

Days to Remember

Birth Day

15. Fr. livin

Feasts

19. St. Joseph

Fr. livin

Fr. Vipin

Fr. Jose



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MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS FOR LENT 2019

***"For the creation waits with eager longing
for the revealing of the children of God" (Rm 8: 19)***

Dear Brothers and Sisters

Each year, through Mother Church, God "gives us this joyful season when we prepare to celebrate the paschal mystery with mind and heart renewed... as we recall the great events that gave us new life in Christ" (*Preface of Lent I*). We can thus journey from Easter to Easter towards the fulfilment of the salvation we have already received as a result of Christ's paschal mystery – "for in hope we were saved" (*Rom 8:24*). This mystery of salvation, already at work in us during our earthly lives, is a dynamic process that also embraces history and all of creation. As Saint Paul says, "the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God" (*Rom 8:19*). In this perspective, I would like to offer a few reflections to accompany our journey of conversion this coming Lent.

1. *The redemption of creation*

The celebration of the Paschal Triduum of Christ's passion, death and resurrection, the culmination of the liturgical year, calls us yearly to undertake a journey of preparation, in the knowledge that our being conformed to Christ (cf. *Rom 8:29*) is a priceless gift of God's mercy.

When we live as children of God, redeemed, led by the Holy Spirit (cf. *Rom* 8:14) and capable of acknowledging and obeying God's law, beginning with the law written on our hearts and in nature, *we also benefit creation* by cooperating in its redemption. That is why Saint Paul says that creation eagerly longs for the revelation of the children of God; in other words, that all those who enjoy the grace of Jesus' paschal mystery may experience its fulfilment in the redemption of the human body itself. When the love of Christ transfigures the lives of the saints in spirit, body and soul, they give praise to God. Through prayer, contemplation and art, they also include other creatures in that praise, as we see admirably expressed in the "Canticum of the Creatures" by Saint Francis of Assisi (cf. *Laudato Si'*, 87). Yet in this world, the harmony generated by redemption is constantly threatened by the negative power of sin and death.

2. The destructive power of sin

Indeed, when we fail to live as children of God, we often behave in a destructive way towards our neighbours and other creatures – and ourselves as well – since we begin to think more or less consciously that we can use them as we will. Intemperance then takes the upper hand: we start to live a life that exceeds those limits imposed by our human condition and nature itself. We yield to those untrammelled desires that the Book of Wisdom sees as typical of the ungodly, those who act without thought for God or hope for the future (cf. 2:1-11). Unless we tend constantly towards Easter, towards the horizon of the Resurrection, the mentality expressed in the slogans "*I want it all and I want it now!*" and "*Too much is never enough*", gains the upper hand.

The root of all evil, as we know, is sin, which from its first appearance has disrupted our communion with God, with others and with creation itself, to which we are linked in a particular way by our body. This rupture of communion with God likewise undermines our harmonious relationship with the environment in which we are called to live, so that the garden has become a wilderness (cf. *Gen* 3:17-18). Sin leads man to consider himself the god of creation, to see himself as its absolute master and to use it, not for the purpose willed by the Creator but for his own interests, to the detriment of other creatures.

Mangalore: 20 years dedicated to formation and evangelization



For twenty years now, Betharram has been present at Maria Kripa, Mangalore (India). An online journal of Mangalore has just devoted two long articles to this anniversary and to the presence of our religious among the local population.

Initially founded for the formation of seminarians, the community of Mangalore he is increasingly involved in evangelization in urban areas. Today

the charism of St. Michael Garicoïts spreads through celebrations and parish missions. The young theology students make the experience of pastoral ministry, as in the center "White Doves", a center for socially disadvantaged children and a retirement home for the elderly.

To celebrate these twenty years of presence, the community, which is currently composed of three fathers and twenty seminarians, took the opportunity of the visit of the Superior General to organize a ceremony under the aegis of Fr. Arul SCJ, Vicar Regional, and celebrate the event with many parishioners and friends. Thus, on January 21st, a Thanksgiving Mass was celebrated, presided over by the new Bishop of Mangalore, Mgr. Peter Paul Saldanha. Fr. Gustavo Agín SCJ, Superior General, Fr. Enrico Frigerio SCJ, Regional Superior, and many other Betharramite and diocesan priests participated in the celebration.



The new house of formation, inaugurated on 10 September 2014, was dressed up for the feast. After the mass, the youths linked to our community offered biblical performances, dances and pantomime to all the guests: in the first row were the Sisters of the Apostolic Carmel who, in 1999, made available to the religious of Betharram the house of Maria Kripa.

Also many lay people, parishioners and diocesan priests, were invited to the festivities. The ceremony, placed under the sign of gift and gratitude, marked a strong moment of sharing in joy and in the promise of a fruitful future. Forward! Ad multos annos! With an open heart, ready to receive and full of gratitude



Once God's law, the law of love, is forsaken, then the law of the strong over the weak takes over. The sin that lurks in the human heart (cf. Mk 7:20-23) takes the shape of greed and unbridled pursuit of comfort, lack of concern for the good of others and even of oneself. It leads to the exploitation of creation, both persons and the environment, due to that insatiable covetousness which sees every desire as a right and sooner or later destroys all those in its grip.

3. *The healing power of repentance and forgiveness*

Creation urgently needs the revelation of the children of God, who have been made "a new creation". For "if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away; behold, the new has come" (2 Cor 5:17). Indeed, by virtue of their being revealed, *creation itself can celebrate a Pasch*, opening itself to a new heaven and a new earth (cf. Rev 21:1). The path to Easter demands that we renew our faces and hearts as Christians through repentance, conversion and forgiveness, so as to live fully the abundant grace of the paschal mystery.

This "eager longing", this expectation of all creation, will be fulfilled in the revelation of the children of God, that is, when Christians and all people enter decisively into the "travail" that conversion entails. All creation is called, with us, to go forth "from its bondage to decay and obtain the glorious liberty of the children of God" (Rom 8:21). Lent is a sacramental sign of this conversion. It invites Christians to embody the paschal mystery more deeply and concretely in their personal, family and social lives, above all by fasting, prayer and almsgiving.

Fasting, that is, learning to change our attitude towards others and all of creation, turning away from the temptation to "devour" everything to satisfy our voracity and being ready to suffer for love, which can fill the emptiness of our hearts. *Prayer*, which teaches us to abandon idolatry and the self-sufficiency of our ego, and to acknowledge our need of the Lord and his mercy. *Almsgiving*, whereby we escape from the insanity of hoarding everything for ourselves in the illusory belief that we can secure a future that does not belong to us. And thus to rediscover the joy of God's plan for creation and for each of us, which is to love him, our brothers and sisters, and the entire world, and to find in this love our true happiness.

Dear brothers and sisters, the “lenten” period of forty days spent by the Son of God in the *desert* of creation had the goal of making it once more that *garden* of communion with God that it was before original sin (cf. *Mk* 1:12-13; *Is* 51:3). May our Lent this year be a journey along that same path, bringing the hope of Christ also to creation, so that it may be “set free from its bondage to decay and obtain the glorious liberty of the children of God” (*Rom* 8:21). Let us not allow this season of grace to pass in vain! Let us ask God to help us set out on a path of true conversion. Let us leave behind our selfishness and self-absorption, and turn to Jesus’ Pasch. Let us stand beside our brothers and sisters in need, sharing our spiritual and material goods with them. In this way, by concretely welcoming Christ’s victory over sin and death into our lives, we will also radiate its transforming power to all of creation.

Pope Francis

Canonical Visit of Superior General

Rev. Fr. Gustavo Agin scj has arrived in Bangalore on 14th of January as part of the canonical visit. Along with him, Rev. Fr. Enrico Frigerio scj, the Regional superior also is in Bangalore to attend the Regional Council. The Indian Vicariate is also glad to have Fr. Chan, the Vicar Superior of Thailand and Fr. Wilfred, the Vicar Superior of England for the Regional Council. Fr. Arul and community gave them a warm welcome. The superior general visited the communities of Indian vicariate during his stay in India.



THE CELEBRATION OF THE FESTIVAL OF PONGAL

The community of Shobhana Shaakha celebrated the harvest festival (called Pongal) of Tamil Nadu on 15th of January in the presence of Rev. Fr. Gustavo Agin, The superior General and Rev. Fr. Enrico Frigerio the Regional Superior of St. Miriam Region. The celebration was colourful and meaning-



ful with lot of decorations. The celebration began in the early morning with the morning prayer around the pongal courtyard. Later we all witnessed the

cooking pongal rice. The pongal Eucharistic celebration was held in the evening. Fr. Wilfred was the main celebrant and led the community in prayer. The celebration ended with the traditional festive dinner.

