

THE LITTLE FLOWER



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FEBRUARY-2011

FLOWER : 2



*Our Lady of
Lourdes
Pray for us!*

POPE'S MESSAGE

FOR THE WORLD DAY OF THE SICK

VATICAN CITY, 18 DEC 2010 (VIS) - Made public today was the Holy Father's Message for the nineteenth World Day of the Sick which will be held, as is traditional, on 11 February, Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes. The Pope begins his Message by recalling his pastoral visit to the Italian city of Turin last May where, he writes, "I had the opportunity to pause in reflection and prayer before the Holy Shroud, before that suffering face which invites us to meditate upon the One Who took upon Himself the passion of mankind in all times and places, including our own sufferings, difficulties and sins". Having noted that "suffering remains charged with mystery, and is difficult for us to accept and to bear", Benedict XVI mentions the case of the Apostle Thomas, who struggled to believe in the redemptive passion but, "faced with Christ showing His wounds, his reaction was transformed into a moving profession of faith: 'my Lord and my God'".

It is, the Pope goes on to explain, "through the wounds of Christ that, with the eyes of hope, we can see the evils afflicting humanity. God, Truth and Love personified, wished to suffer for us and with us. He became man in order to suffer with man, to suffer truly in flesh and blood. Hence in all human suffering we are

joined by One Who shares and carries that suffering with us; all suffering contains 'con-solatio', the consolation of God's compassionate love, and so the star of hope rises". Referring then to the next World Youth Day, due to be held in Madrid, Spain, in August 2011, the Pope addresses himself to young people "who are undergoing the experience of sickness. Often the Passion, the Cross of Jesus, scares us because it seems to be the negation of life", he writes. "In fact, the opposite is true! The Cross is God's 'yes' to mankind. ... Only He is capable of freeing the world from evil, and of bringing His Kingdom of justice, peace and love, to which we all aspire".

The Pope also expresses his affection for all sick people, whom he tells of his "participation in the sufferings and hopes you experience every day, in union with the crucified and risen Christ, that He may bring peace and healing to your hearts. With Him, may the Virgin Mary also watch over you, the Virgin whom we trustingly invoke as 'Health for the Sick' and 'Consoler of the Suffering'". At the end of his Message, the Pope calls on the authorities "to dedicate ever greater energy to healthcare structures capable of bring help and support to the suffering, especially the poor and needy". He also greets "the bishops and priests, consecrated persons, seminarians, healthcare workers, volunteers, and everyone who lovingly dedicates themselves to cure and alleviate the wounds of their suffering brothers and

sisters, in hospitals, care homes and families. Always be aware that in the face of the sick you see the Face of faces: the Face of Christ".

Jesus Christ reveals the *compassion* of God toward man. With words St Bernard of Clairvaux **"God cannot suffer, but he can suffer with"**. *"Man is worth so much to God that he himself became man in order to suffer with man in an utterly real way—in flesh and blood—as is revealed to us in the account of Jesus's Passion. Hence in all human suffering we are joined by one who experiences and carries that suffering with us; hence con-solatio is present in all suffering, **the consolation of God's compassionate love**—and so the star of hope rises."* Contemplating the Sacred Heart of Jesus, the Holy Father referred to the prayer of St. Ignatius of Loyola *"Water from Christ's side, wash me, Passion of Christ, strengthen me, O good Jesus, hear me, Within Thy wounds hide me"*

He ends the Message by invoking the help of the Virgin Mary, whose compassion with her Son became compassion for all of us in our daily sufferings. In the same time the Holy Father calls the authorities to invest more in health care and in the support of the suffering, first of all the most needy and poor.

Benedictus PP. XVI
BENEDICT XVI

PASTORS MESSAGE FOR THE FLOCK

The **Feast of the Presentation of the Lord at the Temple**, which falls on 2 February, celebrates an early episode in the life of Jesus. Other traditional names include **Candlemas**, the **Feast of the Purification of the Virgin**, **La Fête de la Chandeleur**, and the **Meeting of the Lord**. In many Western liturgical churches, Vespers on the Feast of the Presentation marks the end of the Epiphany season. In the Church of England, the Presentation of Christ in the Temple is a Principal Feast celebrated either on 2 February or on the Sunday between 28 January and 3 February.

According to Jewish law, the firstborn male child belonged to God and the parents had to "buy him back" on the 40th day after his birth by offering a sacrifice of "a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons" (Luke 2:24) in the temple (thus the "presentation" of the child). On that same day, the mother would be ritually purified (thus the "purification"). Mary and Joseph kept this law, even though, since Mary remained a virgin after the birth of Christ, she would not have had to go through ritual purification. In his gospel, Luke (2:22-39) recounts the story.

Originally, the feast was celebrated on February 14, the 40th day after Epiphany (January 6), because Christmas was not yet celebrated as its own feast, and so the Nativity, Epiphany, the Baptism of the Lord and

the feast celebrating Christ's first miracle at the wedding at Cana were all celebrated on the same day. By the last quarter of the fourth century, however, the Church at Rome had begun to celebrate the Nativity on December 25, so the Feast of the Presentation was moved to February 2, 40 days later.

When Christ was presented in the temple, "there was a man in Jerusalem named Simeon, and this man was just and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel." When Mary and Joseph brought Christ to the temple, Simeon embraced the Child and prayed the Cantic of Simeon: "Now thou dost dismiss thy servant, O Lord, according to thy word in peace; because my eyes have seen thy salvation, which thou hast prepared before the face of all peoples: a light to the revelation of the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel" (Luke 2:29-32). Because of the words of the canticle ("a light to the revelation of the Gentiles"), by the 11th century, the custom had developed in the West of blessing candles on the Feast of the Presentation. The candles were then lit, and a procession took place through the darkened church while the Cantic of Simeon was sung. Because of this, the feast also became known as Candlemas. While the procession and blessing of the candles is not often performed in the United States today, Candlemas is still an important feast in many European countries.



M. D. Prakasam

+Moses D. Prakasam

Bishop of Nellore.

NEWS FROM THE MONTH OF JANUARY 2011

1st : Bishop Celebrated the Vigil Mass at St. Joseph's Cathedral, Nellore. He thanked the Lord for all the good things the Lord has done in the year 2010 and asked the Lord to shower His bountiful graces and good fortunes in the New Year too. He wished all the faithful Happy and Prosperous New Year.

2nd : Bishop went for the Feast of Holy Name of Jesus to Kothur Parish. He offered Holy Mass and Ordained four seminarians (Br. E. Jaya Kumar, Br. Y. Bala Jayanna, Br. G. Dominic Savio of Vizag Archdiocese and Br. B. Joseph Vinod of Vijayawada Diocese) to the Order of Diaconate. He blessed the Infant Jesus statue for the procession into the streets of the parish. The Festival was grand and prayerful.

4th : Bishop went to Amancherla Parish to celebrate the Holy Mass on the Feast of Manifestation of the Lord. He also blessed the newly constructed convent of **Sisters of Charity of St. Ann's**. Later, bishop spent some time with the lepers and blessed them.

5th : Bishop visited St. Joseph's Nursing Home, Dargamitta. He offered the Holy Mass as they celebrate the Feast of Holy Family the Patron of the congregation. He asked the inmates to be like Holy Family living with peace and unity. He also blessed the students.

6th – 12th : Bishop attended CCBI meeting held at Punamalli, Tamil Nadu.

13th : Bishop participated in the Silver Jubilee Celebrations of Rev. Fr. Repudi Rayappa, Director of Pastoral Center, Guntur Diocese.

14th : Bishop offered the Pontifical High Mass at St. Joseph's Cathedral on the festivity of the Diocesan Newly Established Congregation "**Sisters of Infant Jesus Society**" in which three novices **Teresa Josephine, Nisha Francis and Bala Mary** were professed. They are the first batch of Nuns who took First Profession. Hearty congratulations to them and special thanks to our bishop Moses D. Prakasam for founding this new Diocesan Congregation.

In the evening bishop went to Balreddy Palem, Kandukur Parish. He offered the Holy Mass and blessed the newly constructed Chapel in memory of St. Mary of the Cross-the First Australian Saint. He prayed for the faithful and blessed them.

16th : Bishop visited Pullalacheruvu Parish. He laid a foundation stone for the Parish House at Racherla. He also laid a foundation stone for the construction of new Chapels at Gauthavaram and Gudimetta villages. Later on bishop blessed the land for the construction of a Grotto at Pullalacheruvu.

17th : Bishop went to St. Mary's Church, Secunderabad to offer Requiem Mass for his classmate Rev. Fr. Marineni Maraiiah. He prayed for the repose of his soul and consoled the family members.

18th : It was a sorrowful day for the Diocese of Nellore as our brother priest Rev. Fr. Malapati Selva Raj joined

the heavenly legion. On this Mourn day, the diocesan clergy and religious joined for the Requiem Mass presided over by Msgr. Ponnapati Ignatius and paid homage to the Priest. Rev. Frs. G. Alphonse, S. J. Louis and Stanislaus highlighted the life style and amiability of the demised Priest.

19th : Bishop attended the Burial Ceremony of Rev. Fr. Malapati Selva Raj conducted at Pannur in his native village. He celebrated the Holy Mass and spoke about the simple, holy and exemplary life of the demised priest and he will be remembered for ever in the hearts of the people. Bishop consoled the bereaved family members and assured them of his prayerful support.

21st : Rev. Fr. Salvatore Izzo- Superior General of Missionaries of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary, and Rev. Fr. Joby George- the delegate Superior of Sacred Hearts Congregation visited bishop along with Rev. Fr. M. Denis of Kondapuram parish.

22nd : Bishop participated in the Platinum Jubilee Celebrations of St. Peter's High School, Nellore. Honorable Ministers, MLAs, MLCs, District Collector, Police Officials, Former Students, all the Dignitaries of the Civil Society, Clergy, Religious and the Parents of the Students attended the celebrations. Bishop presided over the program and paid homage to the founding Fathers of St. Peter's High School. He admired and appreciated all who worked hard for the growth of this illustrious institution.

24th : Bishop went to Thachoor (Tamilnadu) to offer Requiem Mass for the departed soul of Mr. Raja Ratnam

father of Rev. Fr. E. Paul. He prayed for him and consoled Fr. Paul and his family members.

27th : Bishop celebrated the Nuptial Mass at St. Joseph's Cathedral for the engaged couple Mr. Hrudaya Raj and Miss Swarna Sahaya Rani. He blessed the wedded couple and asked them to live a life of commitment and bring up the children in Catholic faith and morals.

29th : Bishop celebrated the Holy Mass at St. Joseph's Cathedral on the Festivity of eleven JMJ Sisters of Bangalore Province who are willing to dedicate themselves completely to the Lord. Bishop blessed and gave them a Ring as a sign of Final Profession, offering each one totally to their Eternal Spouse Jesus the Lord. He blessed them and prayed for them individually before the Clergy, Provincial, Religious, Relatives and Faithful. Bishop congratulated each one individually.

In the evening bishop went to St. Mary's English Medium High School, Athmakur for Annual School Day Celebrations. The Host was honoured and felicitated. Children performed wonderful entertainment and message oriented programs. Bishop congratulated Servite Sisters for their self-less service in the field of education.

31st : Bishop paid a visit to Don Bosco Technical School, Ongole as they celebrate the Solemnity of St. John Bosco the Founder of Saletian Congregation. He offered Holy Mass specially for the Youth (145 youth) who attended for the two days seminar conducted at Don Bosco Campus. He asked the Youth to be exemplary and life oriented in this modern world.

PASTOR'S MISSION FOR THE MONTH

- 2nd : Kanukamatha Feast at Cathedral Parish, Nellore.
- 3rd : Prison Ministry core committee meeting.
- 4th : Laying a Foundation Stone for Rural Hospital, Podili.
- 5th : School day celebrations at Sullurpet.
- 6th : Nuptial Mass at Fathekhanpet Parish.
- 8th : General Body Meeting at Jesus Centre.
- 9th : Meeting of Junior Priests at Jesus centre.
- 10th : AM-Blessing of a newly constructed Church at Pullalacheruvu Parish.
PM- Feast day Mass at Gunadala.
- 11th : AM- Feast day celebrations at Karamchedu Parish.
PM- Feast day celebrations at Kavali Parish.
- 12th-13th : Feast of Infant Jesus at Emjal Parish, Hyderabad.
- 14th : First Holy Communion and Confirmations at Siddayapalem Parish.
- 18th : Convention of Prison Ministry.
- 19th : Feast Day Celebrations at Bitragunta Parish.
- 20th : AM- Family Sunday at Cathedral Parish.
PM- Feast of Infant Jesus at B. V. Nagar Parish.
- 22nd : Meeting with Ursuline Provincial.
- 28th : Silver Jubilee Celebrations of Rev. Fr. Reddimas Papaiah.
- March 1st -5th : Regional Meetings and APBC, Hyderabad.
- 6th : Wedding at Kadapa.

DIOCESAN SELF RELIANCE FUND

M. Sundar Rao	12,000
Provincial-Bethlamites	2,000
Fr. N. Anthony Bala, Guntur	2,000
Anonymous	3,000
Fr. P. Bosco	2,000
JMJ Sisters, Dargamitta	2,000
Fr. Ravi Rayappa	\$100
Fr. Ch. Rajasekhar	5,000
St. Louis Convent-Rapur	1000
Fr. P. Paparao	500
Mr & Mrs. Kalyan	1,000

Thank you very much for your generous contribution. If anyone's contribution is missing, please inform us.

COMMUNICATION CORNER

On 8th of February 2011, there will be General Body Meeting at Jesus Centre. The Meeting commences at 9.00 am. Please be on time and attend for the meeting without fail. Thank you.

With the help of the Donors from abroad we are able to construct a **Rural Health Care Centre** at Podili. Special thanks to all the donors for their generous contributions towards the Sick. Please pray for the success of this project.

MISSION SUNDAY COLLECTION 2010

Sl	Name of the Priest	Name of the Parish	Amount Rs.
1	Fr. P. Showreddy	Vetapalem	6500
2	Fr. John Vadakkam	Nagulapalem	1500
3	Fr. C. A. Lazar	Tripuranthakam	2400
4	Fr. B. Varaprasad	Bestavaripet	2000
5	Fr. P. Joseph Kumar	Sydapuram	500
6	Fr. P. Thomas	Voletivaripalem	600
7	Fr. N. Rayanna	Maramreddipalli	1500
8	Fr. A. S. Savio	Athmakur	510
9	Fr. S. A. Arokiaswamy	Maddurapadu	2022
10	Fr. Bosco Benedict	B. V. Nagar	4121
11	Fr. V. D. Pauline Raj	Dakkili	1000
12	Fr. S. Suresh	Muthukur	1000
13	Fr. N. R. Balaswamy	Buja Buja Nellore	700
14	Fr. Raphael	Karamchedu	8565

Bishop appreciates very much all the priests and religious for motivating people and raising funds for Mission Sunday Collection. God bless your generosity and hard work.

NEWS FROM SUVARTHA NILAYAM

Dear Fathers,

Distribution of Scholarships for the students of Professional Courses(2010 -2011)

A. P. Jyotirmai Higher Education Scholarships will be distributed on 13th Feb 2011 in Suvartha Nilayam

Gandavam, from 9 am to 5 pm. There will be Bible exam and Faith formation classes. The students had already been intimated about the day and exam. All the students should attend the program without fail. Please announce it in your respective parish churches and village churches. Here is the list with Names and Parishes.

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|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 01 F. Mary Soujanya, Cathedral | 24. K.Vijayakumar, Cumbum |
| 02. Arun kumar, Ongole | 25. R. Harshan, Bitragunta |
| 03. N.Harsitha, Cathedral | 26. Ch.Rajkumar, Giddalur |
| 04. D.Nivedita, Cathedral | 27. A.K.Madona, Rebala |
| 05. V.Anusha, Giddalur | 28. I. Arunakuamri, Udayagiri |
| 06. V.D.Teja, Giddalur | 29. P. Sravani, Chirala |
| 07. A.V.M.Prakasini, Cathedral | 30. Ch. Raju, Cumbum |
| 08. P.Vaidevi, Kondapuram | 31. Ch. Anil babu, Komarolu |
| 09. P.Aruna, Podili | 32. V. Prasanth kumar, Chirala |
| 10. G.Vijayakumari, podili | 33. K. Mahesh, Chirala |
| 11. P.Vijayakumari, Podili | 34. E. Navanithasa, Kovuru |
| 12. T.Surekha, Muthukur | 35. V. Balaswamy, Markapuram |
| 13. N.Vijayakumar, Chirala | 36. K. R. Krishna, Podalakur |
| 14. N.Ratnakumari, Chirala | 37. S. Prasanthkumar, Giddalur |
| 15. K.Sireesha, Komarolu | 38. B. Raju, Giddalur |
| 16. D.MP Ranjan, Cathedral | 39. K. Pavaniraj, Ongole |
| 17. M.Santhakumari, Vetapalem | 40. C. Jyothsna, Ongole |
| 18. G.Yeshwanth, Darsi | 41. T. Prasad, Muthukur |
| 19. R.Swathi, Cathedral | 42. K. Sindhu, Cathedral |
| 20. Y.Rajeev, Chimakurthi | 43. A. Sudheerkumar, Cathedral |
| 21. K.RShakeredy, Ongole | 44. J. Sri hari, Josephpeta |
| 22. K.Tejaswini, B.V.Nagar | 45 P. James, Madhurupadu |
| | 23. K.Surjankuar, Pedarikatla |

2. The following BCC villages will be visited by Rev. Fr. Paul Raj Shaker along with the coordinator

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|--|---|
| 1. 7 th Feb 2011 Chinthareddy Palem | 2. 8 th Feb 2011 Josephpeta |
| 3. 21 st Feb 2011 V.V.Palem | 4. 22 nd Feb 2011 Darsi |
| 5. 23 rd Feb 2011 Kuruchedu | 6. 24 th Feb 2011 Karamchedu |
| 7. 25 th Feb 2011 Chimakurthi | 8. 26 th Feb 2011 Duvvuru |

3. Monthly meeting for BCC Animators

On 12th Feb 2011 there will be a meeting for all BCC Animators in Suvatha Nilayam.

May I kindly request you dear Fathers to send your animator for the meeting.

Fr. Anthony Fernandez
Director

NEWS FROM DNSSS

DNSSS Children Program:

The street children program is going on well at DNSSS. At present we have about 35 boys and girls under our care. Fifteen of them have been admitted in schools last June. 20 children are coming to DNSSS every day. We have employed a teacher to instruct them in the basics of primary education. We are hoping to enroll more children into schools in the coming academic year. All these children belong to desperate families living in slums around Podalakur Road, Nellore. They are mainly involved in rag-picking. The girls are also sent for menial domestic work in families that live in apartments. The parents of these children, initially, are not willing to send their children to school because the kids earn about 30 to 40 rupees a day through their child labor. So we have asked the children to come to school in the morning and go back to their work in the afternoon or evening. They are fed with a nutritious lunch everyday. They are

given vegetables and eggs every alternative day. The children are very clean and hygienic. They are having good time in DNSSS because they have a good place to play and study. We have provided them two pairs of clothes: a uniform to wear for school and secondly as a gift for Christmas. We also bought all of them slippers to wear as none of them had any. We are hoping to continue the program even in the future as it is very satisfying and result oriented. The smile on the face of each child is the sign of their happiness and willingness to further their progress in their life. Thanks to Kindermissionswerk for their support.

Flood Relief

On December 2010, Caritas India helped our diocese financially with 3 lakh rupees to assist the people affected by Laila and Jal Cyclones. Besides addressing the needs of some villages under the PDSSS working area we also undertook the relief work in the parishes of Tada, Amabalapudi, Alluru, Pidathapoluru, Bujabujanellore and Kallurupalli village.

Tailoring Institute at Vengalraonagar

A tailoring institute was already in place at Vengalraonagar parish supported by our bishop. In view to enhance this activity, DNSSS has provided new Sewing Machines and repaired the roof of the existing facility to prevent from leaking. It also contributes to the salary of the instructor. Now the place is more conducive for learning. A new teacher, who is also a catholic, has been employed as the instructor. Currently the program is going on with full swing and very actively. 20 girls/women are attending the institute. They come in two groups of ten each which facilitates to learning more intensively.

Goats Distribution at Ambalapudi Parish

Deacon Larry Sousa and his wife Angie Sousa, friends of Fr. G. Alphonse from Oklahoma paid a visit to DNSSS in the third week of January. They also came as representatives of Gollapalli Charitable Foundation, USA. They visited some of the activities supported by the Foundation and were happy to know that the people of the diocese are being helped by their intervention. On this occasion DNSSS has arranged for the distribution of Goats for 25 families of Ambalapudi parish.

Rafts, Nets and Blankets at Muthukur Parish

The Laila and Jal Cyclones have caused considerable damage to the livelihood of the people of Naguladoruvu of Muthukur parish. They lost their boats and nets and were finding difficult to make both ends meet. Fr. Sure Suresh worked through DNSSS and through the help from a foundation in Spain purchased 10 sets of Rafts and Nets for fishing. The people's faces lit brightly upon receiving the help. The DNSSS also provided blankets for 30 families on this occasion.

Blankets for Nazareth Leper Colony

On 17th January 2011, DNSSS distributed blankets for more than 70 people at the Nazareth Leper colony at Rapur. The people and the sisters have expressed their sincere thanks for the timely help. The sisters said the blankets will be useful for the patients to protect themselves from the biting cold.

Fr. Joseph Mani
Director – PDSSS

NEWS FROM THE CHAITHANYA YUVATHA KENDRAM

4th Jan, 2011: Our youth had the opportunity to conduct sports and games for the inhabitants of leprosy rehabilitation centre at Amancherla. Sr. Prakasamma, (DYLA) led the youth throughout the day. Thanks to Fr. Philip for giving us this opportunity.

21st -22nd Jan, 2011: Regional youth cultural competitions were held at Gunadala, Vijayawada. 15 youth delegates from our diocese participated in the competitions. They came out with flying colors by winning two prizes. Hearty congrats, to all our youth who gave their best.

31st Jan, 2011: On the occasion of the feast of St. John Bosco (patron of youth) Salesians of Don Bosco, Ongole, are planning to conduct a day long seminar for the Catholic youth in Prakasam District. This is done in collaboration with the Nellore Diocesan Youth Animation Centre.

N.B: As we celebrate the feast of St. Don Bosco on 31st Jan, the patron of youth, let us pray for our youth that through the intercession of St. Don Bosco, our youth may realize their dreams and aspirations for the greater glory of God and for their well-being.

Fr. S. Thomas
Director – DYD

BIRTHDAYS - FEB - 2011

- 02nd : Fr. B. D. Lawrence
 03rd : Fr. B. Babu Rao
 07th : Fr. G. Anil SDM
 08th : Fr. S. John Paul
 12th : Fr. Ch. Raja Sekhar
 15th : Fr. P. Ignatius
 19th : Fr. G. A. Fernandez
 24th : Fr. M. Mathew Vianney
 27th : Fr. S. A. Arokiasamy
 27th : Fr. M. Thomas George
 27th : Fr. P. Maria Joseph



I express my sincere gratitude to Bishop Moses D. Prakasam, Priests, Religious and the Laity of our diocese for being with me in the sorrowful moment of my father's death. I and my family members felt your solidarity and prayerful support. Thanking you.

**Fr. Paul Eruva
Somasila**

**LET US REMEMBER THEM
IN OUR PRAYERS**

Hearty Congratulations
Dear Sisters (SIJ)



Sr. Bala Mary

**Sr. Teresa
Josephine**

Sr. Nisha Francis