



Dhwani

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St Mary's J.S.O Youth
Association

Volume I, Issue I
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Vicar's Message

Fr Geevargis George

Dhwani The vibrating sound of the vibrant youth of St Mary's J.S.O Cathedral Bangalore"

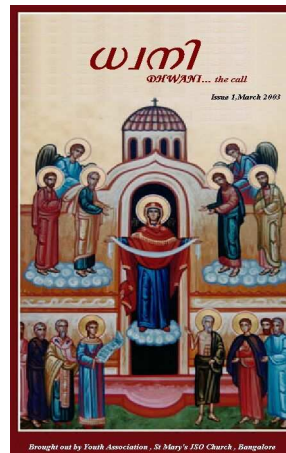
In the beginning the sound from Lord the Creator, made great changes on earth, which was formless, void and dark until then. As the sound floated, it brought light and colors to earth. Throughout history, it was the sound of God that had been raising voices for various concerns and against unrighteous activities through prophets and God's chosen men and women. The Lord our God still continues to speak to us through various ways, but seldom do we hear or understand.

Youth is an integral part of any community. This new pro-

ject of St Mary's Youth: Dhwani ... is an attempt to share the striking thoughts of the youth in the present context of post-modernism, religious pluralism, and other burning issues. As the Holy Bible says "Rejoice, O young man, in thy youth; and let thy heart cheer thee in the days of thy youth"

With this they have a golden opportunity to witness the rejoicing cheerful experience that they achieve in their Christian lives. This is the platform wherein they can share wonderful things that God has done, revealed and spoke to them.

Someone said "Youth comes but once in a lifetime"... so bring out the best in you and show the world what youth can do to form a better society where the peace and blessings



The cover page of the first issue of Dhwani March 2003

of God prevail. May God bless you and guide you all through this new venture.

Wishing you all the best

Inside this issue:

What will the world 2
say?

Veena Mohan

Youth Visit to Home for 2
Dying Destitute.

Dr Don Abraham

The Centre of the Bible 3

Veenu Mohan

The St Mary's JSO 3
Youth Association

Noah's Ark 4

Upcoming Activities of Youth Association

- Youth Prayer Meeting at Homes 4th 18th August Saturday 6.30 PM
- Youth v/s Sunday School Cricket Match 5th August
- Youth Worship at Church. 11th, 25th August Saturday 6.30 PM
- Harvest Festival 15th August
- Sunday Meetings after Holy Qurbana (2nd Service)

Lent – a second thought

Alex Jojo Joseph

The Teutonic word Lent, which we usually employ to denote the fifty days fast, preceding Easter, originally meant no more than the spring season. Still it has been used from the Anglo-Saxon period to translate the more significant Latin term quadragesima, meaning the "forty days", or more literally the "fortieth

day".

Be this as it may, we find in the early years of the fourth century the first mention of the term *tessarakoste*. It occurs in the fifth canon of the Council of Nicea (A.D. 325), where there is only a question of the proper time for celebrating a synod, and it is conceivable that it may refer not to a period but to a definite festival, e.g., the Feast of the Ascension, or the Purification. But we

have to remember that the older word, *pentekoste* (Pentecost) meaning the fiftieth day, had come to denote the whole period (which we should call Paschal Time) between Easter Sunday and Whit-Sunday. This etymology is of some importance in understanding the concepts related to the same.

Jesus Himself fasted and

(Continued on page 3)



Our patron Saint Mary,
Mother of God

According to the church calendar D'Shoonoyeh d'Yoldath Aloho (The Assumption of St Mary) is on the 15th of August. Our church celebrates its Harvest Festival also on the same day. The church instructs its faithful to follow Lent for the preceding 14 days from the 1st to the 15th. This has been reduced to 5 days from the 10th to the 15th considering the convenience of the faithful



A icon depicting the Assumption of the Holy Virgin Mary to heaven, handing over her girdle (soonoro) to St Thomas, the Patron Saint of India.

What will the world say?

Veena Mohan

We always think what people would say if we wore this dress or what our teacher could say if we got fewer marks or what our parents will say if we do this and the list is never ending.

We constantly worry about what the world has to say about our way of life. But, have we ever thought - what the world will say when I'll leave this earthly abode?

In the first century, there was a man named Polycarp - a disciple of John (John - the disciple of Jesus). He was made the bishop of Symra and had influenced many by his powerful messages.

There was a great persecu-

tion of Christians for their faith. A crowd would gather to see the Christians die and they would cruelly applaud. Many wanted to see Polycarp dead. One night, Polycarp dreamed that he would be giving his life for Christ. The day arrived; the soldiers came to arrest him. He was then eighty-six.

Polycarp went and prayed. The police were wonderstruck by his attitude. They now didn't want him to die. They pestered Polycarp to loosen his faith but he said, "Eighty-six years have I served him and he has done me no wrong. How can I blaspheme my king who has saved me?"

No one could shake his firm belief in Lord Christ - the Saviour of you and I.

The crowd gathered to see him die. He looked to heaven and praised God for having considered him worthy to die as a martyr for the wonderful name of Christ. He prayed to be received in heaven as a rich and acceptable sacrifice. As soon as he said 'Amen', the men lit up the fire. The fire took the shape of an arch and Polycarp's body was in the middle but was not being burnt!

Everybody could smell fragrant incense too. All were amazed to see that he was not burnt. Finally they stabbed him to death but the people marveled at Polycarp and said, "Surely he was a great Christian".

Now what will the world say - when you'll die???

Youth Team Visits Home for Dying Destitute

Dr. Don Abraham

When we ponder on the visit to the Missionaries of Charity - Home for the Dying Destitute what first comes to many of our minds is the blue bordered white sari epitomized by Mother Teresa.

On Sunday, the 8th of July following the morning service, breakfast and a prayer by our Asst Vicar Rev Fr Prince we boarded the bus for Yelahanka to the Missionaries of Charity Home for the Dying Destitute.

None of us knew what to expect or what we intended to do on reaching our destination. Nevertheless all of us armed



Youth Team at the Missionaries of Charity, Home for Dying Destitute Yelahanka, Bangalore 8th July 2007

with basic needs like medication, soaps, detergents, disinfectants and the like reached the campus at Yelahanka on

the outskirts of Bangalore. The sights and sounds on the way suggesting the break-neck
(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)
speed of urbanization.

A few songs later we reached our destination and met Sr Vincia the administrator and after pleasantries were guided to the buildings where the destitute were housed.

The inspiration of Mother Teresa's life and work were tangible in all that we saw and experienced. On the campus, rejected and almost spurned members of the human community were being taught to interact with each other and were unconsciously training themselves to attain a degree of normality. Most of the destitute were mentally challenged either being born so and then rejected or the other way round; having their unfortunate circumstances resulting in their present mental status.

Our role as we realized was to make them happy and to bestow a little kindness and a feeling of being loved and wanted. It was something that the sisters took upon themselves - to be a conduit of God's love, especially to the poorest of poor, setting all on fire with love for Him, and for one another.

We distributed cakes and entrusted our gifts of medications, soaps, to the sisters and personally distributed a towel to each of the inmates. Now enter our illustrious youth members of the SMC with their impromptu stage show leading songs, action songs and making us look like kids again with an abundance of infectious joy; reminding us of Jesus who when asked "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of God ?" replied, "I tell you the truth, unless you change and become

like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of God". There were also a few solo songs performed by the inmates.

Biju Koshy used his Kannada and Tamil skills to involve the inmates and the sisters in our activities. The oratorical use of fine Kannada was put to good use by Dr. Abhijit in the form of a thank you message on behalf of the Youth. We closed with a prayer by our coordinator Dn Febin. After a few pictures with the sisters we boarded the bus back to church.

All in all, it was a humbling and moving experience for the youth members and we look forward to contributions in terms of participation, ideas and the like from the youth of our church as well as others.

Contact Sr. Vincia at 28460074

A summary of the constitution of the Missionaries of charity

Each be —

- A carrier of God's love, especially to the poorest of poor, setting all on fire with love for Him, and for one another
- A healing touch of God that cures all diseases
- A soothing smile of God that warms all hearts
- God's language of love that all hearts understand

Lent - A second thought

(Continued from page 1)

taught His disciples to fast. "And when you fast, do not look dismal like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by men, but your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you." (Matthew 6:16-18)

The purpose of fasting is to gain mastery over oneself and

to conquer the passions of the flesh. It is to liberate oneself from dependence on the things of this world in order to concentrate on the things of the Kingdom of God. It is to give power to the soul so that it would not yield to temptation and sin.

The spiritual fathers, strictly ascetic as they were, are very clear in their teaching about fasting. They insist with the Lord and the scriptures that men must fast in order to be free from passions and lust. St. Isaac of Syria says,

"Meager food at the table of the pure cleanses the soul of those who partake from all passion...for the work of fasting and vigil is the beginning of every effort against sin and lust...almost all passionate drives decrease through fasting."

Though we are not fasting like the holy fathers, we can definitely observe this great lent as instructed by the church. And once again, pray along with abbot Hilarion "Forgive me, Father, for your way of life is much greater than mine." (To Epiphanius, bishop of Cyprus)

The Centre Of The Bible

Which is the shortest chapter in the Bible ?
Answer -- **Psalms 117**

Which is the longest chapter in the Bible ?
Answer -- **Psalms 119**

Which chapter is in the center of the Bible?
Answer -- **Psalms 118**

There are **594 chapters** before Psalms 118 and 594 chapters after Psalms 118.

Add up these numbers and you get **1188**.

What is the center verse in the Bible?
Answer - **Psalms 118:8**

Does this verse say something central of God?

The next time someone says they would like to find God's perfect will for their lives and that they want to be in the center of His will, just read the **center** of His word!

Psalms 118:8

"It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man".

Veenu Mohan

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*"Remember your creator in the
days of your youth"*
Ecclesiastes 12:1



The Youth Association is a spiritual organization of the St Mary's J.S.O Cathedral, Bangalore. We provide a platform for the youth of the Cathedral to learn the elements of our faith and worship, discuss contemporary issues affecting the youth today and coordinate and execute activities aimed at touching the lives of the needy around us. Membership is open to all Jacobite Syrian Christians in the age group of 13– 35. We conduct a range of activities aimed at enriching the spiritual and secular lives of our members. Be with us and be a part of us

Contact us for more information.

President - Fr Geevargis George Pulayath
Coordinator - Dn Febin Poothara
Vice President - Renjith Varghese
Secretary - Abraham Kurian
Treasurer - Gigi Samuel

Email - bsmcyouth@gmail.com

From the Internet

Noah's Ark

Don't miss the boat.

Remember that we all are in the same boat.

Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the Ark.

Stay fit. When you are 60 years old, someone may ask you to do something big.

Don't listen to critics; just get on with the job that needs to be done.

Build your future on high ground.

For safety sake, travel in pairs.

Speed isn't always an advantage. The snails were on board with the cheetahs.

When you are stressed, float awhile.

Remember, the Ark was built by amateurs, the Titanic by professionals.

No matter the storm, when you are with God, there's always a rainbow waiting.

How you can help

Spread the word.

Mail this e-newsletter to your friends and acquaintances. If you would like them to receive this by e-mail, send us their mail-id's at bsmcyouth@gmail.com

Contributions to Dhvani.

We invite your articles, stories, testimonies, poems, cartoons, sketches or just about anything that you want to share with your brothers and sisters in Christ through this newsletter.

Respond.

We would like to hear from you. Feedback, Suggestions for improvement are also welcomed