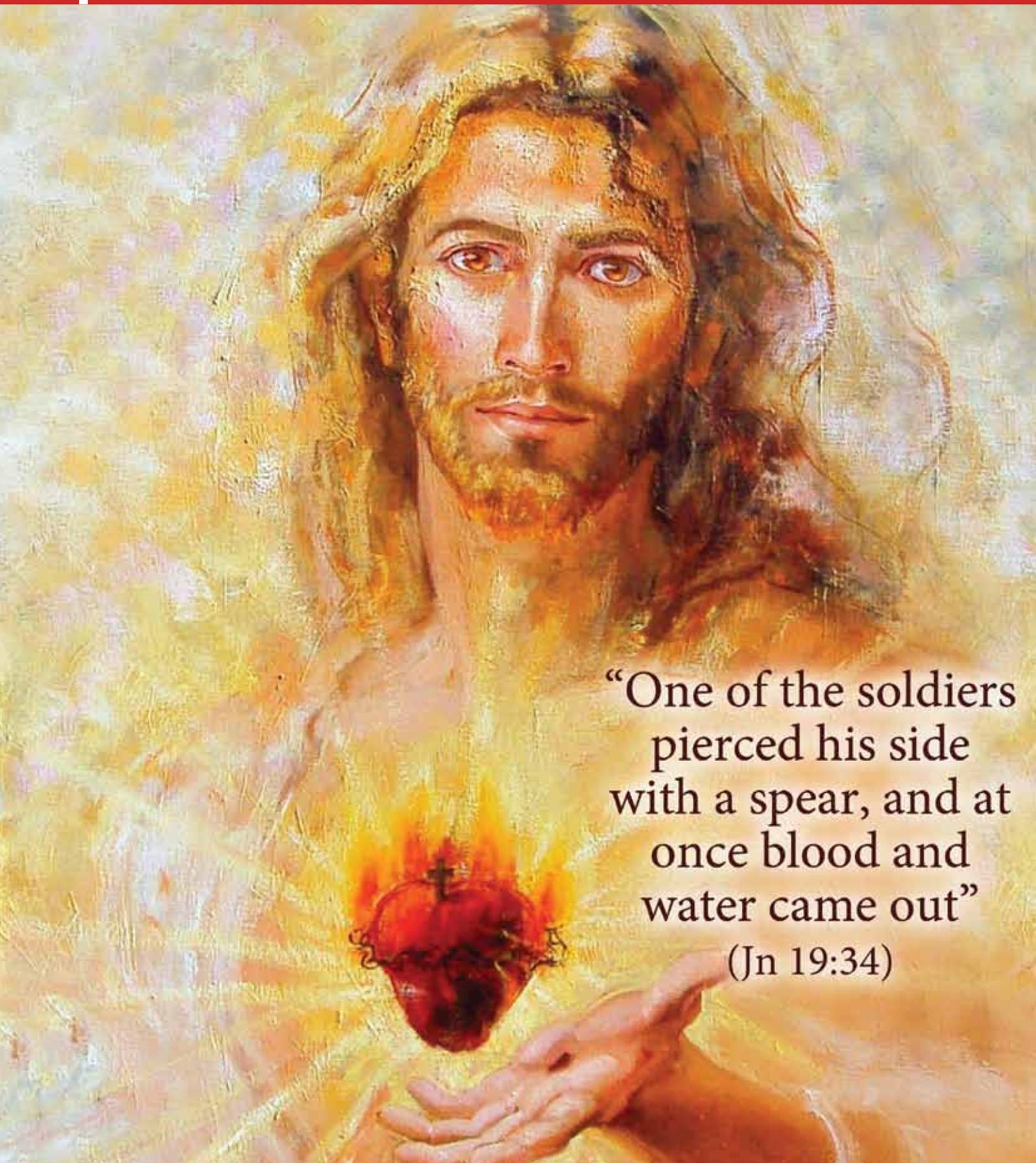


JESUS

# THE SOULMATE

What will separate us from the love of Christ? (Rom 8:35)



“One of the soldiers  
pierced his side  
with a spear, and at  
once blood and  
water came out”

(Jn 19:34)

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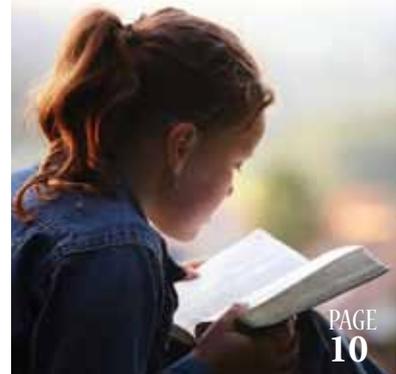
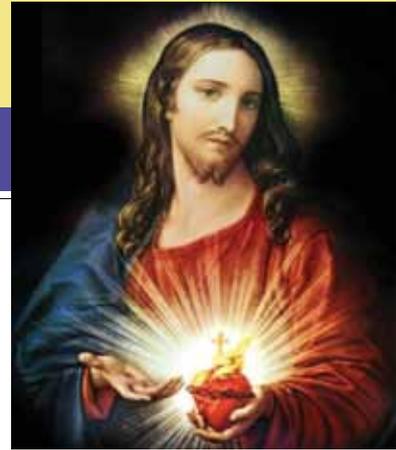
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## He Sees You...

**T**he powerful protection prayer of St. Patrick has a beautiful segment in it: 'May the eye of God look before me'. It must be the Holy Spirit who inspired this great saint to form the prayer. A believer who pleads this prayer, is overwhelmed in the conscience that 'He sees me'. This simple fact that 'God sees me' is so loaded because, it shows the perfect sign of protection and a saving act from vices. A Jewish rabbinic story carries an element of consolation that 'He sees'. Four kids were enjoying a game on a ground near by the village. But to the sorrow of a lad amidst them, three others were compelled by their parents to leave the ground. He felt so alone and exploded into tears. An old Rabbi who had been watching this whole event came near the boy and caressing him, said, 'You are not alone, look upto the skies, Yahweh sees you'. The tale ends with a beautiful scene that the lad gets a smile

on his face as he had turned to the skies.

"He gives them security, and they are supported; his eyes are on their ways" (Job 24:23). The protection and sustenance from heaven were assured as 'He sees'. Hagar, a rejected and out thrown woman saw the eyes of God in quest of her. She and her baby in a fiery desert lost hope having no drop of water to drink. Casting her child under a bush, she went about a distance and wept. 'do not let me look on the death of my child'. But, the ever seeking eyes of God found her and directed her to security of life (Gen 21). Through the prophecy of Zachariah, God assures his eyes of protection, 'then, I will encamp at my house as a guard, so that no one will march to and fro; no oppressor shall again overrun them, for now I have seen with my own eyes' (Zech 9:8). He sees you to guarantee security from harm and assurance of safety of life. "The eyes of God range throughout the entire earth, to strengthen those whose heart

is true to him" (2 Chr 16:9). Let all insecure worries be vanished from you because He sees you.

Who can conceal from the eyes of God. The eyes of God pursue to conscientize us not to sin. Enduring awareness of the fact that 'He sees' drives one away from vices. Sin in a way can be understood as the forgetfulness of the fact that God sees. The Word of God asserts that an escape from the eyes of God is impossible because 'the eyes of the Lord are in every place, keeping watch on the evil and the good' (Prov 15:3). More significant it is when captured with a loving heart of a child in the presence of his/her father and he/she never wrongs. As Francis Thomson portrays God in his poem; 'Hound of Heaven', in all his failures, God pursued him until he was found. Even the night veils him, He sees: 'Float thy vague veil about me lest He see'. A sinner says '... Who can see me? Darkness surrounds me the walls hide me and no one sees me. Why should I worry? His fear is confined to human eyes and he does not realize that the eyes of the Lord are ten thousand times brighter than the sun. They look into every aspect of human behavior and see into hidden corners' (Sir 23:18-19). It should not be the fright that God sees, but the loving gaze from him turns you from sin.

How pleasant and protected are you in the growth of the awareness that He sees? How privileged are you that God covers you with his powerful gaze that you may not fail. Like a child looking to the loving eyes of its father look above and be aware He sees you! ◆

.....  
**Fr. Steby Kalloorkattu V.C.**





**T**he Word of God says, “Do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord” (1Tim 1:8).

**Y**ou are encouraged to send your testimonies to us for publication if you are certain by faith that a miracle (blessing, Reconciliation breakthrough, healing, conversion etc) has been granted to you by Jesus. Traditionally understood, a miracle is a supernatural sign or wonder, brought about by God, signifying His glory and the salvation of mankind.

**T**he Church teaches, “If anyone says that all miracles are impossible, and that therefore all reports of them, even those contained in Sacred Scripture, are to be set aside as fables or myths; or that miracles can never be known with certainty, nor can the divine origin of the Christian religion be proved from them: let him be anathema” (Vatican Council I, *Dei Filius*, no.3).

**P**lease note, “Society has a right to information based on truth, freedom, and justice. One should practice moderation and discipline in the use of the social communication media” (Catechism of the Catholic Church 2512).

EVERYONE WHO  
ACKNOWLEDGES  
ME BEFORE OTHERS,  
I ALSO WILL  
ACKNOWLEDGE  
BEFORE MY FATHER  
IN HEAVEN  
(MT 10:32).

RETURN TO  
YOUR HOME,  
AND DECLARE  
HOW MUCH  
GOD HAS DONE  
FOR YOU  
(LK 8:39).

**W**e will try to publish as many testimonies as possible for the glory of God and to deepen the faith of the children of God.

**P**ublishing your testimonies is done as part of the spiritual services of Vincentian Ministries. We do not demand or accept any fee to publish the testimonies.

**H**owever, we recommend to get some copies of JESUS: THE SOULMATE and distribute them because this work of evangelization will not only encourage those who already know Jesus but also engage those who have not yet recognized Jesus as saviour in their lives.

**I**f you own a shop or business, consider putting a display of this magazine on your counter to resell to customers.

**G**ive the magazine to your family members, church members, workmates, friends, especially people in hospitals and schools as a gift.

**S**end your testimonies with a recent photograph to: [jesusthesoulmate@gmail.com](mailto:jesusthesoulmate@gmail.com) or Whatsapp to 0766929181.

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### JESUS: THE SOULMATE

If you believe in Jesus and accept Him as your personal saviour, He will be your soul's sweet love and life's best companion.

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# DIVINE MERCY

HOPE FOR SINNERS

## **Fr. Antony Parankimalil V.C.**

“**L**et us fall into the hand of the Lord, for his Mercy is great” (2 Sam 24:14). St. Maria Faustina Kowalska, an Apostle of Divine Mercy instills hope in all the desperate sinners. Her ‘Diary: Divine Mercy in My Soul’ carries a message for universal salvation. She writes that sinners would not perish in such great numbers if they knew Mercy. Thus, she was to tell sinful souls not to be afraid to approach the Lord, by speaking to them of His great Mercy. This means that the very knowledge of Mercy instills hope in all the hopeless and the desperate. In fact, our misery does not hinder His Mercy since the greater the misery of a soul, the greater the right it has to

Mercy. Therefore she urges all souls to trust in the unfathomable abyss of Mercy, because the Lord wants to save them all. We note that the participation in the Sacraments plays a key role in the receiving and acceptance of Mercy. For example, the soul that goes to confession and receives holy communion obtains complete forgiveness of sins and punishment, because all the divine floodgates through which graces flow are opened on that day. Therefore, no soul should fear to draw near to the Lord, even though its sins are as scarlet.

It is so consoling to hear that the greater the sinner, the greater the right He has to Mercy. Since God’s Mercy is confirmed in every work of His hands, anyone who trusts in His Mercy will not perish, for all his

affairs are the Lord’s. Also, Lord Jesus assures that He cannot punish even the greatest sinner if he makes an appeal to His compassion. Instead, He justifies the sinner in His unfathomable and inscrutable Mercy. The Lord wants us to understand that He is indeed more generous toward sinners than toward the just, since it was for their sake that He came down from heaven

**Our misery does not  
hinder His Mercy  
since the greater the  
misery of a soul, the  
greater the right  
it has to Mercy**

and His Blood was spilled. Therefore, sinners are not to fear to approach Him, since they are most in need of His Mercy.

Faustina writes for the benefit of distressed souls, so that the soul who sees and realizes the gravity of its sins, does not despair when the whole abyss of the misery into which it immersed itself is displayed before its eyes. With trust, it must throw itself into the arms of Mercy; as a child into the arms of its beloved mother. A reading of the Diary instills great hope in anyone who is desperately hopeless.

In the homily during the Divine Mercy Sunday in 2013, Pope Francis spoke of Peter, who three times denied Jesus, precisely when he should have been closest to Him. And when he hit rock bottom, he met the gaze of Jesus who patiently, wordlessly, told him not to fear, but to trust in Him. Peter

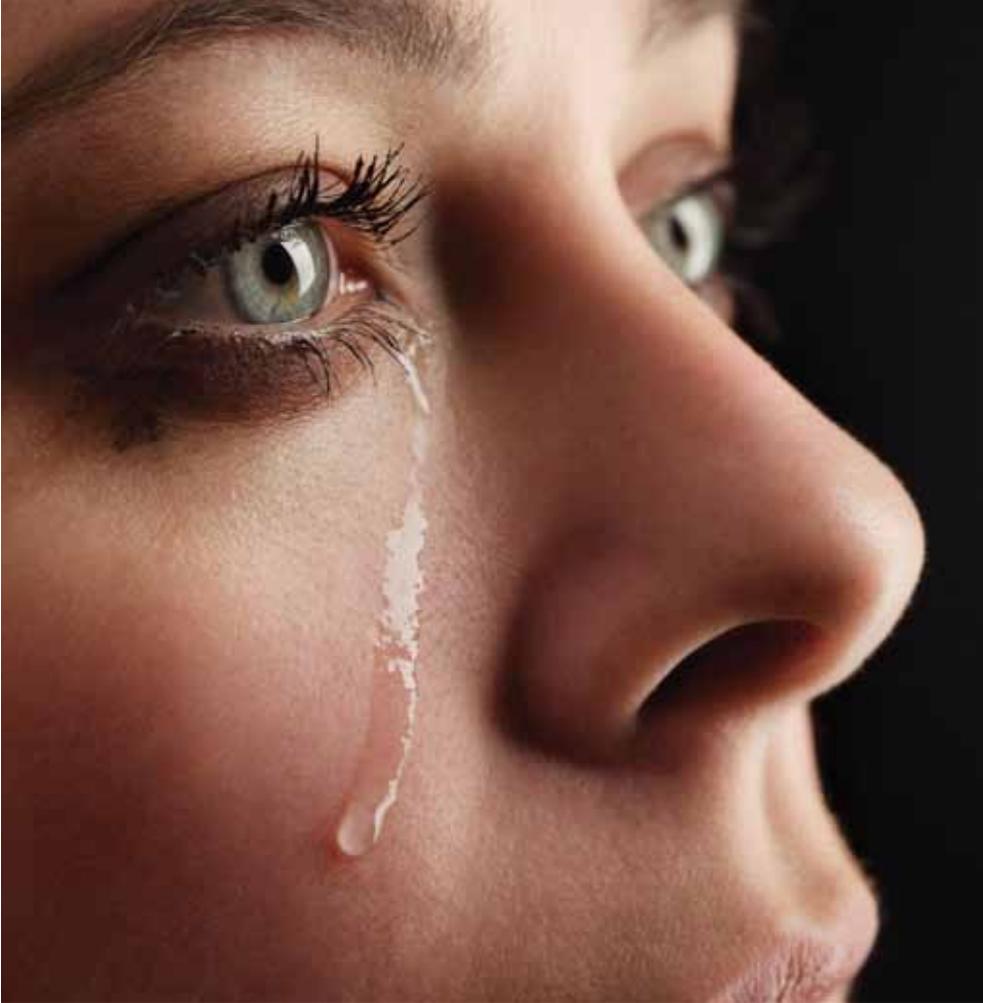
He is indeed more generous toward sinners than toward the just, since it was for their sake that He came down from heaven and His Blood was spilled

understood, felt the loving gaze of Jesus, and wept bitterly. The gaze of Jesus is so beautiful and so full of tenderness that we must never lose sight of him and

trust in the patience and Mercy of God.

At his first Angelus message, Pope Francis said that Mercy is the best thing that we can feel, since it changes the world. A little Mercy makes the world less cold and more just. He advised to understand properly the Mercy of God, the merciful Father who is so patient. Pope Francis called us to remember Prophet Isaiah who says that 'even if our sins are as scarlet, God's love would make them white as snow'; for this Mercy is beautiful. This means that Mercy gives hope to everyone, even those who are condemned to death. If a condemned prisoner can still appeal for Mercy from the president of a nation by the mere thought that mercy impacts positively on one's outlook to life, how much more does the thought of Divine Mercy transform the lives of humans.





Our Lord  
Jesus is never  
tired of a  
sinner, he is  
never angry,  
he is never  
upset with  
any of us

The story of an immense sinner who murdered a little girl then, turned to be a pious Franciscan lay brother shows the great Mercy of God. He was Alessandro Serenelli; a young man with whom St. Maria Goretti's family shared an adjoining residence, was a rough with a poor religious upbringing. He was given to drinking, swearing, and callous behavior. He had impure thoughts toward Maria. At the rejection of Maria to sin with him, Alessandro stabbed her fourteen times to death. He was jailed unrelenting in mischief. But, the Mercy of God was released on him. Maria appeared in a dream and handed fourteen white lilies as a sign of purity and forgiveness for each time he stabbed her. This incident of Mercy of God through his little saint miraculously converted his heart leading him to confession and reconciliation with the family of Maria.

In the book called '33 Days to Merciful Love', Fr. Michael

Gaitley MIC describes God's love as being like water, which always goes to the lowest place. The Good News is that God's ways are not our ways and that God is not attracted to our gifts, virtues, and talents but rather,

to our weakness, brokenness, and sin (Ps 51:17). This spiritual realization reveals the very meaning of Mercy, and shows that Mercy is an absolute action of God who overlooks the sins and weaknesses of His people. It is important to know that Our Lord Jesus is never tired of a sinner, he is never angry and he is never upset with any of us. He still waits for us with great hope. ♦





“He sent out  
his word and  
healed them, and  
delivered them  
from destruction”  
(Ps 107:20)

# WORD OF GOD

## POWER AND HEALING

**Fr. Michael Kunnuthara V.C.**

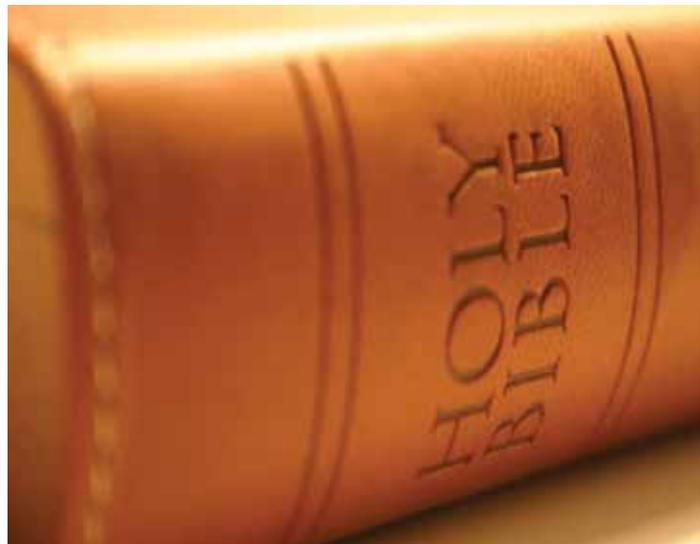
**T**he most beautiful and powerful form of prayer is the method in which we use the Word of God, because we see that St. John the Evangelist explaining about the Word as God himself. There are also instances that satisfy our reason that the Word is God himself. Sometimes we often find difficulty to establish this thought and stay in the stage of reasoning, thinking that Word and God himself are two different entities that have different form of existence. Here is an attempt made to understand that the Word and God are one and the same and the powerful form of

popular prayer is that which uses Word of God.

**God reveals about the Word:** “For while gentle silence enveloped all things, and night in its swift course was now half gone, your all-powerful word leaped from heaven, from the royal throne into the midst of the land that was doomed” (Wis 18:14-15). The above Word of God shows that the Word leaped from heaven to this earth and the fulfillment of the Word we see in the gospel of St. John. He starts his gospel writing about this the Word that became flesh and dwelt

among us. So, we can conclude that the Word of God and God himself are one and the same.

**Ignorance of the Scripture is ignorance of Christ:** This is a famous saying of St. Jerome



that if you are ignorant about Scripture then, you are ignorant about God Himself. The complete revelation of God takes place in the Scripture. The complete intervention of God in the history of humanity is revealed in the Scripture and the all encompassing nature of God: merciful, loving, powerful, creator, sustainer, and even the omega, is clearly exposed in the Scripture and in Scripture alone. We also say that God revealed

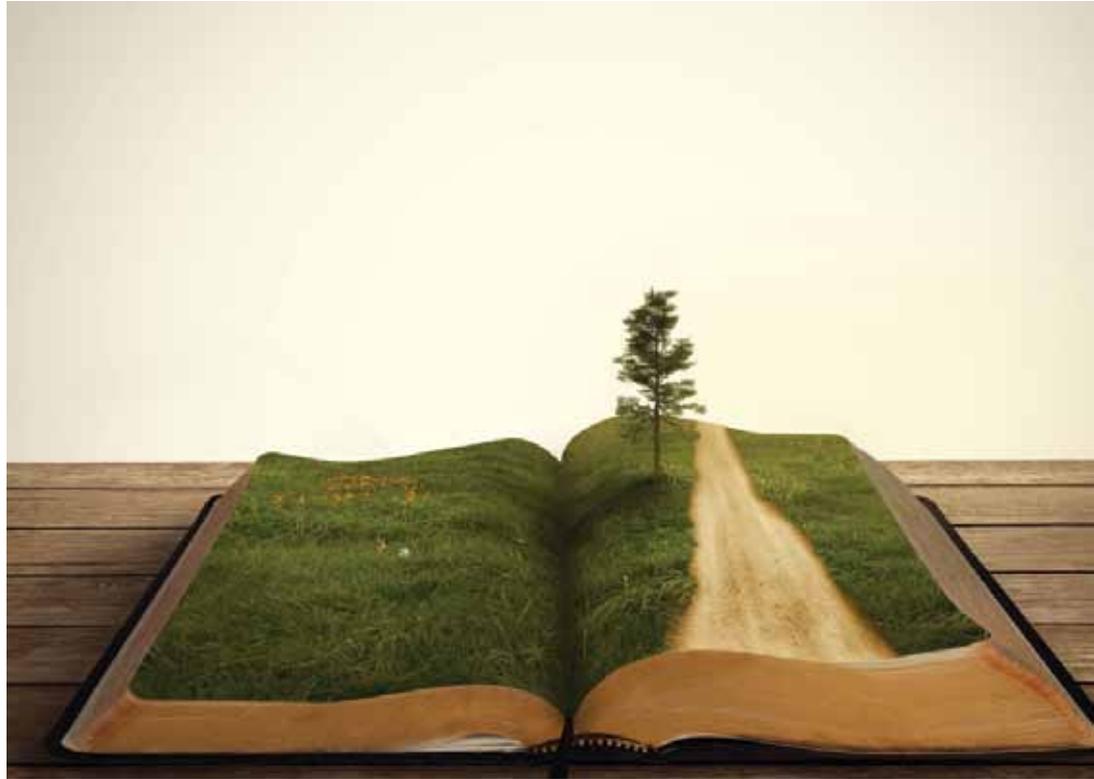
himself in history, time, space, events and even in spiritual presence but, Scripture is an all pervading revelation of God. The troubles that we face in life might be because of the ignorance of Scripture. In the Holy Scripture there is solution for every problem and puzzle of life.

**The Word of God is a medicine:**

When we repeat some Word of God we receive healing and history witnesses this great truth. "My child, be attentive to my words, incline your ear to my sayings. Do not let them escape from your sight; keep them within your heart. For they are life to those who find them and healing to all their flesh" (Prov 4: 20-22). This Word of God teaches us about treasuring the Word and to get healed from sicknesses. If a person with full faith repeats the Word, the Word becomes actual means for him/her to receive healing. Since at times we are ignorant about this fact we don't receive healing and comfort through the Word of God.

**The Word of God is a weapon:**

The Word of God is a powerful weapon that one can use to resist the wickedness of Satan. St. Paul's letter to Ephesus requests



that all the faithful should put on the armor of God. Ephesians 6:10 onwards speaks about the armor of God that would help a believer to resist the wiles of the devil. He also states that our struggle is not against the powers of the world but against the spiritual forces of heavenly places. Therefore, Holy Catholic Church asks all believers to take refuge in the Word of God.

**Word of God is the statute of a good believer:** All the rules for spiritual life and its practical

means are well explained in the Scripture.

Through the prophetic literature, God is reminding his people to be obedient and to observe the law of God. Prophets go to the extent of saying that if one obeys the Word of God, then to those God looks constructively. If one disobeys the Word of God, then he automatically goes away from the protection of God. The forefathers of faith direct us to focus seriously on God and not on our own self.

**God's vision:** What God envisions about us is that we should meditate and keep the Word he spoke in our mind and heart. This is God's plan regarding us that to keep the His Word and be blessed. "This book of law shall not depart out of your mouth; you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to act in accordance with all that is written in it. For then you shall make your way prosperous and then you shall be successful." (Josh 1: 8)

Let this all powerful and all pervading Word guide and protect us. Let us start reading the Bible and search for the Scripture that gives each of us deliverance. ♦

In the Holy Scripture there is solution for every problem and every disease and every puzzle of life



# SEARCHING FOR JESUS

**Fr. Reno Kanakkattu V.C.**

**T**here are many people in the world who search for God. Maybe even you are doing the same. In the history of salvation, when the Son of Man came into the world, many are they who searched for him. All of

them had different intentions and motives. Some searched for him with good intentions but others had evil intentions.

**Search to worship him:** When Jesus was born, the three kings who knew about the birth of the Son of God decided to worship him. “In the time of king Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage” (Mt 2:1-2). The search of the Magi was with a genuine desire to worship the Lord and give him homage and they went home joyfully taking another way.

**Search to receive the blessing:** Jesus fed five thousand people with five loaves and two fish.

People were looking for Jesus for blessings. Jesus used that opportunity to teach them the importance of looking for the things that are eternal. “So when the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they themselves got into the boats

His desire to see Jesus was genuine and he was ready to take all the necessary sacrifices in order to see him



and went to Capernaum looking for Jesus. When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, Rabbi, when did you come here? Jesus answered them, Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves” (Jn 6:22-26). Those people were searching for Jesus only for material good.

**Search to see a miracle:** There was someone in the gospels who waited for Jesus to see a miracle from him. King Herod was the man who heard about Jesus and wanted to see a miracle from him. “When Herod saw Jesus, he was very glad, for he had been wanting to see him for a long time, because he had heard about him and was hoping to see him perform some sign” (Lk 23:8). But, Jesus did not perform any miracle for him because his intention was not pure.

**Search to destroy:** When many people started to follow Jesus, the Pharisees were disappointed and jealous. They were looking for an opportunity to kill Jesus. “The Pharisees heard the crowd

muttering such things about him, and the chief priests and Pharisees sent temple police to arrest him” (Jn 7:32). It was a very bad intention.

**Search to see:** Zacchaeus who was a chief tax collector and a public sinner was searching for Jesus to see him. “He entered Jericho and was passing through it. A man was there named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was rich. He was trying to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was short in stature” (Lk 19:1-3). Zacchaeus became more blessed than all others because, he got an opportunity to welcome Jesus into his home and he received grace to change his ways. His desire to see Jesus was genuine and he was ready to take all the necessary sacrifices in order to see him. Jesus saw his heart longing for him. Zacchaeus was ready to accept the changes which the presence of Jesus demanded from him and that led him to receive the salvation which Jesus came to offer.



**Search is ours now!** “Search and you will find” (Mt 7:7). The Word of God speaks to us to search. What is our intention searching for Jesus? The persons mentioned above searched for Jesus with different intentions. Some with good intentions and others with bad intentions searched for Jesus. Now it is our chance to examine and if necessary, change our intention for searching. Like Zacchaeus and the Magi, let us search in order to worship him and to see him and experience his salvation. ♦



# Kwa nini Sakramenti ya Ndoa?



**Fr. Jinu Puthussery V.C.**

“**U**shirikiano wa ndani wa maisha na wa upendo wa ndoa uliasisiwa na Muumbaji na kuratibishwa naye kwa sheria maalumu. Nao una asili yake katika agano la ndoa, yaani katika makubaliano yasiyotanguka ya kila mmoja. Na hivyo, ndoa ni ushirika unaopata kuwa imara kwa sheria za kimungu na ambao unazaliwa, hata mbele ya jamii, kutokana na tendo lile la kibinadamu ambalo kwalo kila mwanandoa anajitoa kwa mwenzake na anampokea... Mungu mwenyewe ndiye muundaji wa ndoa” (*Gaudium et Spes* 48:1). Tangu mwanzo, kanisa linafundisha uwepo wa sakramenti ya ndoa kadiri ilivyopangwa na Mungu. “Kwa hiyo, mwanaume atamwacha baba yake na mama yake naye ataambatana na mkewe, nao watakuwa mwili mmoja” (Mwa 2:24, Efe 5:31). Mpango huo wa Muumbaji wetu ulionekana

katika desturi nyingi za ulimwengu huu, wakipenda kuishi kwa ushirikiano, upendo na uaminifu kadiri ya agizo la Bwana. Hivyo, ndoa ya kikristu ni agano la upendo kati ya mume na mke, ambalo linaonekana katika adhimisho la sakramenti ya ndoa. Upendo unakamilika na kupata baraka za Mungu, wakati mume na mke wanapopokea sakramenti ya ndoa. Upendo huo, kwa Mtume Paulo, unatakiwa kufanana na upendo kati ya “Kristo na Kanisa” (Efe 5:32). Sakramenti ya ndoa ni sakramenti muhimu sana kama sakramenti nyingine. Wengi wetu wanapenda kuzipokea sakramenti nyingine zote isipokuwa sakramenti ya ndoa. Wengine wanapokea sakramenti ya ndoa kusudi wapate faida ya uongozi kanisani au huduma ya mwisho wanapokaribia kufa.

Mazoea ya kuishi pamoja kabla ya ndoa kwa wakristo yamekuwa ni kitu cha kawaida, wakisahau wanapungukiwa na nini na kukosa nini kutokana na kuishi katika dhambi.

Tunakubali utamaduni na desturi zetu za nchi za kiafrika katika kuadhimisha ndoa, kama Baba Mtakatifu Fransisko alivyotamka “kuchagua ndoa ya kiserikali au mara nyingi



kuishi tu pamoja bila ndoa, hakuji kutokana na mawazo hasi juu ya ndoa ya kisakramenti au chuki dhidi yake, bali kutokana na mazingira ya kitamaduni... katika baadhi ya nchi, ndoa zisizotambulika kihalali ni nyingi sana, na si kwa sababu tu ya kutupilia mbali maadili yanayohusu familia na ndoa, bali hasa kwa sababu kuadhimisha ndoa katika mazingira ya jamii kunaonekana kuwa ghali mno” (Pope Francis, *Amoris Laetitia*, 294). Hata hivyo amri za kanisa zinabaki na kumdai mkristo kushika sheria katoliki za ndoa. Mpangilio wa kawaida umejaliwa mafuriko ya neema ya ukombozi ya Yesu kiasi ambacho ‘mkataba halali wa ndoa hauwezi kuwapo kati ya wabatizwa bila kugeuka kuwa sakramenti kwa sababu ya ubatizo’ (Kanuni ya Sheria ya Kanisa 1055, 2). Upendo ambao ni msingi wa ndoa unakosa baraka ya Mungu kwa sababu ya mapungufu ya sakramenti ya ndoa. Wakristo wanapoishi kinyume na amri za kanisa, wanaishi katika dhambi na kukosa neema za Mungu kupambana na changamoto za dunia ya leo. Wabatizwa wananyimwa kushiriki pamoja na wenzao katika meza ya Bwana na kukosa huduma mbalimbali zinazotolewa na kanisa. Zaidi ya yote, maisha hayo yasioendana na injili yanawafanya kutengwa na ushirika kamili katika kanisa.

Sakramenti ya ndoa ni ‘zawadi inayotolewa kwa ajili ya kuwatakatifuza na kuwakomboa wanandoa’ (*Amoris Laetitia*, 72). “Katika kupokeana na kwa neema ya Kristo, wachumba wanaahidiana kujitoa kikamilifu kila mmoja kwa mwenzake, kuwa waaminifu na kuwa radhi kuleta maisha mapya kwa njia

ya watoto... Sakramenti hii siyo “kitu” au “uwezo,” kwa maana ndani yake Kristo mwenyewe anakutana na wachumba wa kikristo, anaishi pamoja nao na kuwapa nguvu kuchukua misalaba yao na kwa namna hiyo kumfuata, kuinuka tena baada ya kuanguka, kusameheana wao kwa wao na kuchukuliana mizigo” (Katekismus ya Kanisa Katoliki, 1642). Ni wazi kwamba maisha ya ndoa si matamu sana daima, kwa sababu ya changamoto nyingi zinazotuzunguka. Lakini, sakramenti hiyo ina nguvu ya kuwasaidia wanandoa katika

changamoto hizo. Mungu anamimina upendo wake wa kimungu katika maisha ya wanandoa na kuwasimamia daima.

Hivyo, sakramenti ya ndoa ni wajibu na iwe sehemu ya maisha ya kila aliyeitwa kuishi maisha ya familia. Wakatoliki wanaalikwa kuwa na utii kwa amri ya Mungu ili mipango ya Mungu iendelee na upendo wa Mungu uonekane kwa njia ya maisha ya wanandoa hapa katika jamii zetu. Sakramenti ya ndoa isiwe kitu cha kuonesha watu kwa sherehe za kifahari, isiwe na lengo la kupata tu ushirika wa komunyo na mazishi ya kikristo, ila ni sehemu ya kujitakatifuza na ukombozi wetu. Ndoa isiwe na lengo la kuwafurahisha wazazi au viongozi wa dini, lakini iweze kuwa na nia ya kumfurahisha Mungu na mwenzako wa ndoa kwa sababu wanandoa wenyewe ndio waadhimishaji wa ndoa takatifu. Mungu aliyeanzisha mpango huo wa umoja wa mume na mke aweze kutusaidia kukamilisha mpango wake mtakatifu kwa njia ya sakramenti ya ndoa. Pia kwa njia ya ushuhuda wetu, tuweze kuchangia na kuwasaidia wengine wakaribie sakramenti ya ndoa. ♦

Upendo ambao  
ni msingi wa  
ndoa unakosa  
baraka ya  
Mungu kwa  
sababu ya  
mapungufu ya  
sakramenti ya  
ndoa



# JESUS

## CALLED ME

## A SECOND TIME

### Sr. Mary Aruna SND

“**F**or it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother’s womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I know very well” (Ps 139:14). The Word of God tells us that long before we were born to this earth, we existed in the mind of God. How great it is to know that God thought of each of us singly, specially and independently and gave us unique purpose of life.

It was at the beginning of the year 2014, I was serving in another continent as the administrator of a School. I received a letter from the Vincentian Ministries. The invitation was simple: ‘Sister, you are called to come to pray at the Vincentian Retreat Centre and serve Jesus as a prayer partner’. I liked the call, as I loved to pray, but to leave the place of work was

not easy, since I had obligations for that mission. Even when the assignment to the mission would come to an end at the end of 2014, I was not prepared to step into another ministry away from the Missions of the Sisters Of Notre Dame. So I kept silent for many months, but every time I received God’s word for my meditation and reflection, it was leading towards the ministry of prayer; a call within a call. So I said, I shall find myself one day,

At my age, to begin from nowhere was not easy either, but Holy Spirit gave me the courage to say “Yes” to God’s call

may be in the distant future there, and that is it. I continued my life and work.

“Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing.” (Joel 2:12-13). Meanwhile, I was assigned another mission to the Philippines and it was the time for cyclones and heavy rains in the country. In my work, there were occasions I had to travel by boat in the ocean from one Island to another. During the cyclonic times, the sea would be very rough, dangerous and the boats would be moving violently from side to side and at times with frightening movements due to the roughness of the waves.

I am not a swimmer and was very afraid. So, I prayed: Lord if you save me from being drowned, or being cast into the sea, when

this mission is over, I shall surely serve you forever with my whole heart and as long as you need me in the ministry of prayer. Shall I say, my prayer was heard and answered. Definitely it is the reason I am in the Vincentian Ministries to serve my God by prayers of intercession for the whole world. What I can say is that God showed His mercy on a sinner like me. I believe the mission is not ours, but it belongs to the Heavenly Father entrusted to Jesus Christ. “No one can come to me unless he is drawn by the Father who sent me, and I will raise him up at the last day” (Jn 6:44). When Jesus called me to the ministry of prayer and intercession, I was not so willing to be uprooted from comfortable places and familiar zones, the places and position I have been in. At my age, to begin from nowhere was not easy either, but Holy Spirit gave me the courage to say “Yes” to God’s call.

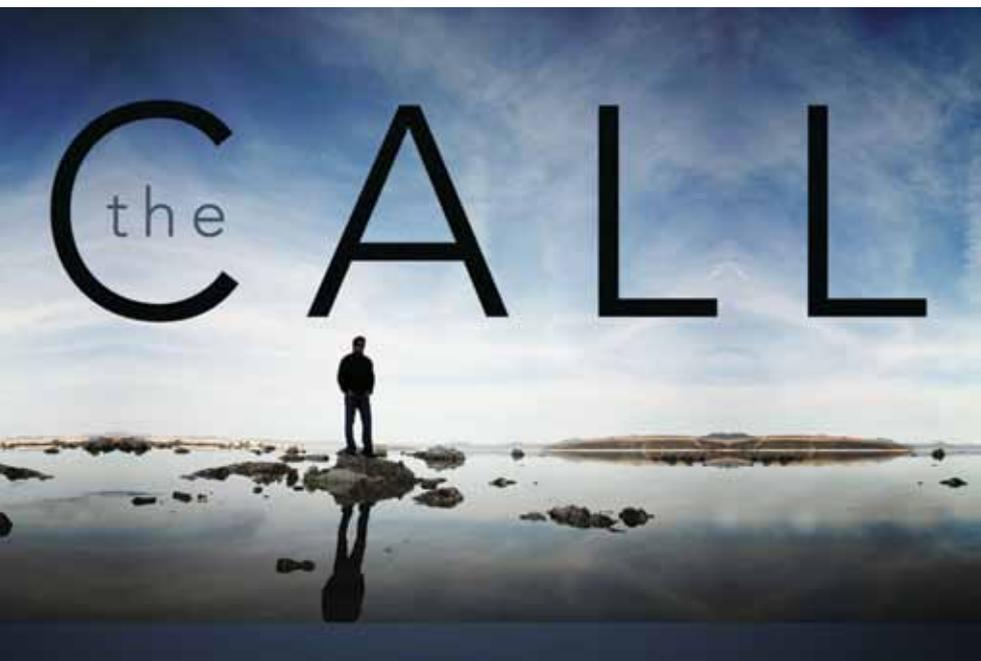
In the short time I have been in the Vincentian ministries, I have seen the wonders God manifested in the lives of children of God. Once a family brought a man for prayer and deliverance who had a serious



impediment. When they came to me I had no confidence to pray with him for I felt it was a very serious issue. Then I prayed a small prayer to Jesus and asked Him to let someone else take care of this person. Immediately, a thought passed my mind: to pray in the name of Jesus, as all authority and power is in His name. “I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified” (Jn 14:14).

I just obeyed Jesus and two weeks later, the wife, child and the man for whom I prayed came with a smile of joy. The wife said, ‘Sister, here is your son, completely well in the Holy name of Jesus.’

“On that day you will ask nothing of me. Very truly, I tell you, if you ask anything of the Father in my name, He will give it to you” (Jn 16:23). From this I learned a lesson, do not doubt or hesitate! Ask boldly, for the Giver is the most generous Abba Father. I call Him my Beloved Father. “I tell you most solemnly, anything you ask for from the Father, He will grant in my name. Until now you have not asked for anything in my name, Ask and you will receive”. (Jn 16:23-24). Isn’t it true, that most of us do not ask anything to the heavenly Father? Do you have struggles, difficulties and mysterious problems? Ask the Father in the name of Jesus, ask with faith. “And this is the boldness we have in Jesus, that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us” (1 Jn 5:14). May the most Holy Trinity be praised and Adored always, Amen. ♦





# CHANGED LIVES

## Catherine Mwangi

### Healing

About three years ago, I had an operation for goiter but it did not give me healing. My situation rather worsened because, my work was in a hospital where there are harsh smells from medicine and detergents. I could not swallow anything and even talking became difficult. This illness was causing me severe fatigue. The ENT surgeon advised me to stop working and to resign but I did not because that was the only source of income for me. Instead, I came to Vincentian Retreat Centre Thika for a retreat. In that retreat, Jesus healed me and the swelling which used to make my life living hell completely disappeared. Thank you, Jesus. Praise you, Jesus.

## Cecilia Muthoni

### Healing

I am a catholic. One day, as I was going through Thika super highway, I saw a statue of Jesus open-handed. Somehow I had an inspiration to visit that place. On the way back, I memorized the location, and later I managed to pay a visit on the following Monday. The place was Vincentian Retreat Centre, Thika and there was a retreat going on. Though, I did not carry any personal things, by the help of a sister there, I joined that retreat. In that retreat I experienced miraculous hand of God. I have

been suffering from Asthma for 27 years. I have visited so many hospitals but I was not healed. I used to walk with medicine in my handbag always. In that retreat, Jesus healed me completely from asthma because, for six months I have not used any kind of medicine or gone to the hospital. Thank you, Jesus. Praise you, Jesus.

## Winfred Mwendwa

### Blessing

Last year I attended a retreat at Vincentian Retreat Centre, Thika, praying to get married in the church and the Lord answered my prayer. Our marriage was blessed on 15-02-2019. Thank you, Jesus. Praise you, Jesus.

## Pauline Bitengo

### Forgiveness

I had a problem with my ovaries and the doctor suggested that both the ovaries be removed through an operation. I was very desperate and sorrowful that I would not be able to bear children. None of my relatives knew of my sickness and I wanted this to remain a secret. I only disclosed to a close friend. This friend told my brother about my sickness. My brother

was helping me to get medication that used to keep me going since I hesitated an operation. From that day on, my brother stopped helping me. So, I had a severe hurt feeling towards that friend. I attended an Inner healing retreat in Vincentian Retreat Centre, Thika, April 2018. I heard about forgiveness and during adoration, I was burst into tears. Though it was hard, I told Jesus that I forgive my friend. After retreat, I went back to the doctor for check up. There was no problem at all in my body. Jesus has healed my sickness. Thank you, Jesus. Praise you, Jesus.

## Annuciata Mumbi

### Conversion

For five years, I was praying for a church wedding. During the Holy Mass, at the consecration time, I used to shed tears thinking that I cannot receive holy communion. Though I am a catholic, I have been living with a protestant husband who did not go to church or do any spiritual activities. I came to Vincentian Retreat Centre, Thika in February 2018 for an innerhealing retreat. I prayed for only one intention



in the retreat that I get wedded in the Church. After the retreat, as I reached home my husband asked me to go to see the Parish Priest! God changed the heart of my husband to be ready for the church wedding. On 12-5-2018 God blessed our marriage in the Church. My daughter who was lost for one year, came back home after the retreat. Thank you, Jesus. Praise you, Jesus.

#### Faith Makena

##### Healing

I started getting sick in 2010 as I finished my secondary schooling. In 2012 I was diagnosed with a cyst in my pancreas which was making my stomach to swell. I was operated on the same year. But that disease kept on recurring. I had been through seven operations in the past six years, but there was no complete healing. In 2018, I attended an inner healing retreat in Vincentian Retreat Centre, Thika. God spoke to me through the Priest who led the adoration that 'a person with a cyst in the stomach is healed'. That night, I noticed a change in me and later in the scanning result, it was clear that I was completely healed. Thank you, Jesus. Praise you, Jesus.

#### Priscillah Wanjiku

##### Blessing

I attended the one-day service on a Friday at Vincentian Retreat Centre, Thika, to pray for my mother and sister. In the month of April, my mother fell sick and my sister had a very complicated delivery and the child was about to die. I was so worried and I went to the Divine Mercy Chapel and wrote a letter to Jesus telling him about my mom and sister. During the Holy Mass, I offered my mom, my sister and my sister's child to Jesus. My letter reached heaven and was answered. My mom and sister were healed. Later, my sister's son improved and he is well now. Thank you, Jesus. Praise you, Jesus.

#### Sharon Cherotich

##### Healing

I thank God for healing me from asthma. I have been suffering since childhood but when I came to Vincentian Retreat Centre, Thika in March, I received healing. I am so grateful to Jesus for healing me. Thank you, Jesus. Praise you, Jesus.

#### Juma Austine

##### Blessing

I heard about Vincentian Retreat Centre, Thika and was very eager to attend a retreat. But I did not even have bus fare. I prayed to God and he answered my prayer through a friend, who helped me with fare to come to the Retreat. I could not however concentrate at all in the retreat because I had a problem with my leg which was itching always and I was scrubbing it all the time. During a break session, I went to the Divine Mercy Chapel and I took my rosary and prayed the chaplet of Divine Mercy. After that prayer I did not feel any itching in my leg. Thank you, Jesus. Praise you, Jesus.

#### Ayubu Asika

##### Healing

I was a welder and one day, when I was working, a small piece of metal particle hit me in the left eye. It was very painful and I could not see. So I went to the hospital nearby and the doctor told me that the piece of metal wounded my eye deeply and so it could not be removed. I went to another hospital and I was given medication, but the pain was severe. It was then, a friend told me about Vincentian Retreat Centre, Thika, and of an inner healing retreat. I organized to attend it. On Sunday, I arrived with a lot of pain on my eye. On Wednesday night, when the Blessed Sacrament was passing, I lifted my hands and cried aloud 'Heal me Lord'. After that adoration, I felt no pain any more. Jesus healed me. Thank you, Jesus. Praise you, Jesus.

#### Jacksibia Ebere

##### Offspring

I am from Uganda and for fourteen years I have been praying for a child. Since I was suffering from fibroids, I could not bear a child. Doctors referred me to be



# O Lord my God, I cried to You And You have healed me.

Psalm 30:2

treated in Nairobi. I was operated twice in Nairobi, but the sickness attacked me again. I was in a lot of distress as I really wanted a child, but it was not possible. In 2016, I decided to come again to Nairobi for another operation. As I was awaiting the operation, a friend who knew my story told me to go to Vincentian Prayer House in Lavington and attend a retreat. I didn't even know what a retreat was but I just decided to attend. At the end, I received some word of God from a Priest and he told me that the operation will be successful and that I will bear a child. As I left for the hospital for the operation, I kept on reciting the word of God and claimed healing. I thank Jesus for the operation was very successful and the fibroids never occurred again! Exactly after one year I delivered a healthy baby girl! Thank you, Jesus. Praise you, Jesus.

**Cecilia Mugo**

**Blessings**

I lost my job in December, 2018 and I became shattered and worried as I was the only bread winner since my husband has been jobless since 2016. It was very difficult for us since we had four schooling children. A friend of mine advised me to come to Vincentian Prayer House, Lavington for counseling and then I attended an inner healing retreat. The following Saturday after the retreat, I received a call notifying me that I had gotten a job that I

had applied for a long time ago and I had even forgotten about it. I glorify the Lord for his love and mercy upon me and my family. Thank you, Jesus. Praise you, Jesus.

**Lilian Jamba**

**Blessing**

I have been earnestly praying for a child. I always wanted to be a mum but it was not happening. After going from one doctor to another for more than 5 years, I was declared barren by the doctors. After five more years, a friend told me about Vincentian Prayer House in Lavington and with a broken heart, I attended a retreat. I started coming regularly and last year, in the month of October, I got sick. When I went to the hospital, I was found with amoeba and to the my shock, I was also found with a baby in my womb, two months old! Thank you, Jesus. Praise you, Jesus.

**Josphine Kakai**

**Healing**

I had a problem of severe nose bleeding for many years. I came to Vincentian Prayer House Lavington one morning and went to the cross near the grotto of Mother Mary. I held the cross and started to pray and cry out to Jesus to have mercy on me and heal me. Even then the bleeding was going on but after some few minutes I noted that the bleeding had suddenly stopped. Since then I do not have any problem of nose bleeding. Thank you, Jesus. Praise you, Jesus.

**Margaret Abraham**

**Forgiveness**

I had a lot of bitterness and anger towards someone who had hurt me badly. I could forgive all people except this one as I was completely unable to let the hurt feelings go. I came to Vincentian Prayer House, Lavington with a heavy heart and decided to attend a retreat. After the first day, we were told to call on the name of Jesus at the top of our voices and suddenly as I kept on calling the name of Jesus, the scenario which caused hurt in me came to my mind. Suddenly, I felt an overwhelming feeling of letting it go and blessing her. That day I got the grace to forgive her completely and after the retreat, I approached her and we were reconciled. Thank you, Jesus. Praise you, Jesus.



### Everlyne Oti

#### Blessing

I am very grateful to God for being so good and wonderful to me and my family. I started coming to Vincentian Prayer House, Lavington in 2017. During that time, my brother Andrew was having difficulties in his place of work. He was at the verge of being fired and so he wrote a prayer petition and gave to me to bring with as I came for the service. I offered my prayers for him that Saturday and put his petition in the petition box and within no time, he got a very good job. In the month of February 2018, I got another intervention. My sister had been unable to conceive for many years, I invited her to come with me and attend an inner healing retreat at Vincentian Prayer House in Lavington and after a month she conceived and is now blessed with a bouncing baby boy! I am amazed at how Jesus loves me and my family. Thank you, Jesus. Praise you, Jesus.

### Sebastian Otieno

#### Blessing

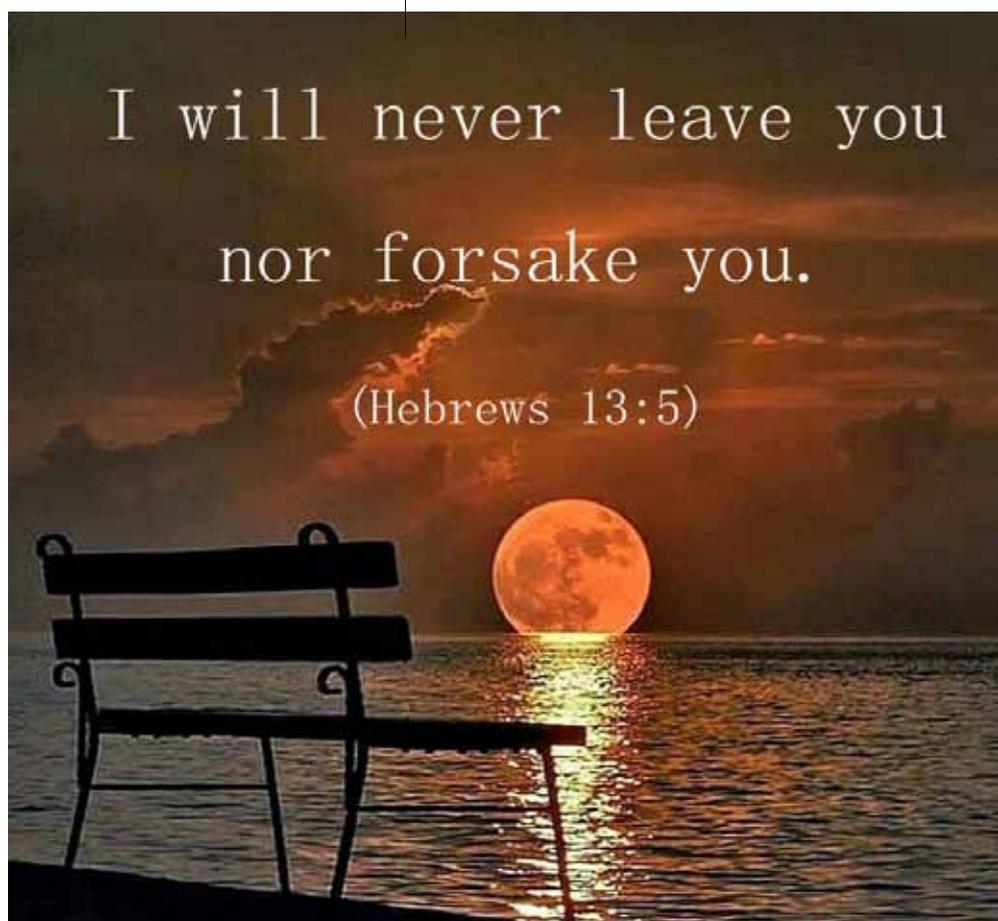
I started coming to Vincentian Prayer House, Lavington in 2015. I came to the centre with a lot of problems and brokenness. I was a drunkard and anything that I tried to do so as to gain income to provide for my family did not work. As I continued to attend the Saturday services and the retreats, great things started to happen in my life. Firstly, my Jesus delivered me completely from drinking and I now don't take alcohol. I was able to rectify my marriage in church and God blessed us with a child. Now, the projects that I work on don't collapse, am very successful in anything that I partake. I was also reconciled with my relatives. I thank Jesus for his mercy upon my life. Thank you, Jesus. Praise you, Jesus.

### Eunice Iminza

#### Healing

I attended the inner healing retreat at the Vincentian Prayer House, Lavington, in the month of April with two intentions, first, my daughter who was jobless for more than 3 years to be blessed with a job and second, to pray for my healing from back pain. I

pregnancy again hit me. Then a friend advised me to come to Vincentian Prayer House. I continuously came to the centre and started to pray with bible verses which the priest gave me. True to His word, Jesus helped me and I delivered a healthy baby. Thank you, Jesus. Praise you, Jesus.



am humbled to testify that now I don't have back pain anymore! Jesus healed me completely. My daughter Christine got a very good job abroad and she also got the Visa, Jesus went ahead of her and leveled all the mountains! Thank you Jesus. praise you Jesus.

### Esther Ngina

#### Blessing

I had miscarriages and I felt hopeless and felt like Jesus had forgotten me. I prayed and after sometime I conceived again. After the first three months, the complications that I had been experiencing with the earlier

### Martha Kemunto

#### Healing

I have been suffering from breathing problem for the last 3 years. However, after attending an Inner Healing retreat in the month of May at Vincentian Prayer House, Lavington, I got completely healed. Thank you Jesus. Praise you Jesus.

### Jacinta Mutonia

#### Blessing

I started coming to Vincentian Prayer House, Lavington in the year 2018. I was doing my studies then, so I could come on Saturdays for the service and pray

for my studies to be successful. In the month of April, I had my finals and as usual I came on the Saturday prior to my exams and prayed for success in the exam. The exams were very hard, but to my surprise I emerged the best in my class. I believe that it's my Jesus who helped me. Thank you Jesus. Praise you Jesus.

**Mercy Akoth**  
**Healing**

For 12 years I had been suffering from hemorrhoid. I have also suffered from candidacies for 10 years. Due to my health condition I have been on strict diet. But when I came to the



Vincentian Prayer House Kisumu, on a Tuesday, I went for lunch and took the bread and tea served there and Ugali at home, something I never used to take. I had no problem with my stomach. During the Eucharistic adoration the priest mentioned my name and said, somebody is being healed of hemorrhoid. I have experienced healing in my body. Jesus made me well. Thank you, Jesus. Praise you, Jesus.

**Alan Orege**  
**Healing**

I have been having spinal problem for the past 3 years and I was unable to even bend. I have gone for physiotherapy but it

could not work. Then, I decided to come to Vincentian Prayer House, Kisumu and attend the New Year retreat. During the adoration the priest mentioned someone was getting healed of spinal problem. I was the one receiving healing and from that moment I was able to bend and I could not feel any pain. Thank you, Jesus. Praise you, Jesus.

**Lilian Awour**  
**Healing**

I was diagnosed with cancer in September 2017. I went for treatment, though the procedure was coupled with challenges such as High Blood Pressure and Dengue fever. As a result I was on drugs for a week. The doctors told me I didn't have enough blood for the surgical procedure. Before the operation, I came to Vincentian Prayer House, Kisumu and attended the second Saturday service and during the adoration I told Jesus on the crucifix to allow His blood flow in my veins. After a week, I went back to the hospital for the surgery with that faith and the doctors didn't even add any pint of blood for the surgery, it was successful.

Thank you, Jesus. Praise you, Jesus.

**Ernest Mogire**  
**Healing**

My brother has been suffering from mental illness since February this year. We visited many witchdoctors but nothing good happened. Often, he was very violent and abusive, even to the extent that we had to tie his hands when in public. Then, I came with him to Vincentian Prayer House, Kisumu. During the Marian Retreat, still he was restless and interrupted the sessions. After the retreat we went home. But there was a change happening in the life of my brother. God showed mercy

to him. His violent nature came down and he slowly changed to normal. Thank you, Jesus. Praise you, Jesus.

**Eunice Adhiambo**  
**Offspring**

After losing my first-born through a miscarriage, I have been childless for the last 11 years. I came to Vincentian Prayer House, Kisumu. As instructed from the centre, I have started to read certain Bible verses for three months. Even before finishing those three months I have conceived. Thank you, Jesus. Praise you, Jesus.

**Euphrus Atinda**  
**Healing**

I was diagnosed with Systemic Lupus Erythematosus in 2012, a condition where the immune system mistakenly attacks the healthy body tissues. I was referred to rheumatologists who told me the condition has no cure but can only be managed. I was stable for a while, however the medication was too expensive for my parent to afford. In January 2016, I lost weight drastically and become pale. I experienced extreme joint pains and pain in the toes. I had to leave my job to seek proper medical attention. I was on local herbs for another two months but my health deteriorated further, I had wounds on my legs that would not heal. I tried consulting a specialist in Nairobi. He told me I needed God more. My younger brother gave me the book 'You are not Rejected'. The book gave me hope and encouragement. The following week, he took me to Vincentian Prayer House Kisumu. I prayed there in tears with my toes which were oozing puss and blood. I went back home and I noticed a change in my health. The incurable sickness slowly disappeared from me. The LORD has healed my wounds, I stopped going for monthly medical checkups. Thank you, Jesus. Praise you, Jesus.

Worship the Lord your God,  
and his blessing will be on your food and water.  
I will take away sickness from among you.  
**Exodus 23:25**

### Electencia Jose

#### Healing

I had a child who was to be admitted in form one but I didn't have money to take him to school. I tried talking to his father about it but he would do nothing. The same time I was pregnant and thought of abortion. I came for one of the Saturday services at Vincentian Prayer House, Kisumu. The priest preached about abortion that day and explained Mother Teresa's stand on abortion. This preaching touched me and I changed my mind about the decision. In that choice, Jesus gave me a breakthrough, my son was admitted in form one and his second term has been fully paid. Today am happy to carry my baby in my arms though I feel sorry for my previous decision. Thank you, Jesus. Praise you, Jesus.

### Patrick Oliech

#### Blessing

In July 2015, I was arrested and charged in court for aiding my sister-in-law and her nine month old baby to escape from police custody. My case was in court for a year and three months, causing me anger, pain, hatred and unforgiveness towards the police officers for compelling me to bribe them to drop the case. I attended a prayer service at Vincentian Prayer House, Kisumu, listening to several talks on forgiveness and testimonies on the power

of the Word of God. I offered my case before Jesus for help. I prayed some Bible verses before appearing in the court. During my appearance in court the case was miraculously terminated since the police witnesses failed to appear in court for the proceedings and give evidence against me. I believe it was the work of the Lord Jesus and intercession of our blessed Mother Mary that the case was terminated. Thank you, Jesus. Praise you, Jesus.

### Rose Anyango

#### Forgiveness

For a longtime, I held anger and unforgiveness towards my husband. I got sick with various diseases; ulcers, arthritis and I couldn't sleep well at night. I came to Vincentian Prayer House, Kisumu crying to God to deliver me from the spirit of unforgiveness and anger towards my husband and many others who had insulted me. For the first two nights I attended the retreat, I noticed that I had no sleeping trouble. I slept like a baby. I was able to forgive my husband and others. The

Lord has healed me of the diseases I suffered. Thank you, Jesus. Praise you, Jesus.

### Henry Onyango

#### Conversion

I have been a drunkard for 18 years. I could not think of anything apart from just drinking. I could wake up in the morning and the first thing I could think of was to drink. My parents spent a lot of money to help me stop drinking because they were so worried about me. I was taken to different occult churches to stop drinking but nothing changed in me. I used to drink and sleep by the road sides, until there was a time when I got an accident and broke my leg, but I still continued drinking. There is a time I was drunk and was found next to a pool of water by the road side. People who were passing thought I was dead, until my former boss found me and took me to the hospital where I recovered from the injuries I got. After some months my aunt who is a team member in Vincentian Prayer House, Kisumu, brought me to the center to attend a retreat. Jesus helped me to stop drinking. Since then until now, I have not taken alcohol and I don't have even the urge to take. Thank you, Jesus. Praise you, Jesus. ♦

For with **GOD**  
**NOTHING**  
shall be  
**IMPOSSIBLE.**  
Luke 1:37

God lifts  
a short-listed Mother of four  
from amid young,  
charming and qualified.



## HE HAD A PLAN FOR ME

### Mama Nadine

**W**e know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose (Rom 8:28). The word of God came into effect in my story. I was a teacher in an informal college. Though I had some issues with the director, I persisted in that job. One day, the authorities of the school decided to close certain programs due to lack of funds for some learning projects. Sadly I understood mine was among those that were stopped. So I lost the job and as was my usual custom, I visited Vincentian Prayer House and was consoled by the Priest there. He encouraged me to continue praying and told me

that God would give me a better job. That was in January 2013. As advised, I kept on praying with the Word of God as well as applying in different institutions.

Meanwhile, I attended retreats in Vincentian Retreat Centre whereby I came to hear and know more about Lord Jesus and became part of the ministry.



It was in August 2013, I was attending my first team members retreat in Vincentian Retreat Centre. The second day, during the afternoon break, I heard a voice telling me to check my phone. Though we are not supposed to use phones, that voice persisted and compelled me. Then I went and checked my phone and I found three missed calls. Calling back, I found out that the call was from one of the most prestigious banks in the country. They informed me that I had to go for an interview on that Friday, the day after the retreat. I rushed to the Priest to inform him about my interview. He prayed and blessed me. I went for the interview with 14 other people participating in the interview. All those people were much younger than me and were very intelligent. They looked at me with a feeling of 'why is she here?' For, they all knew the policy of the bank of not accepting anyone above the age 30. But miraculously, God was setting all things together for me. I saw the hand of God in that interview in those two questions I was asked because He had already shown me the answers before. The first question I was asked was on the trending issues in the country. How my God showed me that answer: I was in a matatu two days before. The man who sat nearby me had a newspaper.



I also flipped some pages and went through it. I just presented those issues to the interviewers and they were very pleased. The second question was on the exchange rate of the US dollar to Kenyan shilling. In that morning, since I had no Kenyan shilling, I passed through a forex bureau to change some dollars into Kenyan shilling. At my answer, those interviewers were surprised at how I am informed. Among those young and charming 14 people 5 of them were selected.

I was among them, a mother of 4 and of an age above 30 years.

When retreatants were sharing testimonies, I doubted as if they are lying. May our good Lord Jesus forgive my little faith. Now I believe in the power of my mighty God who worked for me a great miracle. True it is as He says, "Do not fear, for I am with you, do not be afraid, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my victorious right hand" (Is 41:10) ◆





## MAD after CHRIST to Make A Difference

**Fr. Benoy Parekkattil V.C.**

**F**or to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps (1 Pet 2:21). Jesus Christ is our perfect model. Therefore, we have to shape our life after the example of Jesus our Soulmate. What is the specialty of Christ's life? His life has made a difference in this world. Many people both popular and influential lived in this world but none of them could make a difference as Jesus did. That is why the history of the world is divided into two; after the life of Christ i.e AD (anno domini which means in the year of the Lord) and BC (before Christ). If you choose to make a difference in your life and in this world then take Jesus as your model. Let his madness make us mad.

Usually, if a man acts or talks differently than others, he will be considered as mad. Jesus was called MAD by his own people and it was true that He was MAD because he Made A Difference in both what he did and what he said. "Then he went home and the crowd came together again, so that they could not even eat.

When his family heard it, they went out to restrain him, for people were saying, He has gone out of his mind" (Mk 3:19b - 21). The deeds of Jesus were unusual so they were initially greatly misunderstood and misjudged. The authoritative words of Christ prompted many of his listeners to call him mad: "Many of them were saying, he has a demon and is out of his mind. Why listen to him?" (Jn 10:20). Many people were skeptical towards the deeds and words of power and authority of Jesus. But time proved the difference of Jesus to be true, fruitful and everlasting.

People who followed Christ had the same destiny as their master. His disciples and saints were first looked at and were called mad. As Jesus himself reminded us through the word of God: "For if they do this when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?" (Lk 23:31). Take the life of St. Paul for instance: "While he was making this defense, Festus exclaimed, "You are out of your mind, Paul! Too much learning is driving you insane!"(Acts 26:24). As we know well it was not too much learning that made St. Paul mad or out of his mind but the teachings and life of Christ. Let

us recall what Jesus taught his disciples: "Remember the word that I said to you, servants are not greater than their master. If they persecuted me they will also persecute you" (Jn 15:20). Mostly young people are misinterpreted and misunderstood by their parents, teachers and friends for being crazy, insane and mad. Regardless of how they try to defend themselves, their lives are often misread. Now the question is: Are we mad after Christ or after any delightful things or pleasures of this world? If Christ makes a difference in your life and it is misinterpreted don't worry because He himself was misinterpreted. If the delusions of this world make a difference in your life and you are accused of it, then take it as a pointer and reminder from the Spirit of Christ to make a difference in your life.

If making a difference in the life after Christ is madness, let us love and embrace madness. If living against the spirit of this world and swimming against the current of the water for Christ's sake is madness, then let us embrace madness. Make A Decision to be MAD after Christ and Make A Difference in your life and in this world . ♦

# VINCENTIAN WISDOM ON VOCATION

## Biographical note

**S**t. Vincent De Paul was born on March 28, 1581 at Pouy in France. He was ordained priest in 1600. In 1605 he was captured by pirates on his journey to Marseilles and spent two years in slavery in Tunis. He came back to Paris in 1608. His encounter with God in the midst of bitter experiences of life led him to a total renewal of life. He became aware of the spiritual poverty of the people and gained a firsthand knowledge of the real poverty of the people while he served as the parish priest of Chatillon. As result he started the Confraternity of Charity in 1617. Inspired by the Gospel passage, "He has anointed me to bring the good news to the poor" (Lk 4:18), he worked tirelessly for the spiritual and material nourishment of the poor by organizing works of charity and Popular Mission retreats. Through the new seminaries he started and through Tuesday Conferences and retreats he conducted, he contributed much to the training and reformation of the clergy. Vincent inspired the rich women of the noble class to come to the aid of the people suffering out of wars, diseases and poverty and organized their efforts in a systematic way. He worked for the betterment of the galley slaves while serving as their chaplain. Vincent, the Apostle of the poor, was called to his eternal reward on September 27, 1660. He was canonized in 1737. In 1885 he was declared by the Church as the heavenly patron of all charitable works. St. Vincent de Paul is the father and heavenly patron of Vincentian Ministries.

**STORY:** One day while giving the conference on the Vocation and

obedience, St. Vincent said: You have seen shipmen sail the broad seas, with huge numbers of people, sometimes more than five hundred. All those in the ship feel safe as long as the Captain and the mariners keep the rule of navigation. He tells, "But if they fail to put the helm down hard, when the pilot tells them to do so or if the sails jam, the ship is certainly lost". Just because they got opportunities to be in the ship will not take them to their destiny. Vincent tells, "Life is like a ship on the stormy sea. You are exposed to many perils" around you. Your vocation is your calling in life. Your rules are a navigation guide for your safety. "You have embarked on a ship to which God has guided you by His permission". You need a pilot who will watch over you when you sleep. They are your superiors.

**Meditation:** Our Vocation is a manifestation of God's special and unique love towards us. According to the standards of the world, in any choice it depends on the competency. But in the standards of the Lord, it depends purely on His compassion. The first is based on my capability and capacity. The second is based on God's generosity and mercy. Let our hearts throb with joy and gratitude for His great call, especially, the Vincentian call. The Vincentian way of living is navigation towards perfection

in our religious life. An attitude of competency generates pride, whereas an awareness of the compassion of God brings humility to the soul. Do I thank God enough for my vocation? And His Mercy?

**Word of wisdom:** "So, our vocation is to go, not just to one parish, not just to one diocese, but all over the world; and do what? To set people's hearts on fire, to do what the Son of God did. He came to set the world on fire in order to inflame it with His love" - St. Vincent de Paul

**Word for soul:** "You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you" (Jn. 15:16).

**Virtue for today:** Spend 15 minutes in the Chapel in thanksgiving for our own vocation, for the gift of all members and pray for more vocations to our Congregation. ◆

## VIRTUE FOR PRACTICE

Read Romans 8:18-30

Repeat many times

Sacred Heart of Jesus,

I trust in you

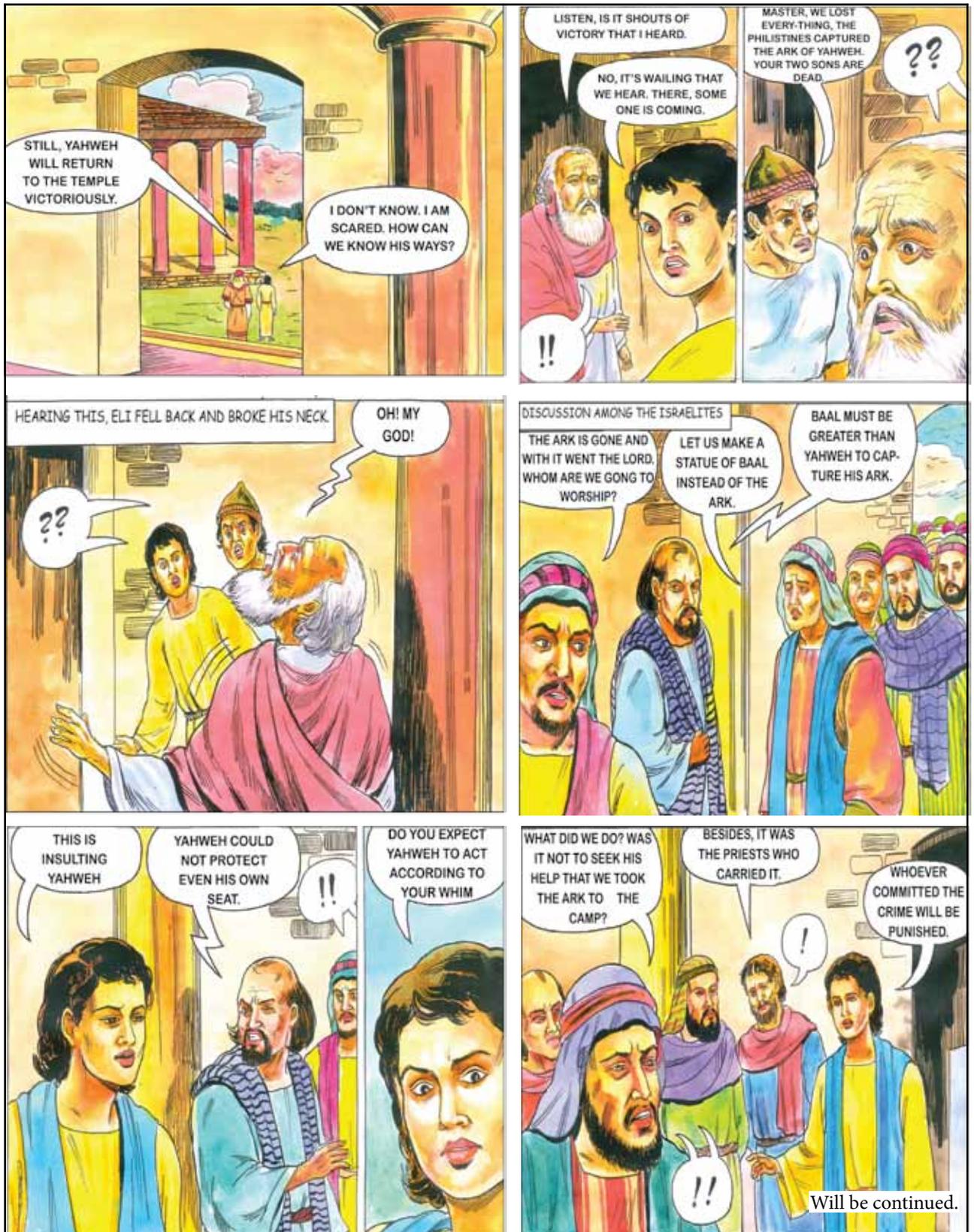


# The Soulmate Junior

## SAMUEL

SCRIPT: REV. DR. MICHAEL KARIMATTAM





## CHILDREN'S QUIZ

Read the Gospel according to St. Mark and answer the following questions. 1. Who were the first two disciples of Jesus among the twelve? 2. What type of tree did Jesus curse when He saw that it didn't have any fruit? 3. Which of the three disciples did Jesus take aside in the Garden of Gethsemane? With the help of your parents send your answers through WhatsApp/SMS to Phone Number. 0766929181. From entries with the right answers a lucky winner will get an amazing prize. The answers for the last edition questions are 1. John the Baptist 2. Blasphemy 3. Forgive. The last time winner is Rosma Waithira Ejidio.

# They

# said it

Mother Teresa

Do not let the past disturb you, just leave everything in the Sacred Heart and begin again with joy.

By blood, I am Albanian, by citizenship, an Indian, by faith, I am a catholic nun. As to my calling, I belong to the world. As to my heart, I belong entirely to the heart of Jesus.

Pope John XXIII

To keep me from sin and straying from Him, God has used devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. My life vows destined to be spent in the light irradiating from the tabernacle, and it is to the Heart of Jesus that I dare go for the solution of all my problems.

Gertrude the Great

Let the soul who is desirous of advancing in perfection hasten to My Sacred Heart.

John Henry Newman

O most sacred, most loving heart of Jesus, thou art concealed in the Holy Eucharist, and thou beats for us still... Thou art the heart of the Most High made man... Thy Sacred Heart is the instrument and organ of Thy love. It did beat for us. It yearned for us. It ached for our salvation. It was on fire through zeal, that the glory of God might be manifested in and by us... In worshipping thee I worship my incarnate God, my Emmanuel.

St. Bernadette

Love overcomes, love delights, those who love the Sacred Heart rejoice.

St. John Paul II

In the Sacred Heart every treasure of wisdom and knowledge is hidden. In that Divine Heart beats God's infinite love for everyone, for each one of us individually. -

Him - St. Margaret Mary Alacoque

Consider often that it is only the humble of heart that can enter into the sacred heart of Jesus Christ, converse with Him, Love Him and be loved by him.

St. Justin Martyr

We the Christians are the true Israel which springs from Christ, For we are carved out of His heart as from a rock.

Pope Francis

The heart of Jesus is the ultimate symbol of God's mercy; but it is not an imaginary symbol, it is a real symbol, which represents the center, the source from which salvation for all humanity gushed forth.

St. Jose Maria Escriva

Men, their happiness and their life, are so important that the very Son of God gave himself to redeem and cleanse and raise them up. 'Who will not love this heart so wounded?' A contemplative asks in this connection. 'Who will not return love for love? Who will not embrace a heart so pure?'

St. Claude la Colombiere

Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, teach me an entire forgetfulness of myself, since that is the only way one can find entrance into you.

Pope Pius XII

It is altogether impossible to enumerate the heavenly gifts which devotion to the sacred heart of Jesus has poured out on the souls of the faithful, purifying them, offering them heavenly strength, rousing them to the attainment of all virtues.

Therese of Lisieux

You heard me, only Friend whom I love. To ravish my heart, you became man. You shed your blood, what a supreme mystery! And you still live for me on the Altar. If I cannot see the brilliance of your Face or hear your sweet voice, O my God, I can live by your grace, I can rest on your Sacred Heart!

Robert Bellarmine

When we appeal to the throne of grace we do so through Mary, honoring God by honoring His Mother, imitating Him by exalting her, touching the most responsive chord in the sacred heart of Christ with the sweet name of Mary.

Faustina Kowalska

"Jesus loves hidden souls. A hidden flower is the most fragrant. I must strive to make the interior of my soul a resting place for the Heart of Jesus."

St. Bernard of Clairvaux

How good and pleasant it is to dwell in the Heart of Jesus! Who is there who does not love a heart so wounded? Who can refuse a return of love to a heart so loving? ◆



This copy of **JESUS: THE SOULMATE** reaches your hand at a discounted price. We would like to thank all of our many donors and supporters without whom our ministry would not be possible. In particular, **JESUS: THE SOULMATE** owes a great debt of gratitude to the following supporters who made this edition of **JESUS: THE SOULMATE** and many of our works possible. Your support is not simply a charitable contribution but also a witness and testimony to the joy of the Gospel that brings people closer to Jesus. Trust in God's promises and know that no gift will go unrewarded because, "God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7). The contributions you make will be acknowledged here by the mention of your name. (Will be continued in the next edition).

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# VINCENTIAN MINISTRIES

## V.P.H. LAVINGTON

2019 JUNE 24-27  
SPIRITUAL GROWTH RETREAT

2019 JULY 29-AUGUST 1  
INNER HEALING RETREAT

2019 AUGUST 11-15  
COUPLES RETREAT

2019 AUGUST 26-29  
BIBLE CONVENTION

2019 SEPTEMBER 23-26  
INNER HEALING RETREAT

2019 OCTOBER 28-31  
MARIAN RETREAT

2019 NOVEMBER 27-30  
RETREAT FOR DEBTORS  
JOBLESS & UNMARRIED

2019 DECEMBER 10-14  
YOUTH RETREAT

## V.P.H. KISUMU

2019 JUNE 10-13  
INNER HEALING RETREAT

2019 JULY 15-18  
RETREAT FOR DEBTORS  
JOBLESS & UNMARRIED

2019 AUGUST 12-15  
INNER HEALING RETREAT

2019 AUGUST 19-22  
YOUTH RETREAT

2019 SEPTEMBER 16-19  
HEALING RETREAT

2019 OCTOBER 14-17  
MARIAN RETREAT

2019 NOVEMBER 11-14  
INNER HEALING RETREAT

2019 DECEMBER 16-19  
BIBLE CONVENTION

## V.R.C. THIKA

2019 JUNE 16-20  
INNER HEALING RETREAT

2019 JULY 7-11  
INNER HEALING RETREAT

2019 JULY 21-26  
SPIRITUAL GROWTH RETREAT

2019 AUGUST 4-8  
INNER HEALING RETREAT

2019 AUGUST 18-22  
INNER HEALING RETREAT

2019 SEPTEMBER 1-5  
RETREAT FOR DEBTORS, JOBLESS &  
UNMARRIED

2019 SEPTEMBER 15-19  
INNER HEALING RETREAT

2019 OCTOBER 20-24  
MARIAN RETREAT

2019 NOVEMBER 3-7  
JUNIOR YOUTH RETREAT FOR BOYS  
ONLY (Ages 13-18)

2019 NOVEMBER 10-14  
JUNIOR YOUTH RETREAT FOR GIRLS  
ONLY (Ages 13-18)

2019 NOVEMBER 17-21  
SENIOR YOUTH RETREAT (Ages 18-30)

2019 DECEMBER 2-6  
RETREAT FOR PRIESTS & RELIGIOUS

2019 DECEMBER 16-20  
BIBLE CONVENTION WITH FASTING  
PRAYER

### ONE DAY PRAYER SERVICE

EVERY SATURDAY 8.30AM - 4.30PM

Phone No. 0712 000242, 0734 325151

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EVERY SATURDAY 8.30AM - 4.30PM

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### ONE DAY PRAYER SERVICE

EVERY FRIDAY 8.30AM - 4.30PM

Phone No. 0706 128129, 0766 928929

Vincentian Ministries are conducted by the priests of the Sacred Heart region of the Vincentian Congregation. The Vincentian Congregation is a clerical society of the Catholic Church with the status of pontifical right. St. Vincent De Paul is the Father and Patron of the Vincentian Congregation. The congregation has taken its motto, "He has sent me to proclaim the Good News to the poor" (Lk 4:18). The two main aims of the Vincentian Congregation are: (1) Preaching the Good News to the poor, (2) Caring the poor and the afflicted. Vincentian Congregation has spread almost all over the world contributing to the Church's on going mission of proclaiming the Good News to the World so that all people may know the love, mercy and goodness of Jesus and grow ever more in Gospel values.

# ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA

(1195-1231)



**A** native of Lisbon, Portugal, St. Anthony was baptized Ferdinand Bouillon. He joined the Canons Regular of St. Augustine in 1210. But the sight of the bodies of the first Franciscan Martyrs brought back from Morocco 10 years later inflamed him with a desire for martyrdom. His brethren therefore permitted him to join the newly founded Mendicant Order of St. Francis of Assisi. Having taken the name, Anthony, he was, at his own request, sent to Morocco, but falling seriously ill, he was forced to return. His ship, however, was driven to Sicily by a great storm, where he heard that a general chapter had been called at Assisi for Whitsuntide 1221. He joined the 3,000 brethren there and saw St. Francis for the first time. In his humility he concealed his own learning and so was assigned menial tasks at a monastery near Forli. Only when he was urged some time later to say a few words at an ordination ceremony, was his astounding gift of preaching discovered!

Anthony could explain Holy Scripture so simply, profoundly and lucidly that St. Francis wrote to him thus: "It is my desire that you teach theology to the brethren, provided, however, that the spirit of prayer and devotion be not extinguished." So he taught and preached throughout Southern France and Northern Italy, his winning personality, combined with a clear, powerful and pleasing voice, enabling him to impact readily his knowledge to others. God also granted him the gifts of miracles, of tongues and of prophecy. Besides the prevalent heresies of the Cathari and Patarines, it was the obstinate vices of luxury, pride, tyranny, hatred and avarice which he attacked with particular zeal and success.

Humble to the core, Anthony considered his preaching and ministry, nay his whole life, as a service, thereby winning over innumerable souls for Christ; lasting reconciliation of enemies took place, common debtors were released from prison, brigands turned to an honest trade, wrongful gains were

restored, and civil governments enacted beneficial laws to correct abuses.

Anthony died on 13th June 1231 aged barely 36, was canonized a year later and was declared "Doctor" in 1946 by Pope Pius XII. He is the Patron of Portugal, of travellers, of pregnant and barren women, and of the poor (St Anthony's Bread). He is also commonly invoked for the recovery of lost articles and by persons in danger of shipwreck.

The relic of this great saint, whose name in Greek means "priceless", happens to be what was his most priceless asset, viz., his tongue, the organ with which he gave Padua and Lisbon the breath of God's love. Found glowing with freshness and redness amidst the corruption of the rest of his remains, the tongue is enshrined in the basilica built for him in 1263.

### Reflection

"O blessed tongue, which has always praised God and set on fire the hearts of men with His holy love! It is evident that you have gained untold merits in the lord's sight!" (St. Bonaventure). ♦

*Immaculate Heart of Mary  
Pray for us*

