

KAIRS

GLOBAL

PRIVATE
CIRCULATION
ONLY

ALSO ↓

BY REASON
OF FAITH

■ BLESSON MANJAKUNNEL

The
Embrace of
All Truth

■ DR. SUNNY GEORGE

SCIENTIFIC CATHOLICS

ANTONY SACHIN



MARY MY BELOVED MOTHER



Most Holy Virgin of Altagracia, from the bottom of our hearts, we thank you for the continuous blessings you pour down on us. From your hands and from your maternal heart we receive, each day, the sustenance given to us by our Heavenly Father.

EDITOR'S ROOM

DR. CHACKOCHAN J NJAVALLIL



FAITH AND REASON
ARE LIKE TWO
WINGS ON WHICH
THE HUMAN SPIRIT
RISES TO THE
CONTEMPLATION OF
TRUTH.

THE TWO WINGS OF FAITH

There is a widely prevalent, erroneous belief that Christian faith and the Church are against science, development and technology. Anybody who seriously investigates this issue will realise that this fallacious presumption has no sound basis. On the contrary, it is the Church that has significantly contributed to the development of science. Agenda driven mainstream media, those with particular ideologies and a host of adversaries of Christian faith continue to spread false propaganda that many fall prey to.

Many youth happen to be victims of such misinformation campaigns. Unless they find out appropriate means to clarify their doubts, they continue to believe falsehoods, start distrusting the Church and its people and either drift away or start opposing the Church. I grew up in a very traditional Catholic family in a rather remote village environment. By age ten, I was an altar boy and involved in the local parish at various levels. Even then, by the time I turned 15, many doubts about faith and the Church began to emerge. Books I read which had atheistic leanings added to my confusion. Providentially, I happened to attend a renewal retreat in the first year of my college and that helped me with a new vantage point to relook everything and root my faith once again in Christ and his Church.

Similar experiences of a large number of people makes it clear there should be conscious, systematic efforts to replace the ideologies and campaigns that put faith, Church and Christ in bad light. Various steps were taken by *Kairos* in this regard in the past.

- For several years we had a regular column in *Kairos Malayalam* with the theme, Faith and Science

- A large number of those articles were later published in the form of various books
- On few occasions *Kairos* carried detailed cover stories on the topic
- The theme of one of the webinars conducted by Kairos Media at the beginning of the lockdown period was 'Is Science and Faith Contrary?'

- In the era of social media communication *Kairos* initiated a weekly poster series, 'Catholic Contributions' which depicts the scientific contributions of scores of Christians and Catholics in the sphere of science and technology

- Heeding to suggestions and requests from many, this issue of *Kairos Global* is discussing Faith and Reason

- Kairos Media has also announced the publication of a new book for teenagers on the same topic

All these steps were taken with the conviction that in today's world even ordinary people should be prepared and ready to counter questions relating to faith arising on various levels.

The Church does not want its members to be blind regarding their faith and is never hesitant in answering questions from seekers. The encyclical by Pope John Paul II titled *Fides at Ratio* specifically addresses this issue: 'Faith and reason are like two wings on which the human spirit rises to the contemplation of truth.'

We want our readers to be equipped to respond to questions regarding their faith. This issue of *Kairos Global* is a humble step in that direction.

We wish you all a blessed and joyous Easter.

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

chackochan.njavallil@kairos.global



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God desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

1 Timothy 2:4

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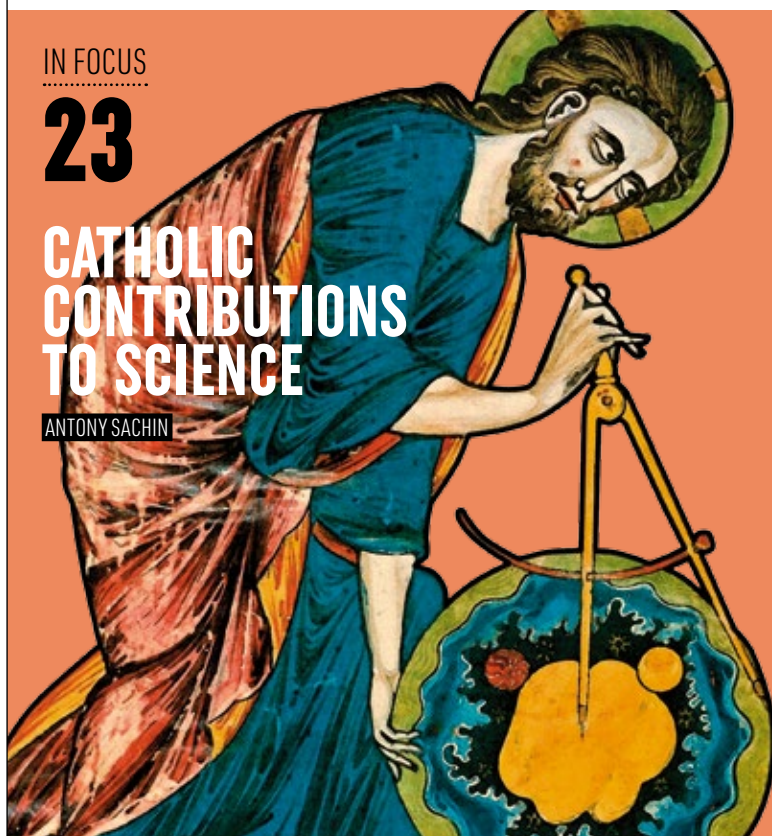
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ASK



FR. BITAJU

Fr. Bitaju Mathew, O.S.S.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.

➤ **Q. The Church has a hierarchy and many decisions are taken at different levels. For the youth, some of these decisions may not seem correct and we may need to argue with higher-ups to get an understandable answer. Is it right to do so?**

JERIN VAKAYIL / BANGALORE, INDIA

Your question seems to probe the importance of obedience to those in authority yet the necessity of seeking clarification when confused. I shall respond to your question by explaining what is meant by 'obedience in the Church' and the Church's view on 'questioning or expressing disagreements.'

Obedience is fulfilling the orders of one's lawful superiors with the intention of carrying out their will. Catholics especially prize obedience, because of Christ's own example, and because in their lawful superiors they see the representatives of Christ himself (Romans 13:1; Luke 2:51 and Philipians 2:8).

It is the teaching of the Church that obedience is part of justice (Romans 13:7), one of the four cardinal virtues, which are in turn subordinate to the theological virtues of faith, hope and charity. Faith is greater than obedience! Therefore, a Catholic has a duty not to obey his superior, if obedience acts to harm the faith. However, we must obey prelates, even when we know them to be corrupt or ill-informed, or just plain wrong, as long as they are not asking or demanding us to be corrupt or just plain wrong and remain within the bounds of their legitimate authority. *"The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses' seat; so practice and observe whatever they tell you, but not what they do ..."* (Matthew 23:3).

Questions are to understanding, as chewing is to eating; we don't eat a piece of steak without chewing it first, right? Often, many youth feel it is 'wrong' to ask questions about certain truths, teachings or even decisions of the Church or those in authority, thinking that they will be misunderstood to be on the verge of abandoning the said truth, teaching or decisions. It is important to keep in mind that no one has grown in any understanding without asking relevant questions.

If you have questions about, or objections to, certain teachings of the Church, or decisions of your superiors (those in hierarchy), one of the best ways to tackle the issue would be to seek guidance from a pastor, confessor, or spiritual mentor who can help discern if you correctly understand the teaching of the Church, and how your questions or objections impact your relationship to your community of faith.

It is relevant to note the view of the Church disclosed through Pope Francis on 'why disagreement in the Church is a good sign'. He said, 'what defines a good leader is the ability to foster an environment in which differences are open rather than concealed, and in which people feel free to speak rather than being silenced.' He further said, 'two clear qualities are needed for this: courage to speak and humility to listen.'



YOUCAT 347

WHY IS 'NOT PRACTICING WHAT YOU PREACH' SUCH A SERIOUS DEFICIENCY IN A CHRISTIAN?

Agreement between one's life and one's witness is the first requirement for proclaiming the Gospel. Not practicing what you profess is therefore hypocrisy, a betrayal of the Christian duty to be 'salt of the earth' and 'light of the world'. [2044-2046]

Paul was the one who reminded the Church in Corinth: *You show that you are a letter from Christ ... written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts* [2 Corinthians 3:3]. Christians themselves, not the things they say, are Christ's *letters of recommendation* [2 Corinthians 3:2] to the world. It is all the more devastating, therefore, when there are even priests and religious who abuse children. They not only commit unspeakable crimes against their victims. They deprive many people of hope in God and extinguish the light of faith in quite a few souls.



POPE talk...

Dr. Kochurani Joseph
Cochin, India



PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR APRIL

FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS

We pray for those
who risk their lives
while fighting for
fundamental rights
under dictatorships,
authoritarian
regimes and even in
democracies in crisis

The Lord is risen; darkness cannot have the last word

At times we go through moments of darkness in our personal, family or social life, and fear of there being no way out. We feel perturbed before great enigmas like illnesses, sufferings of the innocent, or the mystery of death. We need a different outlook, a light that illuminates the mystery of life in-depth and helps us to interpret history, beginning with His paschal victory. Christians are called to experience an encounter with Jesus so that illuminated by his light, we might take it and make it shine everywhere. Love is a strength, and it always triumphs over sin and evil.

We need the power and wisdom of God revealed by Jesus

The Church in Iraq, by God's grace, is already doing much to proclaim the wisdom of the Cross by spreading Christ's mercy and forgiveness. Many of our brothers and sisters, friends and fellow citizens bear the visible and unseen wounds of war and violence. Hostility, extremism and violence are not born of a religious heart: they are betrayals of religion. We believers cannot be silent when terrorism abuses religion.

Eyes raised to heaven as we journey on earth

The birthplace of Abraham, Ur Kašdim, the southern Iraqi city, where faith was born, brings us back to our origins, to the source of God's work, to the birth of our religions. It was here that Abraham heard God's call; it was from here that he set out on a journey that would change history. We are the fruits of that call and that journey. God asked Abraham to raise his eyes to heaven and to count its stars. In those stars, he saw the promise of his descendants; he saw us.

Christian life is a battle against the spirit of evil

Like Jesus was tempted by Satan in the desert, Christians must be prepared to battle evil, knowing that with faith, prayer, and penance, the victory is assured. During those 40 days, which take place immediately after Christ's baptism, the 'duel' between Jesus and the devil begins, which ends with the Passion and the Cross. In the desert of solitude, the heart, detached from other things and alone, opens itself to the Word of God. Do not be afraid of the desert, look for more moments of prayer, of silence, to enter into ourselves.

We need to remember the closeness, compassion, and tenderness of God

The Gospel says that Jesus, seeing the leper, was moved

aspect of God: the Father of compassion and love who frees us from sin and never excludes us from his mercy. Loving the world in this way, loving it with tenderness, we will discover that each day and everything bears within it a fragment of God's mystery.

Christian prayer instils 'invincible hope' in the human heart

Prayer helps us to see the 'infinite grace' that lies beyond the visible world. Today, we need light on how the Liturgy always enters daily life: on the streets, in offices, on public transportation... and there it continues the dialogue with God. Essentially, everything becomes a part of this dialogue with God: every joy becomes a reason for praise, every trial is an opportunity to ask for help. Prayer is always alive in our lives, like embers, even when the mouth does not speak, the heart does.

Pope Francis says ...

- When we welcome each day in prayer, we are given the gift of courage.
- When a person is accompanied by the Lord, he or she feels more courageous, freer, and even happier.
- The problems we face no longer seem to be obstacles to our happiness, but appeals from God, opportunities to meet him.
- Christian prayer makes Christ's compassion present. ■■

with compassion. Three words that indicate God's style: nearness, compassion and tenderness. God draws near to our lives, he is moved to compassion because of the fate of wounded humanity and comes to break down every barrier that prevents us from being in relationship with him, with others, and with ourselves. The leper's illness was considered a divine punishment, but, in Jesus, he was able to see another

JESUS YOUTH



Dr Edward Edezhath, one of the pioneers of Jesus Youth, gives us a glimpse of the growth of the movement.

Jesus Youth: Gifting Youth with Rich Memories



The art ministry had their first meeting at Chavara Bhavan, Kainakary¹. On my attempt to find the route, Google Map said, 'Can't find a way there.' Later I discovered that there was no direct road access – I had to cross the river in a boat. This Jesus Youth coordinating team was having their first physical gathering, after the long spell of Covid-induced isolation. But they had chosen an out-of-the-way place and at first I wondered why. But my trip there was so enjoyable and unforgettable that I understood their reasons for choosing that place. Every young person who spent that weekend there would never forget that 'first' meeting.

GIFTING OF UNFORGETTABLE MEMORIES

'Your session is for this group of new youth,' Chackochan was briefing me on the forthcoming input. 'But you will have to talk as you walk with them, through the forest and over a riverbed. In between you can sit on a boulder and they can gather around. Finally, you all will climb the hill.' That session on Discipleship became unforgettable for every one of us.

Most Jesus Youth programmes are unrepeatable. Almost every time it follows a time of dreaming, planning and a lot of prayerful

preparation, evolving into not merely a retreat, training or conference, but a creatively memorable event, for every single person associated with it. For example, with the approaching summer vacation, two young women came up with the idea of organising something for children. But after a few rounds of brainstorming, it evolved into a week-long camp parallelly happening for different age groups, combining games, skill training and faith formation. A range of youth leaders worked behind it, the whole series became quite varied and eventful. Finally for every person who entered that campus it was a glorious experience.

MEMORIES MAKE OR MAR EACH ONE OF US

Healing of memories was a new concept that we learned when we came into the renewal. God created us for love, but the presence of sin in the world inflicted wounds. Each one of us continues to suffer from those wounds, conscious or hidden. Inner healing points to a possibility of rectifying these past damages. So, we have reflection sessions, inner healing prayers and even opportunities for conversations to help heal these past hurts.

The burden and bondage of sin

and past hurts are painful realities for every young person. In most JY programmes there is a time for healing those emotional hurts. But we can have more. Healing of past hurts can be a start, but our groups can be wonderful places where youth make beautiful memories.

While negative experiences and hurtful memories make a person bitter and dejected, loving and joyful occasions in life help a person come alive and become energetic. Helping a person to be healed of past negativity is only a first step, which should be complemented with a gifting of up-building memories. Providing each person with such positive, formative experience is the essence of rich community life in the movement.

CREATING RICH MEMORIES FOR YOUTH

Each person is a bundle of memories. Here we are talking of gifting young people with beautiful memories through Jesus Youth groups and programmes. What are some of the approaches for giving young people memorable experiences?

1. Friendship. 'I felt accepted', 'I found wonderful friends in that group'. Young people find a friendly setting most enriching and feel drawn to persons who value relationships.

Helping a person to be healed of past negativity is only a first step, which should be complemented with a gifting of up-building memories. Providing each person with such positive, formative experience is the essence of rich community life in the movement.



2. Beauty. Good music, beautiful stage setting, art, media and the like, very much present in Jesus Youth programmes make them so special.

3. Fun and Play. Most gatherings begin with ice-breaking activities and have interludes or evenings set apart for games. For many, long after their childhood days this became a time to unwind and relax.

4. Travel. In the movement, journeying comes in a variety of ways. Programmes are held in special places and travel there becomes memorable. During programmes there are outings; then there are pilgrimages and people are sent on visits or missions. Jesus also used travel as a memorable setting.

5. Encounters. Often there are reflective times during programmes when one discovers oneself or is led to a deep God experience. Such encounters become memorable. I have often heard young people remark, 'After discussions, games, and talks

when we came to the quiet Adoration time I really experienced a deep touch.'

6. Community Experience. Our 'kanji (gruel) gatherings' used to be unforgettable and formative. Every now and then, many would gather quite informally, to get to know one-another, celebrate something and share food. We all need some network to which we truly belong.

7. Meaningful Prayer and Holy Mass. What makes JY truly different is unforgettable times of praying together and celebration of the Eucharist.

8. Acts of Mercy. Regular slum visits made a big difference in the early days of our youth group. I have seen so many youth getting transformed through the work camps that Rajju organised. Opportunities of service and times with the sick and poor become memorable acts of true self-giving. Memory is so important for a Christian. Israel kept alive the memory of God's saving act from Egypt. Jesus instructed

his followers, 'do this in remembrance of me.' In Jesus Youth in so many ways, we pass on beautiful memories to the growing generation that become the foundation for their faith, life and mission.

I am sure the art ministry gathering was quite memorable for many of those who came for it. Cars and bikes could only reach the boat landing. From there special boats were arranged. A long boat ride, a lengthy walk and then you reach a serene pilgrim center. There, a most joyful fellowship time with good food awaiting each of them. How could they forget such a beautiful experience! ■

¹ Kainakary is a village in Kerala, South India having numerous small water bodies.

.....
Dr. Edward Edezhath, is a retired professor from St. Albert's College, Ernakulam. He lives with his wife Audrey in Kochi, India.

ENCOUNTER

SCRIPTURE STUDIES, CATHOLIC VIBES AND APOLOGETICS

A media ministry full-timer's life in Christ

Dr. Sunny George writes about the faith journey of YouTuber, Antony Sachin, who is full-time into the media ministry.

Antony Sachin's faith journey started when he was an 8th grader. Born into a devout Catholic family, he regularly attended Sunday Mass and the St. Anthony's Novena on Tuesdays at St. Anthony's Shrine in Kochi¹. During that period, he prayed for a particular intention, which normally would have been difficult to fulfil. He was astonished when his prayer was answered. This was a defining moment in Sachin's faith life and an eye-opener that God was capable of answering any prayer. Being in Military Engineer Service, his father was often away from home. His mother helped instill in the hearts of Sachin and his two siblings, a deeper love for prayer and sanctified life. This also helped him grow in holiness. As any other child of his age, Sachin longed for happiness in life, and believed that a good performance in 10th grade exams would lead him to it. He performed well in these and after graduating from high school and clearing the Kerala Engineering Entrance Test, eventually got admitted to TKM Engineering College Kollam².

All these academic excellences brought him happiness, but despite successes one after the other, he felt a vacuum. Life experiences, encounter with Christ, and full-time ministry, taught him that lasting happiness could only be found in Christ.

College hostel life was instrumental in shaping Sachin's spiritual life. Senior students of the college, active in Jesus Youth, invited him to the prayer group. What attracted Sachin to the prayer gatherings was the simplicity and love the seniors had for Jesus and the Church. They also invited him for daily morning Mass at the nearby convent chapel. At first he could not understand the reasons for attending Mass every single day, when he was a faithful Sunday church-goer. When his seniors goaded him, he decided to give it a try. This practice helped in deepening his love for Christ and fellow human beings. Sachin gratefully acknowledges that it was in the Jesus Youth prayer meetings he met Jesus.

Although Sachin joined the Engineering course with much expectation, he couldn't appreciate the learning process of the college. The learning style largely depended on memorising things and regurgitating them verbatim on answer papers. Rather, he recalls that the four years spent in the college in the company of Jesus Youth brothers and sisters were memorable ones instead. After graduation he moved to his hometown in Kochi, took up a job and worked for seven years in an engineering company. Close contact with the senior JY leaders there helped him to enter into a Bible Study ministry in the years 2007 to 2008. Lack of creativity and fresh impetus in the programme compelled him to wind it up.

Long hours Sachin spent in prayer and discernment inspired him to study the Bible in a systematic method. Sachin had taken up the challenge of studying the Bible in a serious way with the intention of answering questions on Scripture and Ecclesiology. Lack of knowledge on faith and reasoning was a serious shortcoming even for devout Catholics who took their faith seriously. The boom of social media and entry of YouTube proved integral in the study of Scripture and Catholic Apologetics. In 2010, having come across



a YouTube video (History of the Bible in Five Minutes) and inspired by it, Sachin decided to produce videos, teaching the Catholic Faith.

A burning desire to study Scripture systematically and bring them to the youngsters in a creative and attractive way using the media made his mind restless. Sachin began mining the world of internet and gathered vast resources. He bought the Bible Encyclopedia and other Catholic resources from abroad as well as translations of the Bible in other languages. It was interesting to note that in the West, the Bible was available for different age groups and cultures.

During that time, a programme called *Noorumeni* (Hundred-fold) was organised by the Bible Commission, POC in Kochi and Sachin was selected as the general coordinator. Fr. Joshy Mayyattil was the then Secretary of the Bible Commission and he took the initiative for the programme. The 'Hundred-fold' programme was all about 'Perpetual Reading of the Scripture.' It was very successful and many parishes of various dioceses of Kerala too, replicated the programme in their areas. The close association with Fr. Joshy, who helped

deepen his faith, was a turning point in Sachin's life. During the years 2013 to 2018, Sachin was actively involved in doing Bible exhibitions. He has a collection of around 200 different types of Bible and related items, which were featured on *Shalom TV* in a programme called 'Sachin's Bibles.'

With these fresh impetus and insights, Sachin bought a video camera in 2013 with the sole intention of producing videos on various aspects of faith. However, his lack of technical expertise on video capturing, editing, etc., found an answer when he met the technical savvy Johnson Augustine. Johnson still works with him on several projects. Thus fortified, he embarked on the YouTube voyage in March 2018, with the channel, Catholic Vibes. The very first video was a Lenten reflection by Fr. Joshy Mayyattil.

With 6000 subscribers at present, the channel is in the process of moving to the next phase of their mission. To date, they have made 80 study videos on different aspects of the Catholic faith. The main focus is to produce study-oriented material that provides answers to questions of faith. Sachin acknowledges that *Shalom Media* also played an important role in benefitting his ministry. Their programme on the Bible exhibition brought recognition for his work, and



Model of Torah Scroll

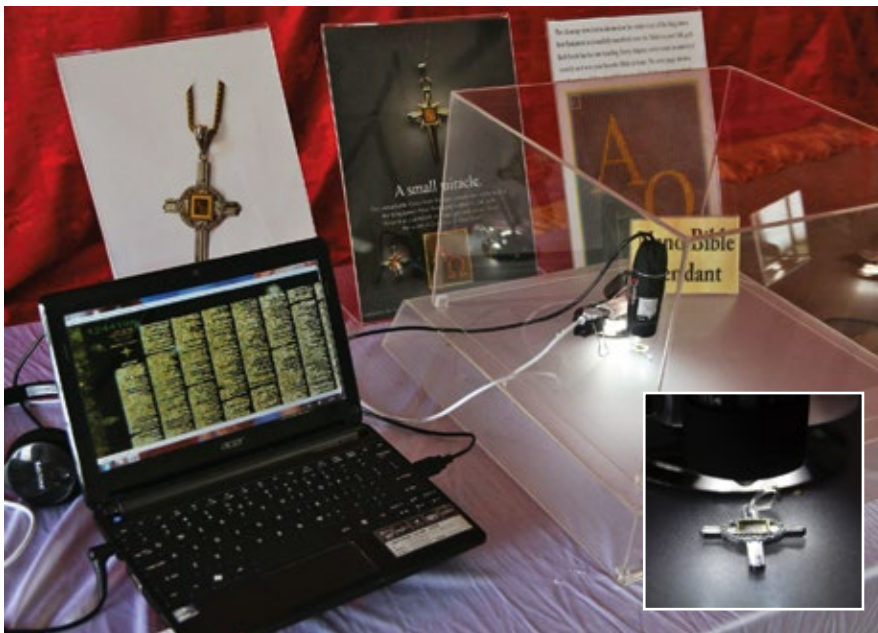
All these academic excellences brought him happiness, but despite successes one after the other, he felt a vacuum. Life experiences, encounter with Christ, and full-time ministry, taught him that lasting happiness could only be found in Christ.

through it brought Sachin authenticity in Church circles. In 2013, he prepared the *Two year Bible and YouCat Reading plan*, which was published as a print material and reached several parts of the world. It received good coverage on *Shalom* as well. This was a great motivation for Sachin.

Sachin firmly believes that God has a definite plan for him, and it is full-time ministry. He now plans to focus on Catholic Apologetics. Only through in-depth study of the treasures, can one go deep into the mysteries of the Catholic Church. Regarding the future, Sachin plans to start a Center of Studies on Philosophy, Theology, Church, and Science and Faith, to equip the lay faithful on various aspects of the rich Catholic Church. Another dream is to open a 'Bible Museum' in Kochi.

Talking about Sachin's family, he lives in Elamakkara, Kochi with his wife Simi, who is a lecturer in FISAT Engineering College, Angamaly³, and their three children, Gianna, Geovan and Gerosa, and his parents and elder brother.

Nano Bible Pendant. Entire New Testament inscribed on a 5mm sq. area, read using a 200X digital microscope.



¹⁻³ Kochi, Kollam and Angamaly are places in the Southern Indian state of Kerala

ENGAGE



HOW CAN

YOSU

TRANSFORM YOU

What does spiralling pornography use, the current COVID-19 unemployment and a 'Deadhead' drug trafficker have in common with the Year of St Joseph? Tena Conil gives us the answer.

A GREAT PROPHETIC PRESENCE AT THIS MOMENT IN HISTORY

As you know we are now in the Holy Year of St Joseph (YOSJ), which Pope Francis declared on 8th December 2020, and will continue till 8th December 2021. The timing of this Holy Year where Lord Jesus 'sends' his own foster father – the greatest of saints after his Blessed Mother – amidst a world (and the Church) gagged with COVID-19 restrictions is nothing short of a divine intervention and a prophetic presence. At the close of the March devotion to St Joseph, I would like to offer a few insights on this widely venerated – but little known, giant of a saint and how this Holy Year can transform our life. So how did this Year of St Joseph come to be? Well there's a bit of a back-story, but first an amazing conversion story.

DRUG PEDDLER TO DYNAMIC PRIEST AND THE YOSJ BACKSTORY

Born into a practically atheist family in Michigan and whose mother married thrice, Donald was a fanatical 'Deadhead' during his teens, rebellious, porn user and a drug addict. With his third 'father' in the US Army, the family moved often. While living in Japan, Donald dropped out of high school, ran away from home and eventually became a drug mule for the Japanese mafia. Soon he was on the wanted-list and was deported. Back in the US, he went in and out of rehab and finally ended up in jail. Some years later,

when his mother and adoptive father embraced the Catholic faith, Don who had been 'living like an animal' with drugs, alcohol and women, 'who had no career prospects, looked horrible and was going nowhere,' considered ending his life. Staying up at his parents' home late one night, while looking for a magazine to quell the panic-inducing silence, he noticed a random book about Marian apparitions. Little did he know that his curiosity would lead to a life-changing, spiritual experience. Don had no idea what the subject was but couldn't put the book down. He broke down and wept till morning when he insisted on meeting with a Catholic priest. After his radical conversion he reformed his life and went on to earn degrees in Philosophy and Theology. Today he is Fr Donald Calloway MIC, a Catholic priest belonging to the congregation of Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception, a reputed author and the Vocations Director of MIC.

St Joseph played a significant role in Fr Calloway's spiritual growth and his book, *Consecration to St Joseph: The Wonders of Our Spiritual Father*, was a Catholic best-seller in 2020. A copy of the book was also sent to the Holy Father Pope Francis with an appeal to consider a Holy Year dedicated to St Joseph. This is believed to have been an impetus for the Holy See who were already looking for a worthy commemoration of the 150th anniversary of Blessed Pope Pius IX's decree naming

St Joseph, Patron and Protector of the Universal Church. In his apostolic letter *Patris Corde* (With a Father's Heart) written on the occasion, Pope Francis speaks of how St Joseph 'concretely expressed (the) Father' by making an offering of himself in love—'a love placed at the service of the Messiah.'

Voluminous silence; the singular and prodigious sanctity of Joseph

The scripture says very little of St Joseph; in fact, it doesn't record a single word spoken by him. But his actions speak louder than his words. Matthew 1:19 says Joseph was a *just man*. Reflecting on this verse, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI (who was named after St Joseph) says: 'Joseph's existence is "ad-justed" to the Word of God. In Joseph, faith is not separated from action. His faith had a decisive effect on his actions. Paradoxically, it was by acting, by carrying out his responsibilities, that he stepped aside and left God free to act, placing no obstacles in his way.'¹

Since no first-degree relic of him exist, theologians believe that St Joseph too (like the Blessed Virgin and Prophet Elijah in the Old Testament) was taken up bodily into heaven, after his death. During the Presentation at the temple when Simeon held the Divine Child for just a few minutes, Scripture testifies (Luke 2:28-34) that he experienced heavenly ecstasy. We realise how great a saint is Joseph, when we remember he was granted this privilege and fatherly rights over the Saviour for many years!

LOVING WITHOUT POSSESSING – A GREAT MODEL FOR SINGLE YOUTH

In a pornography-obsessed world, the message we receive is to 'possess without loving.' Here I invite you back to another reflection from Benedict XVI on the relationship of St Joseph with the Blessed Virgin Mary: 'Joseph teaches us that it is possible to love without possessing. In contemplating Joseph, all men and women can, by God's grace, come to experience healing from their emotional wounds, if only they embrace the plan



(of) God... just as Joseph entered into the work of redemption through Mary.⁷² Has our vision of sexuality been deformed by sin? No better time than this kairos – the Holy Year of St Joseph to turn over our wounded selves to the Chaste Spouse of the Virgin.

LAYING OUR CAREERS IN THE HANDS OF THE UNIVERSAL PATRON OF WORKERS

The Church expresses her special reverence to St Joseph by celebrating not just the principal Solemnity on his Feast (19th March) but also a second feast day honouring him as the universal Patron

of Workers on 1st May, coinciding with UNO's World Labour Day. In a postmodern world where careers are fuelled by corporate greed to the exclusion of family values and leisure, the life of St Joseph shows us the dignity of and proper disposition towards work. Joseph found contentment because work was not a means to amass wealth and satisfy greed, but an instrument to support his family. Following the commandments, on Sabbath he observed the weekly rest, took part in spiritual observances and celebrations. During trying times of unemployment, the example of the migrant Joseph, seeking employment in

a new country helps us understand that it is by complete submission to the will of God – even in the face of hardship, that we become effective workers in the service of God's plan in our careers. Pope Francis says in *Patris Corde*: 'The loss of employment that affects so many... as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, should serve as a summons to review our priorities. Let us implore St Joseph the Worker... that no young person, (and) no family should be without work!'

OBTAINING AN INDULGENCE DURING YOSJ

Every sin has two consequences – spiritual and temporal (worldly/physical punishments). Spiritually, by sin I lose my eternal life with God in heaven. Through repentance and a sincere Confession, I can repair this damage. Temporal punishments are suffered physically or mentally due to our wicked actions. These punishments must not be conceived of as God's vengeance, but since they are committed by us in our free-will, 'follow from the very nature of sin' (CCC 1472).

If we were to imagine our sins as nails driven into a piece of wood, and forgiveness as the removal of those nails, we would still be left with holes in the wood where the nails previously were. God wants not only to forgive our sins, but seeks to go further by healing and transforming us, accomplished by our cooperation with supernatural grace. Through practical acts of penance and indulgences – to return to the example of the nails – the Church proposes to fill in the holes in the wood (so that no further expiation is required in Purgatory). So, an indulgence is when the Church occasionally opens the treasury of heavenly privileges bestowed on her by Christ (Matthew 16: 19) to offer us a partial or plenary (complete) remission (cancellation) of the temporal consequences of sin by prescribing to perform one or more acts of piety, under certain conditions; our heart's disposition however is paramount. St Philip Neri tells us that we obtain a complete cancellation of sins only to the extent of our desire in leaving a life of sin and turn completely to

As Pharaoh told the famine-stricken Egyptians in Genesis 41: 55, 'Go to Joseph' (Latin: *Ite Ad Ioseph*), being a good father, St Joseph – the Terror of Demons will chase out evil; clean up our lax values and put the Mystical Body of his beloved Christ in order.

God – which is why a good Confession is always a precondition to gain indulgence.

During the Holy Year of St Joseph, the Holy Father has granted us eight ways to gain a plenary indulgence – these can be found in the Vatican website under the Apostolic Penitentiary. We shall detail one of it here: the indulgence requires us to follow three usual conditions: receive sacramental Confession, Holy Communion, and pray for the Holy Father, while detaching oneself from all sin. The prescribed act of devotion is to recite any prayer or act of piety in honour of St Joseph, approved by the Church on any of the following days: on Josephite feast days of March 19 or May 1, or the Feast of the Holy Family, or on the 19th of each month or every Wednesday (day dedicated to the memory of the saint). I whole-heartedly recommend the powerful and profound prayer featured below, 'To you, O blessed Joseph' composed by Pope Leo XIII, particularly recommended by the Apostolic Penitentiary.

To You, O Blessed Joseph

To you, O blessed Joseph, do we come in our tribulation, and having implored the help of your most holy Spouse, we confidently invoke your patronage also. Through that charity which bound you to the Immaculate Virgin Mother of God and through the paternal love with which you embraced the Child Jesus, we humbly beg you graciously to regard the inheritance which Jesus Christ has purchased by his Blood, and with your power and strength to aid us in our necessities. O most watchful guardian of the Holy Family, defend the chosen children of Jesus Christ; O most loving father, ward off from us every contagion of error and corrupting influence; O our most mighty protector, be kind to us and from heaven assist us in our struggle with the power of darkness. As once you rescued the Child Jesus from deadly peril, so now protect God's Holy Church from the snares of the enemy and from all adversity; shield, too, each one of us by your constant protection, so that, supported by your example and your aid, we may be able to live piously, to die in holiness, and to obtain eternal happiness in heaven. Amen.

ST JOSEPH SENT NOW TO US – AT A KAIROS IN HISTORY

After Christ completed his salvific work in history, he sent us the all-knowing Spirit of God who patiently awaits through time as he prepares the people of God through the millennia – slowly revealing new means in each era, to enter more fully into communion with the Triune God. From Christology to Mariology, the steady development of Christian dogma and its organic integration into the mainstream life of the Church is evidence to the above. If we look at sacred art, even when no historic or scriptural evidence existed to regard him so – St Joseph was traditionally depicted as an old man and a passive, background figure most of the time. This was perhaps not to blur our faith, as it assimilated the vital mysteries of the central figures of Christ and his Blessed Mother. It is therefore a sign of great favour to each of us living at this point in history, that precisely now – when the Church is persecuted – often through indirect but systemic means that God chose to *send* us this patriarch and giant of a saint. As Pharaoh told the famine-stricken Egyptians in Genesis 41: 55, 'Go to Joseph' (Latin: *Ite Ad Ioseph*), being a good father, St Joseph – the Terror of Demons will chase out evil; clean up our lax values and put the Mystical Body of his beloved Christ in order. The fruits of the Year of St Joseph for the Church, youth, jobs, marriages and vocations will be off the charts! For as the great doctor of the Church, St Bernard of Clairvaux taught, 'Power is given to some of the saints to help in particular necessities; but to St Joseph power is given to help in all necessities.'

^{1,2} Excerpts from the homily of Pope Benedict XVI on the Solemnity of St Joseph, Cameroon, 2009



Tena Conil is a pioneer Jesus Youth from

Trivandrum, a Catholic formator, pro-lifer, media personality, husband and father of three. An Integrated Creative Director by profession, he recently relocated with family to India after over two decades in the UAE.

EXPERIENCE

WALKING ON

A Rex Band concert became a pivotal moment, while a one-month mission exposure changed Bejesh Pereira's life.

The JY movement has played a vital role in helping me discover my identity as a missionary disciple of Christ. I vividly remember my introduction to the movement in 1999 as a teenager – through a Rex Band concert organised by the Torchbearers, a JY fellowship based in Thiruvananthapuram in Kerala.

I was captivated by the mesmerising display of musical talent, the engaging heart-warming testimonies and soulful worship led by relatable young people like me. I left the venue convinced this was where I belonged and took a decision to attend the weekly prayer meeting on Sunday afternoons conducted by the Torchbearers. That was the first of many pivotal moments in my life as I got introduced to a loving community of young people, with whom I would journey for the next four years of my campus life. The prayer meetings, Bible study sessions, informal gatherings over cups of tea, house visits, candid personal mentoring, retreats, trainings, conferences, outreaches – all contributed significantly to my faith formation.

The contagious passion of this group of young people to share their love for Jesus was a stark contrast to the rest of my church friends. Intense prayers and selfless sacrifices for the conversion of family, classmates, friends, neighbours and even strangers were routine. A silent, constant prayer to the Holy Spirit seeking wisdom to witness the love of Christ in word and deed was something that I imbibed from them. I recall travelling in a public transport bus on the



WATER

way to college, striking up a conversation with a fellow junior and inviting him to a retreat. That led to a great friendship and it was touching when I got a message from him, ten years later, thanking me for that invitation saying that it was a major turning point in his life. It taught me that even seemingly insignificant actions can have a great impact when we yield our lives to the Holy Spirit. I was able to relate to St Teresa of Calcutta's advice to 'do small things with great love!'

After my graduation, I had the opportunity to join a group of young professionals to go on a one-month mission exposure trip to North India. This was the first batch of JYs from the Professionals Ministry in Kerala to embark on such an initiative, titled 'Professionals to Mission'. We were based at the Santvana Community house in Agra and travelled to villages close to that area and made trips to ashrams at Uttarakhand and Varanasi. We supported the mission outreach of the priests and catechists based there, meeting people from different walks of life and engaging in conversations with the aim to share the Kerygma or the basic Gospel message.

Some of the beautiful takeaways from that memorable trip were:

- I had decided that I would not carry any money with me but would contribute all I had brought with me to the group fund. This meant that I had to depend on the group leader to provide for all my needs. It gave me a deeper appreciation for the value of money and the power of simplicity.
- Journeying with a small group of youth by train, bus, jeep and even on foot from village to village was a beautiful experience that helped us to better appreciate the beauty of praying and working together in the vineyard of the Lord.
- We were able to meet with anointed Spirit-led missionaries with great love in their hearts for the Lord



With diocesan youth leaders in Uganda.



With Youth Leaders from Lugazi Diocese, Uganda



and the people they ministered to. It was truly heart-warming to listen to their mission stories testifying to the Lord's providence and protection.

- We also had the opportunity to visit Nainital, a spectacular hill station along the southern slopes of the Himalayan range, and the Taj Mahal. It felt great to sing a song of praise to the God of wonders from one of the Seven Wonders of the World!

- We were able to tangibly witness the power of the Holy Spirit at work in us during the songs we sang, skits we enacted, Scripture we preached, stories we shared and worship we led. We were not well-versed in Hindi, but the Lord beautifully led us, compensating for that lack with His Grace.

On a lighter note, I recall telling my mother after returning home from this mission trip that the house

was so clean. I had a newfound appreciation for how my mother kept the house neat and tidy!

I then returned to Dubai, the land of my birth, where God blessed me with a job at one of the leading companies in the region in 2005. Providentially, the movement was looking to initiate prayer groups in English, and I was able to be part of a vibrant community of young people in initiating such gatherings. The missionary enthusiasm imparted to me helped fuel a series of travel across the different regions in the UAE to help with the various English prayer groups initiated there during those times. Later in 2010, as the National Youth Coordinator for UAE, I was instrumental in setting up a centralised formation plan for the English-speaking youth titled LEAD. This resulted in many young people taking a deeper

With JEC Jordan team, the Catholic Church's official youth organisation in Jordan.



We were able to tangibly witness the power of the Holy Spirit at work in us during the songs we sang, skits we enacted, Scripture we preached, stories we shared and worship we led.



ABOUT BEJESH PEREIRA

Bejesh Pereira joined the Jesus Youth movement in India as a teenager in 1999 and worked within the various campus and parish ministries in Kerala to spread the message of the Gospel. He continued his missionary work with Jesus Youth in the Middle East, when he returned to the land of his birth, Dubai, UAE in 2005. He has served in various leadership roles and was instrumental in strengthening the movement's network across the GCC countries and initiating outreach to Jordan. He is currently serving as the Asst Coordinator in the International Council and the International Mission Director.

Bejesh is also a certified and technically astute professional with extensive experience in driving customer-centric, cloud-first digital transformation initiatives and running IT operations across different industry domains including Automotive, Construction, FMCG, Retail, Rental and Consulting services. He currently heads the IT department for a leading F&B company in Dubai, where he lives with his wife Limiya and their children-Catherine, Lucas and Noah.

commitment to the Lord in various leadership roles across the country through this initiative.

My journey with the movement continued after getting married in 2011 with more responsibilities to serve at various levels. One of them was coordinating ACYC in 2012 which was a gathering of more than two thousand Catholic youth from different parishes, communities, movements in the GCC countries at Abu Dhabi, the capital city of UAE. Later in 2014, God blessed me with another job that gave me the opportunity to travel across the GCC countries. I could see God's hand working here as later in 2016, I was entrusted with the responsibility to coordinate the GCC team for the movement. Additionally, I was able to also serve in the Uganda mission as this was mainly supported by the movement in the GCC. During this time, God also opened doors with the Church in Jordan where we were able to collaborate with them on a few initiatives and visit them to initiate the missionary journey in a new country. This period was a time of intense travel where I experienced God's abundant grace leading us in meeting various leaders and building opportunities to collaborate the missionary work till the end of my term in 2019.

Looking back, I marvel at the mighty work of God as my wife and I were raising a young family of three kids, while we both worked in full-time corporate roles. It is a miracle how God multiplied my time to be able to devote to this mission. When we give God first place in our lives, He enables us to walk on water – do what seems impossible, go beyond our comfort zones. Being a missionary is not about doing 'big things', but being open to let God work – in you and through you.

IN FOCUS

A close-up photograph of a human hand, palm facing forward, with fingers slightly curled. The hand is holding a glowing lightbulb. The lightbulb is shaped like a cross, with a vertical stem and horizontal bars at the top and bottom. The lightbulb is illuminated from within, casting a warm, orange glow. The background is dark and textured.

THE EMBRACE OF ALL TRUTH

FAITH, SCIENCE AND REASON

Dr. Sunny George explains that science is never ending and always points to something beyond the object of study – something higher and gives access to mystery.

Faith in God, by its very nature is value laden – it cares about life and existence, is concerned about death and dying, and what happens to us before and after, and seeks to restore dignity of every human life from its first moment of conception until death. The expression, ‘have faith, things will work out,’ is used to encourage and comfort someone facing serious problems or stressful situations. Interestingly, faith and trust are also connected, but there is a distinct difference between the two. Faith is belief in something that we cannot experience with our senses. Trust is surrender to faith. Trust itself is invisible. However, we know that we are deep into trust when we are at peace. The reason that mankind can only accept the Holy Trinity through faith is that human reasoning relates to the elements of time and space. In Heaven, and with God, there is no time or space.

God’s infinite plan for each soul – his provision and will – is not visible to the human eye, or understood with the human intellect. Therefore, to understand God’s will is to simply understand that God alone is the master weaver of the tapestry of each life. The threads that make up the tapestry are the moment to moment graces God gives that lead each soul to his salvation. No one is called outside of God’s will or to oppose God’s plan. It is Satan who inspires every sin, but free will cooperates upon every inspiration to sin. However, free will is God’s plan, and he continually gives fresh graces to overcome the effects of sin.

TWO WINGS OF THE SPIRIT

Pope John Paul II in his encyclical, *Fides et Ratio*, illustrates that faith and reason are like two wings on which the human spirit rises to the contemplation of truth. We cannot live by faith alone, or reason alone.

One way of understanding the ‘reason’ aspect of our existence is to see in it, man’s quest for God. Thus, Revelation, or Word of God is an expression of God’s search for man. Faith in God is essential to reason and the culture of our time, if it is to remain fully human. Interplay between human imperfection seeking perfection, and Divine perfection reaching out to human imperfection is highly visible in the mystery of the Incarnation – the Word became flesh and dwelt among us!

The Pope reinforces the role that the human reason should play in human affairs, avoiding at the same time the marginalisation of philosophy and the threat of scientism as well. The new harmony between faith, science and reason are beautifully expressed in this encyclical. What we have been witnessing at the moment in particular is the search for ultimate truth that is often neglected. The Pope adds that ‘philosophy and science function within the order of natural reason, while faith, enlightened and guided by the Spirit of God, recognises in the message of salvation, the fullness of grace and truth, which God has willed to reveal in history, and definitively through his son, Jesus Christ.’

As knowledge about science and technology increases, a generalised agreement exists about the distinction between the perspectives of science and faith. This distinction can be interpreted in two opposing ways: sometimes science and faith are seen as complementary, while at other times they are seen as mutually opposed and even enemies. Both positions exist at present. The study of natural science, particularly the knowledge of nature eventually led mankind to know the existence of God. The Pope comments on the Book of Wisdom, where we read that, *From the greatness and beauty of created things comes a corresponding perception of their Creator* (Wisdom 13:5). He reflects, ‘this is to recognise as a first stage of Divine Revelation the marvellous “Book of Nature,” which, when read with proper tools of human reason, can lead to the knowledge of the Creator. If human beings with their intelligence fail to recognise God as Creator of all, it is not because they lack the means to do so, but because their free will and their sinfulness place an impediment in the way.’ In this perspective, reason is valued as an instrument to know the God who reveals himself through nature.

TRUTH CANNOT CONTRADICT TRUTH

Pope Pius XII in his encyclical, *Humani Generis*, states that there was no opposition between evolution and the doctrine of the faith about man and his vocation, on the condition that one did not lose sight of several indisputable arguments. A greater good can be achieved in the understanding of the truth when the exegete and the theologian are informed about the results achieved by the natural sciences. The Church is directly concerned with the question of evolution because it involves the conception of man. The Word of God, or Revelation teaches that man is created in the image and likeness of God (Genesis 1:27). The conciliar constitution, *Gaudium et Spes* has beautifully explained this doctrine, which is pivotal to Christian thought. It magnificently describes that ‘man is the only creature on earth God wants for his own sake. With his intellect and his will, he is capable of forming a relationship of communion, solidarity, and self-giving with his peers.’ St Thomas Aquinas observes that man’s likeness to God resides especially in his speculative intellect, for his relationship with the object of his knowledge resembles God’s relationship with what he has created (*Summa Theologica* I-II:3:5, ad 1). Pope Pius XII underlines this important point: If the human body takes its origin from pre-existent living matter, the spiritual soul is immediately created by God.



Faith in God is essential to reason and the culture of our time, if it is to remain fully human. Interplay between human imperfection seeking perfection, and Divine perfection reaching out to human imperfection is highly visible in the mystery of the Incarnation - the Word became flesh and dwelt among us!

However, it is disheartening to note that the theories of evolution in accordance with the philosophies inspiring them, consider the spirit as emerging from the forces of living matter as incompatible with the truth about the human being.

Pope John Paul II emphasises that man has the capacity to know the truth, and not only particular truths, but ultimate truths that give a meaning to our life. Truth is the solution to many problems in the world today. Truth brings with it, very often, healing and forgiveness. Truth clarifies in the midst of confusion. Truth justifies actions and brings right reason and wisdom to the forefront. To appreciate truth in its fullness, a well-formed conscience is essential, that is to say, a conscience formed in truth. We may compare the conscience to an egg. The shell protects the egg itself; so we can say that the shell of the conscience represents the truth. If the egg shell cracks or becomes compromised, the contents of the egg leak out. So it is with the conscience. If the truth is compromised, every thought, word and deed which arises from the conscience is compromised as well.

The reason people do not unite in the truth is always the same – love of self above God and neighbour. This disordered self-love is always some form of pride, lust, anger, unforgiveness – anything that serves self above God and neighbours. Self-love which carries the souls away from Divine Love, confuses the truth through compromise. This is how sinful inclinations are fostered. This is why the world accepts such things as abortion and same-sex marriage. This is why those who do not compromise are persecuted.

In a wider context of his philosophy, St. Thomas Aquinas held that human reason, without supernatural aid, can establish the existence of God and the immortality of the soul. For those who cannot engage in such strenuous intellectual activity, these matters can also be revealed and known by faith. St. Augustine believed that reason alone was incomplete. Faith comes after reason and then, faith allows reason to grow. Faith enables a believer to understand further truths that could not be discovered through reason alone. Unless science comes up with concrete proof that there is no Divine influence in the universe, there is no reason to disbelieve both science and God at the same time.

Science is, first of all, a search for truth. Its progress is a triumph of the realistic programme that, in some way, has an ethical character. The rigorous reflection on science is the best antidote to oppose materialistic reductionism, and it provides interesting bridges that communicate the world of science with the world of Divine. The search for truth is never ending, but always points beyond, to something higher than the immediate object of study, the questions which give access to mystery.

With the advent of molecular biology and genetic engineering, a wealth of new data and arguments were accumulated, which were unknown to earlier ages. And to be faithful to the Thomistic method of analyses and reasoning, we need to take into account all of those truths and then seriously wrestle with them. I do not say that this is always a comfortable exercise. Any genuine worker knows that his or her contribution leads to temporary contradictions, blind alleys and non-acceptance that most people do face. Yet if our Catholic desire for truth is to remain in the Tradition of Faith, we must willingly welcome those struggles, because humanly speaking, we have no other means to truth. As we live in a world unsuitable to practice our Catholic way of life, we keep close to our heart, democracy, human rights and freedom of conscience. Without the intellectual tools to defend certain truths about the human person, we will not be able to defend those public practices that we highly value. May Our Lady, Seat of Wisdom, enlighten and guide all those who seek Truth, Reason and Faith. ■



Dr. Sunny George is a Professor of Food Technology, Amal Jyothi College of Engineering. He holds a Master's degree in Theology and is founder of two start-up companies. He lives in Kanjirapally, India with his wife, Dr Mini Mathew and their four children.

Catholic Contributions to Science

Antony Sachin writes this informative and fact-filled article on Catholic contributions to science.



Picture from 13th Century Illuminated Bible, depicts 'God as Architect of the World.'

'In the Middle Ages, they (Catholic Church) were [greatly] creative forces. Much of the new technological, economic, political and administrative techniques [of that period] were pioneered by the Catholic Church. The best equivalent for Silicon Valley in the 13th century was the Vatican. [For] all new ideas about administration, information processing, this is where you went, to the Vatican. The first archives, libraries, systems for archiving information, cataloguing information, this is something the Church was best at doing. If you were a king in the 13th century and you wanted somebody who knew how to handle information, to help you run your kingdom, you turned to monks. You turned to priests. So back then they were still very creative forces.'

These may seem the thoughts of a Church loyalist, but I was surprised to hear these words being uttered by the atheist Israeli historian Yuval Noah Harari in a talk at Google in 2015. Harari, an author and professor in the Department of History at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem is opposed to many aspects and stances of the Church. Yet he, and many like him who look into the evidence from history, realise and acknowledge the contributions of the Church in the field of science and education. Yet sadly, the perception of the Catholic Church as being anti-science is gaining much traction these days. The Church is projected as the oppressor of the scientific achievements of people like Galileo Galilei, Giordano Bruno, etc. and some Catholics still think that the Bible is against science without knowing the official position of the Catholic Church on science and faith.

Catholic Contributions to Science

This article is a small attempt to set the record straight about the true history of the Church's interventions in the journey of modern science as we know today.

We would scarcely call anyone 'educated' who had no knowledge whatsoever of History...

- Fr. Frederick C. Copleston SJ, Jesuit Philosopher and Historian of Philosophy

BIRTH OF CHRISTIANITY

Christianity was born in Roman-occupied Israel and grew up in a cultural climate where Greek was the language of the educated and wealthy classes. Emperor Constantine embraced Christianity before his death in 337 AD and from 380 AD, Christianity was the official religion of the whole Roman Empire. In 330 AD Constantine, threatened by 'barbarians' from the north and by disintegration from within, moved his capital to Constantinople, splitting the Roman Empire into two – the Eastern Empire and the Western Empire. During the Great Schism of 1054, the Eastern Church became the Orthodox Church and the Western Church continued to be known as the Roman Catholic Church. Initially, there were many developments of science in the Eastern Empire compared to the West, but the invasions of Mohammedan invaders into the Eastern Empire in the 7th century gave the most serious blow to the scientific development in Christendom.

MILESTONES OF SCIENTIFIC JOURNEY

1. Emergence of Benedictine Monasteries (6th century)

St. Benedict of Nursia (480–547 AD), patron saint of Europe and one of the patron saints of engineers, founded his monasteries not only on prayer, but also on work, following the guiding principle of *ora et labora*. And so, following their founder, monks took on civil and mechanical engineering activities like metalworking, building flood-control earthworks, draining swamps, and building reservoirs and mills. Monasteries were responsible for many of Europe's cultural and



Painting of a Benedictine distillery

technological 'firsts'. Beginning in the 6th century, monastic communities created the first large-scale European system of schools, libraries, scriptoria, and infirmaries; the importance of which cannot be underestimated for the collection, preservation, production, and transmission of technical knowledge. The remains of the first known tidal-powered water wheel have been found in Ireland, at Nendrum Monastery Mill in Strangford Lough, dating to the early 7th to late 8th centuries. Modern musical notation originated with Fr. Guido d'Arezzo, O.S.B., (992–1033 AD) in Italy. The first impact-drilled well, and the first artesian well in Europe, was drilled by Carthusian monks in Artois, France, in 1126¹.

2. Carolingian Renaissance (800–900 AD)

By the 6th century, the Roman Empire succumbed to invasions of barbarian tribes. In 800 AD, the Frankish King Charlemagne (pronounced shaa-luh-mayn) was crowned emperor in Rome by Pope Leo III in an effort to transfer the Roman Empire from East to West. Charlemagne (aka Charles the Great) wanted to unite his large empire by means of a common culture centered on education. To that end, he asked the English monk, Alcuin of York (735–804 AD) to create a standardised academic

curriculum. Alcuin, who was influenced by the writings of St. Bede (672–735 AD), obliged by creating the *trivium* (grammar, logic, rhetoric) and the *quadrivium* (arithmetic, geometry, astronomy, and music). Charlemagne created Cathedral schools throughout the empire, where boys and girls alike studied Alcuin's curriculum. Charlemagne also patronised Benedictine monasteries, where the monks preserved classical Greek and Roman culture by copying ancient manuscripts that would then survive to be read during the later Italian Renaissance. As historian Joseph Lynch explains, 'The writing, book copying, artistic and architectural work, and thinking of the men trained in the cathedral and monastic schools stimulated a change in the quality and quantity of intellectual life.'

The monks of Charlemagne's empire were responsible for another, extremely important innovation in education. At the time, written scripts and fonts differed widely in various parts of Christendom, making it difficult for texts written in one region to be read and understood in another. In addition, there were no such things as lowercase letters, punctuation marks, or blank spaces between words. To standardise writing and make it more readable, the monks developed a standard

script or font known as Carolingian minuscule, which was clear and uniform with rounded shapes, had clear capital and lowercase letters, punctuation marks, and had spaces between the words. Carolingian minuscule became the standard font for manuscripts in Christendom for nearly 400 years, and was even used outside the confines of Charlemagne's empire. This script not only benefited education during the medieval period, it was 'crucial to building the literacy of Western civilisation'².

3. Origin of the First Western Medical School

The medical school at Salerno, Italy emerged in the 9th century, revived the tradition of the ancient schools. Three important factors determined the success of the Salernitan School: first, medical education in Salerno began in the Benedictine monasteries, resulting in association between medical learning and hospitals of the Church. Connection with the monastery at Monte Casino and Benedictine traditions promoted intellectual development in a liberal atmosphere, which enabled students of all backgrounds, including women, to attend the school.

With its mild climate, Salerno was considered a health resort where travellers and nobility came to recuperate from various ailments. Aggregation of the sick at Salerno attracted Greek, Arabic and Jewish physicians. In addition, collections of literary material preserved in the monasteries drew students of medicine from all over Europe, Spain and Asia Minor.

The third factor that promoted the success of the school was its geographic location in Southern Italy. The school was located in the middle of an elevated valley, overlooking the town of Salerno, southeast of Naples. Proximity to surviving remnants of Greek culture promoted learning of Ancient Masters, such as Hippocrates and Aristotle.

4. 12th Century Renaissance

The university, which developed and matured at the height of Catholic Europe,

was a new phenomenon in European history. Nothing like it had existed in ancient Greece or Rome. The institution that we recognise today, with its faculties, courses of study, examinations, and degrees, as well as the familiar distinction between undergraduate and graduate study, comes to us directly from medieval Europe.

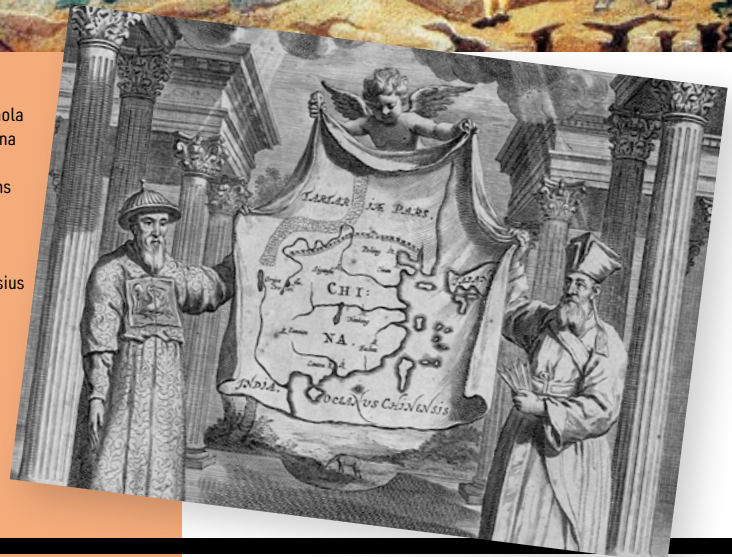
The papacy played a central, if not exclusive role in the establishment and encouragement of the universities. Naturally, the granting of a charter to a university was one indication of

this papal role. The first university was founded at Bologna at the end of the eleventh century. The University of Paris was erected in 1150, Oxford in 1167, and Cambridge in 1209. In total, 81 universities were founded before the mid-16th century. Of these 33 possessed a papal charter, 15 a royal or imperial one, 20 possessed both, and 13 had none. In addition, it was the accepted view that a university could not award degrees without the approbation of Pope, king, or emperor. Pope Innocent IV



A miniature depicting the Schola Medica Salernitana from a copy of Avicenna's *Canons*

Right: The frontispiece of Jesuit Fr. Athanasius Kircher's 1667 *China Illustrata*



Catholic Contributions to Science

officially granted this privilege to Oxford University, for example, in 1254.

The Pope (in fact) and the emperor (in theory) possessed authority over all of Christendom, and for this reason it was to them that a university typically had to turn for the right to issue degrees. Equipped with the approval of one or the other of these universal figures, the university's degrees would be respected throughout all of Christendom. Degrees awarded only by the approval of national monarchs, on the other hand, were considered valid only in the kingdom in which they were issued. In certain cases, including in particular the universities at Bologna, Oxford, and Paris, the master's degree entitled the bearer to teach anywhere in the world.

The Pope also granted the university a separate papal jurisdiction, thus emancipating the institution from the interference of what had been an overbearing diocesan authority. The distinction between undergraduate and graduate education was made in the early universities more or less as it is today.

According to the historian of science Edward Grant, the creation of the university, the commitment to reason and rational argument, and the overall spirit of inquiry that characterised medieval intellectual life amounted to 'a gift from the Latin Middle Ages to the modern world...though it is a gift that may never be acknowledged. Perhaps it will always retain the status it has had for the past four centuries as the best-kept secret of Western civilization.'³

According to Michael Shank, Professor of the History of Science at University of Wisconsin-Madison, 'The thirteenth century marks a turning point in the histories of world culture and of the scientific enterprise. The emerging universities institutionalised learning, giving the teaching, study, and advancement of theoretical approaches to natural knowledge a permanent home. The ups and downs of the intervening history notwithstanding, the partnership of the scientific enterprise with the university still thrives today. The medieval universities not only created



Above: 18th Century tapestry of Jesuit astronomers with Chinese scholars.

Right: The Selenograph of Riccioli and Grimaldi showing many of the Jesuit craters.



a quasi-autonomous space for natural philosophy and the mathematical sciences in the faculties of arts, but also institutionalised law, medicine, and theology. Masters in the last two faculties often continued to develop the natural philosophy and the mathematical and analytical tools of their earlier education.⁴

5. Jesuit Contribution to Science

By the mid-16th century, the Catholic Church was gifted with a wonderful religious congregation (Society of Jesus) founded by St. Ignatius of Loyola and six companions with the approval of Pope Paul III in 1540. The members are called Jesuits (SJ). Jesuits have made remarkable contributions in almost all the fields of science. 35 lunar craters and 11 asteroids have been named after Jesuit scientists.

In fact, one of the moon's largest crater formations is named after Fr. Christopher Clavius (1538–1612). His astronomical and mathematical genius played a major role in the formation of the Gregorian calendar, the calendar system in almost universal use today. Clavius encouraged a number of mathematical developments: the decimal point, parenthesis, use of logarithms and the Vernier scale. Fr. Giovanni Battista Riccioli (1598–1671) was known for his experiments with pendulums and with falling bodies, and for introducing the current scheme of lunar nomenclature. He is also widely known for discovering the first double star.

Fr. Athanasius Kircher (1602–1680), wrote about a wide range of scientific issues – astronomy, magnetism, volcanoes, earthquakes, disease, geography, antiquarianism, among others and organised a museum of natural history (which both served as a repository of curiosities and as a spur to experimentation). Fr. Roger Boscovich (1711–1787) developed a dynamic atomic theory that unified all natural forces and made many contributions to astronomy, including the first geometric procedure for determining the equator of a rotating planet from three observations of a surface feature and for computing the

orbit of a planet from three observations of its position. In 1753 he also discovered the absence of atmosphere on the Moon.

Jesuit missions across the world also aided their scientific efforts. Fr. Matteo Ricci (1552–1610) successfully predicted a solar eclipse on September 22, 1596, earning him the opportunity to work with Xu Guangqi, an open-minded Chinese scholar on reforming the Chinese calendar system. The new calendar provided more accurate predictions of eclipses of the sun and the moon and better guidance for planting and harvesting. Ricci was the first westerner to be invited to China and appointed as an advisor to the Chinese emperor. This calendar reform marked the first major collaboration between scientists from Europe and China and also in establishing the China mission.

Likewise, Fr. José de Acosta (1539–1600) mapped the terrain, flora, and fauna of Central and South America. Many scientific books were written by Jesuits and many observatories were set up wherever they carried their mission. Fr. Eugene Lafont (1837–1908), had the distinction of introducing modern science into India with his knowledge of experimental physics and his ability to popularise science among the people. He was called the 'Father of Science' in India. Sir J. C. Bose and Dr. C. V. Raman (Nobel laureate) found encouragement for their introduction to science in the person of Fr. Eugène Lafont.

The 'Hurricane Priest' who laid the groundwork for the hurricane warning systems we use today is Fr. Benito Viñes SJ (1837–1893). Hurricanes and cyclones in the Caribbean and Asia encouraged Jesuit missionaries to study weather phenomena, with the worldwide distribution of observatories and the centralisation of data through the order allowing them to establish global patterns. Jesuits have contributed so much to the development of seismology and seismic prospecting that seismology has been called *the Jesuit science*. Jesuits founded their own seismological association and seismological stations were set up all over the world.

Other contributors to this scientific galaxy include Fr. Angelo Secchi (1818–1878), in the mid-nineteenth century, pioneered the use of spectroscopy for solar and stellar research; Fr. Stephen Joseph Perry (1833–1889), also active in the mid-nineteenth century, studied geomagnetism (positing the relationship between the variations in the terrestrial magnetic field and the magnetic pole) and led scientific expeditions for the Royal Society. Fr. James Bernard Macelwane (1883–1956), wrote the first textbook of seismology; and Fr. Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, in geology and palaeontology, who was also famous for his influential thought on the relation between evolution and Christian faith. Brother Guy J. Consolmagno, the present director of Vatican Observatory (www.vaticanobservatory.va) is also an American Jesuit.⁵

CHRISTIANITY, THE CRADLE OF MODERN SCIENCE

Almost all the civilisations that came after the Greeks (Romans, Christians & Arabs) relied on Greek Science, especially on the works of Aristotle (384–322 BC). Aristotle was a Greek philosopher and polymath during the Classical period in Ancient Greece. He was the tutor of Alexander the Great. He taught subjects such as logic, physics, public speaking, politics, and philosophy. Aristotle had new ideas on how the world should be studied. Pythagorean Theorem, Euclidean geometry, Archimedes' principle (physical law of buoyancy) taught in our schools are the contributions of ancient Greek Science.

Christians' understanding of Cosmology was based on the famous astronomer Claudius Ptolemy (100–168 AD), who lived in the city of Alexandria. His model of the solar system was geocentric, where the sun, moon, planets, and stars all orbit the earth in perfectly circular orbits which was universally accepted until 15th century Catholic astronomer and canon lawyer, Nicolaus Copernicus (1473–1543) came up with a heliocentric model. Later Galileo, a devout Catholic made an observable telescope to prove the heliocentric theory.

Catholic Contributions to Science

From the time of the Greeks to the 15th Century, there was no solid proof for the rotation and revolution of earth around the sun. With our naked eye, it was impossible to understand that the earth was rotating (because we do not feel its rotation) and also that it was revolving around the sun. They assumed that the sun and other stars rotated around the earth. The heliocentric theory, backed by an observable telescope was a breakthrough achievement, and the later discoveries of Sir Issac Newton (English scientist & theologian) gave more clarity in this area.

Aristotle had a pantheistic worldview, meaning 'God is everything and everything is God.' This view was shared by almost all the ancient civilisations, but it went totally against the Christian theology of monotheism because Christians believed in a transcendental God, i.e. God is beyond space and time. This understanding was based on the Bible and also Christian theologians and scientists rejected the notion of an eternal universe. They believed that the universe had a beginning as accounted in Genesis 1:1, but there was no evidence until Fr. Georges Lemaître (1894 – 1966), a Belgian Catholic priest, came up with a new theory called 'Big Bang' for the origin of the universe. Lemaître's theory was based on Albert Einstein's Theory of Relativity. Albert Einstein later accepted his theory, even though he had an initial understanding of an eternal universe.

John Philoponus (490–570 AD), a Byzantine Christian was one of the first to propose a 'theory of impetus' similar to the modern concept of inertia over Aristotelian dynamics. This theory was later developed by Jean Buridan (1301–1359) a Catholic cleric, teacher in the faculty of arts at the University of Paris, who sowed the seeds of the Copernican revolution in Europe. He refined the concept of impetus with many experiments, the first step toward the modern concept of inertia and an important development in the history of modern science. The theory of impetus was a precursor to the concepts of inertia

'The Roman Catholic Church gave more financial aid and social support to the study of astronomy over six centuries, from the recovery of ancient learning during the late Middle Ages into the Enlightenment, than any other, and probably, all other institutions.'

Solar calendar
inside the Milan
Cathedral



and momentum in classical mechanics.

In Buridan's writings, perhaps for the first time, the heavens and the earth were at least tentatively subjected to a single set of laws, and the same suggestion was carried further by Buridan's student, Nicole Oresme (Bishop). He suggested that, 'when God created [the heavens] ... , He impressed them with a certain quality and force of motion, just as He impressed terrestrial things with weight ... ; it is just the same as a man building a clock and leaving it to run itself. Thus, God left the heavens to be moved continually ... according to the order [He had] established.'⁶

To learn more details about this topic, I would suggest reading Stacy Trasancos, *Science was born of Christianity, The teaching of Father Stanley L. Jaki*, 2013.

Giovanni Battista Guglielmini (1763–1817), a cleric and Catholic scientist from Bologna, is known as the first scientific experimenter on the mechanical demonstration of the earth's rotation. The most celebrated test of the Earth's rotation is the Foucault pendulum first built by French physicist Léon Foucault in 1851, who later became a practicing Catholic.

Rodney Stark, professor of sociology and of comparative religion at University of Washington, researched 'scientific stars' from 1543 to 1680, the era usually designated as the 'scientific revolution', and came up with a list of the top 52 scientists. Of these, 26 were Protestant and 26 Catholic; 15 of them were English, 9 French, 8 Italian, 7 German (the rest were Dutch, Danish, Flemish, Polish and Swedish respectively). Only one was a sceptic (Edmund Halley) and one (Paracelsus) was a pantheist. The other 50 were Christians, at least 30 of whom could be characterised as 'devout' because of their evident zeal. It is not until Charles Darwin (1809–1882) that atheism appeared to accomplish anything significant in science.⁷

IN CONCLUSION

Thomas Woods notes in his book, *How the Catholic Church Built Western Civilization*, 'Cathedrals in Bologna, Florence, Paris, and Rome were designed



From top: Br. Guy Consolmagno, present Director of Vatican Observatory of Castel Gandolfo, Italy; Fr. Georges Lemaitre with Albert Einstein

in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries to function as world-class solar observatories. Nowhere in the world were there more precise instruments for the study of the sun. Each such cathedral contained holes through which sunlight could enter and timelines (or meridian lines) on the floor. It was by observing the path traced out by the sunlight on these lines that researchers could obtain accurate measurements of time and predict equinoxes.' In the words of J. L. Heilbron of the University of California, Berkeley, the 'Roman Catholic Church gave more financial aid and social support to the study of astronomy over six centuries, from the recovery of ancient learning during the late Middle Ages into the Enlightenment, than any other, and probably, all other institutions.'

Historically, Catholics are numbered among the most important scientists of

all time, including Rene Descartes, who discovered analytic geometry and the laws of refraction; Blaise Pascal, inventor of the adding machine, hydraulic press, and the mathematical theory of probabilities; Augustinian priest Gregor Mendel, who founded modern genetics; Louis Pasteur, founder of microbiology and creator of the first vaccine for rabies and anthrax; Johannes Gutenberg, founder of the printing machine. It is very difficult to articulate Catholic Contributions to Science in a few pages, but I have tried to give a glimpse of some of the main areas. The story of the Church's contributions to science goes beyond the accomplishments of the aforementioned individuals; Catholic theology and the worldview that emerged from it were instrumental to the rise of the modern scientific method. In the words of C. S. Lewis, 'Men became scientific because they expected Law in Nature, and they expected Law in Nature because they believed in a Law-Giver.' ■

¹ Green, Brian, 'The Catholic Church and Technological Progress: Past, Present, and Future', *Religions* 8.6 (2017): 106.

² Weidenkopf, Steve. *The Real Story of Catholic History Answering Twenty Centuries of Anti-Catholic Myths*, 77-79

³ <https://www.catholiceducation.org/en/education/catholic-contributions/the-catholic-church-and-the-creation-of-the-university.html>

⁴ Harrison, Peter, Ronald L. Numbers and Michael H. Shank, eds, *Wrestling with Nature: From Omens to Science*, 84

⁵ Udías, Agustín, *Jesuit Contribution to Science - A History*, Springer, 2014

⁶ Jaki, Stanley L., *Science and creation: From Eternal Cycles to an Oscillating Universe*, Gondolin Press, Kindle Edition

⁷ Stark, Rodney, *For the Glory of God: How Monotheism Led to Reformations, Science, Witch-Hunts, and the End of Slavery*, 2004



Antony Sachin is presently active in a full-time media ministry called CatholicVibes, a YouTube channel about the Catholic Faith. He lives in Ernakulam, India.



By Reason of Faith

Blesson Manjakunnel compiles a list of websites, YouTube channels and other resources that delve into science from the Christian perspective.

Faith is most often portrayed as an irrational position taken by a believer to hide his problems. But is that it? Can't Christians have a rational explanation for their beliefs? Certainly, Christians all through the centuries have tried and are still trying to explain the revealed truth in its best accordance with logic and reason. The Christian worldview follows the idea of discovering reality both through revelations as well as through the ability of logical reasoning. The narration of religion versus science has contributed to the perception of Christianity against the enterprise of science, which in itself is contradictory for without Christianity, we wouldn't have the science that is spoken about. Amidst today's confusion regarding what is true, one might become sceptic about the existence of truth itself. This turmoil has led to the birth of phenomenally devastating ideas and ideologies, as we've witnessed in the last two centuries. Since this situation can get worse, we as Christians need to be committed to the cause of evangelisation through the apologetics. We are called to enlighten the ignorant and confront the misrepresented accusations to stop the spread of myths and lies. This act requires serious scholarship and commitment to truth. Every Christian needs to explore the intellectual side of the Christian faith, confront his inner queries and embark on the journey of truth. Finally, enlighten others.

The rapid growth of Christian resources on the web has been phenomenal. Most of us fail to realise how much of a blessing this is. Twenty years ago, no one could have imagined having access to such a vast library of resources. Here is a list of websites and other resources that are useful.

CATHOLIC WEBSITES

Institute of Catholic Culture

The Institute of Catholic Culture is an adult catechetical organisation, faithful to the Magisterium of the Catholic Church, and dedicated to the Church's call for a new evangelisation. The Institute seeks to fulfil its mission by offering educational programmes in various domains such as catechetical, history, literature, liturgical studies, philosophy, politics, Sacred Scripture, theology, etc.

instituteofcatholicculture.org

Word on Fire

Bishop Robert Barron, the Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, founded Word on Fire for the new evangelisation through modern media.

www.wordonfire.org

Catholic Answers

Catholic Answers has been in the forefront of Catholic apologetics for the last forty years. They regularly host YouTube radio programmes where one can get their doubts about the Catholic faith answered. They have featured popular Christian apologists such as Karl Keating, Scott Hahn, Trent Horn, Jimmy Akin, Tim Staples and many others.

www.catholic.com

Magis Center

The Magis Center provides comprehensive and systematic responses to restore, construct and revitalise the belief in God, the transcendent dignity of every person, the significance of virtue, the higher levels of happiness, love and freedom, and the real presence of Jesus Christ. The seven essentials modules from Fr. Robert Spitzer would serve as the best for any beginner into apologetics. The urban myth that science has buried religion is well refuted all along the materials.

magiscenter.com

www.crediblecatholic.com/programs

Catholic Bridge

Catholic Bridge aims at developing a Christian brotherhood, where Christians irrespective of their denominations can have an ease in tensions on different divisive topics. The myths of Dark Age, Inquisitions, Crusades and other medieval-era legends are answered here.

www.catholicbridge.com

The Thomistic Institute

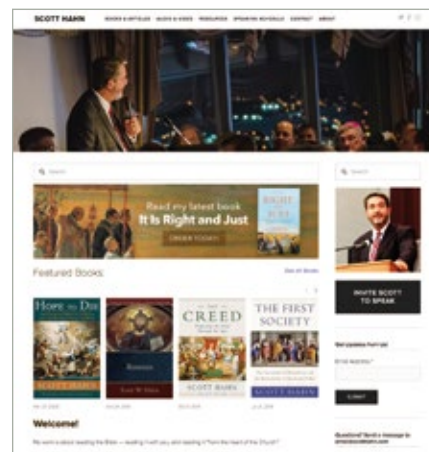
The Thomistic Institute inspired by St Thomas Aquinas, exists to promote Catholic truth in our contemporary world, strengthening the intellectual formation of Christians at universities, in the Church and in the wider public square.

aquinas101.thomisticinstitute.org

New Advent Catholic Encyclopedia

New Advent is a place for everything related to the Catholic faith.

www.newadvent.org


SCOTT HAHN


Society of Catholic Scientists

The Society hopes to answer the call of Pope St. John Paul II that 'members of the Church who are active scientists' be of service to those who are attempting to 'integrate the worlds of science and religion in their own intellectual and spiritual lives.' The Society does this through annual conferences, symposia and seminars, discussion groups, lectures, and other activities.

www.catholicscientists.org

Vatican Observatory

The Vatican Observatory is a branch of the formal government of the Vatican City State. The Vatican Observatory Foundation is the fundraising arm of the Vatican Observatory. It has a two-fold mission: supporting scientific research into the knowledge of the universe and education of the public based upon the knowledge derived from that research. This site has a selection of hundreds of articles, videos, and audio files on the topic of Faith and Science, for the use of Catholic educators and Catholics seeking education.

www.vaticanobservatory.va, www.vofoundation.org

Chastity Project

Chastity Project is a ministry of Jason and Crystalina Evert that promotes the virtue of chastity through seminars, resources, clubs, and social media.

chastity.com

CATHOLIC YOUTUBE CHANNELS

Bishop Robert Barron

Bishop Robert Barron, the Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, publishes YouTube videos, articles, and commentaries on the contemporary struggles of the Church.

www.youtube.com/Bishop Robert Barron

Brant Pitre

Dr. Brant Pitre is a distinguished Research Professor of Scripture at the Augustine Institute, Graduate School of Theology. He earned his Ph.D. in Theology from the University of Notre Dame, where he specialised in the study of the New Testament and ancient Judaism.

www.youtube.com/Catholic Productions

Breaking in the Habit

Fr Casey, OFM is a Franciscan Friar who manages the channel, Breaking in the Habit. He provides his personal reflections and explanations from a Catholic and Franciscan perspective.

www.youtube.com/Breaking In The Habit

The Thomistic Institute

The Thomistic Institute inspired by St Thomas Aquinas, exists to promote Catholic truth in our contemporary world strengthening the intellectual formation of Christians at universities, in the Church and in the wider public square.

www.youtube.com/The Thomistic Institute

Ascension Presents

Ascension Presents seeks to present the truth and beauty of the Catholic faith through media, and to answer the longings of the human heart with the transformative power of the Gospel. Ascension Presents features Catholic speakers like Fr. Mike Schmitz, Jason Evert, Jackie and Bobby Angel and others.

www.youtube.com/Ascension Presents

Pints with Aquinas

Matt Fradd hosts the channel, Pints with Aquinas. Matt Fradd hosts discussion, debates on faith, philosophy and theology. He mostly features atheist-Christian speakers to share their opinions on diverse topics. His main aim is to explore the intellectual side of the Catholic faith and present it to the much larger audience.

www.youtube.com/Pints With Aquinas

SOCIETY OF
**CATHOLIC
SCIENTISTS**

Breaking In The Habit

REASONABLE *Faith*
with William Lane Craig



Steubenville Conferences

The mission of the Steubenville Conferences is to invite young people into a life-changing encounter with Jesus Christ through the Sacraments of the Church and the power of the Holy Spirit. This experience of Christ's love opens their hearts to become His disciples and embrace the mission of the Catholic Church.

www.youtube.com/SteubenvilleConferences

FACEBOOK / BLOGS

Church and Science

The myth of Catholic Church standing against science is a popular misconception even today, despite being debunked many times in history. The Facebook page, Church and Science aims to make Catholics as well as others aware of the Church's contributions to modern science and how the Church continues to do so.

<https://www.facebook.com/ChurchandScience>

Scott Hahn

Dr. Scott Hahn is an American Catholic Bible Scholar and Apologist who has delivered numerous talks nationally and internationally on a wide variety of topics related to Scripture and the Catholic faith. His talks have been effective in helping thousands of Protestants and fallen away Catholics to (re)embrace the Catholic faith.

www.scotthahn.com

Edward Feser

Edward Feser is a writer and philosopher living in Los Angeles, US. He teaches philosophy at Pasadena City College. His primary academic research interests are philosophy of mind, moral and political philosophy, and philosophy of religion. He also writes on politics, from a conservative point of view and on religion, from a traditional Roman Catholic perspective.

edwardfeser.blogspot.com

John Lennox

John Lennox, Professor of Mathematics at Oxford University (emeritus), is an internationally renowned speaker on the interface of science, philosophy, and religion. He regularly teaches at many academic institutions, is Senior Fellow with the Trinity Forum and has written a series of books exploring the relationship between science and Christianity.

www.johnlennox.org

Brandon Vogt

Brandon serves as a consultant to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops Committee on Evangelisation and Catechesis. He works as the Senior Content Director for Bishop Robert Barron's Word on Fire Catholic Ministries.

brandonvogt.com

PROTESTANT WEBSITES

Reasonable Faith

William Lane Craig, one of the best Christian apologists in the world heads the organisation, Reasonable Faith. Reasonable Faith aims to provide intelligent, articulate and uncompromising yet gracious Christian perspective on the issues concerning the truth of the Christian faith.

www.reasonablefaith.org

Cross Examined

Cross Examined headed by Frank Turek is a non-profit ministry started in 2006 that conducts dynamic 'I Don't Have Enough Faith to Be an Atheist' seminars on college campuses, churches, and high schools. Cross Examined is an evangelical, inter-denominational Christian ministry.

crossexamined.org

Christians need to be committed to the cause of evangelisation through the apologetics. We are called to enlighten the ignorant and confront the misrepresented accusations to stop the spread of myths and lies.



INSPIRING PHILOSOPHY



Stand to Reason

Stand to Reason represents classical Christianity—orthodox Christian beliefs that have been affirmed since the first Christians.

www.str.org

Bethinking

Bethinking is a platform where you can get refutations on any topic related to Christian faith. It is like an archive that holds the refutations, commentaries, critiques of arguments raised against Christian faith.

www.bethinking.org

BioLogos

BioLogos invites the church and the world to see the harmony between science and biblical faith. BioLogos was founded by

one of the top biologists in the world, Francis Collins. He led the Human Genome Project and now directs the National Institutes of Health, US.

biologos.org

Gary Habermas

Gary Habermas has dedicated his professional life to the examination of the relevant historical, philosophical, and theological issues surrounding the death and resurrection of Jesus. Christian believers as well as unbelievers may find within the contents of this site a strong argument for the philosophical possibility of miracles and the historicity of the resurrection of Jesus, as well as the theological and practical implications of this event.

www.garyhabermas.com

Ravi Zacharias International Ministries

Despite the scandals related to Ravi Zacharias, one cannot forget the legacy his ministries hold. The university discussions RZIM has engaged has helped many young people to find their ways back to the faith.

www.rzim.org

PROTESTANT YOUTUBE CHANNELS

InspiringPhilosophy

Michael Jones through his channel InspiringPhilosophy has tried to explore the domains of science, philosophy and theology from a Christian perspective. His contents are rich with citations and references and often contain the latest research in these different domains. Michael has tried to come forth with the best plausible explanations for Christian truths.

www.youtube.com/InspiringPhilosophy

The Veritas Forum

The Veritas Forum hosts university events on life's hardest questions and the relevance of Jesus Christ to all of life. They often host discussions between Christian and non-Christian thinkers.

www.youtube.com/TheVeritasForum

Capturing Christianity

Capturing Christianity hosted by Cameron Bertuzzi aims at exposing the intellectual side of Christian faith. The numerous debates and discussions featured by Cameron help in exploring the intellectual base of the Christian beliefs.

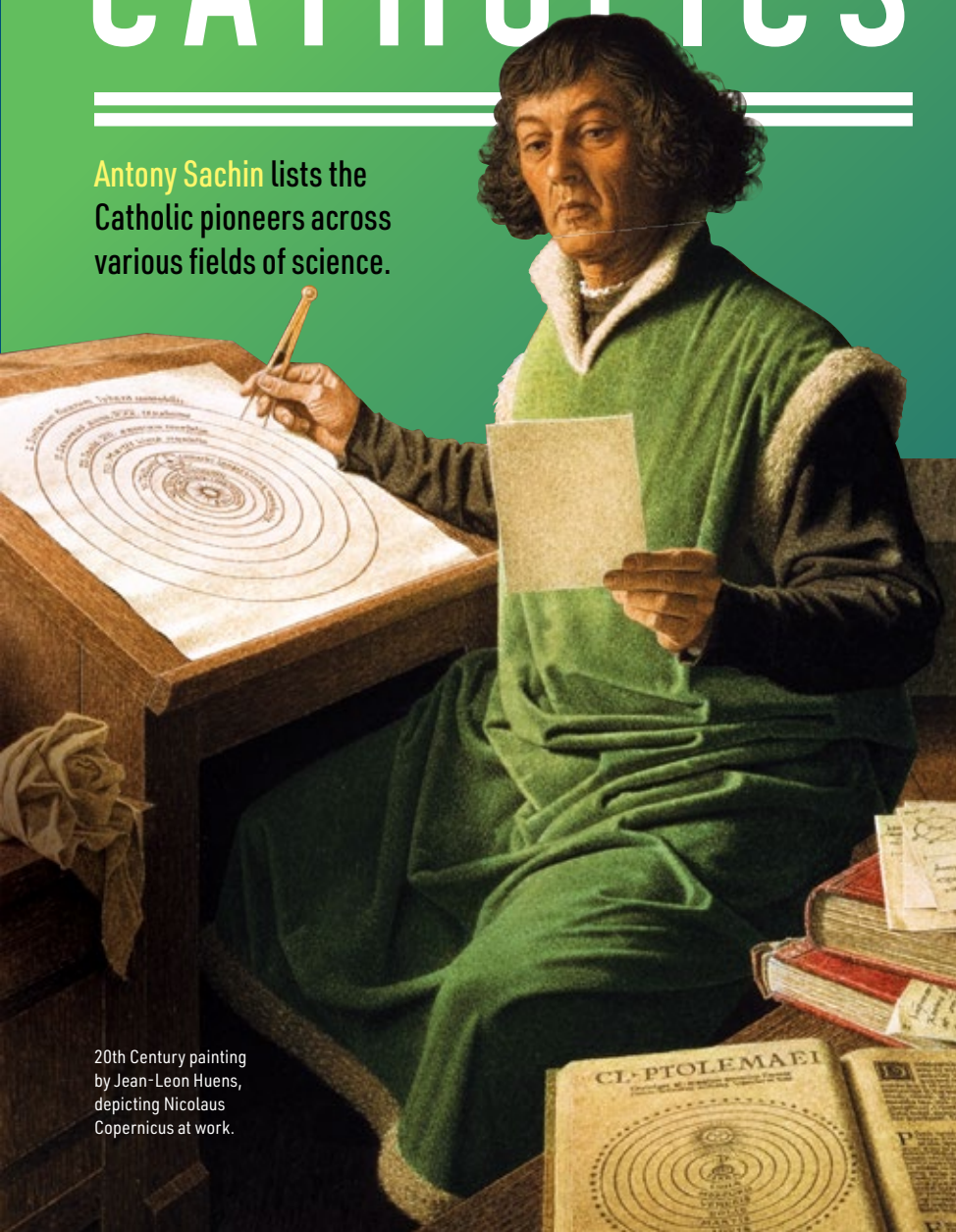
www.youtube.com/CapturingChristianity



Blesson Manjakunnel is a B.Tech student from Thodupuzha, India. He is interested in Christian Apologetics.

SCIENTIFIC CATHOLICS

Antony Sachin lists the Catholic pioneers across various fields of science.



20th Century painting by Jean-Leon Huens, depicting Nicolaus Copernicus at work.

St. Anatolius of Laodicea (early 3rd century–283 AD), became Bishop of Laodicea on the Mediterranean coast of Roman Syria in AD 268. He was one of the foremost scholars of his day in the physical sciences and in Aristotelian philosophy, as well as a great computist. According to Eusebius of Caesarea, he was credited with a rich knowledge of arithmetic, geometry, physics, rhetoric, dialectic, and astronomy. Anatolius is considered a saint by both the Eastern Orthodox and the Roman Catholic Church.

John Philoponus (490–570 AD) was a Byzantine Alexandrian philologist, scientist, Aristotelian commentator and Christian theologian. John Philoponus broke from the Aristotelian–Neoplatonic tradition, questioning methodology and eventually leading to empiricism in the natural sciences. He was one of the first to propose a ‘theory of impetus’ similar to the modern concept of inertia over Aristotelian dynamics.

St. Isidore of Seville (560–636 AD) was a Spanish scholar and Bishop. For over three decades, he was Archbishop of Seville. He is widely regarded, in the words of 19th-century historian Montalembert, as ‘the last scholar of the ancient world.’ Isidore was the first Christian writer to try to compile a summa of universal knowledge, in his most important work, the *Etymologiae*. This encyclopedia consists of 448 chapters in 20 volumes. He also invented the period (full stop), comma, and colon.

Paul of Aegina (625–690 AD), considered by some to be the greatest Christian Byzantine surgeon, developed many novel surgical techniques and authored the medical encyclopaedia, *Medical Compendium in Seven Books*. The book on surgery in particular was a definitive treatise in Europe and the Islamic world for hundreds of years.

St. Bede, the Venerable [672–735 AD] An Anglo-Saxon priest, historian, biblical scholar, and one of the greatest of all chroniclers of the Middle Ages. Aside from his historical writings, he was the author of *On Time* and *On the Reckoning of Time*.

Hunayn ibn Ishaq [808–873] was an influential Nestorian Christian translator, scholar, physician, and scientist from Al-Hirah [present day Iraq]. He is the father of Arab translations. He mastered four languages: Arabic, Syriac, Greek and Persian. Hunayn is important for the many excellent translations of Greek texts which he made into Arabic. In particular he translated Plato and Aristotle. These translations were spread widely through Mesopotamia, Syria and Egypt.

Pope Sylvester II [946–1003 AD] was a French-born scholar and teacher who served as the bishop of Rome and ruled the Papal States from 999 to his death. He endorsed and promoted study of Arab and Greco-Roman arithmetic, mathematics, and astronomy, reintroducing to Europe the abacus and armillary sphere, which had been lost to Latin Europe since the end of the Greco-Roman era. He is said to be the first to introduce in Europe the decimal numeral system using the Hindu-Arabic numeral system.

Bishop Robert Grosseteste [1168–1253] was educated at Oxford University. He became Chancellor of Oxford University in 1215 remaining in this post until about 1221. He became Bishop of Lincoln in 1235. Grosseteste worked on geometry, optics and astronomy. In optics he experimented with mirrors and with lenses. He believed that experimentation must be used to verify a theory by testing its consequences. In his work *De Iride* he writes:

This part of optics, when well understood, shows us how we may make things a very long distance off appear as if placed very close, and large near things appear very small, and how we may make small things placed at a distance appear any size we want, so that it may be possible for us to read the smallest letters at incredible distances, or to count sand, or seed, or any sort of minute objects.

Pope John XXI [1210–1277 AD] was born in Lisbon, educated at the University of Paris [1228–1235], where he received his master's degree [1240]. John taught medicine at the new University of Siena, Italy. He was also author of an influential work on medicine prior to his papal election.

St. Albert the Great [1200–1280 AD] was a German Catholic Dominican friar, teacher, preacher, scientist, administrator and bishop. He made contributions to logic, psychology, metaphysics, meteorology, mineralogy, and zoology. Albert's knowledge of natural science was considerable and for the age remarkably accurate. His industry in every department was great: not only did he produce commentaries and paraphrases of the entire Aristotelian corpus, including his scientific works, but Albert also added to and improved upon them. His books on topics like botany, zoology, and minerals included information from ancient sources, but also results of his own empirical investigations.

Fr. Roger Bacon [1214–1292 AD] was an English Franciscan friar, philosopher, scientist and a



forerunner of modern scientific method. He studied and later taught at Oxford University and also taught the University of Paris. Bacon had a wide range of interests. He investigated optics and the refraction of light through lenses, leading to the development of spectacles. He sought reform of the calendar and was interested in astronomy. In 1266, at the request of Pope Clement IV, he collected many of his observations in his *Opus Maius*, an encyclopaedia of all science. A new international society for the study of Roger Bacon, The Roger Bacon Research Society has recently been established.

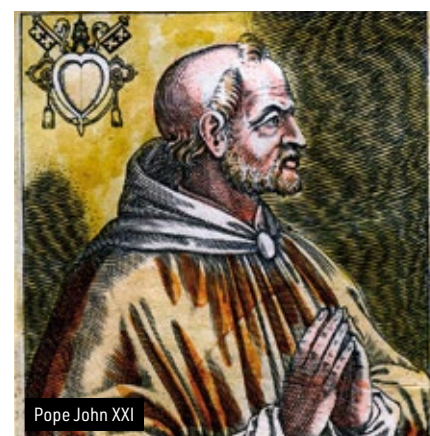
The strongest arguments prove nothing so long as the conclusions are not verified by experience. Experimental science is the queen of sciences and the goal of all speculation.

– *Opus Tertium*, Roger Bacon

Bishop Thomas Bradwardine [1300–1349 AD] was an Archbishop of Canterbury before his death. He was part of a group of thinkers called the 'Oxford Calculators' or 'Merton Calculators,' who

made significant advances in the mathematical analysis of motion. One of them, William Heytesbury, was the first person to prove the 'mean speed theorem' (or 'Merton Theorem') which gives the distance travelled by a uniformly accelerating body.

Jean Buridan [1301–1359] was a cleric, teacher in the faculty of arts at the University of Paris for his entire career, focusing in particular on logic and the works of Aristotle. Buridan sowed the seeds of the Copernican revolution in Europe. He developed the concept of impetus, the first step toward the modern concept of inertia and an important development in the history of medieval science. His name is most familiar through the thought experiment known as Buridan's ass.



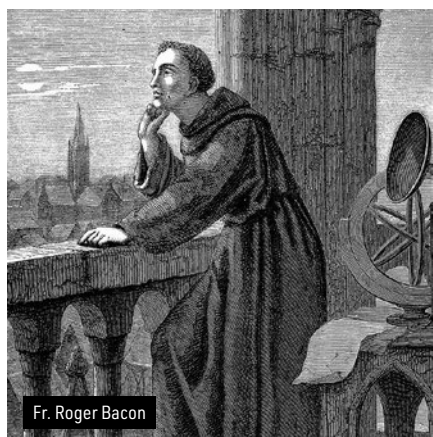
Bishop Albert of Saxony [1320–1390 AD], Master of Arts at Paris, then Rector of the University of Vienna, and finally Bishop of Halberstadt [Germany]. As a logician, he was at the forefront of the movement that expanded the analysis of language based on the properties of terms, especially their reference [in Latin: *suppositio*], but also in the exploration of new fields of logic, especially the theory of consequences.

Bishop Nicole Oresme [1323–1382] was French scholastic philosopher, economist, and mathematician whose work provided some basis for the development of modern mathematics and science and of French prose, particularly its scientific vocabulary. He invented coordinate geometry long before Descartes. He was the first to use a fractional exponent and also worked on infinite series.

Cardinal Nicholas of Cusa [1401–1464 AD] was a German Cardinal who died nine years before Copernicus was born. He was an important figure

in the history of medieval philosophy. In fact, he was really more of a theologian and philosopher than a scientist. For theological and philosophical reasons, Cusa suggested that the universe is infinitely large and has no centre and that all bodies in the universe, including both the earth and the sun, are in motion in infinite space.

Nicolaus Copernicus [1473–1543] was a Polish astronomer, Catholic Canon Lawyer who famously proposed that the Earth and other planets revolved around the sun in a heliocentric system and not, as then widely thought, in a geocentric system where the Earth is the centre. This was not a new idea as several earlier scholars had proposed a heliocentric system, but Copernicus additionally theorised a new order for the planets in terms of their distance from the sun, that the



Fr. Roger Bacon

Earth orbits the sun once every year, and that the Earth turns entirely on its own axis each day.

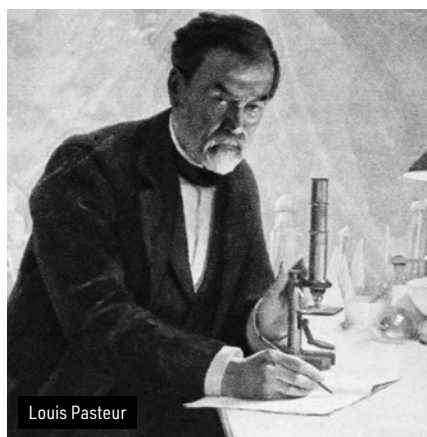
Fr. Luca Bartolomeo de Pacioli [1447–1517] was an Italian mathematician, Franciscan friar, collaborator with Leonardo da Vinci, and an early contributor to the field now known as accounting. He is referred to as 'The Father of Accounting and Bookkeeping' in Europe and he was the second person to publish a work on the double-entry system of book-keeping on the continent.

Fr. Gabriele Falloppio [1523–1562] was an Italian Catholic priest and anatomist often known by his Latin name Fallopius. He was one of the most important anatomists and physicians of the sixteenth century, giving his name to the Falloppian tube.

Galileo Galilei [1564–1642] was an Italian astronomer, physicist and engineer. He has been called the 'father of observational astronomy', the 'father of modern physics' and the 'father

of modern science'. Galileo studied speed and velocity, gravity and free fall, the principle of relativity, inertia, projectile motion and also worked in applied science and technology, describing the properties of pendulums and 'hydrostatic balances'. He invented the thermoscope and various military compasses and used the telescope for scientific observations of celestial objects. His contributions to observational astronomy include the telescopic confirmation of the phases of Venus, the observation of the four largest satellites of Jupiter, the observation of Saturn's rings, and the analysis of sunspots.

Bishop Nicolas Steno [1638–1686] made fundamental contributions to four branches of science: anatomy, palaeontology, geology, and crystallography. While still in his twenties he



Louis Pasteur

was already recognised as one of the leading anatomists in Europe. His anatomical studies greatly increased knowledge of the glandular-lymphatic system. Various parts of the body are named after him, including Stensen's duct, Stensen's gland, Stensen's vein, and Stensen's foramina.

Fr. Johann Dzierzon [1811–1906] Catholic priest and scientist considered as the father of modern Apiology and Apiculture. Dzierzon came from a Polish family in Silesia. Trained in theology, he combined his theoretical and practical work in apiculture with his duties as a Roman Catholic priest.

Blaise Pascal [1623–1662] was a devout Catholic, scientist and philosopher from France. By the time he was twelve he was working on problems in geometry on his own, and he had invented a mechanical calculator before reaching his mid-20s. By 1647 he had proved to his satisfaction that a vacuum existed and

wrote 'New Experiments Concerning Vacuums'. His theoretical work on the equilibrium of fluids led to his work 'Treatise on the Equilibrium of Liquids' in 1653 in which he explained Pascal's law of pressure.

Not only do we only know God through Jesus Christ, but we only know ourselves through Jesus Christ; we only know life and death through Jesus Christ. Apart from Jesus Christ we cannot know the meaning of our life or of our death, of God, or of ourselves.

– Blaise Pascal, *Pensées*, 417

Louis Pasteur [1822–1895] was a French Catholic, biologist, microbiologist, and chemist renowned for his discoveries of the principles of vaccination, microbial fermentation, and pasteurisation. He is remembered for his remarkable breakthroughs in the causes and prevention of diseases, and his discoveries have saved many lives ever since. He reduced mortality from puerperal fever and created the first vaccines for rabies and anthrax.

Fr. Gregor Johann Mendel [1822–1884] was a meteorologist, mathematician, biologist and an Augustinian friar. He was born to a German-speaking family in the Silesian part of the Austrian Empire. He is known as the Father of Genetics. Mendel's pea plant experiments conducted between 1856 and 1863 established many of the rules of heredity, now referred to as the laws of Mendelian inheritance.

Fr. Georges Lemaître [1894–1966] was a Belgian Catholic priest, mathematician, astronomer, and professor of physics at the Catholic University of Louvain. He was the first to theorise that the recession of nearby galaxies can be explained by an expanding universe, which was observationally confirmed soon afterwards by Edwin Hubble. He first derived 'Hubble's law', now called the Hubble–Lemaître law by the IAU and published the first estimation of the Hubble constant in 1927, two years before Hubble's article. Lemaître also proposed the 'Big Bang theory' of the origin of the universe, calling it the 'hypothesis of the primeval atom', and later calling it 'the beginning of the world'.



Catholic Contributions

Catholic Contributions is a weekly poster series by Kairos Media.

Content by Dr. Sunny George
Designs by Ashil Joseph

CATHOLIC CONTRIBUTIONS



Francesco Maria Grimaldi
Investigator of Free Fall of Objects
2 April 1618 - 28 December 1663
Italian Jesuit Priest, Mathematician and Physicist. First one who made accurate observations on the Diffraction of Light, and coined the term diffraction.

<http://www.kairos.global> 8

CATHOLIC CONTRIBUTIONS



William Harvey
English physician who discovered circulation of blood in the human body
1 April 1578 - 3 June 1637
Made influential contributions in Anatomy and Physiology. First known physician to describe the blood circulation and properties of blood being pumped to the brain and the rest of the body by the heart. He did everything "in God's Most Holy Name"

<http://www.kairos.global> 7


CATHOLIC CONTRIBUTIONS



St Hildegard of Bingen
Leading Light of Medieval Learning
1098 - 1179
Doctor of the Church
German Benedictine Abbess, physician, philosopher, naturalist, composer, poet, author and linguist. She was a mystic in the medieval tradition.

<http://www.kairos.global> 6

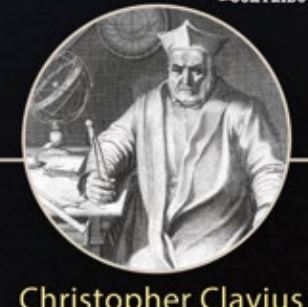
CATHOLIC CONTRIBUTIONS



Athanasius Kircher
Master of a Hundred Arts
2 May 1602 - 28 November 1680
German Jesuit Scholar and Priest. One of the first scientist who observed microbes through a microscope. First one to propose that Plague disease may be caused by a microorganism and suggested effective measures such as isolation, quarantine, burning clothes worn by the infected and wearing facemasks to prevent inhalation of infectious microbes.

<http://www.kairos.global> 9

CATHOLIC CONTRIBUTIONS



Christopher Clavius
(1538 - 1612)
■ Jesuit German Mathematician and Astronomer
■ Modified the proposal of the Gregorian Calendar

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CATHOLIC CONTRIBUTIONS



Georgius Agricola
(1494 - 1555)
Founder of Geology and Father of Mineralogy
A German Catholic who retained his faith through the Reformation. His contributions paved the way for systematic study of the earth. Pioneer in the study of mining and refining of metals

KAIROS MEDIA
<http://www.kairos.global> 11

The world has been transformed in remarkably astonishing ways by people of God in the Catholic Church. A close-up of the history of science, technology, art, music, etc. show that these are the inventions of medieval Christianity. We may be familiar with a particular scientific concept, but may not know that the scientist who was involved in the concept was a Catholic. We should not forget that the Church has made life-giving contributions to the world at large through Christ who radiates His eternal life to us through the Sacraments.

CATHOLIC CONTRIBUTIONS



MOTHER NOELLA MARCELLINO, O.S.B.
(born on June 30, 1951)

AMERICAN BENEDICTINE NUN, WHO EARNED A PH.D IN MICROBIOLOGY, FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT.

SHE IS POPULARLY CALLED AS "THE CHEESE NUN"

WHILE MAKING A 2400 MILE VOYAGE THROUGH SOME OF THE MOST REMOTE CHEESEMAKING REGIONS OF FRANCE, SHE WAS ON HER WAY TO BECOMING A LEADING EXPERT IN THE NATURAL MILK CHEESEMAKING.

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Photo - Dr. Sunny George

CATHOLIC CONTRIBUTIONS



FR. HERMEGILD SANTAPAU
(December 3, 1903 to January 13, 1975)

SPANISH BORN INDIAN JESUIT PRIEST.

HE HAD COLLECTED OVER 106,000 BOTANICAL SPECIMENS. HE IS CONSIDERED AN AUTHORITY IN THE TAXIDROMY OF INDIA FLORA.

SCIENTIST PRIEST WHO WON THE PADMA SHRI AWARD FROM THE GOVT. OF INDIA.

PUBLISHED MORE THAN 200 SCIENTIFIC PAPERS.

KAIROS MEDIA 25

Photo - Dr. Sunny George

CATHOLIC CONTRIBUTIONS



SR. MIRIAM STIMSON
(December 24, 1913 - June 17, 2000)

CATHOLIC NUN WHO PLAYED A ROLE IN THE HISTORY OF UNDERSTANDING DNA.

SR. MIRIAM TAUGHT CHEMISTRY AT DENA HEIGHTS UNIVERSITY AND SERVED AS AN ACADEMIC ADVISOR.

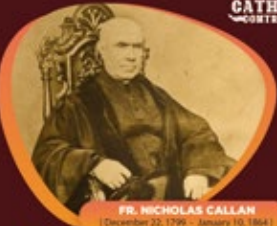
SHE IS NOTED FOR HER WORK ON SPECTROSCOPY. SHE HAS EXPLAINED THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CELLS AND CHEMICAL INTERACTIONS.

HER FINDINGS FACILITATED EXAMINATIONS INCLUDING DNA STRUCTURE AND CANCER, GIVING EMPHATIC RESEARCHERS A MORE PRECISE VIEW ON HOW DNA FRAMED AND WORKED.

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Photo - Dr. Sunny George

CATHOLIC CONTRIBUTIONS



FR. NICHOLAS CALLAN
(December 22, 1796 - January 10, 1864)

CATHOLIC PRIEST AND SCIENTIST FROM COUNTY LOUTH, IRELAND, WHO INVENTED THE FIRST INDUCTION COIL.

CARRIED OUT PIONEERING WORK ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF BATTERIES. HE INVENTED THE "MAYNORTH BATTERY" IN 1854 AND THE SINGLE FLUID CELL IN 1855.

CALLAN DISCOVERED AN EARLY FORM OF GALVANISATION TO PROTECT IRON FROM RUSTING WHEN HE WAS EXPERIMENTING ON BATTERY DESIGN. THIS WAS LATER PATENTED.

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Photo - Dr. Sunny George

CATHOLIC CONTRIBUTIONS



ANYOS ISTVAN JEDLIK
(1800 - 1895)

BENEDICTINE PRIEST, ENGINEER, & PHYSICIST.

CONSIDERED AS THE FATHER OF THE DYNAMO & ELECTRIC MOTOR.

MEMBER OF THE HUNGARIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES.

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Photo - Dr. Sunny George

CATHOLIC CONTRIBUTIONS



FR. JULIUS NIEUWLANDESTER
(February 14, 1878 - June 11, 1956)

CATHOLIC PRIEST OF THE CONGREGATION OF THE HOLY CROSS WHO FIRST INVENTED SYNTHETIC RUBBER/NEOPRENE.

HE TAUGHT BOTANY AT NOTRE DAME, AND IN 1916 HE BECAME A PROFESSOR IN ORGANIC CHEMISTRY.

HE GOT GRADUATED FROM NOTRE DAME IN 1899, STUDIED FOR PRIESTHOOD AND WAS ORDAINED IN 1903 AND RECEIVED HIS DOCTORATE FROM CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY IN 1904.

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Photo - Dr. Sunny George

CATHOLIC CONTRIBUTIONS



SR. MARY CELINE FASENMYER
(October 4, 1906 - December 27, 1996)

AMERICAN MATHEMATICIAN, TEACHER AND A MEMBER OF THE CONGREGATION OF SISTERS OF MERCY.

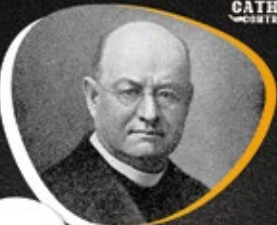
CATHOLIC NUN WHO INTRODUCED THE POLYNOMIALS CALLED "SISTER CELINE'S POLYNOMIALS."

SHE IS BEST KNOWN FOR HER WORK ON HYPER-GEOMETRIC FUNCTIONS & LINEAR ALGEBRA, WHICH IS USED IN TODAY'S COMPUTER METHODS IN PROVING HYPERGEOMETRIC IDENTITIES.

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Photo - Dr. Sunny George

CATHOLIC CONTRIBUTIONS



JOSEPH MURGAS
(1864 - 1929)

ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIEST CONTRIBUTED IN THE FIELD OF ARCHITECTURE, BOTANY AND COMMUNICATIONS.

CONTRIBUTED TO WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY AND BELIEVED IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS AND THE WIRELESS TRANSMISSION OF INFORMATION AND THE HUMAN VOICE.

HE DIED IN HIS PARISH TO HIS COUNTRY.

KAIROS MEDIA 15

Photo - Dr. Sunny George

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Ashil Joseph works as a Graphic Designer and is from Anakkara, India. Based on his personal mission, the Daily Bible Reading Mission was made into an app by JY Tech Mission. He is part of the Kerala media ministry.

God-shaped Hole

Truth can be comprehended through a combination of both natural reason and divine faith, explains **Anil Israel**.

God desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth (1 Timothy 2:4). This undying desire for truth is understood to be inbuilt in every human soul. St. Augustine of Hippo said it beautifully, 'You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you'. 'Faith and reason are like two wings on which the human spirit rises to the contemplation of truth' (Pope John Paul II). Truth can thus be comprehended through a combination of both natural reason and divine faith.

In the book of Exodus, we see that Pharaoh's magicians tried to use their magic to make gnats appear, but they failed (Exodus 8:18). On conceding defeat before Moses, they acknowledged, 'This is the finger of God' (Exodus 8:19). God's existence can thus be known by reason, independent of faith! Even creation reveals the Creator. *From the greatness*

and beauty of created things comes a corresponding perception of their Creator (Wisdom 13:5).

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen (Hebrews 11:1). It is by faith that man believes the mysteries of God (Job 11:7) – made known to him by divine revelation. *If you have faith like a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move, and nothing will be impossible for you* (Matthew 17:20). Truly, mustard-seed-sized-faith is equivalent to mountain-moving-faith. *If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer* (Matthew 21:22). Jesus himself promises, *those who believe in me will do what I do – yes, they will do even greater things* (John 14:12).

Elijah prayed earnestly that there would be no rain, and no rain fell on the land for three-and-a-half years (James 5:17). It

is said, St. Monica prayed for seventeen long years for the conversion of her son St. Augustine, who eventually became a Bishop and a Doctor of the Church. St. Therese of Lisieux – patroness of missions, prayed for the conversion of Henri Pranzini, a convicted murderer, condemned to death, who reportedly asked to kiss a crucifix before being executed on 13th July 1887. Every answered prayer of faith is a miracle of supernatural grace.

Jesus worked many miracles in response to people's faith. 'Your faith has healed you' (Mark 5:34), 'Your faith has saved you' (Luke 7:50), 'Your faith has made you well' (Luke 17:19). Elsewhere, *he did not do many miracles there because of their lack of faith* (Matthew 13:58).

A couple of years ago, when our youngest daughter was less than two years old, we planned a family vacation



TO BE SAVED AND TO COME TO THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE TRUTH › 1 TIMOTHY 2:4

Fear (a sign of complete loss of faith) may look back, doubt (a sign of partial loss of faith) may look around, but faith (absolute surrender to divine providence) surely looks up.

to a neighbouring country. The first day itself we were to visit two places of Marian pilgrimage enroute to our booked accommodation. However, on the night before our departure, our little daughter fell ill and threw up a few times. All the other children had been eagerly looking forward to the much-awaited vacation. We were deeply perplexed as to what to do. Should we reschedule or cancel the trip considering the health concern in front of us? Incidentally, that morning, during our personal prayer my wife got a positive assurance that we could trust in the Lord and move forward. I too was encouraged by the following scripture verse, *let it be done to you according to your faith* (Matthew 9:29). We decided to place all our faith and trust in the Lord and agreed to embrace the miracle in store for us.

Just a few hundred meters after we

left our home, our little daughter vomited once again. We cleaned and changed her. It was going to be a few hours' drive. I was prompted to play an audio Bible throughout the onward journey. We prayed Rosaries as we travelled. This also happened to be my birthday. We visited two places of Marian pilgrimage and were blessed to see our little daughter fully recovered before we reached our accommodation. It was a strong reinvigoration of our faith. We had tasted similar divine intervention also in the past. Fear (a sign of complete loss of faith) may look back, doubt (a sign of partial loss of faith) may look around, but faith (absolute surrender to divine providence) surely looks up. *Blessed are those who believe without seeing* (John 20:29).

It is in the light of faith that we believe, that at the words of consecration, the bread and wine are transubstantiated into the body and blood of Jesus Christ. We are blessed to know that the reports of the Eucharistic miracles at Lanciano, Italy around 750 AD as well as the one at Buenos Aires, Argentina in 1996 (investigated by Pope Francis when he was auxiliary Bishop) reveal that the host turned flesh, corresponds to a fragment of the heart muscle in the wall of the left ventricle of a living heart, of a male human under severe stress. Even amidst such convincing proof, reason blinded by the darkness of *empty deceit* (Colossians 2:8) may opt not to believe in the real presence of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.

Among the twelve spies that Moses sent, only Joshua and Caleb shared positive feedback, and eventually entered the Promised Land. The others succumbed to the conclusion of their reasoning, and *they were unable to enter because of their unbelief* (Hebrews 3:19). *Without faith it is impossible to please God* (Hebrews 11:6). Scripture firmly assures, *Whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life* (John 3:16). Thus, faith is already the beginning of eternal life (CCC 163). We are all given the grace to conquer the

giants within. It is up to us to choose to *live by faith and not by sight* (2 Corinthians 5:7).

These are however trying times. *The reasoning of mortals is worthless, and our designs are likely to fall.* (Wisdom 9:14). Not everything that is supernatural can be attributed to the divine. *Even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light* (2 Corinthians 11:14). *Not everything is good* (1 Corinthians 10:23). We are therefore advised: *But test everything, hold fast to what is good* (1 Thessalonians 5:21). A listening ear to the Holy Spirit dwelling deep within, enables us to choose what is good.

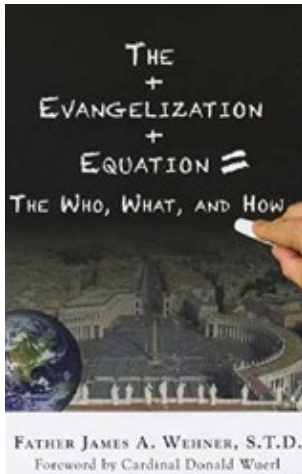
The Lord gave us mind and conscience (Proverbs 20:27). Through our conscience, God's voice enlightens our reason and equips us to respond in obedience. Faith can thus be summarised as man's obedient response to God's revelation. St. Augustine of Hippo further encourages, *seek not to understand that you may believe, but believe that you may understand. Understanding is the reward of faith.*

Reason equips the exterior life whereas faith sustains the interior life. Reason shapes our lives for the works of God; faith shapes our lives for the God of works. We are either filling the God-shaped hole in our life with something other than God, depending solely on ourselves and rejecting his divine assistance, or we are embracing a life of trustful surrender to divine providence and co-operating with divine partnership. May we who are the *apple of his eye* (Zechariah 2:8) look up to him, who constantly 'watches over' us (cf. Psalms 121:8). 'Everything can change in the blink of an eye, but don't worry, God never blinks (Regina Brett).



Anil Israel lives in Mannheim, Germany, with his wife Sunitha and their 5 children. He is the current National Formation Coordinator of JY Germany.

SOUNDREPLY



BOOK

THE EVANGELIZATION EQUATION

In 1979, Pope John Paul II told his fellow Poles that 'a new evangelisation' has begun. It was later in 1983, in an address to the Latin American Bishops he said that what

South America needed was not 'a re-evangelisation', but a 'new evangelisation, new in its ardour, method and expression.' The Holy Father was beginning to recognise the changing landscape of peoples' living conditions and called for ways to bring the Good News to people in a more effective manner. The next wave hit when Pope Benedict XVI announced the Synod in 2012 to be discussing the Church's mission of new evangelisation. It is in this context that Fr. James Wehner, a former rector of the Pontifical College Josephinum in Ohio authored *The Evangelization Equation: The Who, What and How* in 2011 to throw light on the then hot topic. Praised by Archbishop Rino Fisichella, President, Pontifical Council for Promotion of the New Evangelisation, the book is an excellent introduction for anyone who wishes to arrive at a fuller understanding of what is meant by 'New Evangelisation'.

Fr. Wehner has wonderfully crafted a narrative in the context of changes in culture including modernism and postmodernism, the challenges that come with it and the ever growing relevance of the mission of the Church to proclaim the Truth. He pitches new evangelisation as a response

to secular humanism, recognising the damage done by it to all those living in contemporary culture. Christian humanism, as argued in the book, promotes an authentic development of culture in which all people discover their vocation in life without being suppressed from the 'freedom' that secular humanism promises. The case for evangelisation in a post-truth world is presented so passionately throughout the entire book and topped with practical ways to go about growing in, and sharing the faith. Particularly interesting is the derivation of 'how' from the 'who' and 'what' of new evangelisation which makes the book qualify for a borderline page-turner. References to 'culture' shows up more than one would expect as the book captures and gracefully presents the essence of Pope Benedict's exhortation to the US Bishops in 2008, that evangelising in [American] culture means 'recapturing the Catholic vision of reality and presenting it in an engaging and imaginative way to a society which markets any number of recipes for human fulfilment.' With references to *communio*, there is an emphasis on the key role of a loving community of the faithful being the face of all evangelisation efforts in a changing cultural landscape.

For those who love to do a bit more of a deep dive, the book offers a glance into four foundations or rather cornerstones of evangelisation – the Soteriological, the Christological, the Ecclesiological and the Anthropological. Though

the book runs the risk of losing readers' interest halfway through the foundations, the author does a stupendous job of navigating this through a very personable style of narration ensuring that the key messages are not lost in the weeds. With ample number of references to encyclicals and apostolic exhortations from Popes Paul VI, St. John Paul II and Benedict XVI, the book is rich in its content, fresh in its approach and brisk in its delivery. The author acknowledges that evangelisation is a mystery and not a programme but makes a genuine effort of weaving personal anecdotes around what has worked and what has not and is successful in developing a sense of curiosity in his readers. Overall, with an emphasis on inculturation and catechesis, the message is exquisitely crafted around the need of a community proclaiming truth and furthering authentic humanism that guarantees freedom for all. Be it with engaging the new media, building a Catholic identity or even organising a meal programme for the needy, the focus is on building a community of witnesses who live the faith day in and day out.

Overall, a very handy introduction to New Evangelisation, a highly recommended read and a valuable resource for youth workers, priests and anyone who is curious about the Catholic Church and deepening their understanding of the mission of 'Evangelisation'.



REVIEW BY Noel Benno

A former William J. Clinton Fellow and TEDx speaker, Noel Benno is a Technology Strategy Consultant and enjoys cooking fish and meat while not busy with charts and excel sheets.

✧ *St. Giuseppe Moscati*



Feast: 16 November

Giuseppe Moscati was born in Benevento, Italy on July 25, 1880, the seventh of nine children, born to devout Catholic parents. The family moved to

Naples when Giuseppe was four years old, and he lived there for the rest of his life. His decision to study medicine came after his older brother Alberto fell from a horse and suffered incurable head trauma. He graduated from the University of Naples Medical School with a degree in medicine and surgery in 1903. He was considered so gifted in diagnosing patients that some colleagues thought he may have been enlightened by God.

Giuseppe Moscati 'the holy physician of Naples' considered his work as a medical doctor to be a vocation, not a

career. He was also a medical school professor and a pioneer in the field of biochemistry whose research led to the discovery of insulin as a cure for diabetes. He lived out the Gospel as a doctor, healing his patients' illnesses and helping their souls. He saw the sacraments of Confession and Communion as the 'first medicine'. He was able to love his patients with the virtue of charity and make sacrifices for them because he was a holy man completely dedicated to God. Before examining a patient or engaging in research he would place himself in the presence of God. He encouraged his patients, especially those who were about to undergo surgery, to receive the sacraments.

Moscati had a great love for Jesus in the Eucharist, 'the center of his whole life', received Holy Communion every day, and spent time in Adoration. He was also very devoted to the Blessed Mother, prayed the Rosary daily, and went on pilgrimages to the Shrine of Our Lady of Pompeii.

Having felt inspired by God to remain celibate, Moscati made a private vow of chastity at the age of 34. He lived very simply and practiced voluntary poverty in order to use the money he earned to help the poor. He never charged poor patients a fee and often gave them money for their medicines and other needs. He also did not charge priests and religious for treating them because of his respect for their vocation.

On occasion he practiced heroic charity. When Mount Vesuvius erupted in April 1906, Moscati voluntarily helped to evacuate a nursing home in the endangered area, personally moving the frail and infirm patients to safety minutes before the roof of the building collapsed. He also served beyond the call of duty during the 1911 cholera epidemic and treated approximately 3,000 soldiers during World War I.

As a spiritual father and mentor to

his students, Giuseppe Moscati taught them not only about medicine but also about God and how to provide pastoral as well as spiritual care to patients. In a letter to a former student, Dr. Cosimo Zacchino, he wrote: 'Remember you must be concerned not only about the body but about the groaning souls that turn to you for help. How many pains you will alleviate more easily with counsel, and by appealing to the spirit, rather than with cold prescriptions to be sent to the pharmacist!'

Moscati spent the last day of his life, April 12, 1927, worshipping God and helping others. He died at 3:00 pm. It was Tuesday of the Holy Week. Through his life, he was able to turn his profession into a very noble apostolate and was able to demonstrate how marvelously, religion and science can be reconciled. In a letter to a colleague, he wrote, 'Only one science is unshakeable and unshaken, the one revealed by God, the science of the hereafter! In all your works, look to Heaven, to the eternity of life and of the soul, and orient yourself then much differently from the way that merely human considerations might suggest, and your activity will be inspired for the good.'

Giuseppe Moscati was beatified in 1975 and declared a saint by Pope John Paul II on October 25, 1987. The miracle for his canonization was the inexplicable cure of a young man who was dying of leukaemia. His mother dreamed of a doctor in a white coat, whom she identified when her pastor showed her a photo of Blessed Giuseppe. Through his intercession, her son was cured and returned to his job as an ironworker.

In 1993, while dedicating the Church of St. Giuseppe Moscati in Rome, (St.) Pope John Paul II described the doctor's method: 'In addition to the resources of his acclaimed skill, in caring for the sick he used the warmth of his humanity and the witness of his faith.'

NewsWatch

NEW OFFICE BEARERS



JY NEW ZEALAND NATIONAL TEAM

A new national team has been elected for Jesus Youth New Zealand. The new team members are:

Gladly Anthony (Coordinator)
 Michy Tom (Assistant Coordinator)
 Marc Tom Mancherikalam
 Jaisy Baby Joy
 Jinto Mathew
 Ashur Joseph
 Derick Daniel Padappackal
 Antony George
 Adolf Goldwyn (Formation Coordinator)
 Vipin Thomas (Animator)
 Johnson Karathra (Animator)

JY AUSTRALIA NATIONAL TEAM

We have a National Council elected for Jesus Youth Australia. The new council members are as follows.

Jethin Thottan (Coordinator)
 Deepak Kuriakose (Assistant Coordinator)
 David John
 Roby Joshua
 Rhea Johny
 Mayrose Abraham
 Jetcy Joseph
 Ben Tom Joy
 Theodore Xavier
 Vijoy Francis
 Sibi Joseph (Formation Coordinator)
 Hebin Henry (Mission Coordinator)
 Rajesh Thalappillil (Animator)
 Thomas Isaac (Animator)
 Fr. Alex Vickers (Chaplain)

THE BANQUET

The Banquet is an upcoming children's short film written by Dr. Remya Rinett, directed by Jaiby-Umesh, and produced by Jesus Youth, in association with the KCBC Media Commission.

Dr. Remya, who conceived the idea for the film, felt the lack of child centric resources for children who were preparing to receive their First Holy Communion. "The only enduring legacy we can give the coming generation is the Holy Mass. Only the Eucharistic Celebration can build them up to live in a world that will be theirs. Our children should have a deep devotion and understanding of the miracle that is happening in the Holy Mass and how their lives are connected to it. Whatever be their life situations, the Eucharistic Celebration is the only centre for refuge, the answer to all their questions. It is to reach this understanding that this movie aims to do."

The story revolves around a little girl and her patron saint, St. Therese of Lisieux, who explains the events that happen in the Holy Mass to her. Currently the pre-production work is underway.

You can get in touch with Dr. Remya on +91 8220373001 to convey your words of appreciation and encouragement, to offer prayer support or to reach out with financial assistance.



JY BAHRAIN NATIONAL TEAM

A new National Team has been elected for Jesus Youth Bahrain. The new team members are as follows.

Vimal Thomas (Coordinator)
 Aneisha D'Silva (Assistant Coordinator)
 Nisha Sebastian
 Belji Pappachan
 Jolly Varghese
 Jophin John
 Nishath Johnson
 Nevin Varghese
 Chacko Kudiyirippil (Formation Coordinator)
 Shajan Devassy (Animator)
 Fr Saji Thomas OFM Cap (Chaplain)



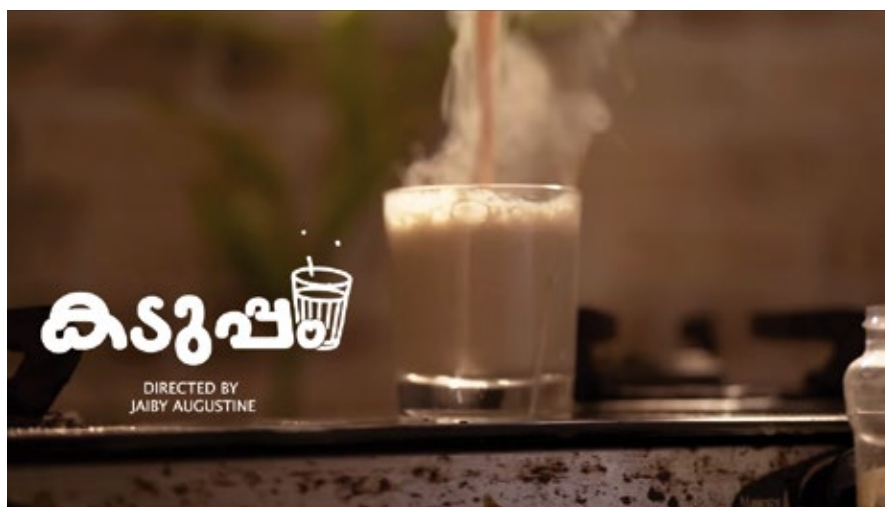
A CONSECRATED VIRGIN: SIMI SAHU

On February 11th, the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, JY International and US council member, Simi Sahu became a consecrated virgin, inscribed into the Diocese of Palm Beach's *Ordo Virginum*, in a ceremony held at the Cathedral of St. Ignatius Loyola, Florida, USA. Bishop Gerald Barbarito, together with Fr. Vinod Madathiparambil, JY Pastor-in-charge of seminarians and JY priests, Fr. Thomas Pulickal and Fr. Melvin Paul concelebrated the Holy Mass, during which was the 'Rite of Consecration of Virgins Living in the World'. Simi is the first consecrated virgin in the diocese and also the first Syro-Malabar consecrated virgin in the United States. The Rite of Consecration was broadcast live through *Shalom World*.

Consecrated virgins offer their life for prayer and service, but unlike nuns and sisters, they live and work in the secular world. A Certified Public Accountant (CPA), with a Master's degree in Theology, Simi worked as a bookkeeper as well as a school teacher before dedicating her life to God entirely. It was through the JY movement that Simi received the gift of her faith in Jesus Christ and love for the Holy Catholic Church.

Kaduppam

A Malayalam Short Film



Written by brothers Gibson and Jaiby Augustine and directed by the latter, *Kaduppam* (which means strong) is a short comedy film on the premise of abstinence during Lent. The story follows David, a tea-lover, who decides to give up drinking tea for lent.

The idea for the film came from a casual conversation. Shortly thereafter, the script evolved and the entire production was complete in ten days. Jaiby says, 'The strength of the script was never compromised in spite of the light mood of the short film. We were able to experience the presence of the Holy Spirit

throughout the project. Despite being a low budget project, and having a lot of technical difficulties, the hard work of all who worked together, putting their heart and soul into it, brought out a film with no compromise on quality. Contrary to many projects, all the requirements were met without any hassles, proving that this project was a plan of God Almighty. We wanted the script to be secular and to an extent we have succeeded. We have received a lot of good reviews for *Kaduppam*.'

The film can be viewed on Jesus Youth International's YouTube channel.

Quiz Time



Mail your answers to quiztime@kairos.global before 30th April 2021.
The winner will be rewarded with 1 year subscription of Kairos Global



PART A

WHO SAID IT?

1. 'Lord, do you speak this parable only to us, or to all people?'
2. 'Am I my brother's keeper?'
3. 'The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer.'
4. 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?'
5. 'I need to be baptised by You, and are You coming to me?'
6. 'Go and search carefully for the young child, and when you have found him, bring back word to me, that I may come and worship him also.'

PART B

Answer in one word

1. First man created by God.
2. Number of Psalms.
3. Where was baby Moses found?
4. Name of the town where Jesus was born.
5. First book of the Bible.
6. How many brothers did Joseph have?
7. Name of Moses's brother.
8. What did the wise men follow to find Jesus?
9. How many commandments did God give Moses?
10. First book in the New Testament.

PART C

Match the following

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. His name means 'rock' | A. Andrew |
| 2. Betrayed Jesus | B. Thomas |
| 3. Tax collector | C. Peter |
| 4. Peter's brother | D. Judas |
| 5. Also called 'Didymus' | E. Matthew |

ANSWERS TO QUIZTIME ISSUE 35

Answer in One Word

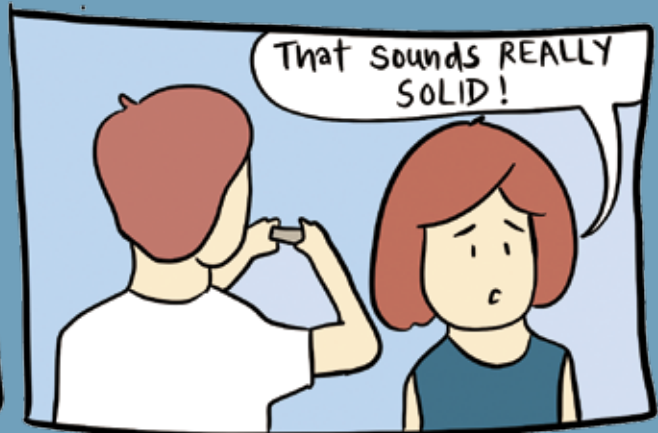
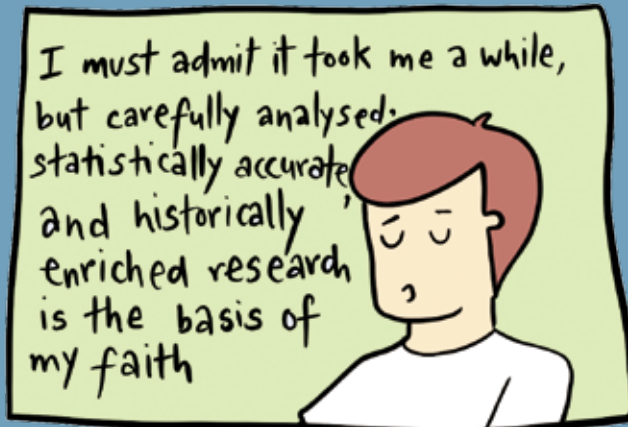
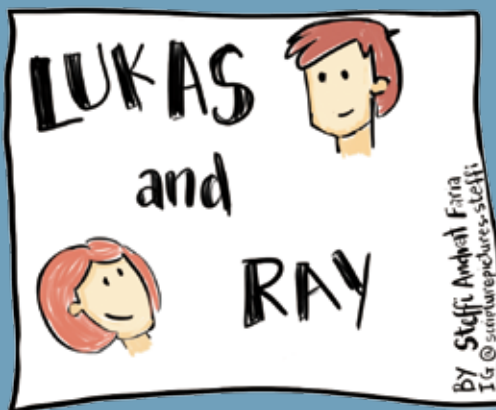
1. Light; 2. Third; 3. An ark; 4. Moses; 5. The heart; 6. Daniel;
7. David; 8. Jonah; 9. Sea of Galilee; 10. Carpenter

Identify the answer

Two; Rainbow; Aaron; Bread; Son

Match the following

St Matthias; Jesus wept; Priest; Peter and Andrew;
John the Baptist



Take Buds to School!

While it would make a lot of children – and us – really glad if you did take Buds to school, we bring you another way to do so.

April issue of Kairos Buds comes with name-slip sheets!

KAIROS
Buds

www.kairos.global

These cute name-slips will always remind you of how much Jesus loves and values you! And the saints will help you with your studies. A small prayer to them before you study will help you in a big way!

And if you want more name-slip sheets, we are happy to send them to you. All you have to do is contact +91 62382 79115 on WhatsApp.

NAME SLIPS

KAIROS Buds **KAIROS Buds** **KAIROS Buds** **KAIROS Buds** **KAIROS Buds** **KAIROS Buds** **KAIROS Buds** **KAIROS Buds** **KAIROS Buds** **KAIROS Buds**

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

Name: _____
Class: _____
Subject: _____
Roll No.: _____
School: _____

ST. TERESA OF CALCUTTA

Name: _____
Class: _____
Subject: _____
Roll No.: _____
School: _____

ST. JOAN OF ARC

Name: _____
Class: _____
Subject: _____
Roll No.: _____
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ST. CLARE OF ASSISI

Name: _____
Class: _____
Subject: _____
Roll No.: _____
School: _____

ST. MONICA

Name: _____
Class: _____
Subject: _____
Roll No.: _____
School: _____

ST. DON BOSCO

Name: _____
Class: _____
Subject: _____
Roll No.: _____
School: _____