I shared that my dream for Tamil Nadu was to reach out to colleges in every part of the state! An all Tamil Nadu Campus Meet was not even a point of discussion then.

On the last day of the Campus Meet, looking at the 300+ flock He had gathered, I was thinking of the grace I had received. For a person who was scared of travelling alone or going to new places (with little knowledge of my ministry), I realised he had taken away that fear from me. But more than that, he had given me the courage

to pursue a "reach out dream" that I had promised so innocently (with no regards for practicality) to my good Lord, and dreamt along with Him more than a year ago.

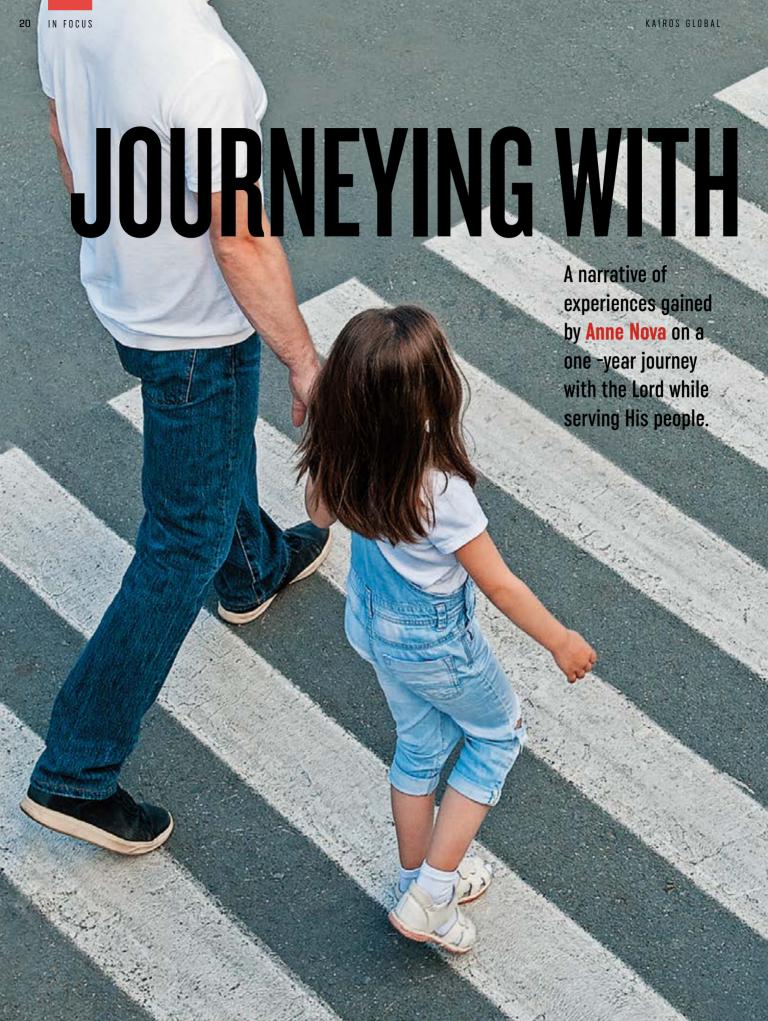
I realised that He demanded my dream of me. He took note of a silly dream and a year on, made me an instrument in realising that same dream! And these journeys and the sweet experiences that came along, was my own promise to the Lord! He remembered my promise, my dream and when the time was ripe, He called me to deliver that very same dream, for His glory.

Further, He replaced that dream with a beautiful pain – a pain for my mission land, whose possibilities He held my hand and showed along, that keeps my spirit to spread the joy of the Lord, awake and ablaze. He was slowly building a missionary in me. Travelling and reaching out is the first step in building His kingdom. A lot more awaits to be done, in following up these possibilities and in building them up.

So my Lord taught me that our dreams are precious. Not only for its innocence and spirit, but also because He lovingly writes them down and demands it of us. In seeking His Kingdom, we become rich. And in surrendering our little inhibitions, He moulds us into beautiful instruments.



Melwin James is pursuing his masters in Development Studies at IIT Madras. He is part of the Tamil Nadu Regional Campus Team coordinating mission activities.



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# THE MASTER

y days as a full-timer were similar to the time when God loved, cared and provided for the Israelites during their journey to Canaan; their feet neither swollen nor their clothes worn out in the process. Similar to the Israelites, I had fallen many a times, but God had picked me up and had loved me unconditionally. Just as Moses, Aaron and Joshua were gifted to these people, I was also blessed with JY elders and spiritual guides.

God's way of moulding me was incomprehensible during my fulltimership. My very first experience made me realise how much Abba cared for me and that I needed to depend on him whole heartedly. I was travelling on a motorbike and all of a sudden it came to an abrupt halt. I had run out of fuel. I saw an elderly man coming out from a shop nearby and instinctively smiled at him, a complete stranger, and informed him of my predicament. Instantly, without any hesitation, he gave me the keys to his bike and a petrol can. I was perplexed. I had never met this man and yet he put his complete trust in me.

After filling out the tank, I thanked him for his kindness. He then enquired about the purpose of my journey and after a short conversation with him he asked me to share anything about my God. He himself was of the Hindu faith. As I bid him goodbye, he told me that God wants to remind me that he would send his angles to help his children.

I could experience God's providence through many open hearted JY families and whenever my purse reached its limit of emptiness, God in his mysterious ways always found a way to replenish it.

I recollect an incident where I was asked by the Principal of an institution to take a three hour lecture on Value Education for college students. I was startled when he asked me because I am more or less the same age as these students. I prayed to the Holy Spirit, placing all my hope in Him. The miracle to be stated is that the three hours passed by quickly, and it was a bliss. I had discovered the gift of teaching from God. The memorable moment of that day was when a Muslim student after college came to me and said that she liked my class very much and requested me to continue on this path. I praised God.

From being a person who read Bible hardly 20 minutes a day for the sake of filling the DRC sheet to becoming someone who enjoyed listening to God's voice and reading the Bible for more than 2 hours a day, is the evidence of my change. During my times of struggle, God reminded me through prophet Isaiah, "Do not fear or be afraid, have I not told you from of old and declared it, 'You are my witnesses".

Whenever I asked God about my ministry there, He said, "Be still and know

WHENEVER I FELT
WEAK THE THOUGHT
'THAT I AM A CHILD
OF GOD AND WORTHY
OF EVERYTHING GOD
CREATED ME FOR',
BOOSTED ME UP

I am God" through the psalmist.

One day while engaged in prayer I was prompted to go to a college in North Goa. I travelled more than 2 hours to reach there, and didn't know what I was supposed to do or whom to meet. God however, always has His plans ready. While there was no possibility of meeting a particular student that day, I saw her by chance, and God made me share all the bible verses I had read in the past weeks with her and she had been in need of those words. Before parting she told me that 'God really wanted us to meet today'. That's exactly how His plans are.

In the Eucharist, I always felt strengthened and experienced the special love of my God. Whenever I felt weak the thought 'that I am a child of God and worthy of everything God created me for', boosted me up. There were times when I cried after confession, having known the real satisfaction of Christ forgiving me and cleansing me of my sins. Travelling all alone, while in this state, I was never lost. I always felt that God held me by His hands.

In a place like Goa where going to church is about the clothes you wear, marriages are all about the party, and prayer is all about the lips, I thought evangelising would be hard. Unfortunately, many people come from broken families and have a broken heart, waiting to be loved and to be heard. Even a small gesture of love and kindness can mean so much to them and God made me an instrument to impart this joy and hence the mushroom growth of the small prayer groups in Campuses. We conducted a stay in retreat and God in a special way guided me so that I was able to follow up with and guide these students and through them the Goa Campus team was formed.

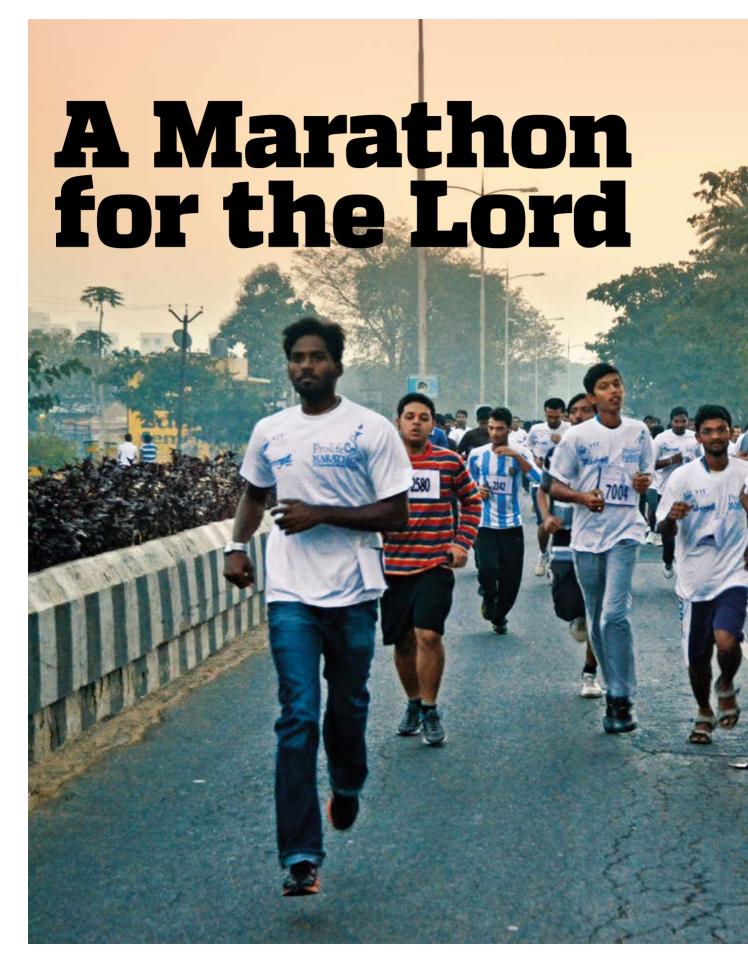
My journey with my Master has graced me with the knowledge of His power through every adventure and experience that I had over the past one year.



**Anne Mary Nova,** was a fulltimer in the 2018-19 batch. She is currently pursuing her masters in

Social Work in Northampton, UK

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Scaria Zacharias shares a testimony of how abiding faith in the Lord's magnificence can bring deep change to the lives of those we serve in His name. A story of team work, prayer and growth

t all starts with a dream, one big enough to reach lofty heights. In Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT), like many of the campuses in India, the JY prayer group, started in a small way in the year 2012. At the outset, it was a small group of four members gathering weekly for prayer meetings. Regular follow ups and a growing fellowship with our collegemates helped us expand, both in number and in faith, eventually. We grew to a sizeable 25, all in a year's time. We would gather for a weekly prayer meeting beside the volleyball court, even when the court was in use and often we got stared at by students who passed by.

In September 2013, the members of the prayer group decided to organise the VIT Marathon, an earnest effort at presenting and projecting the Christian theme of Pro-life to everyone on the largely secular campus. Much deliberation and thought went into the conceptualisation, planning and execution of the Marathon. The whole campus came together in an extraordinary show of support and many participated in the organisation of the event. There were times I was bewildered by the selfless service and dedication shown by all for the success of the event.

It was not an easy task - permissions and approvals had to be sought, finances had to be secured, tasks had to be assigned and groups had to be managed. The management of the college was extremely supportive of the idea and even though there was some hesitation over the chosen theme, they eventually came around to offering us their full and hearty support. Our most ardent supporter was the Vice-Chancellor himself, who cheerfully backed us on the name of the event - PROLIFE MARATHON.

"The mass is the most perfect form of Prayer". We believed, that if we prayed for the right intentions in Mass, it would be granted. We offered daily Mass with IN FOCUS KAIROS GLOBAL



prayer intentions for the Marathon. This is when I encountered the importance of Holy Mass. I took it as an opportunity to praise God and to thank Him for all that He had done for us.

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"Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labour. For if either of them falls, the one will lift up his companion"- Ecclesiastes 4:9.

Success is a collective effort. Individuals banded together as a group and contributed their talents, efforts and time to make this event a tremendous success. Our relationship did not end with the Marathon. Juniors who worked for the Marathon later became Regional leaders and the seniors always looked into their progress giving essential instructions and motivations. Each committee was headed by a senior and included 3-5 juniors. Each of us worked round the clock for around six months. Slowly more people joined the prayer meetings, Holy mass and rosary groups. These were people who worked tirelessly for the event and those who got to know about this event with the intention of giving or gaining spiritual support. We were dazzled to see the dedication that every Jesus Youth had for this event. They never missed Mass or Rosary in spite of their bustling charts.

We had organised promotional events such as a flash mob and music and dance performances to spread the information about the Marathon amongst VITians and it had the added benefit of showcasing many hidden talents of the students. Promotional events helped us in forming the Music Ministry and many other ministries on campus leading more people to the movement and to Christ.

The most challenging part of the exhibition was to deliver the message to the apt audience. The audience might have included some individuals who were pro-choice or were indifferent to our topic. We had to review common pro choice arguments and be alert.





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We did not forget the fact that there may be someone in our audience who has had an abortion or has been impacted by it in some other way. Hence the tone that we had to choose was extremely important. It would influence how our audience responded and how open they would be in listening to what we would deliver. Our presenters had to research the development of the unborn child, the scientific and medical arguments used for abortion, and the science behind pregnancy and labour.

The Pro-Life exhibition was held for four days and thousands visited it. I witnessed hundreds of parents leaving the booth in tears. One father told me that he was holding a girl that he had planned to abort and that he now regrets even the thought, because being the youngest she is the one who fills his life with joy when he returns home after a long day. It was an enriching experience, both for the participants and for the VIT IY who had organised it. Time forms a wonderful testimony. It happened so that years later, that a collegemate could be of help to her colleague who got pregnant out of wedlock. She convinced her not to abort and supported her mentally and financially for about 6 months and helped with the adoption procedures until the kid has been adopted into a catholic family. This was indeed an incredible testimony for all of us.

Blessings came in abundance. We were expecting a crowd of 1000 people but we hit the 2000 mark so quickly that we had to stop new registrations. We had so many who were to participate without registering as well. We were blessed with enough financial support so as to provide all contestants with free T-shirts and certificates to all those who completed the marathon. The winners were provided with prize money worth a lakh. "And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full" Mathew 14: 20. After all the expenditures were taken into account, we had a surplus of almost Rupees two lakhs.

After the marathon, our fellowship increased - around 70 students started attending the prayer meetings regularly, 40 attended the Holy Mass daily and around 120 students attended the daily rosary which took place at 6 different locations inside the campus. The music ministry, the intercession ministry and the prayer group started gathering weekly. The Outreach team started helping the poor by feeding them. Different initiatives came up to help the needy. The blood donation drives and the classes for the less privileged are to be highlighted. We started having sports and games events to bring together families, and to break bread together. Cell groups emerged in the college and all these ministries and gatherings helped us grow more and more in Faith.

Our VIT JY Family grew in faith and fellowship. Many still find time to visit this family which helped them grow more deeply rooted in Christ. A family was formed out of faith in God's love and care, proving to the world around us that we are followers of Jesus Christ.



Scaria Zacharias Vazhayil is an entrepreneur living in Kottayam, India. He has been involved in Jesus Youth since college days and is

the coordinator of the Jesus Youth National Campus ministry in India.

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REPORT

# Jesus Youth International Assembly 2019

27TH - 29TH DECEMBER | COCHIN, INDIA

December, 2019 at Ashirbhavan, Cochin, India with about 200 delegates from 19 countries.

It was a wonderful opportunity for key leaders of the movement from different parts of the world to come together, pray, discuss and discern about the current happenings and the future direction of the movement. The 3 day assembly included key updates on formation and mission, various initiatives from across the globe, reconstitution of the International Council and very insightful sessions from our dear pastors. The assembly

•HE JESUS YOUTH International Assembly was held from 27-29

also had a beautiful time of prayer and fellowship across all the three days.

The assembly was blessed by the presence of 3 Bishops and 19 priests.

A new International Council was elected during the Assembly with Show

A new International Council was elected during the Assembly with Shoy Thomas as the International Coordinator and Bejesh Pereira as the Assistant International Coordinator. Antony A.J (India), Ayyaz Gulzar (Pakistan), Biju Viswanath (KSA), Deekshit Sebastian (India), Della Clare (UK), Fionne Lai (Singapore), Midhun Paul (India), Shanuka Pereira (Sri Lanka) and Simi Sahu (USA) are the rest of the members of the new council. Biju Antony (Kuwait) and Jose Mathew (UK) have been selected as the animators and Rev. Fr. Joseph Ezhumayil will be the Chaplain for the new council. Manoj Sunny as the International Formation Director, Raiju Varghese as the International Mission Director and Rev. Fr. Thomas Tharayil as the Priest in-charge for JY priests & seminarians will also be part of the new council as ex-officio members.

One of the highlights of the assembly was the various input sessions given by Bishops on the days of the Assembly.

On the first day, Most Rev. Bishop James Anapparambil spoke on the three stages of faith in the life of a disciple – having a dialogue with God, followed by a suspension or dark night of the soul and then breaking out into a song citing the examples of Abraham and Mother Mary.

The next day, Most Rev. Bishop Alex Vadakumthala spoke on the importance of having communion with God, fellowship and commitment to others in order to be a light to the nations.

On the final day, Most Rev. Bishop Raphel Thattil passionately encouraged the delegates to become Christophers (bearers of Christ) with enthusiasm and joy while paying heed to the signs of the time. He also stressed on the importance of adopting a spirituality of availability, care and giving.

The other key highlights of the assembly were discussions on Formation, Mission, Youth Focus & Youth Consultation Meeting and Mission 2033. Every country presented a brief summary of their activities which helped in having an overall understanding of the activities of the movement globally. Other key initiatives of the movement were also shared.

Overall, the Jesus Youth International Assembly was a joyful and prayerful time of listening to the prompting of the Holy Spirit as the movement moves forward, and a time of collective reflection and discussion on how this could be achieved fruitfully as per the needs and specifics of each country.

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Scenes from the International Assembly

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# JESUS YOUTH INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL

2019 - 2022



## 1) SHOYTHOMAS (COORDINATOR)

A management professional currently serving as the

International Coordinator. He was formerly the coordinator of Jesus Youth India and Regional coordinator of Karnataka. He resides with his wife Chinchu Maria Francis and his parents in Cochin, Kerala, India.



# 2) BEJESH SOLOMON PEREIRA (ASSISTANT COORDINATOR)

An IT engineer, working as an IT management professional

for a corporate firm. He was formerly the coordinator of Jesus Youth GCC. He resides with his wife Limiya and their three children Catherine, Lucas and Noah in Dubai, UAE.



#### 3) AYYAZ GULZAR

A media professional, working in an independent Catholic news media in Pakistan. He is

also the coordinator of Jesus Youth Pakistan. He resides with his wife Sonia and their three children in Pakistan.



#### 4) ANTONY A J

A media professional, founder of the media startup 'Manna Media Hub'. He was formerly the

coordinator of Jesus Youth Delhi, as well as the coordinator and animator of Jesus Youth India. He resides with his wife Reena and their children Jonathan, Joshua and Michelle in Delhi, India.



#### 5) SIMI SAHU

A licensed Certified Public Accountant and holder of a Masters in Arts in Theological Studies. She is in formation to be a Consecrated Virgin for the Diocese of Palm Beach in Florida, USA. She served as a fulltime missionary in Haiti as part of the 2011 Jesus Youth International Fulltimers Batch.



#### **6) DEEKSHIT SEBASTIAN**

A designer by profession, resides with his wife Neema, son Samuel and parents in Delhi,

India. He was formerly the coordinator for Jesus Youth Delhi and Assistant coordinator for Jesus Youth India.



#### 7) FIONNE GRACE LAI

A procurement professional, working in a corporate firm in Singapore as Senior Executive of

Commercial Relationships. She was formerly the coordinator of Jesus Youth Singapore, and is currently animator of Jesus Youth Singapore and is part of JY South East Asia Team.



#### 8) DR MIDHUN PAUL

A teaching professional, working as assistant professor at Federal Institute of Science

and Technology (FISAT), Kerala, India. He was formerly the coordinator of Jesus Youth Kerala and is currently part of the International mission team. He resides with his wife Bitty and their two children Jessica and Jerome in Kerala, India.



#### 9) BIJU VISHWANATH

An IT Professional working in SD at a Health Sciences University as System Administrator.



#### 10) DELLA CLARE JOHN

A teaching Professional working in a secondary school in UK as Religious Education teacher. She

resides with her parents and brother in UK.



#### 11) SHANUKA PEREIRA

An Entrepreneur working in the Printing and Packaging Industry. He was the first

national coordinator of Jesus Youth Sri Lanka. He resides with his wife Clayon and son Liam in Sri Lanka.



#### 12) BIJU ANTONY (ANIMATOR)

An Engineer by profession, working with Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC).

He was formerly the coordinator and animator of Jesus Youth Kuwait, and coordinator of

Formation Team, Kuwait. He is currently part of Formation Team Kuwait, and resides with wife Jessy and their three children Anna, Donna and Amala in Kuwait.



## 13) JOSE MATHEW (ANIMATOR)

A social worker by profession, he is running a residential home

for men with complex Autism and Learning
Disability needs in UK. He was formerly
the Coordinator of Jesus Youth Europe,
International Council member, Animator
of Jesus Youth UK and currently the Youth
Animator of Jesus Youth UK.



### 14) FR. JOSEPH EZHUMAYIL (CHAPLAIN)

A diocesan priest, he is the Director of Catechism

department in the Eparchy of Kothamangalam, Kerala, India. He is currently serving as the Chaplain of Jesus Youth Kerala and Jesus Youth International.



#### 15) RAIJU VARGHESE

An Advocate by profession, he resides with his wife Deepa, and their children Angeline, Clara

and Francis, along with his father in Kerala, India. He was formerly the Coordinator of Jesus Youth India, International Coordinator and currently serving as the International Mission Director.



#### 16) MANOJ SUNNY

An Engineer, he resides in Cochin, India, with his wife Dr. Beena and their children

Joel and Mario. He was the first National and International Coordinator of Jesus Youth movement and is currently serving as the Formation Director of Jesus Youth International, and Coordinator of International Relations of Jesus Youth.



#### 17) FR. THOMAS THARAYIL

A diocesan priest, Associate General Secretary of KRLCC & Asso. Dept. Sec. KRLCBC

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**FAMILIA** 

# MARRIAGE AS A PATH TO HAPPINESS. (III)

# A new relation to parents?

A refreshing statement by **Fr Charbel** on marriage, the coming-of-age of parenting and the misplaced importance of societal pressure.

onour you father and mother" Yes honour them, respect them, care for them, love them, but do not obey them in everything. Only God demands to be obeyed in everything. It is beautiful for me, a Frenchman, to see the virtues of filial devotion and respect to elders practiced by so many grown-ups in India, much more than in my own country where elders are so often neglected and parents' advice disregarded. It is however a source of concern to see so many young adults living all their lives lying and hiding, because of the overbearing authority their parents claim to have on their lives; to see children of catholic families taking major decision in their lives, not with the purpose of doing the will of God or fulfilling their vocation, rather to do the will of their parents and not to disappoint or dishonour them.

There lies a wrong conception of honour and of the duty to obey one's parents. Pope Francis tells us: "The Gospel goes on to remind us that children are not the property of a family, but have



their own lives to lead. Jesus is a model of obedience to his earthly parents, placing himself under their charge (cf. Lk 2:51), but he also shows that children's life decisions and their Christian vocation may demand a parting for the sake of the Kingdom of God (cf. Mt 10:34-37; Lk 9:59-62)."

The good or bad name of a family is too often judged by worldly standards and is wrongly called, even in catholic circles, it's "honour". To act and to live as a disciple of Jesus is not to take that kind of "honour" as the measure of our lives, but the will of God. This is for everyone and for every family the place of a radical option: do we live according to the way the world (and in these matters, the "world" is sometimes our closest relatives) looks at us or do



we live according to the way God looks at us? "The world is passing away and the lust of it, but he who does the will of God remains for ever." (1Jn, 2, 17). Pope Francis again enlightens us:

"A society with children who do not honour parents is a society without honour... It is a society destined to be filled with surly and greedy young people". There is, however, another side to the coin. As the word of God tells us, "a man leaves his father and his mother" (Gen 2:24). This does not always happen, and a marriage is hampered by the failure to make this necessary sacrifice and surrender. Parents must not be abandoned or ignored, but marriage itself demands that they be "left", so that the new home will be a true hearth, a place of security, hope and future plans, and the couple can truly become "one flesh" (ibid.)."2

So, there is a necessary autonomy from one's parents which is necessary not only for those called to a special consecration but for all christians because all christians need to answer their personal vocation as a disciple of Jesus, especially in marriage. It does not mean that they need to be completely cut off from their parents, but it does mean that they need some space to take personal decisions and build a new union of love and that the authority of parents has limits. It does not extend to life choices. Here, parents can advise -and indeed these advices should not be lightly overlooked- but they cannot command. It is the traditional doctrine of the Church that parents that "children are not bound to obey their parents in the question of contracting marriage or of remaining in the state of virginity"3. The pope goes on with a practical example which illustrate that it is not only about life choices but about day to day matters:

"In some marriages, one spouse keeps secrets from the other, confiding them instead to his or her parents. As a result, the opinions of their parents become more important than the feelings and opinions of their spouse. This situation cannot go on for long, and even if it takes time, both spouses need to make the effort to grow in trust and communication. Marriage challenges husbands and wives to find new ways of being sons and daughters."

The personal choice that spouses

By committing oneself to someone else in marriage, young people accept to reorder their life including their relation with parents and relatives

have made of each other, demands to be embodied in a preferential bond of trust and simplicity. This bond does not replace previous bonds existing with one's parents but it does transform them. By committing oneself to someone else in marriage, young people accept to re-order their life including their relation with parents and relatives. This new kind of relation to parents implies a new distance which can be painfully experienced sometimes but which should be joyfully accepted by parents as a sign that they have well performed their mission to educate their children and to help them acquire the capacity to take their lives into their own hands. To accept joyfully this parting with one's children is an essential dimension of what being a father or a mother means. If it does not take place, parental love gets easily corrupted through possessiveness. Little by little the relation between grown up children and parents should become less a relation of authority and obedience and more and more a respectful companionship and friendship made of mutual support and discreet advice.

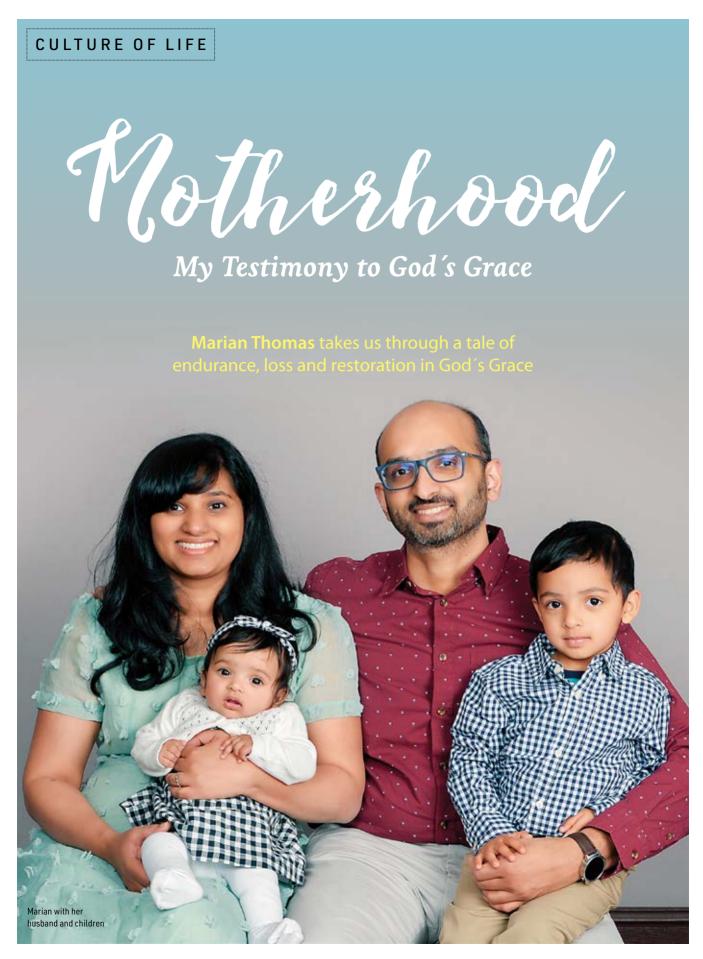
- 1 The joy of love 18
- 2 The joy of love 189, 190
- 3 Saint Thomas Aquinas, Summa Theologiae, Iia, IIae, Question 104, article 5
- 4 The joy of love 190



Fr Charbel, originally from France and from the community of St John, is currently living in

Pondicherry, India. He goes around preaching retreats and actively supporting youth and young families, especially with marriage issues and discerning vocation. He is currently the Chaplain for JY Tamilnadu.

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CULTURE OF LIFE ISSUE 25 3

his is the personal account of my journey to motherhood; a story of trial, endurance, faith and restoration.

I am one of those people who you would describe as a 'mother hen', someone who had always had strong maternal instincts. It was my heart's deepest desire to be a wife and mother. God blessed me and I got married to my wonderful husband in 2009.

When we set upon trying to start a family, we realized it was not going to be as easy. We had an early miscarriage in 2011 which was upsetting but we tried to move on and look forward. Months turned into years and we were still not pregnant. It was very difficult to be among pregnant people and deal with the disappointment month after month. It had taken over our lives. We would go on to put our lives on hold for years.

Finally, in October 2013, we were very excited to have gotten pregnant. Everything was going fine and all of a sudden at 18 weeks on Dec 26th, without any warning, I went into pre-term labour. My water broke and I was rushed to the hospital only to find out that our baby had no heartbeat anymore. It was a boy. We named him Philip.

The shock, trauma, piercing pain of our loss was beyond bearable. It was very difficult to face people and every now and then we had to answer to people who didn't know asking if the baby was born and other details. I was engulfed by grief and didn't know how to cope. It was also very isolating because people weren't sure how to approach me. I really could not fit back into the world as I had known it. Little children and pregnant women reminded me of what I had lost and I was filled with anxiety at the sight of them.

I could not understand why God would permit such a thing when we always sought his protection. After two more gruelling years of trying to have a baby we were thrilled to be pregnant again but went through a very difficult pregnancy with a lot of complications. I had to endure a lot of pain, discomfort, and multiple visits to the ER. For three months I was put on bed rest, unable to walk or do anything. We were being monitored closely with ultrasounds and injections every week.

At around the 20-week mark, they noticed some funnelling and I was admitted to the hospital for immediate surgery to put a stitch in. What should have been a straightforward surgery ended up being a disaster labour progressed much faster than expected. After 10 hours of labour, Teresa was born. She lived for 20 minutes and we were able to hold her and have her baptised. As I watched my baby die in my arms, a part of me died.

One of the most difficult things I have had to do in life was to be wheeled out the delivery room empty handed amidst the cries of new-borns and joyous



**Right:** With Baby Teresa

Below: Teresa's grave

laughter in the adjoining rooms. I could not bear it that I was having to live through the same nightmare once again. Another precious child lost.

The doctor at Stanford Hospital advised me to contact a surrogate.

I didn't want to get out of bed. My faith was really shaken; I began to doubt the existence of God for how could a loving God permit this yet again. I made a resolution that I am not going to pursue God anymore and if he exists, he would need to reach out to me and mend my wounds. I was exhausted spiritually, physically and mentally.

And reach out He did. God reached out to me in a very special way after this. He talked to me through a spiritual brother and pointed me in the direction that I needed to look at and encouraged me through some insights. I also got a message during Eucharist adoration that I would have a baby in 14 months.

Meanwhile, I was able to find a super specialist surgeon in Chicago and I got an abdominal cerclage CULTURE OF LIFE KAIROS GLOBAL



placed. God led us to all the right doctors.

I attended a five day silent retreat where I experienced a lot of inner healing and deliverance. After years of feeling like God's face was turned away from me, I began to hear His voice and feel His healing love. Here also God revealed to me through the priest at the retreat centre that I will have a child in a year's time.

True to the prophecy, the next month I got pregnant, had a safe pregnancy with no complications and delivered a beautiful healthy baby boy in October 2016. We named him 'Joshua' which means 'Jehovah Saves/ Jehovah Provides'. Truly, Jehovah provides. Everything was so beautifully taken care of

by God - our surgeon returned from vacation just the night before and we got the best set of doctors. Even though Joshua was born premature at 34 weeks, he came out crying and had a great birth weight. He is a joy to everyone around him, really grace filled and mature thanks to the numerous prayers he has received.

We always wanted a couple of kids but thought it would be a very difficult task given our history of infertility. But God, is such a loving father who sees even the smallest desires of our heart. As the gospel of Luke (1:37) says, nothing is impossible for God. To our surprise, we were expecting another little miracle in the November of 2018. From the beginning God placed a strong conviction in my mind that everything will be ok and that it will be a baby girl. The estimated date of delivery was June 27th, which is the same date that we lost our baby girl Teresa.

I was prompted to open the last chapter of Job and the message that I got was that God was restoring to us what we had lost, after a period of trial and sanctification.

This pregnancy was not easy, I had to be admitted in the hospital for 6 weeks because of pre-term labour contractions at 24 weeks, in spite of being on modified bed rest. There was a high risk of me giving birth early, which meant a high possibility of having a very premature and potentially sick baby. The doctors and everyone around us were very concerned. I am usually a very anxious person but by God's grace I was calm and not worried. The divine assurance of the Lord that was pouring into me infused in me a belief that the baby would only be born at a safe time. I could feel that an angel of the Lord was watching over me. A friend of mine also saw a vision of an angel of the Lord by my bedside. Also, every small desire and need was met so beautifully by God. I offered any pain and discomfort I had for the salvation of souls.

"The God of all grace who called you to his eternal glory through Christ will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you after you have suffered a little."- 1 Peter 5:10

As per the message of God to us, we made it to our planned C-section date of 35 weeks. On June 27th 2019, we brought our baby girl Joanna home. On this very day, four years ago, we had lost our first baby girl, Teresa. Baby Joanna was supposed to be discharged on the 26th but some problems came up and were resolved on the 27th and we were discharged from the hospital on that very day. I believe this was a beautiful sign of how God restored what we had lost and it was in line with the assurance that I had been getting from God throughout my pregnancy.

God can turn our mess into a message,

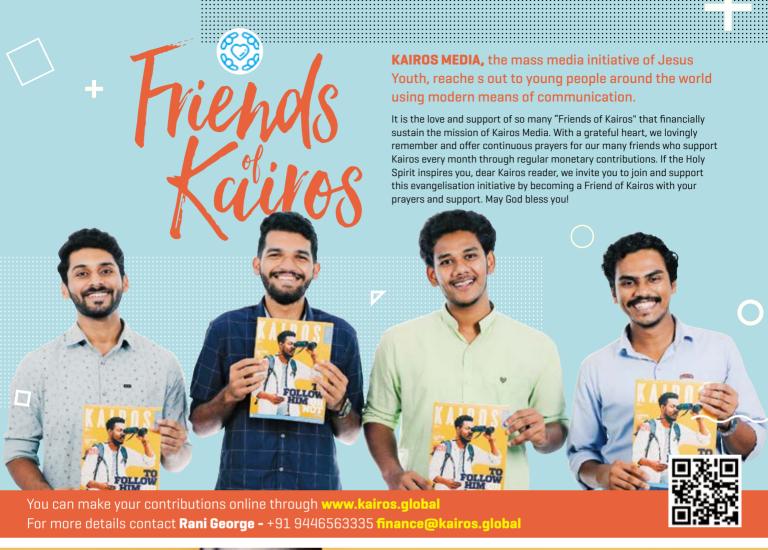
Our tests into a testimony,

Our trials into a triumph.

Two babies lost to prematurity, one abdominal surgery, 250 shots, 300 ultrasounds, 480 appointments, 49 weeks of bed rest, six weeks of hospitalization, two general anaesthesia, three spinal anaesthesia, two c-sections. The will of God will not lead us to where the grace of God cannot sustain us. God definitely had a plan and purpose that we didn't realize till much later.

When I look back, I am grateful for all these experiences because they brought us closer to the Lord, brought to light our mission, taught us many life lessons, ingrained in us a deep appreciation for the gift of children and the children we have are blessed because of the many prayers they received. Also, two ministries were born (a ministry to support those in hard times in my local church and a support ministry for those battling infertility).

God's love is beyond what we can fathom and we learned to simply lean on Him and trust in His plan and not lose hope.



MY SOUL
THIRSTS FOR
GOD, FOR THE
LIVING GOD.
WHEN SHALL I
COME AND BEHOLD THE FACE
OF GOD?

PSALMS 42:2



# VOLTHE) RETREAT

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# Chandeliers MODERN SAINTS

### 🕴 St. Therese of Lisieux

t. Therese was born at
Alencon, France on 2nd
of January 1873. Two days
later, she was baptized Marie
Frances Thérèse at Notre
Dame Church. Her parents
were Louis Martin and Zélie Guérin. After
the death of her mother on 28th of August
1877, Thérèse and her family moved to
Lisieux.

Towards the end of 1879, she went to confession for the first time. On the Feast of the Pentecost in 1883, she received the singular grace of being healed from a serious illness through the intercession of Our Lady of Victories. Thereafter, guided by the Benedictine Nuns of Lisieux and immediately after following an intense preparation culminating in a vivid experience of intimate union with Christ, she received the First Holy Communion on 8 May 1884. Some weeks later, on 14 of June of the same year, she received the Sacrament of Confirmation, fully aware of accepting the gift of the Holy Spirit as a personal participation in the grace of the Pentecost.

She wished to embrace the contemplative life, as her sisters Pauline and Marie had done in the Carmel of Lisieux, but was prevented from doing so owing to her young age. On a visit to Italy, after having visited the House of Loreto and the holy places of the Eternal City, during an audience granted by Pope Leo XIII to the pilgrims from Lisieux on the 20th of November 1887, she asked the Holy Father with childlike audacity to be able to enter the Carmel of Lisieux at the age of fifteen.

On 9 April 1888 she entered the Carmel of Lisieux. She received the habit on the 10th of January, the following year, and made her religious profession on the 8th of September 1890 on the Feast of the Birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

In Carmel, she embraced the way of perfection outlined by the Foundress,





Born: 2 January 1873 Died: 1 October 1897 Feast: 22 October

Saint Teresa of Jesus, fulfilling with genuine fervour and fidelity the various community responsibilities entrusted to her. Her faith was tested by the illness of her beloved father, Louis Martin, who died on 29 July 1894. Thérèse nevertheless grew in sanctity, enlightened by the Word of God and inspired by the Gospel to place love at the centre of everything. In her autobiographical manuscripts she left us not only her recollections of her childhood and adolescence but also a portrait of her soul, the description of her most intimate experiences. She discovered the little ways of spiritual childhood and taught it to the novices entrusted to her care. She considered it a special gift to receive the charge of accompanying two "missionary brothers" with prayer and sacrifice. Seized by

By Linu Deepak

the love of Christ, her only Spouse, she entered ever more deeply into the mystery of the Church and became increasingly aware of her apostolic and missionary vocation to draw everyone in her path.

On the 9th of June 1895, on the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity, she offered herself as a sacrificial victim to the merciful Love of God. At this time, she wrote her first autobiographical manuscript, which she presented to Mother Agnes for her birthday on the 21st of January 1896.

Several months later, on 3rd April, in the night between Holy Thursday and Good Friday, she suffered a haemoptysis, the first sign of the illness which would lead to her death; she welcomed this event as a mysterious visitation of the Divine Spouse. From this point forward. she entered a trial of faith which would last until her death; she gives overwhelming testimony to this in her writings. In September, she completed Manuscript B; this text gives striking evidence of the spiritual maturity which she had attained, particularly the discovery of her vocation in the heart of the Church.

While her health declined and the time of trial continued, she began work in the month of June on Manuscript C, dedicated to Mother Marie de Gonzague.

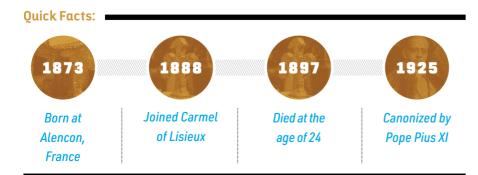
Seized by the love of Christ, her only Spouse, she penetrated ever more deeply into the mystery of the Church and became increasingly aware of her apostolic and missionary vocation to draw everyone in her path

New graces led her to higher perfection and she discovered fresh insights for the diffusion of her message in the Church, for the benefit of souls who would follow her way. She was transferred to the infirmary on the 8th of July. Her sisters and other religious women collected her sayings. Meanwhile her sufferings and trials intensified. She accepted them with patience up to the moment of her death in the afternoon of the 30th of September 1897. "I am not dying, I am entering life", she wrote to her missionary spiritual brother, Father M. Bellier. Her final words, "My God..., I love you!", sealed a life which was extinguished on earth at the age of twenty-four; thus began, as was her desire, a new phase of apostolic presence on behalf of souls in the Communion of Saints, in order to shower a rain of roses upon the world.

She was canonized by Pope Pius XI on the 17th of May 1925. The same Pope proclaimed her Universal Patron of the Missions, alongside Saint Francis Xavier, on the 14th of December 1927.

On the occasion of the centenary of her death, many Episcopal Conferences have asked Pope John Paul II to declare her a Doctor of the Church, in view of the soundness of her spiritual wisdom inspired by the Gospel, the originality of her theological intuitions filled with sublime teachings, and the universal acceptance of her spiritual message, which has been welcomed throughout the world and spread by the translation of her works into over fifty languages.

On the 24th of August 1997, at the close of the Eucharistic Celebrations during the Twelfth World Youth Day in Paris, in the presence of an immense crowd of people from around the world, the Pope announced his intention to proclaim Thérèse of the Child Jesus and of the Holy Face a Doctor of the Universal Church on World Mission Sunday.



# Newswatch











## ASIA PACIFIC CONFERENCE ON FAITH, LIFE & FAMILY - ASPAC 2020

Luman Life International's Asia-Pacific Congress (ASPAC) on Faith, Life and Family is the biggest gathering of pro-lifers in Asia and Oceania wishing to learn and be involved in the promotion and defence of faith, life, and family in the region. Human Life International hosted the 22nd ASPAC conference from January 17-19, 2020 at Sahrudaya College of Engineering & Technology, Kodakara, Kerala, India. Around 500 delegates from 18 countries participated in this conference.

ASPAC is a training ground for pro-life

enthusiasts and future Christian leaders to be able to efficiently and effectively defend life in their respective countries. At the same time, it serves as a forum for pro-lifers around the region (and world) to share and inspire each other as they face increasing challenges in the mission of promoting and defending faith, life, and family. The conference was graced by Cardinals, Archbishops, Bishops, clergy, religious, and prominent lay leaders in the international pro-life movement. Some of the speakers included Fr. Shenan Boquet (President of HLI), Dr Ligaya Acosta (Regional director of

HLI Asia Oceania), Dr Brian Clowes (Director of HLI Education and Research), Dr Finto Francis (OBGYN Mariam Theresa hospital) and Fr. Francisco Giordano (Director HLI Rome). Along with discussing pressing issues facing the APAC region in the fight for life and family, the conference also had as an integral part prayer and a focus on living our Catholic faith. The conference has spread the message of Gospel – the message of love and life far and wide to different parts of India and across the whole world. We thank God almighty for this life changing and enlightening conference.



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### STORY BEHIND THE LOGO

The 35 years logo symbolizes a Jesus Youth with open arms and bent knees, looking up to the heavens anticipating a fresh anointing of the Holy Spirit, praying that every Jesus Youth be transformed by the power of Pentecost and sent forth to be true 'missionary disciples' of Jesus.

35 years being the Coral Jubilee, has Living Coral as the theme colour.

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# SOUNDREPLY





MOVIE
THE CROODS

es o a C til a G e

amily - the thing that makes us or breaks us, humans. St John Paul II says that "marriage and family is willed by God in the very act of creation", echoing St Paul, for whom family is a visible sign of the very love of God, "from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named". Yet for many of us our families have been less than perfect, to say the least. However, as with pretty much everything in Christianity, "we have this treasure in earthen vessels, to show that the transcendent power belongs to God and not to us".

"The Croods" is a 2013 animated movie produced by DreamWorks and directed by Kirk DeMicco and Chris Sanders. Set in a prehistoric era, it tells the story of a cave family called "Croods", consisting of Grug the overprotective father of the family, Ugga his wife, Eep their teenage daughter, Thunk their son, their baby daughter and Gran, Ugga's mother. While most

Sometimes, we realize the value of the love of our less-than-perfect-families only when we lose it, as Eep discovers.

of the cave men and women around them have perished, the Croods have survived until now thanks to the fierce strength and the protective instincts of Grug. He sets boundaries for everyone in the family and the life he has seen around him, has made him deeply suspicious of anything that might be new or out of the ordinary. His daughter Eep, though, resents her dad for his overbearing rules and restrictions.

Venturing out seeking fire one night without her dad knowing, Eep chances upon a human called Guy, who though in some ways is similar to her, yet in others is different from the cave people she has known, as he has the knowhow to make fire as well as uses his intellect more than his strength to tackle problems. Guy warns Eep of the impending apocalypse and invites her to join him as he is on the voyage to the place he calls, "Tomorrow". Eep hasn't the heart to leave her family and returns to her cave.

Set in the fictional era when the Pliocene Epoch is coming to an end, soon huge earthquakes destroy their home and Grug and his family are forced into unfamiliar territories as they descend into a tropical forest, where Guy helps them escape from the deadly Piranhakeet birds, scaring them off with fire.

Grug is deeply suspicious of Guy and resents his new ideas and ways of doing things. Though the whole world is changing before his eyes, Grug still believes that the cave, the only world he has known for his entire life is still the safest refuge for them. The rest of the movie takes us on their adventure, where Grug learns, albeit hesitantly, to let go off some of the certainties of his past, and Eep learns the strength and value of the bond of family – especially and most importantly, the selfsacrificing love of her dad.

Although the story is set in prehistoric age, metaphorically it is the story of every generation - the youth who resent the boundaries set them by the older generation and the grown-ups, mostly unwilling to let go of the familiarities with which they have grown up, and deeply suspicious of anything new. It is also the story of the fatherly love of Grug, who though is shown as over-protective, is that precisely to protect and care for his family. Sometimes, we realize the value of the love of our less-thanperfect-families only when we lose it, as Eep discovers.

The Croods is an entertaining movie recommended for the whole family.



REVIEW BY Joseph Anthraper

Joseph Anthraper lives in Southampton with his wife Mahima and kids – Anna-Claire, John-Paul & Samuel. He loves reading, movies and apologetics and is part of the Kairos Global Editorial Council.

JESUS TEACHES US
THAT THE GOOD NEWS,
WHICH HE BRINGS,
IS NOT RESERVED
TO ONE PART OF
HUMANITY; IT IS TO BE
COMMUNICATED
TO EVERYONE.

-Pope Francis

Do you want to share Christ with youth who cannot afford a magazine?

### 1. MISSION PROJECT

There are many Jesus Youth in mission countries who cannot afford to buy a magazine but eagerly await any means to grow in Christ. You could sponsor a fixed amount every month for these youth or a onetime amount

### 2. ENLIGHTEN CAT YOUTH

Enlighten Cat Youth is a project distributing Kairos magazines free to all middle and high school catechism students through their classes every month. Sponsors can donate a fixed amount every month for this project.

# 3. SCHOOL/COLLEGE PROJECT

Distributing Kairos magazines to catholic schools and colleges is a great way to introduce Christ to students and teachers of all religions. A small amount each month will go a long way.

### 4. ZONAL PROJECT

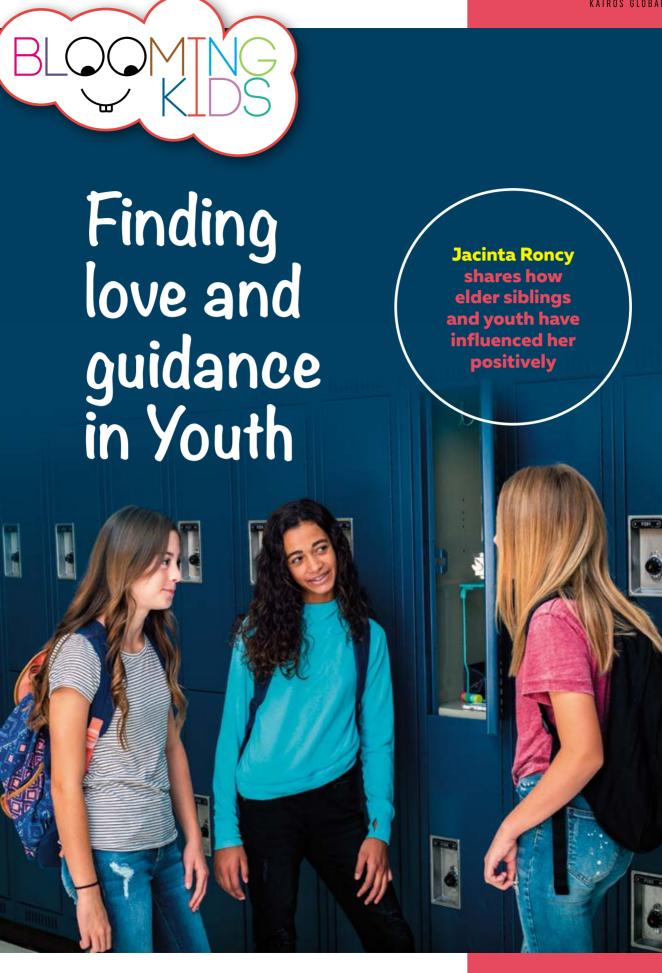
Sponsoring 50 Kairos magazines for each zone, to be distributed through household gatherings and JY prayer groups among people who cannot afford to buy it.

### 5. GIFTS

You can gift a subscription of Kairos to anyone known to you or send a subscription of 10 or 20 copies of the magazine for a year, to a Parish or any other such organization involved in mission service.



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a kid, I always wanted to talk and play with my brother and sister and their friends. They are always friendly and nice. They would always ask how my day was and what I had done in the day. One thing I admire most about them, is that they

try to work together as team in everything they do. Sure, they might make mistakes, but in the end it all works out because they trust in God. We all, as kids, expect our youth to play with us, help us and guide us, and often they do. When we have a question, they try to answer them. When we talk to our older siblings, they sometimes encourage us to do things, giving us ideas for the future, and helping us to paint a picture of who we want to be when we grow up.

My siblings correct and guide me. My sister inspires me a lot to be a musician; mainly as a singer. She helps me out whenever I have a musical event, by helping me get the vocals and the lyrics correct. I'm just lucky to have a sister like her!

My brother motivates me to play sports like basketball. I'm not really that great at sports but I'm good at basketball because my brother helps me a lot.

When we talk to our older siblings, they sometimes encourage us to do things, giving us ideas for the future, and helping us to paint a picture of who we want to be when we grow up

The youth also help us grow closer to Jesus! Like before Mass, when kids talk or get distracted, they help them to re-focus and prepare for Mass. Their involvement in the many activities in church, like being part of the altar service and the choir, being ushers or their role as youth league leaders, inspire us. They are good role model for us younger kids to look up to.

Our youth ministry, the mission league, the youth choir and our CCE teachers are so helpful and fun to be around. I pray to God and thank Him for our elders, who are always there to help our church community.



Jacinta Roncy is a 9- year old Catholic Homeschooler from Houston, USA, who is full of energy and enthusiasm. She loves to sing and dance, enjoys being with babies and spend her free time in reading

# QUIZ

- 1 Who was the first king of Israel?
- 2 Who anointed Saul king?
- 3 Who was the king of Israel anointed by Samuel after Saul?
- What did David work as for his father?
- 5 What did David take from the brook to fight Goliath with?
- 6 What did Saul throw to try to kill David?
- 7 How many times did David spare Saul's life?
- **8** How did Saul die?

Did you get all the answers? Send your answers to editor@ kairos.global before 29th February with your Name, Age & Place. The names of all those under 12 years, who get the correct answers, will be published here.

### Answers to "Do You Know" Issue 23

1 God is with us; 2 Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh; 3 Eygpt; 4 Angel Gabriel; 5 Three Months; 6 To the



Mail your answers to *quiztime@kairos.global* before 29th February.

The winner will be rewarded with 1 year subscription of Kairos Global

### PART A

# Match the encyclicals with their authors and title meanings

ENCYCLICALS	AUTHORS	MEANINGS
Evangelium Vitae	Pope Leo XIII	The Joy of the Gospel
Rerum Novarum	Pope Pius X	Feeding the Lord's Flock
Evangelii Gaudium	Pope John Paul II	With Burning Concern
Pacem in Terris	Pope Pius XI	Of Revolutionary Change
Mit Brennender Sorge	Pope John XXIII	The Gospel of Life
Pascendi Dominici Gregis	Pope Francis	Peace on earth





# PART A Life of Moses

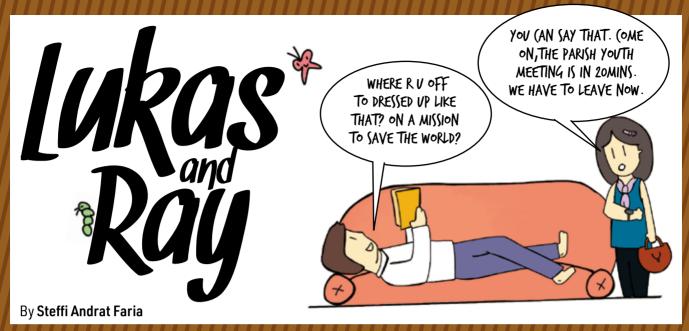
- **1.** Name the mountain where Moses encountered the burning bush, where the Lord spoke to him?
- 2. What tribe was Moses from?
- **3.** The sister of Moses was named \_\_\_\_
- **4.** How old was Moses when he went to speak with Pharaoh?
- 5. Name of Moses' first son
- **6.** Which two men held up Moses's hands during the battle against Amalek?
- **7.** What mount did Moses die on?
- 8. How old was Moses when he died?

### ANSWERS TO QUIZTIME ISSUE 23

1. Obadiah (Prophet); 2. Habakkuk (Prophet); 3. Jephthah (Judge); 4. Malachi (Prophet); 5. Deborah (Judge); 6. Gideon (Judge); 7. Hosea (Prophet); 8. Othniel (Judge)

### Part B

1. Giuseppina Vannini; 2. Dulce Lopes; 3. John Henry Newman; 4. Marguerite Bays; 5. Mariam Thresia





OF (OURSE, WE DO. IN OUR OWN HEADS. GROWNUPS THINK WE ARE IMMATURE, KIDS THINK WE ARE BRAINLESS BULLIES. I'D RATHER (ONTRIBUTE TO SCIENCE- AT LEAST HISTORY CONVINCES ME THAT IN S(IEN(E, RESULTS MATTER, NOT AGE.



AND WHO TOLD YOU THAT IN THE HISTORY OF "SAVING THE WORLD", WE DON'T MATTER? DO YOU KNOW THE AGE OF THE DISCIPLES JESUS (HOSE? YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN.

AND IF THATS NOT ENOUGH, I GUESS GOD DIDNT WAIT FOR JESUS TO BE A GROWNUP S(HOLAR WITH WHITE HAIR AND EXPERIENCE TO SAVE THE WORLD







