



THE DELHI DOMINICAN



ST DOMINIC'S CHURCH, VASANT VIHAR, NEW DELHI

AUGUST 2018 | ISSUE 02



ST DOMINIC:
A BLESSING FOR HUMANITY **12**

MOTHERHOOD:
an epitome of SELFLESSNESS **08**

06 **SERVICE**
to Humanity

Walk by **FAITH**
not by **SIGHT** **15**

09 Parental Role in
EDUCATION

आज़ादी **05**



Lectors' Gathering



SDYM Members with their Mentor



The Feast of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary



The Month of Rosary (St Peter's Community)



St Martin's Community



Diocesan SCC Annual Day: Second Prize



The Month of Rosary (St Mary's Community)



Angels' Day Celebration



**THE
DELHI DOMINICAN**
(Parish Newsletter)

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Contents

Contents	01
Festal Message	02
Parish Priest Speaks	03
Know Your Parishioner	04
आज़ादी	05
Service to Humanity	06
Artistic Hands	07
Motherhood: An Epitome of Selflessness	08
Parental Role in Education	09
St. Dominic's Feast Gallery	10-11
St. Dominic: A blessing for humanity!	12
Our World's Oceans are under Threat	13
संत दोमिनिक से मुस्कुराने की सीख	14
Walk By Faith Not By Sight	15
An Expat's View Of St. Dominic's Church	16

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Festal Message

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ST. DOMINIC: A MAN WHO MADE A DIFFERENCE

One beautiful and sunny day a man was taking a stroll along the beach when he came across a young girl frantically throwing starfish into the ocean. The man asked the young girl, “Why are you throwing the starfish into the ocean?” The girl replied, “The starfish were washed upon the shore last night in a storm, and if I don’t get them back into the ocean then they will die.” The man looked around and to his amazement there were hundreds of starfish lying upon the sand. He looked at her and laughed saying “Why are you wasting your time? There is no possible way you can save all these creatures. By throwing back a few, how is it that you expect to make a difference?” The young girl looked around sadly at the starfish that surrounded them on the beach, and then she looked back at the man and replied, “Even if I save the life of only one, then I have made a difference.” And with that she continued to save as many as she could.

Friends, 2000 years back Jesus walked along the seashore of this world. He saw many people going against the will of God, they were washed away from God. Their intellect was darkened, their will weakened and their passions disoriented. “When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd” (Mt. 9:36). Jesus wanted to save them all by making difference in their lives. Though he could make difference only to some of the people, he did not shy away from it, he did make it. Unlike the other Jews, he walked with them, sat and ate with them. He healed them both spiritually and physically; freed them from the clutches of sin. Altogether he gave a new lease of life to the people. The scribes and the pharisees were angry with him because of his involvement with the sinners and the marginalized. But Jesus was not bothered about the scribes and pharisees and their accusations against him. He made difference in the lives of many and changed their lives altogether. He bequeathed his mission of saving the souls

from sin and death to his disciples with the conviction that a group of confident, courageous and committed people can make difference in the lives of millions of people.

One of those disciples was St. Dominic Guzman, the founder of the Order of Preachers (Dominicans). Dominic too, after his encounter with the Albigensian on his way to Denmark with the Bishop of Osma, realized that there were so many people who were going away from the Church, rejecting the true Catholic doctrine. He was saddened and troubled to see so many losing their souls because of the cancer of Albigensian heresy. He began his mission to ‘save the souls’ by making a difference in their lives. He was very much aware that what he was doing was just a drop in the ocean; but still he was very much convinced that without that drop the ocean is incomplete. So, he vehemently preached against the heresy and through his ‘holy preaching’ saved the souls of many. In order to carry on his mission after his death he founded the ‘Order of Preachers’ whose main mission is ‘salvation of souls’ through holy preaching.

Being sons and daughters of St. Dominic, he invites all of us to make a difference in the lives of others, specially those who have strayed away from God or those neglected in society. To make a difference, first and foremost we need to be confident that God is with us; and along with God we can do the impossible. Secondly, we need to be courageous to accept the reality, and at times criticisms and venture into challenges. And finally, we need to be committed to the mission entrusted to us till it is accomplished despite the adversaries.

As we celebrate the feast of our founder St. Dominic, let us be gripped by his enthusiasm to save souls and make difference in the lives of others through our words, deeds and thoughts; let St. Dominic be our guide and our model.



स्कूलों से बच्चों को ऐतिहासिक स्थलों पर पर्यटन के लिए लिया जाता है। ऐसे पर्यटनों का उद्देश्य बच्चों को बाहरी दुनिया से परिचित कराना होता है। अपने पाठ्यक्रम के नीरस दिनचर्या से हटकर, इस तरह के क्रियाकलापों द्वारा बच्चों को असंख्य लोगों की जीवनगाथाओं (जो उनसे पहले दुनिया में जी चुके हैं) से परिचित होने में मदद मिलती है। साथ ही साथ उनकी खुशी और संघर्ष, उनके उपलब्धियों और विफलताओं से अवगत होने में भी सहायता मिलती है।

किसी भी समुदाय में विविध घटनाओं पर आधारित वार्षिक उत्सव होते हैं। ये इन पर्यटनों के समान हैं। वे समुदाय के सदस्यों को उन असंख्य लोगों से जुड़े रहने के लिये मदद करते हैं, जिन्होंने अपने जीवन काल में उसी विश्वास को, जिसे ये स्वयं प्रकट करते हैं, मानते हुये आगे बढ़े हैं।

सन्त दोमिनिक चर्च, वसन्त विहार में, सन्त दोमिनिक गुज़मन का पर्व अब एक वार्षिक हिस्सा बन गया है। अन्य त्योहारों के साथ – साथ, यह पर्व भी विश्वासियों को न केवल ख्रीस्त में हमारे विश्वास की उत्पत्ति से जुड़े रहने के लिये मदद करती है, बल्कि उन सभी महान दोमिनिकन नर-नारियों से भी जुड़े रहने के लिये सहायक सिद्ध हुई है, जिन्होंने वीरतापूर्वक अपने विश्वास को जिया, जिन्हें हम सन्त कहते हैं।

हर परिवार की तरह, सन्त दोमिनिक के परिवार की भी अपनी खास विशेषता है, जिसे हम दोमिनिकन आध्यात्मिकता कहते हैं। कुछ लोगों से सन्त दोमिनिक चर्च, वसन्त विहार की खासियत के विषय में पूछे जाने पर कुछ इस तरह के जवाब प्राप्त हुए; जैसे: “यहाँ हमें मित्रता का अनुभव मिलता है”, और किसी ने कहा, “यहाँ अच्छा उपदेश सुनने को मिलता है”, या और कुछ लोगों ने कहा, “गहरा प्रार्थना का अनुभव होता है”। अधिकतर लोग इस बात से अवश्य सहमत होंगे कि सन्त दोमिनिक पल्ली में कुछ तो ‘दोमिनिकन’ है (जैसा कि दायसिस या फ्रान्सिस्कन पल्ली कि कोई अपनी विशेषता होती है)।

nkēfudu ekxZ

सन्त दोमिनिक ने कलीसिया को सुसमाचार को जीने की एक नई राह दिखाई है। आज से 800 वर्ष पूर्व, उसने शुभ-सन्देश के एक पहलू को विशेष जोर दिया, जिसे अक्सर नज़र अन्दाज़ कर दिया जाता था और वह था – आत्माओं की मुक्ति के लिये प्रवचन। सन्त दोमिनिक के समय में केवल बिशपों को प्रवचन देने की अनुमति थी। दुर्भाग्यवश, वे प्रशासनिक जिम्मेदारियों में इतने व्यस्त रहते थे कि प्रार्थना, अध्ययन और प्रवचन के लिये समय निकाल नहीं पाते थे। परिणामतः कई लोग उन उपदेशकों के फँदों में फँसने लगे, जो गलत शिक्षा का प्रचार करते थे।

सन्त दोमिनिक प्रवचन देने में खास तौर से प्रतिभावान थे। उन्होंने ऐसे धर्मसमाज की स्थापना की, जिसे ‘उपदेशकों का संघ’ के नाम से जाना जाता है। कलीसिया ने इस संघ का अनुमोदन विशेष रूप से प्रवचन के उद्देश्य से किया। सन्त दोमिनिक ने जिन समुदायों का गठन किया, उन्हें ‘पवित्र प्रवचन’ के समुदायों के नाम से जाना जाता था।

प्रवचन एक परिस्थिति या प्रसंग के आधार पर होता है। सर्वप्रथम, उपदेशक को प्रार्थना और ईश वचन के अध्ययन में ढलना पड़ता है। उसका प्रवचन उसी प्रार्थना और ईश वचन के अध्ययन का फल है। अतः उसका प्रवचन किसी शून्य स्थान में नहीं होता। वह एक समुदाय के लोगों की खुशी और गम, संघर्ष और चुनौतियों का हिस्सा होता है। वास्तव में, एक उपदेशक का प्रवचन, जिस समूह को सम्बोधित कर रहा है, उनके कराहों का जवाब होता है, ऐसा जवाब जिसे उसने यूखरिस्तीय प्रभु के सम्मुख मनन करके पाया है।

यही एक खासियत है, जो दोमिनिकन प्रवचन को अलग बनाती है। सन्त दोमिनिक ने चाहा था कि हर दोमिनिकन समुदाय प्रार्थना, अध्ययन और ‘पवित्र प्रवचन’ का स्थान बने। एक दोमिनिकन पल्ली ऐसे व्यक्तियों की उपस्थिति से अंकित होना चाहिये, जो अध्ययन, प्रार्थना, और अपने शब्दों और कर्मों के द्वारा सुसमाचार के साक्षी बनने के अभिलाषी हों। वे मित्रता का भाव बढ़ाते हों और ऐसे समुदायों का गठन करते हों, जहाँ ईश वचन का अध्ययन किया जाता और उसे जिया जाता हो। ईश्वर करे! हमारा पल्ली ऐसा ही हो।



Know Your Parishioner

Ms. Nitya Franco
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If you ever feel distressed during your day, call upon our Lady. Just say this simple prayer: Mary, Mother of Jesus, please be a mother to me now. This prayer has never failed me.
-St. Teresa of Kolkatta

With Mary our Mother as her guide she takes up all tasks entrusting them to Her. She has great devotion to Mary help of Christians and always keeps the Holy picture of Our Lady and the prayer with her wherever she goes.

Paula Fernandes is currently the Coordinator of the Catechism classes at St. Dominic's Church for the past thirteen years. Born in Mumbai, Paula completed her studies at Carmel of St. Joseph's School. Her immense love for little children paved the way for a teaching career. She believes that teaching is her mission and passion. She has been teaching at Holy Child Auxilium School, R.K. Puram since 1987.

Her greatest inspiration has always been her parents – Her father, Alex Rodrigues and her mother, Angela Rodrigues who were totally dedicated in whatever mission they undertook and also took great pride in bringing up their children in Christian faith. Paula is also indebted to her husband, Alex Fernandes who has been a pillar of strength, encouraging and supporting her in all her endeavors. Paula feels ever grateful to her Mother-in-law, Annie Fernandes who has been with her through thick and thin and who has been a doting grandmother to both her children, Deanne and Aaron. She adores her family ...a constant support and guide.

For Paula being involved in the Church activities became a lot easier as her family too were a part of the Church organizations. Alex was the treasurer of the Parish Council and is still a member of the Finance Committee, Deanne was the President of the SDYM (Youth) and Aaron was the member of the Youth and is a member of the Church Choir. Together they find joy in working for the Lord.

Paula is very fond of music. She likes cooking and tailoring too. She spends a lot of time trying to discover and learn new methods of teaching, be it at Church or School. She is of the belief that in order to succeed in life one has to be a life- long learner.

One of Paula's greatest passion is to stage plays and her favorite one being 'Jesus is the reason for the Season'.

This play had a cast of 23 children. It was a great challenge to hold practices and train the Catechism children for this play which became a delight as it was aired on Door Darshan in 2004. The children felt so happy and proud of this great feat. She had also started a Catechism Newsletter, titled 'St. Dominic's Kid's Express' involving the Catechism children in the editorial. Another part of her venture was the Catechism Magazine, 'In His Footsteps' for the year 2014-15, which showcased the children's activities and happenings in Church. She has always been ready to do anything for the children of St. Dominic's Church. She along with the Catechism teachers devotedly prepared the Catechism children to be a part of the Good Friday procession by enacting the fourteen stations on a moving truck. They did this for nearly five years in succession. She draws great strength and joy in being instrumental in the faith formation of the young children.

Paula firmly believes (quote) 'Wherever life plants you, bloom with grace'.





आज़ादी

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आज़ादी हर किसी को अच्छी लगती है। इन्सान तो इन्सान, जानवरों, पशु-पक्षियों और जीव-जन्तुओं को भी आज़ादी प्यारी लगती है। कोई भी किसी की कैद में रहना, किसी की गुलामी में रहना पसन्द नहीं करता। सभी स्वच्छन्द खुले आसमान में जीना और उड़ना चाहते हैं। अपनी मर्जी और उसूलों से अपने जीवन को जीना चाहते हैं। पर, शायद ऐसा हो नहीं पाता। वह किसी न किसी गुलामी में फँस जाता है। पिता परमेश्वर ने इस सुन्दर संसार की रचना की और इसका संचालन तथा इसकी देखभाल करने के लिए मनुष्य की रचना की और उसे सृष्टि पर शासन करने की आज्ञा देते हुए दुनिया में फँस जाने, स्वतंत्र और स्वच्छन्द रूप से पूरी दुनिया में विचरने, खाने-पीने और आनन्द मनाने का आशीर्वाद दिया। लेकिन जैसे-जैसे मनुष्यों की संख्या बढ़ती गयी उनकी नियत भी बदलती गयी। घमण्ड, लालच, अपने आप को महान दिखाने तथा अपना वर्चस्व बनाये रखने की मनोवृत्ति ने मनुष्य के मन में बुराईयों को जन्म दिया। जिसका परिणाम यह हुआ कि संसार में भेद-भाव, ईर्ष्या-द्वेष, जात-पाँत, ऊँच-नीच और अमीर-गरीब जैसी बुराईयों फँस गयी। इन्हीं के कारण मनुष्य एक दूसरे को गुलाम बनाना और कैद करना शुरू किया। यह स्थिति आज भी संसार में बदस्तूर जारी है।

ईश्वर अपनी सृष्टि संसार से बेहद प्यार करते हैं – विशेषकर मनुष्य से। यही कारण है कि उसने मनुष्य को सुगम जीवन जीने की राह दिखाने, बुराईयों, पापों एवं शैतान के चंगुल से आज़ादी दिलाने के लिए समय-समय पर नबियों को भेजा। संतों को नियुक्त किया। इन्हीं संतों में संत दोमनिक गुज़मन भी थे, जिन्होंने इन्हीं बुराईयों में फँसे लोगों के बीच काम करते हुए ईश्वर के वचन को फैलाया। मुश्किलों भरे हालातों के बीच काम करते हुए इन्होंने बुराईयों में फँसे लोगों को आज़ादी दिलायी।

हमारे लिए गुलामी और आज़ादी का मतलब क्या है? आम राय यह है कि गुलामी मतलब किसी के अधीन रहना, उस शख्स की प्रताड़नाएँ सहना और उसके हिसाब से जीवन जीना एवं कार्य करना है। और यह सच ही है। जब हम उस शख्स की अधीनता से छुटकारा पाकर अपने उसूलों से जीवन जीते हैं तो हम मानते हैं कि हम आज़ाद हो गये हैं। यह भी सच है। यह अगस्त महीना हम भारतीयों के लिए हर्षोल्लास का महीना है। इसी महीने भारत को अंग्रेजों की गुलामी से आज़ादी मिली थी। हम हमारे धर्मग्रन्थ पवित्र बाइबल में पढ़ते हैं कि हमारे पूर्वजों को चालीस साल मिस्रियों की गुलामी में रहने के बाद आज़ादी मिली थी। हमारा देश भारत भी कई सालों तक अंग्रेजों की गुलामी में रहकर सन् 1947 में आज़ाद हुआ। हम अपनी काथलिक कलीसिया की नज़र से देखें तो, दोनों में समानता नज़र आती है। ये दोनों घटनायें महज घटनायें नहीं हैं बल्कि ईश्वर की पूर्वनियोजित योजना है। इसका बहुत प्यारा सा उदाहरण भी देखिए कि भारत

को आज़ादी उसी दिन मिली जिस दिन हमारी माँ मरियम का पावन स्वर्गारोहण हुआ। यानी ईश्वर ने माँ मरियम को भारत की संरक्षिका बनाया। इसका सीधा सा मतलब है कि हम ईश्वर की चुनी हुई प्रजा हैं। हमें तो गर्व होना चाहिए कि हम उस देश में रहते हैं जिस देश की संरक्षिका साक्षात् हमारे प्रभु येशु की माँ, माता मरियम है। इस सत्य को, ईश्वर के इस महान कार्य को हमें कभी नहीं भूलना है और अपनी सन्तानों को बताना और सिखाना है।

प्यारे दोस्तों! हमने मिस्रियों और अंग्रेजों की गुलामी से तो आज़ादी पा ली और आज़ाद हो गये, पर धीरे-धीरे हम किसी ऐसे अदृश्य शक्ति की गुलामी में फँसते चले गये हैं जिससे आज़ादी पाना शायद नामुमकिन सा लग रहा है और जिसका परिणाम बहुत ही भयंकर और विध्वंसकारी होने वाला है। आज दुनिया में चारों ओर हहाकार मचा हुआ है। समाज नाना प्रकार की बुराईयों से जकड़ा हुआ है। प्रत्येक दिन प्रत्येक क्षण हमारा सामना बुराईयों से होता है। समाचार पत्रों में पढ़ो, टेलीविजन न्यूज़ चैनलों में देखो, कहीं भी मन-दिल को सुकून देने वाला समाचार नहीं मिलता है। एक अजीब सी डर का माहौल बन गया है। घर से निकलना दूभर सा हो गया है। किसी को कुछ कहने से डर लगता है। इन्सान सहम सा गया है, झिझक सा गया है। घमण्ड, लालच, क्रोध, ईर्ष्या, आलस्य और वासना ये ही वे अदृश्य शक्तियाँ हैं जिनकी गुलामी में हम फँस गये हैं। इन्हीं की वजह से संसार में अनेकों बुराईयों पनप गयी हैं। इन्सान को इन्सान से अलग कर दिया है। असहिष्णुता, हत्यायें, लूट-पाट, भ्रष्टाचार, आतंकवाद और बलात्कार जैसे संगीन अपराध इसी के गंभीर परिणाम हैं।

हम कहते हैं – हम आज़ाद हैं। बेशक! हम आज़ाद हैं – इन्सानी गुलामी से। पर, हम गुलाम हो गये हैं – घमण्ड, लालच, क्रोध, ईर्ष्या, आलस्य और वासना के। और इन्हें हमने अपने दिल में पनाह दी है। कहने का मतलब कि हम आज भी पूर्ण रूप से आज़ाद नहीं हैं। पूर्ण रूप से आज़ादी पाने के लिए हमें इन बुराईयों की गुलामी से आज़ाद होना पड़ेगा। हमारे प्रभु ईश्वर ने हमें इन्हीं बुराईयों से दूर रहने की आज्ञा दी है। ईश्वर ने हमें महान दस आज्ञाएँ दिए हैं जिनमें इन सभी बुराईयों से दूर रहने की ही आज्ञा है। हमारी काथलिक कलीसिया भी हमें यही सिखाती है। यदि हम दस आज्ञाओं का अक्षरसः पालन करते हैं तो समझिये हम वास्तव में आज़ाद हैं। सही मायने में कहें तो हमारा ख्रीस्तीय जीवन इन्हीं दस आज्ञाओं पर टिका है।

तो, प्यारे दोस्तों! आइये हम अपने आप को आज़ाद करें इन बुराईयों की गुलामी से और अपने जीवन को, समाज को और देश को एक खुशनुमा और शांति का माहौल प्रदान करें जैसा कि प्रभु ईश्वर स्वयं चाहते हैं।

Service to Humanity

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“You must not lose faith in humanity. Humanity is an ocean; if a few drops of the ocean are dirty, the ocean does not become dirty” – Mahatma Gandhi

Humanity is not about maintaining a gracious relationship between one another in the society but it is about building a bond amongst the society with the help of a sustainable values. Humanity is not about showing passion and empathy to each other at times of need but about regarding love in high esteem and kindness in all walks of life. Humanity is not just a word for symbolizing the human compassion and civilization but it goes beyond the horizons of human nature and his creations. It is defined as quality of being human, the peculiar nature of man.

There was once a king with a kind heart, once saw a pigeon and an Eagle fighting. He possessed the ability of communicating with the birds and animals. The pigeon asked the king to save him from the eagle. Instantly he made a deal with the eagle, eagle asked the king to give him equal amount of flesh the pigeon weight. Agreeing to the eagle's condition, the king starts chopping off his own flesh equal to the flesh of the pigeon. Donating little by little he finally surrenders the whole of himself to the eagle to eat. That moment both the eagle and the pigeon turn into angels who appeared on the earth to test the extent of the king's humanity, and was rewarded with the most precious rewards and heaven afterlife for his deeds of humanity.

It is important to understand one important fact i.e. an individual's life is successful not by the number

of degrees he or she attains but by the degree of humanitarian activities that individual does. One of the most outstanding examples of extra- ordinary humanity in a human being has been portrayed by Mother Teresa who served the poor and the disabled and gave all the help she could in her entire lifetime.

People who always crib that they do not have sufficient facilities available despite having everything can never provide humanitarian services because if one has the mind set of not being self- sufficient, how can he or she help someone else. One is always remembered for his or her good deeds and it is essential to understand that there is no better deed than providing services for humanitarian causes. Humanitarian activities should never be performed in order to achieve fame or to gain a status symbol. You can easily achieve fame by the work you do, by helping people around you at home or at workplace or just people around you who are in need of help.

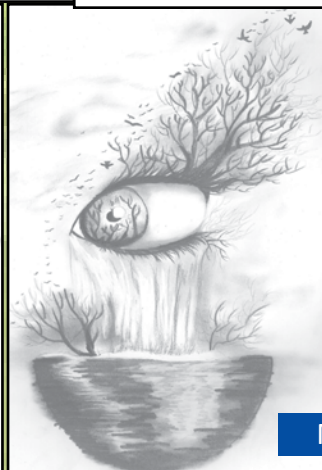
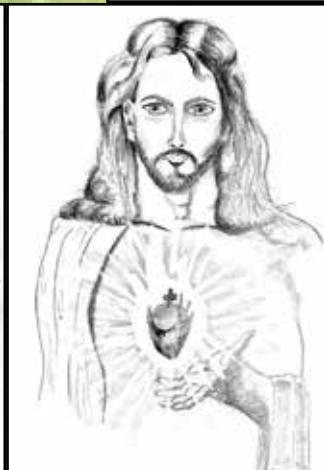
If eating and having fun is only what we are born to do then we should keep one thing in mind; even animals can do such activity; if God has made us humans there has to be some reason behind it. We all have a part in doing this great task of taking ahead the human race to a dignified and noble place on this planet. And this is where we all have to be proud of ourselves and pass this message on to the upcoming future generations.



Artistic Hands



Mr. Pawan Lakra



Mr. Manish Soreng



Motherhood: An Epitome of Selflessness

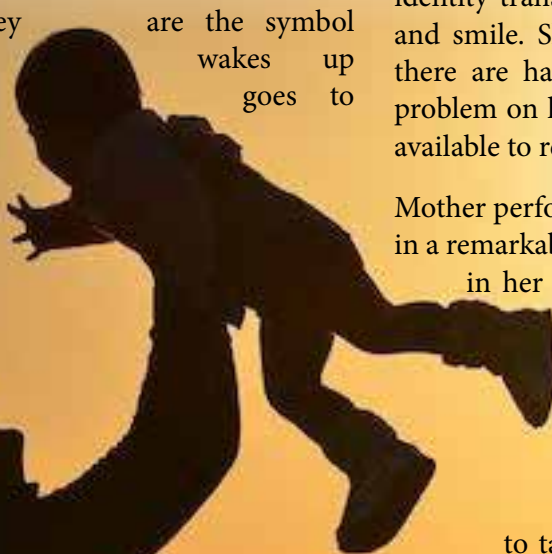
Ms. Sandhya Kerketta



“She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come. She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue. She watches over the affairs of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness. Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her: Many women do noble things, but you surpass them all.”
- Proverb 31:25-29

Motherhood begins with the conception in the womb when she embraces that foetus for nine months, she undergoes hormonal change in her body, she endures immense pain to give birth to the child. The job is not over yet! She breastfeeds the child for at least two years and provides care and nurtures the child.

Mothers are divine, they are the symbol of love and sacrifice. She wakes up first in the morning and goes to bed last at night. She takes care of the children and her husband. She cooks and serves the meal to the family first and eats last. She washes dishes and clothes and



keeps the house intact. She even goes out to work and yet manages household well and provides affection for one and all. She looks after the spiritual growth of the family, and in her prayers, she asks to God for her children, husband and family. She never thinks of herself, as her needs are very few; for her the needs of the family come first! She is generous, she is decorous. She plays the role of caregiver, teacher, guide, companion, caretaker, homemaker and what not! Therefore, it is rightly said, “The mother is the light of the home”. She is indispensable in one’s life.

Motherhood contains selflessness, benevolence, hard work, patience, perseverance, simplicity, tolerance, understanding, and forgiveness. Motherhood is a huge identity transition, but she accepts it with willingness and smile. She never complains or demands, even if there are hardships in her life. She will resolve her problem on her own and simultaneously will be there, available to resolve your hardships.

Mother performs all her roles, duty and responsibilities in a remarkable way, yet how much respect does she get in her home, how much love she receives from her children and husband? How many of us pray for our mothers, their needs, and their sufferings? How much her work is recognized and respected by the family or by the society? How much is her worth in the family, or the power to take the household decisions? What is her reality as a wife or as a mother? Is she getting the respect and love that she deserves, the status and power that she deserves?!! These are some questions, a food for thought!

“Indeed, a Mother is she who can take the place of all others, but whose place no one else can take.” – Cardinal Mermillod

The Importance of Parental Involvement in their Child's Education



Dr. Subash Masters
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There is a general apathy in certain economies, over involvement of parents in children's education. There is a section of society (albeit a small one) that feel that once children are admitted in school, it is the duty of school/teachers and not theirs. However, many illuminated schools encourage parents to be a partner in their child's progress.

Over the decades, a number of studies have been conducted to determine the importance of parental involvement in Children's Education. All point out to the fact that environmental, social, and economic factors have a powerful effect on the child's academic (and growth) performance:

Any one of the following factors place a child at greater risk of underachieving in school:

- Growing up in poverty
- Attending run down schools
- Inadequate learning opportunities
- Large gap in the economic condition of students in the class
- Neighbourhood distress
- Exposure to drugs and/or violence at home or school
- Lack of role models
- Lack of after-school care
- Poor nutrition
- Dysfunctional families
- Teenage issues (Lack of proper sex education)
- Inadequate health care

What Parents Can Do

It is an accepted fact that in most situations Parents are their children's best advocates. Parents' willingness to contact teachers on a regular basis about their children's progress is perhaps the first step to becoming involved in their children's education. Once the parents understand the feedback from teachers/schools about a child's performance, parents can proceed in both direct and indirect ways to influence the child's progress. Mothers and Fathers can become directly involved in children's education by:

- overseeing the child's homework time
- setting time each day for homework to be done, and checking the child's work for completeness and understanding;
- limiting time spent with friends and watching television; on the mobile
- taking advantage of opportunities to become involved with school administration for example, attend school board meetings and join the PTA;
- Ensure proper nutrition, hygiene and medical care

Children's education may be positively influenced as parents become a familiar presence in the school; as parents' faces become familiar in the school environment, natural opportunities may arise for communicating with their children's teachers. Further more, as educators witness parents' concerned involvement, they may become more receptive to parents' communication regarding their children's needs.

Role of the Mother

The role of the mother as an educator represents a crucial resource to the development of the individual identity of the child, It seems that the feeling of being a mother, to the woman is more powerful than being a father. Always in accordance to the biological as well as physiological relation of mother to the child, represents the first and reasonable part or segment of the child's development.

Role of the Father

Helping fathers are of enormous importance to children. A good father must be a good parent and a good husband. This is an extremely important factor in the organization of family life as a whole, which is the basic ground towards a happily and joyful family for all the members of a respective family. His presence in the family has a particular importance, while it leads the family members, i.e. the children towards a feeling of safety in their life reigning on the overall family members as a compact union of members.





St. Dominic





St. Dominic: a blessing for humanity!

Fr. John Kusumalayam, OP



Every person is created by God and sent into this world for a purpose (cf. Jeremiah 29:11). When the person begins to walk on the path that God has set for him/her this divinely designed plan unfolds itself in his/her life, for his/her own good and sometimes for the good of others. In Genesis 1:3, we read: “God said, “let there be light, and there was light””. Similarly, God said in the year 1170 “let there be Dominic” and there was Dominic - born in to the family of Guzman as a child of Blessed Jane of Aza and Felix in Caleruega, Spain.

His mother Jane had a dream while she was carrying the infant in the womb that she gave birth to a dog who went around the whole world with a torch in its mouth. How true that was in the life of Dominic, who tried to illuminate the world with the light of Christ during his life-time, and afterwards through the members of the Order that he founded for the same purpose – the Order of Preachers.

Spending his time at the foot of the Cross, Dominic realized the power of the Word of God in the life of a Christian (John 8:31-32: “if you continue in my word, you are my disciples; you will know the truth and the truth will make you free”). When Dominic had let the message of Christ in all its richness find a home within him (cf. Colossians 3:16), he realized that the invitation given by Jesus in John 7:37 was personally for him, “if anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink”. Dominic took that seriously and began to drink from the pierced side of the Lord sitting at the foot of the Cross. For him it was not sufficient simply to ‘drink’. So, he began to walk with the angel into the depths of that great river of grace (cf. Ezekiel 47:1-12). He got drowned in that river of God’s grace – living water. Having immersed himself in that river, he became a reservoir from where flowed streams of living water (John 7:38: ‘Out of his heart shall flow rivers of living water’) for others.

This could happen because, being immersed in the Word of God, and in the river of God’s grace, his heart was transformed, and his mind renewed (cf. Romans 12:2) putting on the mind of Christ (cf. Phil 2:5), as St. Paul instructs us. And in a sense, we can say that Dominic could attempt to say with St. Paul, “it is no longer I who

live, but Christ who lives in me” (Galatians 2:20).

In this process of self-transformation, Dominic heard a call from God similar to that of the call given to Abraham in Genesis 12:1-3. Dominic left the comfort of the Cathedral and set out in the mission that God entrusted to him, to become a blessing, to let the streams of living water flow into that world of his time, a humanity that was wounded, broken and enslaved by the errors preached by the Albigensian heretics.

It is when these streams of living water started flowing from his heart that he began to cry out before God his Father, in his solitary moments of prayer at night, “what will become of sinners?” and do penance on their behalf. This prayer and penance brought healing and consolation to many sinners who came in contact with Dominic, because they were led by Dominic into the living water that he had tasted himself.

Dominic de Guzman, realizing his usefulness before God in all humility, told the brethren who were weeping at his death-bed, that he would be more helpful to them after his death, intending that he would continue to intercede for them in their need before the throne of God (cf. Hebrews 4:16). Yes, St. Dominic continues to fulfil this promise even today. The testimony of those who step into St. Dominic’s Church, is a witness to this fact. May Dominic continue to intercede for us, so that we too become courageous enough to drink joyfully from the well of salvation and let the streams of living water flow from our hearts to many who are around us! Let St. Dominic continue to be a blessing!



Our World's Oceans are under Threat

Ms. Olivia Francis



I vividly recall watching the final episode of David Attenborough's Blue Planet II (which examines the impact of human activity on marine life), and feeling aghast at a visceral level after watching footage of some Albatross chicks choking and dying after their mother fed them plastic by mistake. It was perhaps the first time I truly understood the seriousness of the situation, that our actions have a direct effect on the oceans and that our world's oceans are under a deadly threat of plastics now, as never before in human history. Doing nothing about it, especially after becoming so much more aware of what we are doing to our planet, made me feel like an accomplice.

Our misconception that our planet's natural resources are infinite has caused us to turn a blind eye towards the fact that pollution in our oceans has reached its crisis point, and that wildlife in

our seas and oceans are struggling to survive against warming temperatures and unprecedented quantities of plastic waste. Despite the oceans' vital importance as the biggest regulator of our planet's climate and its role in providing us with food and oxygen, research shows that we continue to treat it like an enormous dump, discarding around 8 eight million tonnes of plastic into our oceans annually (the equivalent of dumping a garbage truck full of plastic every minute), thus threatening not only the marine life but also affecting people's health as we consume the seafood polluted by toxic chemicals from the plastic.

Plastic is indestructible. It will never wear out, and is estimated to kill millions of marine animals each year, including the already endangered species. Marine

species of all sizes from Tadpoles to Sea, Turtles and Dolphins are harmed visibly by abandoned fishing nets which they get entangled in and polythene bags which choke them, or invisibly as they consume micro-plastics which unfortunately make up for most of their stomach contents. When they eat plastic, marine animals have a 50% chance of dying.

We must act now, while we have the power to do something about it. As the United Nations' Secretary

General António Guterres said on World Environment Day, "We all have a role to play in protecting our only home; we have a responsibility, every one of us." Each individual can make a difference and driving change from bottom up can often be the fastest way to take action. We have to stop using plastic unnecessarily and here are some ways we can help prevent our oceans from becoming a toxic



soup of plastic and industrial waste.

We need to reduce our dependency on plastic dependency and put an end to Single-Use plastic items such as Straws, Plastic Cups, and Cutlery, Plastic Bags, Plastic Water Bottles etc. Instead, we can use reusable produce bags such as cloth bags when we go grocery shopping, as a single plastic bag can take 1000 years to degrade, or bring our own refillable/reusable bottle or mug for water and other beverages. We can use a razor with replaceable blades instead of a disposable one, and bring our own glass/reusable containers to restaurants for take-out or leftovers, since most restaurants use plastic or styrofoam. We must do our parts by refusing to use these products so that the global plastic consumption goes down.

संत दोमिनिक से मुस्कुराने की सीख



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संत दोमिनिक की प्रतिमा और तस्वीर को देखकर ऐसा लगता है कि वे बहुत गंभीर और सख्त व्यक्ति थे। कभी-कभी ऐसा प्रतीत होता है, जैसे संत दोमिनिक ने मुस्कुराना ही न सीखा हो। लेकिन वास्तविकता कुछ अलग बयान करती है। फिलहाल, संत दोमिनिक के जीवन में झाँकने से पहले उस समय के हालातों पर नज़र डालना आवश्यक है।

संत दोमिनिक, जब पुरोहित बने, उस समय कलीसिया एक बहुत ही खतरनाक दौर से गुजर रही थी। कई मिथ्यावादी प्रचारकों का समूह उभर आया था। विशेषकर, अल्बीजेंशियन नामक अपधर्म जंगल की आग की तरह फैल रही थी। इस अपधर्म के अनुसार केवल आत्मा अच्छी है और शरीर बुरा है। आत्मा शरीर में बंधा हुआ है और उसे आज़ाद करने के लिए शरीर को मारना ज़रूरी है। इसके लिए आत्महत्या एक सहज तरीका था। यह समूह प्रभु के शरीरधारण और संस्कारों में विश्वास नहीं करती थी। संत दोमिनिक के सामने यह चुनौती ऊँची शिखर की भांति खड़ी थी। उन्हें और उनके साथियों को अल्बीजेंशियन प्रचारकों के खिलाफ काथलिक कलीसिया की सही शिक्षा को प्रचार करना था। काम आसान नहीं था (हालाकि नामुमकिन नहीं) क्योंकि वह समूह बहुत प्रभावशाली हो चुका था।

इन विषम परिस्थितियों में कौन भला प्रसन्न और आनंदित रह सकता था। यह उतनी ही बड़ी चुनौती थी, जितनी बड़ी उन कट्टर विरोधियों के सम्मुख प्रवचन देना। लेकिन दोमिनिकन इतिहास इस बात की

गवाह है कि संत दोमिनिक एक अत्यंत हँसमुख इंसान थे। वे हँसते, मुस्कुराते, और गाते-गुनगुनाते भी थे। वे हर परिस्थिति में खुशी से जीते थे। इस बात को कतई नहीं नकारा जा सकता है कि जब वे आत्माओं की मुक्ति हेतु प्रार्थना करते थे, या गहन मनन-चिन्तन करते थे, ऐसे समय में गंभीर नज़र आते थे।

साइमन टगवेल ओ. पी., अपने किताब (Early Dominicans) में, संत दोमिनिक के बारे में सि. सिसिलिया (जो उनके समय की हैं) के विवरण को लिखते हैं – “वे हमेशा हँसमुख और खुश रहते थे, सिवाय उन क्षणों के, जब वे अपने पड़ोसियों की पीड़ा को देख करुणा से द्रवित हो जाते थे।” उसी तरह ब्र. राल्फ फाएन्ज़ा (जो संत दोमिनिक के साथ रहे हैं) कहते हैं, “वे हमेशा हँसमुख और आनंदित रहते थे; वे अपने भाईयों को दिलासा देने वाले, धैर्यवान, दयालु और स्नेहवान व्यक्ति थे।” वे कभी भी “गुस्सा, नाराज़ या परेशान नहीं होते थे, यहाँ तक कि लम्बी यात्रा के थकान के बाद भी; बल्कि कठिनाईयों में भी हमेशा प्रसन्नचित्त और विपत्ति के समय भी धैर्यवान रहते थे” – ऐसा वेनिस के पौल बताते हैं। विलियम पियेरे नामक एक मठाध्यक्ष ने संत दोमिनिक के बारे में कहा है, “दोमिनिक, उनको दिये जाने वाले गालियों और शापों को बड़ी खुशी से सहते थे। सतावट के समय भी वे कभी विचलित नहीं होते थे।” संत दोमिनिक के बारे में यह भी बताया जाता है कि वे अपनी यात्राओं के दौरान हमेशा गीत गुनगुनाते हुए जाते थे। अगर उन्हें यह पता चल जाता था कि कहीं रास्ते में उनके शत्रु घात लगाए बैठे हैं, तो वे और भी ज़ोर से ईश्वर की महिमा गाते हुए पार हो जाते थे।

संत दोमिनिक अपने जीवन की हर परिस्थिति में हँसमुख और खुश रहते थे। वह कैसे संभव था? उसका कारण यह है कि उन्होंने अपनी प्रार्थना के द्वारा ईश्वर के साथ एक गहरा और अटूट रिश्ता बनाया हुआ था। प्रार्थना के द्वारा ही उन्हें प्रभु का सामर्थ्य मिलता था और वे हर परिस्थिति को ईश्वर की इच्छा समझकर अपनाते थे।

इस संसार में शायद ही कोई व्यक्ति होगा, जो खुश रहना न चाहता हो। सभी को हँसना, मुस्कुराना और जीवन का आनंद लेना अच्छा लगता है। यह भी सच है कि लोग हँसमुख व्यक्तियों की संगति में रहना पसंद करते हैं। संत दोमिनिक का जीवन एक उदाहरण के तौर पर हमारे सामने प्रस्तुत है। हमें उनके जीवन से कुछ सीख लेनी चाहिए और अपने जीवन की हर परिस्थिति में खुश रहने का प्रयास करना चाहिए। इसके लिए हमें संत पौलुस के इस कथन को स्वीकारना है: “आप लोग हर समय प्रसन्न रहें, निरन्तर प्रार्थना करते रहें, सब बातों में ईश्वर को धन्यवाद दें, क्योंकि ईसा मसीह के अनुसार आप लोगों के विषय में ईश्वर की इच्छा यही है” (1थेस. 5:16-18)। यह उचित ही है कि हम अपने जीवन की हर परिस्थिति में संत दोमिनिक से मुस्कुराने की सीख लें और दूसरों को भी मुस्कुराना सिखा दें।

Walk by Faith not by Sight

Ms. ARUSHI TOPPO

As they came from their mother's womb, so they shall go again, naked as they came; they shall take nothing for their toil, which they may carry away with their hands. (Eccl 5:15)



Everyone comes into this world empty handed and thus they will depart. The world we live in and the people that surround us, play a major role in our lives, but the most important aspect is that how we respond to the world and the people around us. None of us can take anything from this world, so why not just live a simple and worthy life. Because we cannot escape the reality that no matter how hard we try, we cannot take anything from this world. As God has his own plan for every individual, so we should take our life with positivity and move forward with humility.

Why don't we become the helping hand for others and guide them towards the right path. Encourage one another and not to pull them down. Be happy in the

happiness of others. Remember that when we do good to others with a good heart it is already registered in the gateway to eternal life. It is for the good deeds that we will be remembered and not for the wrong deeds. Why do we need to live a life, running behind the material things which one day will perish. Why do we not instead use our wealth to help others? As we read in Ecclesiastes 2:11, "Then I considered all that my hands had done and the toil I had spent in doing it, and again, all was vanity and a chasing after wind and there was nothing to be gained under the sun".

Our ancestors lived with close knitted family giving importance to each and everyone without any ill feelings. Times have now changed, the world is filled with materialism and envious feeling. As Christians we are supposed to set an example by our words and deeds for we have the blessing of the Bible which is our greatest asset which gives us the feeling of being content and not being influenced, which may lead to destructions and diversions in our own lives. Christ assures us many times as we read in the Bible, that if we put our trust in him and accept him as our Lord and Savior, he will always respond. For we read in Scriptures - "Listen ! I am standing at the door knocking, if you hear my voice and open the door I will come into you and eat with you and you with me" (Revelation 3:20).

So whenever we are drifting from God, we should just close our eyes and call to him and have faith. He will take away all our problems and worries. And a life of faith will enable us to trust God increasingly with every detail of our lives, and help us to overcome every difficulties. Since faith as small as a mustard seed will move a mountain and nothing will be impossible. All go through time of shaking, when the Lord causes us to re-focus on Him, to become more dependent upon Him. These are the times that our faith becomes stronger.





Mrs. Bernadette McIvor

AN EXPAT'S EXPERIENCE AT ST. DOMINIC'S CHURCH

My husband and I arrived in Delhi on 20th September 2016, to take up a 3 year posting with the Embassy of Ireland in India. We spent some weeks looking for appropriate accommodation, we were fortunate to finalise an apartment in Vasant Vihar. Imagine my delight when I discovered that our new home was within walking distance of a Catholic Church, St. Dominic's Church. What were the chances that we would find a home in Delhi near a Catholic Church? Providence, surely providence – no coincidence there!

I have been attending services at St. Dominic's Church now for almost 2 years. During that time, I have had the privilege of participating in all the major feasts of the liturgical year, as well as regular Sunday and weekday Masses. I did not know what to expect from the Church in India, a country where Christianity is very much a minority faith. However, what I have found is that the Church and the Catholic faith are very much alive in India – refreshingly and exuberantly so.

What also impresses me is the strong faith of the Dominicans; a faith no doubt sustained by a life of prayer and study. The Eucharist - "source and summit" of our faith - is celebrated daily with reverence and fervour. Priest and people recite the Memorare at the end of each Mass and I am sure that this devotional practice brings the blessing of our Lady's protection and intercession for the parish. Other devotional practices also contribute to the spiritual life of the Parish.

The Dominicans' carefully shepherd the flock of this Parish with care, diligence and love. As Vatican II has suggested, there is a reciprocal relationship between the priesthood of the ordained and the priesthood of the baptized. This reciprocal relationship between Clergy and Laity is very evident in the Parish.

The quality of the homilies at St. Dominic's is consistently excellent and the priests are not afraid to teach and challenge the congregation in their preaching. Our pastors are true to the charism of their Order, the Order of Preachers. There is no "watering-down" or dilution of the life-giving but often challenging and counter-cultural message of the Gospel. The Gospel is Good News but discipleship is costly and demanding.

Holy Week is the highpoint of the liturgical year. I had my first experience of the Triduum in St. Dominic's this year, and what an experience it was. The crowds were so large that the celebrations were held at grounds of the nearby Holy Child Auxilium School. The backdrop of the stage behind the altar, reflected in colour and message the mood and meaning of the liturgical journey leading from Holy Thursday, through Good Friday to the joy of the Resurrection in the Easter Vigil. During the Easter Vigil and prior to the reading of the Easter Gospel, the dramatic moment of the Resurrection was effectively suggested as the lights were dimmed and a bright spotlight shone on the opening door of a makeshift tomb near the front of the altar.

I would like to conclude with a reflection on the "open doors" of St. Dominic's Church. I understand the practical reasons for keeping the doors open in such a hot climate to ensure the circulation of air, but I like to think that there is a deeper symbolism to the practice in that the Word of God and the celebration of the Eucharist go out into the streets of Delhi. The noise of the traffic and the honking of the horns will not drown out the Word of God.

Deo Gratias!

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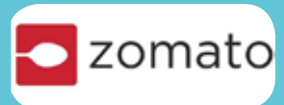


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