



THE DELHI DOMINICAN



ST DOMINIC'S CHURCH, VASANT VIHAR, NEW DELHI

JANUARY 2020 | ISSUE 06



Parish Chronicles



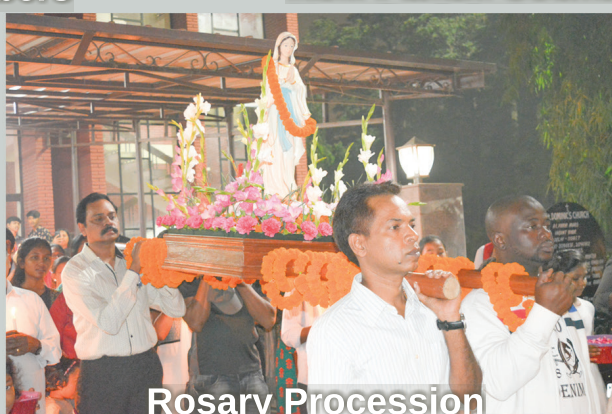
Outgoing Parish Council Members



New Parish Council Members



Cultural Programme



Rosary Procession



Mission Sunday



One-day Retreat



One-day Retreat for Children



National Youth Sunday



SDYM @ Milan



Christmas Outreach Programme @ Kapashera



Christmas Tree Programme



Picnic for Catechism Students



THE DELHI DOMINICAN

(Parish Newsletter)

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PARISH PRIEST

Speaks...

Fr. Prasad George, OP
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THE DOMINICAN STORY

India is going through very testing times. At the root of what is happening is a search for identity: "What is the notion of INDIA?" This is the basic question that many are trying to answer. Some are obstinate about the truth of what they think is the answer. However, the right answer escapes most, because 'India' is the name of a way of being what we are as a people, sometimes even beyond the geographical territory of what we call India.

There isn't enough space here to go into the nitty-gritty's of the subject under consideration. All that I intend to place here is the basic attitudes that we should have, when we approach this subject. We must have the mind of Christ who came to save all. He thought and taught to cross the man-made boundaries when it comes to serving those in need, exemplified by the story of the Good Samaritan. He taught his disciples to think beyond the confines of family and clan when he asked "Who is my mother, who are by brothers and sisters?" Those who keep the Word of God live beyond the boundaries that are set by human beings, that was the spirit that led St. Paul, who one time was persecuting those who followed the "Way", to later utter those bold words, "There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus" (Gal 3:28).

This does not mean that geographical or other boundaries do not exist. They do exist and they are even necessary. As they say, "Good fences make good neighbours", so too with human relationships. Fences are meant to protect and to nurture. But one should not build walls, instead of fences. Walls cut off the free flow of air and water from one field to another, whereas fences demarcate your potentialities which you are free to cultivate. It is in the privacy of one's home that one's basic cultural ethos is nourished and nurtured. But it is when one looks across the confines of one's home and allows the free flow of ideas and alternative thinking that one matures to be human.

In the same way it is within the confines of certain age-old traditions and practices that a culture is groomed. But any culture that looks in on itself and does not enter into a dialogue with another culture begins to stagnate.

Why do some people tend to build walls instead of fences? You begin to suspect that it is because of unfounded fears. Out of fear of losing one's comfort zone one begins to systematically raise defences between people and people, between nations and nations. They seem to be terrorised by the prospect of being invaded by the neighbour. They build walls to hide their anxieties.

What is the way out of fear? "Perfect love casts away fear" (1 Jn 4:18) is a verse from the Bible that seems to have tremendous power to liberate. These words have to be understood in its full sense. Love of the self, love of the neighbour and love of God have to be seen as ONE if one has to escape the cycle of fear and the need to wage war against the neighbour who in turn causes greater threat. No one should see oneself as superior to another, nor should one see the other as one's contender. We are all brothers and sisters of one God who is without shape or form. Until that brother/sisterhood is established we can never rest.

The way forward then is to work towards universal brother/sisterhood under the leadership of the one Father-God.

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ST. DOMINIC'S CHURCH

THE DELHI DOMINICAN | 3



पापियों का दोस्त

Fr. Joachim Lakra, OP
(lakrajoachim@gmail.com)



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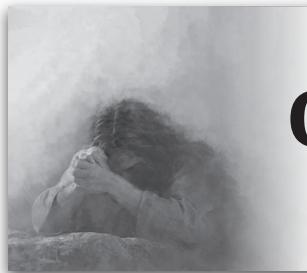
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Our Final Farewell

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Michael Jackson wanted to live for 150 years. He had appointed 12 doctors at home who would daily examine him from hair to toenails. His food was always tested in lab before serving. Another 15 people were appointed to look after his daily exercise and workout. His bed had the technology to regulate the oxygen level. Organ donors were kept ready so that whenever needed, they could immediately donate their organ. The maintenance of these donors was taken care of by him.

He was proceeding with a dream of living for 150 years. Alas! He miserably failed. On 25th June 2009, at the age of 50, his heart stopped functioning. The constant effort of those 12 doctors didn't bear any fruit. Even, the combined efforts of doctors from Los Angeles and California too couldn't save him. The person, who would never put a step forward without the doctors' suggestion for his last 25 years, couldn't fulfil his dream of living 150 years.

Jackson's final journey was watched live by 2.5 million people which is the longest live telecast till date. On the day he died, 25th June 2009 at 3:15 pm, Wikipedia, Twitter, AOL's instant messenger stopped working. Millions of people together searched Michael Jackson on Google. Jackson tried to challenge death but death finally had the last say. The materialistic life in this materialistic world embraces materialistic death instead of a normal one. This is the rule of life.

Jesus teaches in the Parable of the Rich Fool (Lk. 12:13-21) to "take heed, and beware of all covetousness; for a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions." He advises us not to go on laying up treasure for oneself and not being rich towards God. Our ultimate and real treasure is in heaven "where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal" (Mt. 6:20) and to store up treasure there, I need to love and be in total

harmony with God, neighbours and oneself. "For what does it profit a man, to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? For what can a man give in return for his life?" (Mk. 8:36-37). Instead of merely chasing the materialistic pleasure and security like Herod, look for the real treasure that the shepherds of Bethlehem and the wise men from the East found.

Let's pause and examine our own life: Are we earning for the builders, engineers, designers or decorators? Whom do we want to impress by showing expensive house, car or an extravagant wedding? Do you remember the food items in the wedding reception which you had attended a few days ago? Why are we working like an animal in life? For the comfort of how many generations do we want to save? Most of the families have one or two children. Have we ever thought how much do we need and how much do we want? Do we consider that our children won't be able to earn much and so it's necessary to save some extra for them? Do we spend some time with ourselves, family or friends in the week? Do we spend 5% of our earning on ourselves? Why don't we find happiness in life along with what we earn? If we think deeply, our heart might fail to work.

We do not own any property; it's only in some documents that our name is written temporarily. When we say "this is my property", God passes a crooked smile. Let us not create an impression on a person based on the model of his car or the state of his dress. Our great mathematicians and scientists used bicycle or scooter for commuting. It's not a sin to be rich, but to be rich only with money and wealth and not with God and neighbour is a sin. Let us control life or else life will control us. The things which really matter at the end of life is contentment, satisfaction and peace. Sadly, these cannot be bought.



Take On Life ...

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One of the great romantic poets P.B. Shelley in his celebrated poem "Ode to the West Wind" wrote "If winter comes can the spring be far behind." Therefore, one of the most important realistic truths about life is that there is no life without pain, suffering, difficulties, hardships and so on. When we overcome all these struggles, pain and hardships we enter into a new season and that is spring season of our life.

When we understand and accept the important truth about life, we can reduce lots of stress and discouragement in our day today life. Life is a package of joys and sorrows. Sometimes there will be success and sometimes failures, sometimes there is happiness sometimes sadness and we should remember that happiness and sadness are the two faces of the same coin. We cannot think of a life which is full of happiness, such a life is not complete. A complete life of a man is the one which undergoes difficulties, struggles, hardships in his life and we should remember that failures are the stepping stone for success. When we come to know the failings of oneself and try to overcome it, surely we will be successful in our life.

There are stories of so many great leaders who teach us the importance of not falling into trap of looking at only

disappointments. There is a saying "what you are is a God's gift to you and what you become is your gift to God." Therefore the gift of life that we have received from God is a precious gift, so let us strive to attain perfection as a human being in whatever way possible. For many people, life has become a burden, because they have no aim in their lives and lack of self knowledge has led them to a life of misery and sufferings. When a person becomes a pessimist in one's own life he sees only the negative aspects of life that is suffering, pain, loss and so on. When a person turns himself to be an optimist he experiences the positive side of his life and satisfaction in his life.

There is a saying "little drops of water, little grains of sand make the mighty ocean and the pleasant land". It is by doing all these things with conviction we can achieve a greater good. As the little drops of water make the ocean, in the same way a little efforts of man make him a great person. The highest happiness of a man lies in his hard work when we achieve something by hard work we attain the highest happiness.

Hard won glory lasts longer. Therefore be positive and be optimistic.





Know Your Parishioner

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MARIANUS KERKETTA

The core foundation of the Church comprises of its Religious Community and the Parish Council. Let's get to know our new Vice President of the Parish Council, recently elected - Marianus Kerketta, a young man looking into the future with HOPE! He believes - Prayer - is the best wireless connection to God.

Marianus hails from Jharkhand and was born into a farming family, so he was fortunate to have their own house and own field. He was the third born child in the family consisting of two brothers & two sisters. Born and brought up in Jharkhand, Marianus did his schooling at St. Anthony's Primary School till 6th Std and moved to St. Pius School, Rengarih to complete his schooling. He then entered St. Paul's College, Ranchi where finished his 11th & 12th Std. Thereafter he came to Delhi to meet his elder brother Cosmos Kerketta, staying at D Block Vasant Vihar, and stayed on for career prospects. He had no fixed plans and let "life" lead him on. While at his brother's place he did a one-year course in typing from the Arya Samaj Mandir, Vasant Vihar. His brother was a parishioner at St. Dominic's Church, and this is where he too attended Mass. From Fr. Francis & Fr. Paul he learnt the basics in computers.

Marianus started earning his livelihood by being a Data Operator in Private Firms, the first one being in Moti Bagh. Gradually he got a Job as a Data Operator in NDMC, a Government Department which brought with it a sense of security. But one day by God's grace he would like to set up his own transport business in Jharkhand.

At St. Dominic's Church, Marianus got drawn into various Church activities. He became a Lector and soon enough also became the Incharge of the Lectors. He was a member of the Liturgical Committee, and he was fortunate that he met a young girl-Jenefa, also from Gumla, Jharkhand. Indeed, this was to be a love marriage and they are now blessed with a little daughter, 6 years old Christy, who studies in the First Std at the Holy Child Auxilium School, R.K. Puram. Marianus aims to give her a very good education.

St. Dominic's Church has always been a part and parcel of Marianus life. His spare time has been used in helping in Church activities. He is a SSC Animator for St. Peter's Community, Nepali Camp, helping in organizing neighbourhood Masses, recitation of the Rosary and helping needy people. He also lends assistance to the Sisters of Auxilium in doing the flower arrangements for the Church Services. Infact he had a great

desire to be a Jesuit priest, as while in the 10th Std he got to meet the Jesuit priest from the Jesuit Church of Rengarih during the interim period but somehow it didn't work out but he still kept serving the Church.

Marianus retrospects when the Lord really touched him, and that was when he was suffering from Tuberculosis, straight after his 10th Boards. One day he just fainted in the village and the people nearby admitted him in a hospital and their charismatic prayers made him recover, thus increasing his faith in prayers. This is what brought him closer to the Lord. The words of Mother Teresa hold great meaning in his life - "The simple path: Silence in Prayer, Faith is Love, Love is Service, the fruit of Service is Peace."

There is yet another side to Marianus, his passion for hockey which made him the captain of his hockey team. He belongs to the Tribal Welfare Association, playing for the yearly Hockey Tournaments and quite often also being a member of the winning team. It's the early morning hockey practices during weekends which made it possible.

Marianus also belongs to St. Cecilia's Group which is into music and he loves singing and playing the Dhol and the Mandar. His greatest desire is to learn to play the keyboard from Fr. James.

'Cooking' he says is therapeutic, but he is no great cook. Infact, he loves his wife's cooking and says she prepares wonderful non-veg dishes. But like a good husband, he does the cooking on weekends to give his wife some rest.





क्रिसमस का सच्चा आनन्द

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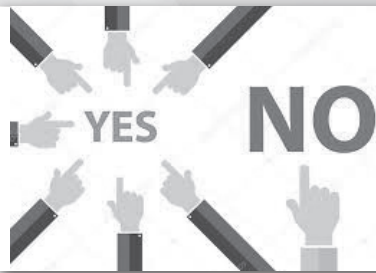
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Peer Pressure

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Peer pressure can be defined as the effect on an individual who gets encouraged to follow their peers by changing their attitudes, values or behaviours to imitate to those of the influencing group or individual.

Peer pressure is commonly seen among the children of age group nine and above and adolescence. Imitation plays a large/important role in children's lives and they get influenced by people that are important in their lives such as friends, parents, celebrities etc. The ones, who become an easy prey of peer pressure, are usually children. It is because they have a mindset to do or try everything what others



are doing and are sometimes dependent on it. Parents can find out who their child's peers are by paying attention to who they socialize

with. This is when the parents should guide their children gently, when they get triggered by seeing something interesting, they like and speak about.

Almost everyone has experienced peer pressure before, either positive or negative. Peer Pressure is when your classmate or other people of your age, try to get you to do something. It is easy to give in to peer pressure because everyone wants to fit in and be liked. Especially when it seems like "everyone is doing it". Sometimes people give in to peer pressure because they do not want to hurt someone's feelings, or they do not know how to get out of the situation, so they just say "yes". Peer pressure can also negatively affect individuals who usually feel alienated or have a feeling of loneliness.

Everything has two sides. Peer pressure has also positive and negative impacts:

Positive impacts are:

- Sense of belonging and support
- Increased self-confidence
- Introduction to positive hobbies and interests
- Strengthening of positive habits and attitudes.

Negative impacts are:

- Habits change into addiction.
- Distraction from schoolwork
- Distance between family and existing friends
- Drastic changes in behavior and attitudes.

Ways to deal with peer pressure:

- Know when to say NO.
- Take decisions with your heart as well as your brain.
- Remember quality over quantity especially with friends
- Getting help from grown-ups
- Build up your self-confidence
- Make sure that whatever you're doing is your own choice and not due to someone else's influence
- Act cool when someone is pressuring you
- Don't get angry or lash out. Be level-headed and show that you aren't affected by what is being said.
- Remember, you do not have the obligation to fulfill someone else's request.
- Communicate your choices in a short and simple way. If your peers don't like your choices, then it's their loss.

In addition to the above, Scriptures says in Proverbs -13:20 that "He who walks with wise men will be wise, But the companion of fools will suffer harm".



Faith in God

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Faith in God is the key to please God. Hebrews 11:6 says, "But without faith it is impossible to please God, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him." Faith brings answers to prayer. "And whatever things we ask in prayer, we will receive" (Matthew 21:22).

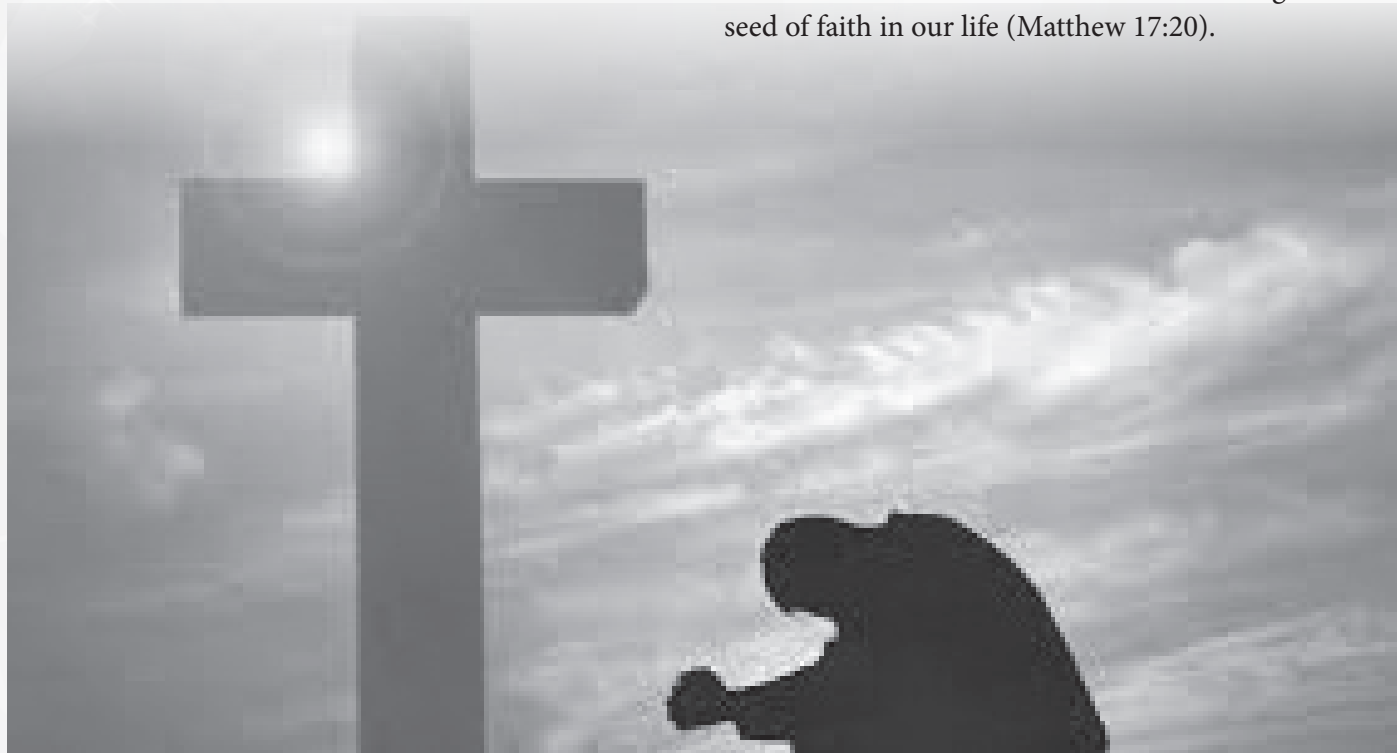
We are so precious in the eyes of God and created in His own image and likeness, knowing that God is our loving Heavenly Father makes it easier to believe and trust in him. When we go through bitter experiences in our lives, when our hearts are broken, when we feel we are betrayed, when there is lack of love, when there are struggles and disappointments in one's life then there is an experience of mistrust and loneliness.

Mother Teresa said that real poverty is not of bread but of love. Sometimes we do not get all that we dream or desire for and face disappointments and failures. We should turn our mind to a positive thought as we consider the Word of God who in his faithfulness

promises us a glorious future. God wants us to live in faith, hope and encouragement.

How is it possible to believe in something we can't see, or may be, haven't even the slightest clue about? Our future – though unknown – is safe in God's hand! But faith really is the evidence of things not seen. Sometimes the sickness and pain, failures and disappointment in our lives make us believe that God is the master of our lives and these failures and struggles become the biggest motivation in our Christian lives. The Bible tells us that there is a direct correlation between faith and power. The more faith we put in God, the more we allow God to direct our lives.

Jesus said our faith could be compared to a mustard seed. What's interesting is that a mustard seed is the smallest of all seeds. But it also is a seed. A seed is worth more when it continues to grow. We get nourishment by reading God's Word; worshipping & praying. The seed of faith needs nourishment and all these things feed the seed of faith in our life (Matthew 17:20).



SUCCESS
FAILURE

Failure and Success

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The quickest road to success is to possess an attitude toward failure of 'no fear'. From the likes of Augustine, Darwin and Freud to the business tycoons and sports legends of today, failure is as powerful a tool as any other in reaching great success.

Failure and defeat are life's greatest teachers. But many a time we aspire only to succeed and forget that failure which gives you the chance to rise again after your fall. How familiar are we to the story of Thomas Alva Edison who invented the bulb after 10,000 failed attempts.

"One of the biggest secrets to success is not only operating inside your strength zone but also outside of your comfort zone," Heath says. Although you might fail incredibly, you

might succeed incredibly and that's why incredible risk and courage are important. Failure is a step forward or progress towards your goal.

Never giving up increases your chances of success. Never giving up means you repeatedly fail and learn from your mistakes and move on. When we accept failure as progress, we get closer and closer to our goal as we learn more and more how to succeed. Failure is what makes us better. Without failure one does not improve. If one does not improve then one cannot succeed. Success is not everyone's cup of tea. It requires lots of sleepless days and nights, lots of sweat and a great amount of hard work and it can only be achieved if you never give up on the small failures that you will face in the process.



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TODAY'S YOUTH FOR TOMORROW'S CHURCH !

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The youth of the current generation have become the same as the younger son of the parable of the prodigal son. Youthfulness is a time where one is supposed to be most active in life. It is a blessing to work for the upbringing of our Church and community in which we live.

The current youth have numerous gifts and talents, which they in their own ways could make use of for the betterment of our Church, but their idea of youth of Church differs due to our own individual advancement. Some have a conception that the youth are only meant to work in Church, do co-curricular activities, sing and while away time. But in reality the youth helps us to shape our lives. It helps us to learn something new, it helps us to give away our pride, ego, attitude to come together as one family for the service of God.

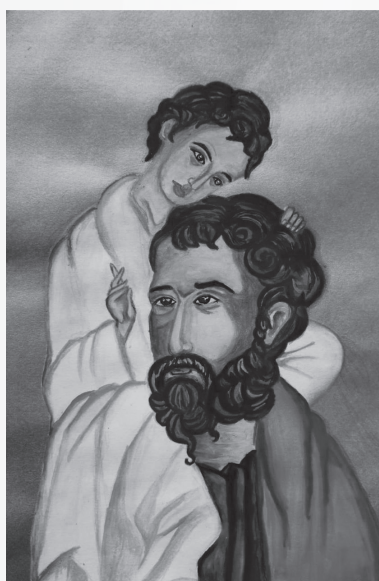
In the Church, the youth can do so much through volunteering to work with both children and the older congregation in many ways. They can as well reach out to people who are close to their own age who are walking through doors that the older Church leaders may never understand. They are crucial and the Church must tap this talent and energy owing to the fact that the Church is one generation away from extinction as is believed that tomorrow's Church leadership belongs to the youth.

With this respect, it is self-evident that the Church must be serious on their commitment to the youth and give them priority in today's Church. Hence, the only value we as Christians can give to the Church today is to take care of the youth and value them, as this will reward not only the youths, but the Church and the whole global community as well, now and in the coming future.



Artistic Hands

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The Christmas Tree

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All of us (Christians and Non-Christians alike) look upon the Christmas tree as a Christmas symbol. Children around the world wait eagerly for the day it is erected. Its position in the house signalling that Christmas has finally arrived. But is it really a Christian Symbol? Considering that the nativity took place in Bethlehem in Judea (now Israel/Palestine in the Middle East), it's hard to find a more incongruous symbol.

It is said that in recognition that winter would soon be ending, the early Romans would decorate houses and temples with evergreen boughs: a symbol for what the new planting season would bring. Ancient Egyptians also celebrated the end of winter, by decorating their homes with green palmrushes.

It's widely believed that the Christmas tree tradition, as we know it now, however, originated in Germany in the 16th century. The triangular-shaped trees first began appearing in German houses in as early as 1520. Therefore, one might say that the Christmas tree is certainly an item which spread from Germany to other parts of the world. But at the same time, the famous English Puritan, Oliver Cromwell, was said to be so outraged at the idea of the 'heathen tradition' that he banned Christmas trees, along with Christmas carols, in 1647.



In the early 1800s the Church appears to have recognised the Christmas tree as an authentic Christmas representation, and was introduced in Vienna towards the end of the Napoleonic Wars, the Christmas tree spread through central Europe and eventually to France where it was embraced by the influential Duchesse d'Orleans. In 1846, Queen Victoria and Prince Albert were sketched sitting around a Christmas tree decorated with candles and ribbons. This immediately set a trend in England that grew considerably throughout the 19th century, eventually arousing the curiosity of the fashionable elite on America's East Coast.

The advent of electricity enabled the production of Christmas tree lights that saw an explosion in the trees' popularity. Doing what America does best, the Christmas tree became an industry, eventually growing into the essential Christmas item that it is today. It is the "material" part of Christmas!

The Christmas tree is now so ingrained into the Christmas tradition that it's here to stay. With its pride of place in the centre of a room, adorned with decorations and surrounded by presents, it's easy to see why.

(Further Reading (a) Perry, Joe (27 September 2010). Christmas in Germany: A Cultural History. University of North Carolina Press. p. 32. ISBN 9780807899410 and (b) https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christmas_Tree)



प्यार

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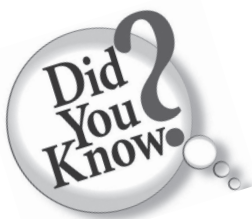
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The history of incense and why it is used at Mass



This fragrant element of our Catholic heritage dates to millennia before Christ.

There is something about the fragrance of freshly burned incense filling the Church that is spiritually uplifting. But where did this tradition come from and why do we use it? The use of incense in religious worship started more than 2,000 years before Christianity even began. The use of incense in China is documented before 2000 BC. Trade in incense and spices was a major economic factor between east and west when caravans travelled the Middle Eastern Incense Route from Yemen through Saudi Arabia. The route ended in Israel and it was here that it was introduced to the Roman Empire.

Religions in the western world have long used incense in their ceremonies. Incense is noted in the Talmud and is mentioned 170 times in the Bible (e.g., Exodus 30: 1 “For burning incense you shall make an altar of acacia wood ...”). The use of incense in Jewish worship continued long after the beginning of Christianity and was a definite influence in the Catholic Church’s use of it in liturgical celebrations. The Church sees the burning of incense as an image of the prayers of the faithful rising to heaven. The symbolism is mentioned in Psalm 141:2 “Let my prayer be incense before you; my uplifted hands an evening offering.”

There is no specific time frame recorded to determine when incense was introduced during the religious services of the Church. No evidence is available to show its use during the first four centuries of the Church. But there are references of it being used in the New Testament. Luke, in the beginning of his Gospel, speaking about the birth of John the Baptist, writes: “Then, when the whole assembly of people were praying outside at the hour of the incense offering, the angel of the Lord appeared to him standing at the right of the altar of incense. Zechariah was troubled by what he saw and fear came upon him.”

Incense is used to sanctify, bless, and venerate. The smoke from the incense is symbolic of the mystery of God Himself. As it rises upward the imagery and the fragrance conveys

the sweetness of Our Lord’s presence and it reinforces how the Mass is linked to Heaven and Earth, ending in the very presence of God. The smoke also symbolizes the intense faith that should fill us and the fragrance is representative of Christian virtue.

The GIRM (General Instruction of the Roman Missal) permits the use of incense at several times during the Mass. When something is incensed, the censer (thurible) is swung three times, which represents the Three Persons of the Blessed Trinity.

There are different times during the Mass that incense may be used.

- During the entrance procession
- At the beginning of Mass to incense the altar and the Cross
- Before the Gospel reading
- After the bread and the chalice are placed on the altar to incense the offerings, the cross, the altar, the priest, and finally the people.

In addition, incense is used at funerals both in the Church at the casket and at the cemetery. It is used on Holy Thursday as the Blessed Sacrament is placed in repose. And during the Easter Vigil, five grains of incense are placed into the Paschal Candle.

Finally, let us go to the Book of Revelation 8:3-4: “Another angel came and stood at the altar, holding a gold censer (thurible). He was given a great quantity of incense to offer, along with the prayers of all the holy ones on the gold altar which was before the throne. The smoke of the incense along with the prayers of the holy ones went up before God from the hand of the angel.” Yes, the use of incense is deeply rooted in our Catholic heritage.



SECRET SANTA

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“Who could my Santa be? A he or a she? Open the gift, and a hint you will see.” Secret Santa is a Western Christmas tradition in which members of a group or community are randomly assigned a person to whom they give a gift. The identity of the gift giver is to remain a secret and should not be revealed.

Remember the time when our parents used to tell us to go to bed early and sleep, and that at night Santa will come and keep some gifts under our pillow. And we excitedly go and sleep in hope of getting some gifts. And in the morning with full belief and excitedly we lift our pillow and we actually used to find some chocolates under our pillow. What more we can long for at that age? But if we ask today's generation kids that what they want from Santa, their answer will be a smart phone. Those days of getting chocolates under my pillow still amazed me. I'm sure most of us have heard this story from our parents and experienced the same. We actually believed in the existence of Santa Claus.

Christmas is incomplete without Santa Claus. What do you think? What is Christmas for you? Is it all about decorating our house, decorating Christmas tree, getting gifts, wearing new clothes? For me Christmas was all about getting chocolates, toffees and gifts when I was very young. When I grew up a little, wearing new clothes and go to Church was the new meaning of Christmas for me. That's how I celebrated the season of Christmas at different stage of my life. In my teenage, I used to go to Church and help fathers in decoration. Decorating Church and crib used to bring me so much joy and peace to my heart. I used to enjoy being in the Church and do the things with so much joy and energy. But now I feel preparing oneself to receive the Lord on the day of Christmas should be the higher most priority. Preparing to receive the Lord with pure heart, full belief and respect is my higher most priority. And rest comes after this. Confession is the way to prepare our self. And during advent it is an opportunity for all of us to bring the true meaning to the celebration of Christmas. We

can go for confession anytime in the year. But for any reason if we couldn't go for the confession, it should be on the top of all things during advent season.

As I said Christmas is incomplete without Santa Claus. When I was young, a person in the attire of Santa used to come during catechism class in Christmas season and used to give us gifts. I still remember the gifts, gifts contained badminton, yoyo, toy car and ofcourse a lot of chocolates. I still don't have any clue about that person in the attire of Santa Claus. That person is the first secret Santa for me. Everybody expects a Santa in their life. But let's stop expecting and become a Santa for others. A Santa is the one who does something selfless for another person. Come out of the house and walk around and you will find so many people in need. People in need of clothes, people in need of food, people in need of water, people in need of shelter, people in need of company, people in need of love. We can be a Santa for such people. Let's not step back from doing whatever small or big we can do for these people. This Christmas will be meaningful if we at least share Jesus Christ with people by greeting them merry Christmas with Christmas cake. After all, Christmas is about helping others, giving selflessly, and being thankful for what you do have and what you don't.

“Don't wait for Santa to come your way. You have been doing that for year after year. Be someone's Santa and make them happy. Putting smile on other's face will surely make your heart go yay and that will make your merry day.”





विश्वास क्या है ?

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Remembering Blessed Devasahayam Pillai

January 14th is the feast day of Blessed Devasahayam Pillai (23 April 1712 to 14 January 1752), the first Indian lay martyr to be beatified. Popularly known as Devasahayam Pillai (God's help), he was born as Nilakandan Pillai into a Hindu family in what was then the Kingdom of Travancore (now it is the district of Kanyakumari, Tamil Nadu). Pillai was an upper caste nair convert to Christianity, he was said to be a member of the royal service and was said to be close to king Marthanda Varma, then-ruler of Travancore. He was very much loved by the king, was a good man who was faithful to his duty. However, after several bad harvests, he lost his goods. He was devastated and began to wonder: "Who will respect me now that I'm poor?"

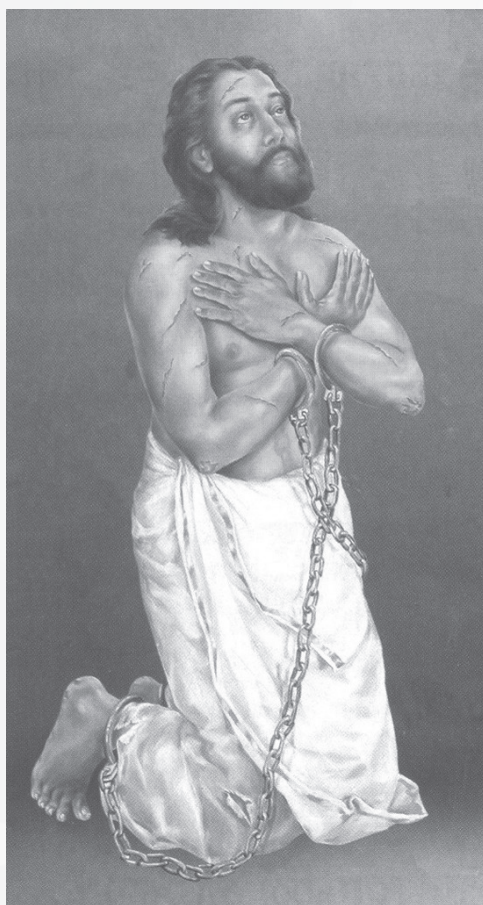
Nilakandan shared his worries with a devout Catholic, a Dutch official by the name of Benedictus Eustachio De Lannoy who explained to him the meaning of suffering in the light of the Book of Job. For Nilakandan, Job's example and his trust in God was a decisive factor. Convinced of the truth of the Christian mysteries, Nilakandan asked for Baptism which he received in 1745 by Father Giovanni Battista Buttari, a Jesuit missionary, after nine months of preparation. He took the name Devasahayam, the Tamil translation of the biblical name Lazarus, which means "God has helped." On the day of his Baptism, Devasahayam dedicated himself solemnly to Christ: "No one [forced] me to come; I came by my own free will. I know my heart: He is my God. I have decided to follow Him and will do so my whole life." His life was no longer the same; Devasahayam dedicated himself to the proclamation of the Gospel for four years.

However, he was threatened, beaten, mistreated, imprisoned and tortured. Despite his sufferings, Devasahayam remained firm in his faith. His wife, Bhargavi Ammal too became Catholic and she took the name Gnanapoo Ammal (Theresa). Their conversion antagonized friends and it is said the king commanded Pillai to reconvert, but he refused. Noticing that his example caused many to do the same, the king ordered his arrest in 1749, charging him with treason and espionage. He was imprisoned, tortured and finally banished to the Aralvaimozhy forest, a remote border area of Travancore.

Finally, he was shot dead in the Aralvaimozhy forest on January 14, 1752. His corpse was thrown into the forest but was found by some Christians who buried him in front of the altar of the Church of Saint Francis Xavier, which would later become the Cathedral of the Diocese of Kottar.

His beatification was taken up way back in 1756, but it was only in 1993 that his cause was opened canonically in the Diocese. Finally, the solemn ceremony of beatification and declaration of martyrdom was held at Nagercoil on 2nd December 2012 in the Catholic diocese of Kottar, exactly 300 years after his birth!

Blessed Devasahayam Pillai's tomb at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral in Nagercoil attracts large numbers of the faithful. His life teaches an example how to witness our faith.



(Summarised from <https://catholicsaints.info/blessed-devasahayam-pillai>)



Money is a threat to Life

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The term “making wealth” (making of money) may mean different things to different people. For some it is having a luxurious house to live in, for some a sufficient bank balance to meet all expenses and for some a comfortable car to drive around.

Wealth is earned in many different ways and means. Some are born into a rich family and then they inherit the wealth without any toil of their own, others work extremely hard to earn their living; some would work on two or three jobs to make their living. Many people work hard day and night to earn money that they hardly have any time to spend it. On the other hand some people work very hard to provide every needful aspect to the family but they have no time for their families. We live in a society where there are prevailing notions of superiority, a competency of being rich and superior.

For some money has become so important in one's life that they are willing to compromise money for all the vices and evils of the world. They have no problem in saying lies, cheating, defaming and receiving or giving bribes. The love of money becomes centre of their lives.

Scripture clearly says (Matt 19:24) “Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God”.

The mere love of money is a root of evil, because some people love money more than they love God. For the Bible says “No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money” (Matt 6:24).



Sing unto the Lord

Mr. Martin
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We're gathered together to pray for the nations of the earth
Wonders and wonder of your peace may flow into earth (2)

O Jesus Christ please guide us all
Jesus Christ please guide us all
In the darkness of this evil world
In the darkness of this evil world (2)

Take me up above the sky where all the angels flying high
I want to fly and I want to sing your name on high Lord (2)

We give thanks for the everlasting cup of bread and wine
We give thanks for the life which you made divine (2)

O Jesus Christ please guide us all
Jesus Christ please guide us all
In the darkness of this evil world
In the darkness of this evil world (2)

Take me up above the sky where all the angels flying high
I want to fly and I want to sing your name on high Lord (2)

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Wonders and wonder of your peace may flow into earth (2)

O Jesus Christ please guide us all
Jesus Christ please guide us all
In the darkness of this evil world
In the darkness of this evil world (2)

Words and meditation of my heart should be clean unto you
Troubles and temptations of my life has gone as trust you (2)

Heart should be clean unto you
Troubles gone as I trust you
Clean unto you as I trust you

Fountain of water springing
Up into everlasting life (2)

Take me up above the sky where all the angels flying high
I want to fly and I want to sing your name on high Lord (2)



The Joy of Christmas is in giving rather than getting

Christmas is a time for most of us in getting (receiving) – presents, gifts, wishes. But how many of us think that this is also a time for giving. A few members of the Choir and the Youth decided to just do that. Give off their time and a few possessions to those who are in need.

On 28th December 2019, (from 4 00 pm, for an hour and a half); they gathered at the Old Age Home (run by the Church of North India) at Fatehpur Beri and regaled the aged inmates with English and Hindi Christmas Hymns. They also distributed gifts to the inmates, some donated by a beneficiary. The inmates along with the Pastor joined in the singing, which was followed by hot tea and pakoras !





Sing unto the Lord

Mr. Camil Minj
(camil.minz@gmail.com)



जाऊंगा पिता के घर

1/4 r ydl 15 11 & 32 1/2

e s r k t k A x k v i u s f i r k d s ? k j
t g k f e y r k f i r k d k l ; k j
t g k f e y r k v k f e d v l g k j
1- e s u s f d ; k g s x u l g v i k j
f i r k d h b P N k d s f o #) t k d j
t k s g s u e k Q h d s d k f c y
o k s g s c e h f i r k d # . k d k l k x j
p j . k e a m u d s e s f x j t k A x k
2- d s k d j e g S ; s e s u s f d ; k
L o x Z v l s f i r k d s f o #) i k i f d ; k
; k ; j g k u i e d g k u s d s
l P p k f i r k o k v u q l E i k d k / k u h
v k l w c g k e s i N r l o k d : x k
3- o k s g s n r k e j k i k y u g k j
j [k r k g j n e e q i j v i u h u t j
i y h o k d j r k g j , d r e l u k
j [k r k u g h ; k n x u l g l a d k s
n y d h h u v c m u l s t k A x k

मैंने प्रभु को छू लिया

1/4 r e k j d d 5 2 5 & 3 4 1/2

t c e s u s c H q d k s N w f y ; k
t h o u u ; k e q d k s f e y k
g k y y q k t ; & t ; d k j x k A x k v k u h l s
m) k j g S e q d k s f e y k
1- F l k e s f u j k k f d L e r d k e j k
i h M k e a F l k d " V l a e a M o k
e f i a f e y h e q d k s e f t y f e y k
2- j l g v a l j h F l h x f y ; k l w h
u m e l m F l h u g h d k b Z l k F l h
T ; k r f e y h e q d k s l k F l h f e y k
3- d o l z g s t h o u e j k m l d s f y ,
t h u k v l s e j u k v c m l d s f y ,
g l o x h ; g h m i d k j k a d h m l d s e j h f l y k

प्रभु कब तक

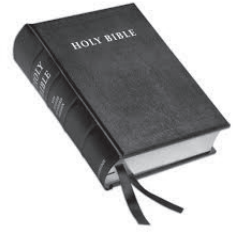
1/4 = k r 13 j y d l 20 j 21 1/2

d k i c H q d c r d \ g l d c r d \
r w e q s H y k r k j g x k
d c r d r w e q l s e q k N q k s k \
d c r d a n ; e a n d k e s l g r k j g x k \
j h a c H q e q i j n ; k f V d j e s h l q
v d y k g w e s n d l h g w
l g k r k d j e s a n ; d k l k o u k n s
1- e j k ' k e q e q i j g l o h g l r k g S
i x & i x i j e q s ; k r u k ; n r k g S

u k l s r j s u Q j r d j r k d g j l e e p k r k g S
? k r y x k d j e q i j o k j d j r k g S
l g e k g y n q d k g l M j k g y k g w e s
2- r w s d g k g S v a r e l k l r d r j s e s l k F k j g x k
B l d j u r g a y x u s n x l g l k e a r g a l k y k
c k y H h r j k c k d k u g l o k l n e u r j s i k e a g l o k
c H q v i u s u k e v u q i n q z r i j e s h / ; k u n s
' k j . k e a r j h v k k g l v e q d k s f u j k k u d j A



Sunday of the Word of God



Source: Vatican News

Pope Francis' Apostolic Letter, *Motu proprio "Aperuit illis"*, published on 30 September, establishes that "the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time is to be devoted to the celebration, study and dissemination of the Word of God".

The timing of the document is significant: 30 September is the Feast of Saint Jerome, the man who translated most of the Bible into Latin, and who famously said: "Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ". This year also marks 1600 years since his death.

The title of the document, "*Aperuit illis*", is equally important. They are its opening words, taken from St. Luke's Gospel, where the Evangelist describes how the Risen Jesus appeared to His disciples, and how "He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures". Recalling the importance given by the Second Vatican Council to rediscovering Sacred Scripture for the life of the Church, Pope Francis says he wrote this Apostolic Letter in response to requests from the faithful around the world to celebrate the Sunday of the Word of God.

An ecumenical value

In the *Motu proprio* (literally, "of his own initiative"), Pope Francis declares that "the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time is to be devoted to the celebration, study and dissemination of the Word of God". This is more than a temporal coincidence, he explains: the celebration has "ecumenical value, since the Scriptures point out, for those who listen, the path to authentic and firm unity".

A certain solemnity

Pope Francis invites local communities to find ways to "mark this Sunday with a certain solemnity". He suggests that the sacred text be enthroned "in order to focus the attention of the assembly on the normative value of God's Word". In highlighting the proclamation of the Word of the Lord, it would be appropriate "to emphasize in the homily the honour that it is due", writes the Pope.

"Pastors can also find ways of giving a Bible, or one of its books, to the entire assembly as a way of showing the importance of learning how to read, appreciate and pray daily with Sacred Scripture".

The Bible is for all

The Bible is not meant for a privileged few, continues Pope Francis. It belongs "to those called to hear its message and to recognize themselves in its words". The Bible cannot be monopolized or restricted to select groups either, he writes, because it is "the book of the Lord's people, who, in listening to it, move from dispersion and division towards unity".

The importance of the homily

"Pastors are primarily responsible for explaining Sacred Scripture and helping everyone to understand it", writes Pope Francis. Which is why the homily possesses "a quasi-sacramental character". The Pope warns against improvising or giving "long, pedantic homilies or wandering off into unrelated topics". Rather, he suggests using simple and suitable language. For many of the faithful, he writes, "this is the only opportunity they have to grasp the beauty of God's Word and to see it applied to their daily lives".

Sacred Scripture and the Sacraments

The Pope uses the scene of the Risen Lord appearing to the disciples at Emmaus to demonstrate what he calls "the unbreakable bond between Sacred Scripture and the Eucharist". Since the Scriptures everywhere speak of Christ, he writes, "they enable us to believe that His death and resurrection are not myth but history and are central to the faith of His disciples".

When the sacraments are introduced and illumined by God's Word, explains the Pope, "they become ever more clearly the goal of a process whereby Christ opens our minds and hearts to acknowledge His saving work".

The role of the Holy Spirit

"The role of the Holy Spirit in the Scriptures is primordial", writes Pope Francis. "Without the work of the Spirit, there would always be a risk of remaining limited to the written text alone". The Pope continues: "This would open the way to a fundamentalist reading, which needs to be avoided, lest we betray the inspired, dynamic and spiritual character of the sacred text". It is the Holy Spirit who "makes Sacred Scripture the living word of God, experienced and handed down in the faith of His holy people".

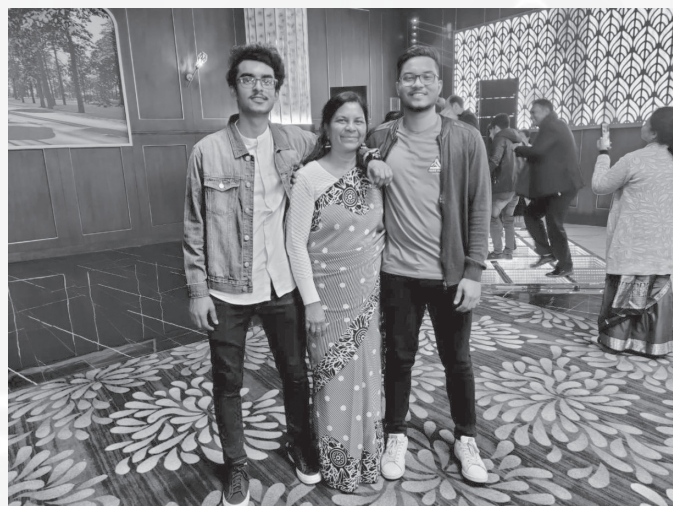
Pope Francis invites us never to take God's Word for granted, "but instead to let ourselves be nourished by it, in order to acknowledge and live fully our relationship with Him and with our brothers and sisters".

Practicing mercy

The Pope concludes his Apostolic Letter by defining what he describes as "the great challenge before us in life: to listen to Sacred Scripture and then to practice mercy". God's Word, writes Pope Francis, "has the power to open our eyes and to enable us to renounce a stifling and barren individualism and instead to embark on a new path of sharing and solidarity".

The Letter closes with a reference to Our Lady, who accompanies us "on the journey of welcoming the Word of God", teaching us the joy of those who listen to that Word – and keep it.

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&
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*Happy moments,
praise GOD.*

*Difficult moments,
seek GOD.*

*Quiet moments,
worship GOD.*

*Painful moments,
trust GOD.*

*Every moment,
thank GOD*

5NS



JESHUA Global Logisolutions



YOHANNA Ministries India

Best Compliments from:

Vinod Toppo & Meena Shresht



Best compliments from



**Mary Wict and family and
grand children**

“Honest balances and scales are the LORD’s; all the weights in the bag are his work.” - Proverbs 16:11



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We look forward to offer our logistics services and solutions; should there be any ambiguity or constraints concerning logistics – please feel free to contact us – and leave the apprehension to us.

Logistically yours,

John Paul, Managing Partner

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