



*“They are trees planted by streams of water; they bear fruit; their leaves do not wither; in all that they do they prosper.” Ps 1:3*

**VOL VIII - ISSUE 5**

**SEPT-OCT 2011**

**The Theme for 2011: Walk by the Spirit (Rom 8:4)**

## **CONTENTS**

- *Living by the Spirit*
- *Sacrament of Reconciliation*
- *I Now Declare you Man & Wife*
- *Ten inches of water*
- *Testimony of a Miraculous Escape*
- *The Bull and the Bear*
- *A Movie – Watching Irony*
- *Holy Humour*
- *Bible Quiz #52*
- *Gift of Faith*
- *Random Musing*

## **Living by the Spirit**

The Holy Spirit is the third person of the blessed Trinity, understood as the perfect love between God the Father and the Son, Jesus Christ who inspires and guides the life of believers.

Now, for living by the Holy Spirit we need to seek the gifts of the Holy Spirit. There are seven gifts of the Holy Spirit, one of them is wisdom, through which the wonders of nature every event in history, and all the ups and downs of our life take on deeper meaning and purpose. The wise person sees where the Spirit of God is at work and is able to share that insight with others – wisdom is the fullest

expression of the gifts of knowledge and understanding.

The gift of understanding is the ability to comprehend how a person must live her or his life as a follower of Jesus. Through the gifts of understanding, Christians realize that the Gospels tell them not just who Jesus is, it also tells them who we are. Gifts of understanding are closely related to the gifts of knowledge and wisdom. The gift of knowledge is the ability to comprehend the basic meaning and message of Jesus. Jesus revealed the will of God, his father and taught people what they need to know to achieve fullness of life and, ultimately, salvation. The gift of knowledge is closely related to the gifts of understanding and wisdom.

The gift of right judgment is the ability to know the difference between right and wrong and then to choose what is good. It helps us to act on and live out what Jesus has thought. In the exercise of right judgment, many of the other gifts – especially understanding, wisdom and often courage enables us to take risks and to overcome fear as we try to live out the Gospel of Jesus. Followers of Jesus confront many challenges and even danger – the risk of being laughed at, the fear of rejection and for some believers, the fear of physical harm and even death. The Spirit gives Christians the strength to confront and ultimately overcome such challenges.

The gift of Reverence, sometimes, called piety, gives the Christian a deep sense of respect for God. Jesus spoke of his Father, God as “Abba”. Through the gift of reverence, we can come before God with the openness and trust of small children, totally dependent on one who created us. The gift of awe and wonder in the presence of God is sometimes translated as “the fear of Lord”. Though we can approach God with the trust of little children, we are also often aware of God’s total majesty, unlimited power, and desire for justice. Like children we may want to sit on the lap of our loving father, yet we must never lose sight that He is the creator of the universe.

If I had the Gift of WISDOM this is how I would use it. It is said in Corinthians 1:30 that “Because of what God has done, you belong to Christ Jesus. “ He has become God’s wisdom for us. He makes us right with God. He makes us Holy and sets us free. God is very wise. God Knows more than any person can ever know, compared to God’s great universe we humans are very small. How could we ever begin to know the things of God? Paul wrote that Jesus “ has become God’s wisdom for us”. We look to Jesus, and we see what God’s wisdom looks like in a human life. Then we begin to share in that wisdom ourselves.

We look to Jesus, and we see how enemies killed him for teaching about God’s way. Then we begin to understand that people in our world do not always want to know the truth. We look, to Jesus, and we see how God raised him from the dead. There is so much more God wants to teach us. God sent Jesus to be our wisdom. It is said in 1 Corinthians 2:10-12 that “The Spirit understands all things. He understands even the deep things of God. Who can know the thoughts of another person? Only a person’s own spirit can know them. In the same way, only the Spirit can know them. In the same way, only the Spirit of God knows Gods thoughts. We have not received the spirit of the world. We have received the Spirit who is from God. The Spirit helps us understand what God has freely given us. “No one can read another person’s thought, We may be able to guess what another person is thinking if we know

how that person acts. But we can never hear the thoughts the person is thinking. If it is so hard to read another human beings thought how much harder it is to read God's thoughts! On our own, we cannot know God's thoughts But God gives us the Holy Spirit. The Spirit helps us to understand God and the wonderful Gift God has given us. "Jesus Christ". The Spirit may not teach us everything we need to know all at once. But if we keep on listening, the Spirit will help us to understand more and more. With Wisdom we can understand, we may gain knowledge, discernment, we may get courage, reverence, we may be able to do right judgment. It is said in proverbs 3:13-17 "Blessed is the one who finds wisdom" Blessed is the one who gains understanding.

Wisdom pays better than silver does. She earns more than gold does. She is worth more than rubies. Long life is in her right hand. In her left hand are riches and honour. Her ways are pleasant ways. All her paths lead to peace. What would make me really happy is having a big group of friends, or winning a special kind of prize or award. But there is something that will make me happier even more than being rich or popular or successful. It is having wisdom. Following God's wisdom isn't the same thing as knowing a lot or being really smart. It is about knowing how to live a good life. Imagine a life of happiness and peace, a life of understanding and goodness. Imagine a life that brings joy to you, to other people, and to God. Doesn't that sound good? The book of proverbs talks about God's wisdom as a beautiful, gracious woman. Everyone who listens to her and follows her ways finds the best happiness there is I can give an example of King Solomon. It is said in 1 kings 3:5-9 "That night the lord appeared to Solomon in a dream and God said, " Solomon replied, " You were wonderfully kind to my father David, because he was honest and true and faithful to you. And you have continued this great kindness to him today by giving him a son to succeed him. O Lord my God, now you have made me king instead of my father, David, but I am like a little child who doesn't know his way around. And here I am among your own chosen people, a nation so great they are too numerous to count! Give me an understanding mind, so that I can govern your people well and know the difference between right and wrong". If I could have anything I wished for, what would I wish? King Soloman had to make that choice. He could have asked for more power and honor – But he had been king just long enough to know how hard a job it was. That is why he said that he was like a little child who needs help and why he prayed for God to give him wisdom to serve God's people well – Solomon's wish pleased God. I too will have to make hard choices about what is important in my life. I will have to choose how to spend

my energy, my money and my time. God can help us to know what is truly valuable in Life, so that we can make good choices. Sometimes it's hard to know, what choices to make. We need to ask God a heart that understands and wisdom to know what is right. Again in 1 Kings 3:2-27 "Two women argued in from of the king. The king said "One of you says, "My Son is alive, your son is dead". The other one says, "No! Your son is dead, mine is alive. "He continued, "Bring me a sword. " Then he said, "Cut the living child in two, Give half to one woman and half to the other". The women whose son was alive was filled with deep concern for her son. She said to the king, "My Master, please give her the living baby! Don't kill him! "But the other woman said, "Neither one of us will have him. Cut him in two! "Then the king made his decision.. He said "Give the living baby to the first woman. Don't kill him, she's his mother." King Solomon was the son of King David. Solomon was famous for his wisdom in dealing with people who weren't famous or important, like these two women. Each woman claimed that the living baby was hers. But Solomon knew that the women who refused to kill the baby is the real mother. He gave the baby to her. We need to have a listening heart like Solomon. So that we will make wise decisions like he did. Wisdom helps me to know that misusing God's name would be an offense to God and to other believers. God pours out the Holy Spirit on all kinds of people and makes them clean. Wisdom helps us not to differentiate people on the bases of their castes, schedule, tribes and colour. Wisdom helps us to tell the truth and turn to become followers of Jesus.

The Holy Spirit is with us to encourage us and give us hope. The Spirit reminds us that God wants all suffering to end.

**Adriana Noronha**

### **Sacrament of Reconciliation**

One important sacrament that is frequently neglected and ignored is the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

This Sacrament is not just a medium of receiving God's forgiveness and divine justice for our sinful escapades, but should become a frequent devotion not just specific to the season of Lent.

Just as we are moved to ask God's forgiveness during the season of Lent, I'm equally sure it means that this Sacrament is highly effective in reassuring ourselves that God is always ready to settle our moral offences. Psalm 32 is a wonderfully irrefutable proof of this.

Unmistakably enough, we cannot be at peace till we have met the risen Lord. As St. Nicholas of Flue rightly asserted – "Peace always comes from God

because God is peace which cannot be destroyed. So try and keep the peace.” And so we needn’t worry, as the most important sacrament of Reconciliation ensures just this – God has provided us; those seeking spiritual guidance and those in need of forgiveness; with this tool of redemption. Penance is yet another lesson that we learn in this school of repentance!

I shall remain pertinent to this issue as it is a constant reminder of our commitment to the Christian value of self-redemption; after all, Jesus Christ is our Redeemer.

So why do we need to go for regular confession? A couple of reasons may be examined. First, it helps those feeling inadequate and weary, lighten their burden of worldly sin. Secondly, it is a source of solace and self-comfort to all Christian sinners. And most important, it helps us experience the inexpressible joy of receiving forgiveness.

It is thus a 2-way concept of clearing one’s conscience as well as making peace with God. As one teen opined, confession does help clarify both the human and divine aspects of repentance.

Yet sadly, this is something still impalpable to the Catholic youngsters of today. They fail to understand the role of a priest in the whole sacrament. But as we know, of course, the priest is an indispensable part of this Sacrament. As all catechists teach, the priest is in place of Christ and therefore acts as a mediator between us and God. He brings a spiritual understanding of the sin, which no other adult can probably offer. He is indeed a valuable instrument of absolution and blessing.

Thus, to root out the intolerable casualness and hesitation displayed by Christian teens today, when it comes to confession, regular confession is the key.

Hence, this being the only way to successfully and completely attain inner peace and relieve ourselves from the burden of sin; I strongly urge you all to enforce the duty of repentance in your lives and prepare for Easter joy by making confession a habit.

**“O Lord, I now admit my guilt,  
And I accept your grace,  
Transform my life and help me grow,  
Until I see your face”**

1 John 1:9 “But if we confess our sins to God, He will keep His promise and do what is right; He will forgive us our sins and purify us from all wrongdoing.

**Melanie P. D’Souza.**

## **"I now declare you Man and Wife"**

Q: In none of the Catholic marriages does the priest ever say, "I now declare you man and wife." What happened to that simple declarative statement and why has it been excised from the marriage vows?

A: As far as I have been able to ascertain, this particular formula never formed part of the Roman Catholic rite of matrimony. These words, or variations of the same, do form part of the Anglican and some other Protestant rites.

Since the media are not exactly sticklers for detail when it comes to ritual, many people have seen and heard this supposedly Catholic phrase in countless movies and TV shows. For this reason, they might expect it when they attend a real Catholic wedding.

The closest Catholics come to hearing a similar expression is in a wedding celebrated according to the extraordinary form of the Roman rite, which was in general use until the early 1970s. After the couple exchanged vows and before blessing the ring, the priest says, "Ego conjúngo vos in matrimónium. [I join you in matrimony] In nómine Patris, et Fílii, et Spíritus Sancti. Amen."

With the reform, the above expression was dropped from the Rite of Marriage. Among the reasons for eliminating it was that, since the celebration would henceforth be in the vernacular, the use of the first person singular could easily leave the impression that the priest acted as the minister of the sacrament, analogous to the way he acts when he says, "I baptize you" or "I absolve you." The Latin tradition, however, holds that the couple themselves are the ministers of the sacrament. The Catechism says:

"1623. According to the Latin tradition, the spouses as ministers of Christ's grace mutually confer upon each other the sacrament of Matrimony by expressing their consent before the Church. In the traditions of the Eastern Churches, the priests (bishops or presbyters) are witnesses to the mutual consent given by the spouses, but for the validity of the sacrament their blessing is also necessary.

"1626. The Church holds the exchange of consent between the spouses to be the indispensable element that 'makes the marriage.' If consent is lacking there is no marriage.

"1627. The consent consists in a 'human act by which the partners mutually give themselves to each other': 'I take you to be my wife' -- 'I take you to be my husband.' This consent that binds the spouses to each other finds its fulfilment in the two 'becoming one flesh.'

"1628. The consent must be an act of the will of each of the contracting parties, free of coercion or grave external fear. No human power can substitute for this consent. If this freedom is lacking the marriage is invalid.

"1630. The priest (or deacon) who assists at the celebration of a marriage receives the consent of the spouses in the name of the Church and gives the blessing of the Church. The presence of the Church's minister (and also of the witnesses) visibly expresses the fact that marriage is an ecclesial reality.

"1631. This is the reason why the Church normally requires that the faithful contract marriage according to the ecclesiastical form. Several reasons converge to explain this requirement:

- Sacramental marriage is a liturgical act. It is therefore appropriate that it should be celebrated in the public liturgy of the Church;
- Marriage introduces one into an ecclesial order, and creates rights and duties in the Church between the spouses and towards their children;
- Since marriage is a state of life in the Church, certainty about it is necessary (hence the obligation to have witnesses);
- The public character of the consent protects the 'I do' once given and helps the spouses remain faithful to it."

For these reasons the priest no longer uses the first person singular but rather receives the consent of the couple by saying:

"You have declared your consent before the Church. May the Lord in his goodness strengthen your consent and fill you both with his blessings. What God has joined, men must not divide."

*(Reproduced from Zenit.org.- Answered by Legionary of Christ Father Edward McNamara, professor of liturgy at the Regina Apostolorum university.)*

## Ten Inches Of Water

A boy was sitting in a park bench with one hand resting on an open Bible. He was loudly exclaiming his praise to God. Hallelujah! Hallelujah! God is great! he yelled without worrying whether anyone heard him or not. Shortly after, along came a man who had recently completed some studies at a local University. Feeling himself very enlightened in the ways of truth and very eager to show this enlightenment, he asked the boy about the source of his Joy.

Hey, asked the boy in return with a bright laugh, Don't you have any idea what God is able to do? I just read that God opened up the waves of the Red Sea and led the whole nation of Israel right through the middle.

The enlightened man laughed lightly, sat down next to the boy and began to try to open his eyes to the realities of the miracles of the Bible. That can all be very easily explained. Modern scholarship has shown that the Red Sea in that area was only 10 inches deep at that time. It was no problem for the Israelites to wade across.

The boy was stumped. His eyes wandered from the man back to the Bible lying open in his lap. The man, content that he had enlightened a poor naive young person to the finer points of scientific insight turned to leave.

Scarcely had he taken two steps when the boy began to rejoice and praise louder than before. The man turned to ask the reason for this resumed jubilation.

Wow! Exclaimed the boy happily, God is greater than I thought!

Not only did He lead the whole nation of Israel through the Red Sea, He topped it off by drowning the whole Egyptian army in 10 inches of water!

=====



## **Testimony of a Miraculous Escape**

Praise the Lord!

My Name is Francis and I am presently working in the Sultanate of Oman. On 6th January 2011, my wife and I decided to go shopping to a big shopping Mall. We left home at 7 pm and took a cab which dropped us near the Mall. We were crossing the road when a SUV hit us and we were thrown on the ground.

My first reaction after I realized what had happened was to get up and pull my wife on to the footpath and Praise God for having saved us. The person who was driving the vehicle, a local, stopped the vehicle came rushing out and insisted we be rushed to the hospital. We informed him, we were okay and there was no need to go to the hospital.

But after some time I realized I had excruciating pain on my right leg and was finding difficulty in standing and my wife had pain in her head. We requested the person who was the owner of the vehicle that hit us to drop us home as I realized I could not walk properly. He was kind to drop us and again insisted we should go to the hospital. He gave us his contact number and asked us to contact him in case of any requirement.

Once at home we realized that we not badly hit as the lord had saved us. (Jeremiah 29-11) For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

That night we were able to sleep with great difficulty as my leg pain was becoming more severe.

In the morning we went to the doctor who immediately on visual inspection asked for X-ray of the ankle. After it was shown to him, confirmed there was a hair line fracture on the right ankle. My wife did not suffer any fractures and we both were given pain killers and medicines. My leg has recovered and today I am able to walk normally by the grace of God.

**Francis Fernandes**

## The Bull and the Bear

Once upon a time there lived a bear in a cave deep in the woods. Nearby was a meadow in which a farmer kept his cattle and one large, ferocious-looking bull. Each day the bear hid at the edge of the woods, watching the bull. The bear was known as the strongest, most fierce creature for miles around.

No other beast in the forest dared to tangle with him. As the bear watched the bull peacefully gazing, he wondered which one of them would win a test of strength. He thought about this for many days. Then one morning he decided to challenge the bull to a fight to the finish.

The bull had just chomped down on a fresh clump of clover when he looked up and saw the bear barrelling across the meadow toward him. He stopped chewing. The red flag of danger popped up in his head. The bear skidded to a halt in front of him. The bull lowered his head menacingly, his sharp horns aimed right for the bear's throat.

For long moments they stood in place — eyeball to eyeball — neither one of them moving. Finally the bull grew tired of the stare-down and asked, "What do you want, Bear?" "I want to fight you," growled the bear.

"Why?" asked the bull.

"Because, I want to prove that I am a stronger and better fighter than you are." The bull laughed. "I thought you really wanted something. You can't possibly win against me. I have sharp horns that can cause terrible injuries."

"And my claws are sharp and quick," the bear shot back "I have defeated many an enemy — anyone who would harm my cubs or take away my mate. I am the king of the forest!" "Then go back to the forest," the bull bluntly advised.

"This is the meadow." The bear blinked in surprise. "I beg your pardon..."

"I mean, what's the point of me fighting with you?" the bull asked. "What would that prove? We are not enemies. I have not harmed your cubs or taken your mate." "It would prove that I am the strongest." The bear answered. "Okay," said the bull, smiling. "I'll buy that. You are strongest. Now leave and let me graze in peace." "Just one cotton-pickin' minute. What do you mean by that?" The bear raised a club-like paw. "I will tear you to shreds. Defend yourself." "What you do is up to you," the bull answered calmly. "But if you do, what will all your friends — the ones who are watching us right now — think about you?" "They will think that I am the strongest," yelled the frustrated bear.

“I don’t think so. I do not choose to fight you just because you choose to fight with me. I would only fight to defend one of the cows in my care. If you attack one of them, then I’d be obliged to give you a good lashing.” “I can’t attack them,” protested the bear. “They can’t fight back. There would be no victory to it.” “Exactly,” answered the bull. “But what if you did? And what if I should try to defend them? What if something should happen to me? Who would protect them then? You? Would you trust me to protect your cubs if something happened to you? What would happen to your family if you lose the fight?”

“I never thought of that,” said the bear. “Go back into the woods, Bear,” said the bull as he turned to walk away. “Live in peace. And I will stay in the meadow and do the same.”

The bear turned toward the woods. He had come spoiling for a fight — to prove which one was the strongest. But he had learned an important lesson from a very wise bull. In peace, there are no losers.

**Starting a quarrel is like breaching a dam; so drop the matter before a dispute breaks out. (Proverbs 17:14 NIV)**

*(Adapted from Catholic Christian Secular Forum/Contributed by Richard M.)*

### **A Movie –Watching Irony**

Movie actors have shared in their interviews that although they (being Hindus) act in movies that are not good for us, they do not recommend that children, teenagers and youth, should watch, these. Their own children (and sometimes wives) do not watch these movies. An actress told an interviewer, a few years ago, that her husband does not watch the movies in which she acts. An actor once said that his brother (who is also an actor) watches cartoons with his kids at home.

If these followers of another religion are so particular about what their families watch on TV, why are we, Catholic children, teenagers and youth, watching movies that are not good for us?

**-Amy Ann.**

-

## Holy Humour

Somebody once said there are only two kinds of people in the world. There are those who wake up in the morning and say, "Good morning, Lord," and there are those who wake up in the morning and say, "Good Lord, it's morning."

=====

There is the story of a pastor who got up one Sunday and announced to his congregation: "I have good news and bad news. The good news is, we have enough money to pay for our new building program. The bad news is, it's still out there in your pockets."

=====

The parish priest was preoccupied with thoughts of how he was going to ask the congregation to come up with more money than they were expecting for repairs to the church building. Therefore, he was annoyed to find that the regular organist was sick and a substitute had been brought in at the last minute.

The substitute wanted to know what to play.

"Here's a copy of the service," he said impatiently. "But, you'll have to think of something to play after I make the announcement about the finances."

During the service, the parish priest paused and said, "Brothers and Sisters, we are in great difficulty; the roof repairs cost twice as much as we expected and we need OMR 4,000 more. Any of you who can pledge OMR100 or more, please stand up!"

At that moment, the substitute organist played "The National Anthem"

And that is how the substitute became the regular organist!

=====

Give me a sense of humor, Lord,  
Give me the grace to see a joke,  
To get some humor out of life,  
And pass it on to other folk...!

Contributed by Daniel Sequeira  
( from various online sources )

## **Bible Quiz #52**

1. Who reported to the king that Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego refused to worship the statue?
2. What was the size of the golden statue that Nebuchadnezzar set up?
3. Who was King Nebuchadnezzar's chief executioner?
4. What special gift did Daniel possess?
5. Who among the Israelite youths came to be known as Abednego ?

Submit your answers before 10<sup>th</sup> Dec 2011

### **Answers to Bible Quiz #51**

1. A Scroll
2. Sodom
3. Flesh covered them and they came to life.
4. 390 Days
5. At home in his house.

### **Winners of Bible Quiz #51**

**Ethel Fernandes, Rahul Vas, Relina Vas.**

### **A New Revised Version**

All of us have got rid of our old wrong selves and made ourselves new in God's eyes with His help. We have renewed ourselves and our promises quite a number of times before. Despite this we are being tempted time and again and sometimes do things that we must not do due to our ignorance and weakness.

Such troublesome situations are meant for us to look back on the religious teachings we have received, that have been instrumental in helping us discard our old selves, and to look to God and the Scriptures for the teaching(s) that we are unaware of.

Therefore we need to revise our new selves and thus become new revised versions of His creation with His help. Perhaps this is the reason we have a repetition of last year's theme "Live in the Spirit" in this year's theme "Walk by the Spirit".

**Amy Ann.**

This was presented at the recent MIPC Elocution Competition:

## Gift of Faith

***The gift of faith is one of the gifts of the Holy Spirit. 1 CORINTHIANS 12:9 we read, one and the same spirit gives faith to one person, while to other person he gives power to heal.”***

*What is faith?*

***Faith is the assurance of things we hope for, the conviction of things not seen.*** Faith is a gift of God.( Hebrew 11:1) It is a spiritual virtue by which we believe in God and believe all that he said and revealed to us by the power of his holy spirit.

As children we obtained our faith from our parents. They taught us for the first time to pronounce the name of Jesus. They told us who GOD is, how much he loves and care for us, and also we need to pray to him daily. We have to be grateful to our parents for teaching us about faith in the best way they could.

Here I would like to share my testimony, how I built up my faith through my childhood experiences. When I was 2yrs old my parents brought me from India to Muscat and I was staying with my Dad. At that time, my Mom was working in outskirts of Muscat. Due to her work constraints she was not able to stay with us. But every weekend she would travel 160km up and down just to meet us. My dad had to work for 3 shifts. So my ultimate care taker was a baby sitter. Even during his night shifts he would leave me with a baby sitter. I never enjoyed my life going to baby sitter’s house, I had no freedom to go out and play with other children. I missed my Mom a lot during those days where I could have been playing on her lap. I missed the total warmth of my Mom. I use to cry when she had to leave me and go. Before I would wake up from my bed she had already left the place. When I was three and a half yrs old, I never knew to pray and they taught me how to pray to Jesus.

As children whatever we ask from our parents they would provide us. How much more our heavenly father would give his holy spirit to those who ask of him? During our family prayer Dad would teach me how to pray especially to pray for my Mom to get a transfer to Muscat. They told me one thing” Son, pray to Jesus and he will answer your prayer”. With deep conviction in my heart and child like faith I would pray for this intention. One fine day God answered my prayer and mom got transferred to Muscat and gave her the placement in Al nadha hospital, which was at a walkable distance from our old house. He also gave her only a morning shift so that I did not have to spend my night sleeping in

the baby sitter's house. **God makes all things beautiful in his time.** All glory and praise to God who lives forever.

But my childhood faith was like a borrowed faith. Now I am a teenager. I know that, this borrowed faith is not enough to sustain my life. As Jesus said, **“If you ask anything in faith, it will be given to you by my father.”**

So then how we must build our life on faith?

1. We must believe and put our complete trust in Jesus.
2. We must repent and confess our sins.
3. It involves a total surrender of our will and life to God.
4. It involves a total and complete obedience to Jesus and his word as a way of life.
5. Moreover we must spend time in personal prayer worshiping God in spirit and truth and seek his will in faith

Faith in Jesus is the only condition that God requires for our salvation. It is an ongoing process and needs to grow and be strengthened with every day that passes. This is what the Holy Spirit teaches us.

We read in the gospel of Matthew how Peter with faith, walked on water. On day Jesus finished feeding 5000 people by performing the miracle of multiplying five loaves of bread and two fish. After he had done this he told his disciples to wait for him in a boat while he sent the crowds away. By the time he had sent the crowds away it was quite late and the boat was also at a considerable distance from the land. Jesus simply began to walk towards them on water. But the disciples were terrified to see what they imagined was a ghost. When Peter recognized that it was Jesus he at once jumped out of the boat and walked towards him on water. As soon as a strong wind began to blow Peter lost his faith and started to sink. Then Jesus helped him to get into the boat. That moment Peter realized how weak his faith was and that he didn't have to fear when Jesus was beside him.

Similarly, when we are tossed by strong winds in life, we start to sink and our faith crumbles. Like Peter, we all lose our faith when the winds in our life blow harder. But Jesus tells to each one of us **“Men of little faith, why do you doubt?”**

Faith does not grow overnight. Like everything else the Holy Spirit will teach us. The Holy Spirit holds our hand as we step out of the boat and helps us to keep our eyes fixed on Jesus. He knows how afraid we are. Like Peter let us all cry out to Jesus to save us from our difficulties, sicknesses, failures and

hopeless situations. When I'm afraid of anything in life especially my exams, I pray to the Holy Spirit to help me and to be by my side. He controls my life. He strengthens me when I'm weak. When I'm confused he leads me to the right path. **"I can do all things in Christ who strengthens me"**.

Finally I would like to conclude by saying let us all build our faith on rock and not on sand and this faith will sustain us at all times. *For our God is a faithful God, he will never fail you and me.*

*Joash Saldanha  
Class X*

### Random Musings

I stood alone in the garden one day,  
Watching and admiring Nature at play,  
Looking up at the sky, I breathed a silent prayer,  
Thanking God for his creation so fair.

All around me were many kinds of  
Trees, animals and flowers,  
So different from what lay beyond the garden walls,  
Just dusty buildings, buses and cars.

I continued to walk along the dirt paths,  
Soon night was falling.  
Hearing the sudden flap of wings, I turned and looked behind,  
But it was only a flock of birds calling.

Back home, safe in my bed at night,  
I thanked God for all I had seen in the day's light,  
And for all that he has done for me,  
You know we are all precious in his eyes – yes, both you and me

- Sneha Sequeira



***MIPC Prayer Meeting: Every Wednesday at 8:00 pm in the Parish Hall.  
General Intercessory Meeting: Last Monday of every month at 8:00 pm.  
Community Mass: Every Friday at 9.00 a.m. except the last Friday of the month.***