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News Bulletin Diocese of Sultanpet

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Bishop Speaks...

Dear Rev. Fathers, Sisters and Lay Faithful,

I am a Sinner!

Rev. Fr. Antonio Spadaro, in an interview with Pope Francis at Casa Santa Marta in Vatican, on 19 August 2013, asked the Pope: "Who is Jorge Mario Bergoglio?" The Pope straightaway expressed: "I am a sinner. This is the most accurate definition. It is not a figure of speech, a literary genre. I am a sinner." It is a great gesture of humility of the Pope, not a formal show of modesty, but a sincere state of conscience/conscious of his human frailty; however, having full trust in the infinite mercy of God the Father and patience of our Lord Jesus Christ. This leads us to the confessions of great biblical personalities. David, having been specially chosen by the Lord (*1 Sam 16*), and being showered by God's gracious Spirit (*1 Sam 16:13*), was successful in his endeavours (*1 Sam 17:50*). However, realising fully his human frailty, he surrendered to God, saying "Against you, you alone, Lord, have I sinned" (*Ps 51:4*). I wonder a lot to read the humble submission of St. Peter to Jesus: "Go away from me, Lord, I am a sinful man" (*Lk 5:8*). Fascinating faith commitment we see in the life of St. Paul who said: "It is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me" (*Gal 2: 20*) and realising his earlier anti-Christian life (*Gal 1:23; 1 Tim 1:13*) he would confess: "I am the foremost sinner" (*1 Tim 1:15*). Yes, they were all led by a clear and just conscience of mind and heart!



Conscience: the Voice of God!

Adolf Hitler, very wrongly observed: "The Ten Commandments have lost their validity...Conscience is a Jewish invention. It is a blemish like circumcision..." ([http://www. "Adolf Hitler Quote"](http://www. 'Adolf Hitler Quote')). But, universally accepted truth is different. Conscience is a judgement of reason whereby every human person recognizes the moral quality of a concrete action of the past or the present or even of the future (CCC 1778). As John Henry Cardinal Newman rightly said conscience is a law of the mind and everyone's messenger who speaks to him/her behind the veil; conscience is the aboriginal Vicar of Christ (*Certain difficulties felt by the Anglicans in Catholic Teaching II, 1885, 248*). Therefore conscience is not created by us, but laid upon us; it is the voice of God. This is the reason why when a man/woman commits evil the just judgement of conscience within him/her pricks his/her mind and heart. Moral responsibility is built by a just conscience in our mind with regard to the actions we undertake. This is the state of mind of St. Peter and Paul when they sincerely confessed that they are sinners.

Even though the term conscience is not found in the OT, its expressions are found in many characters of the OT. In the NT we find thirty-one times, mostly used by St. Paul who calls it a moral monitor (*Rom 2:14-15*). For Paul, conscience serves as an umpire (*Philo calls it monitor*) which disposes the people to view life situations in a moral/ethical light, thus judging/determining that some actions are "right" and some are "wrong." For Paul, the Fall (Gen 3) has drastically affected human's conscience but has not destroyed it fully (*Rom 5:12*). So, we see the different shades of conscience according to one's social and environmental situations and the use of freedom of choice.

Different Shades of Conscience

i. *Ill-Formed Conscience*

People forget the fact that conscience is like one's body that is to be rightly taken care of. We are subjected to negative influences, tempted by sin/devil (1 Pet 5:8), led by human weaknesses (*Rom 7:14-16*). People are not careful to the inherent and silent forces of evil that weaken our conscience. As such the education/formation of conscience is indispensable and vital for any human being. Saul before his conversion persecuted the Christians with a “**good conscience**” (*Acts 23:1*). His deep-seated conviction (i.e., his conscience) told him that “it is right to persecute Christians.” But, the fact is, his conscience was ill-formed and weak. Christ intervened and changed his conscience to the right path: “I was violently persecuting the Church” (*Gal 1:13*). Paul was sincere to listen to the voice of God and his conscience got healed. He became a model of how a well-formed conscience is upright and truthful.

ii. *Deformed Conscience*

I come across people who do not worry at all about doing any evil to himself/herself or to others. When one continuously goes on turning a deaf ear to the alertness of moral sensitivity then his/her conscience becomes dead. St. Paul would call this state of mind a “seared conscience” (*1 Tim 4:2*) which constantly disobeys God and thus not only becomes a hard-hearted person but also justifies every action to the point of destruction of all the opposites. Their conscience is dead; indeed they destroy peace and harmony in families, in communities and in the world at large. Think of the scribes and Pharisees of Jesus' time! They, being hypocrites, 'shed the blood of the righteous' (*Mt 23:35*). Such people are not rare even today in our families, societies and governments.

iii. *Prick of Conscience*

In one's conception in mother's womb itself, conscience, a pure and a just one, is given by the Almighty. God created man and woman in his own image and likeness (*Gen 1:27*), having a right conscience of mind and heart (*Gen 1:31*). However, the freedom of choice was misused by the first parents (*Gen 3:6-7*) they closed their ear to the voice of the conscience and disobeyed God; indeed, their mistake pricked their conscience when Adam said to God: “I heard you in the garden and **I was afraid**” (*Gen 3:10*). This is the same with David when he said to Nathan, after his sin against Uriah and his wife Bathsheba: “I have sinned against the Lord” (*2 Sam 12:13*). When St. Peter, after the denial incident, went out and wept bitterly (*Lk 22:62*) or when St. Augustine wrote a full volume of 'Confessions,' we could see this prick of conscience which was alive in their heart. Good conscience leads us to listen to the voice of God and be alert to the inner voice of conscience; ready for conversion, prepared for reconciliation and equipped for moving ahead in the right path. When Judas betrayed Jesus, his conscience pricked him but there was no conversion of heart. Sacrament of Reconciliation is the best platform set for us Catholics to be alert to the prick of conscience and to have the examination of conscience.

Led by the Word of God and promptings of the Holy Spirit let us develop a mature and 'alert conscience!'

Release of Fr. Tom Uzhunnalil, SDB



The Catholic Bishops' Conference of India expresses its immense joy on getting the news of the release of Fr. Tom Uzhunnalil SDB who has been in Captivity since March 2016. His Holiness Pope Francis took personal interest in Fr. Tom's release and Bishop Paul Hinder, Vicar Apostolic of Southern Arabia, the Bishop in charge of the Middle East, and the Sultan of Oman also took much effort for this. We express our profound gratitude to God. We pray for his continued good health and complete recovery to resume active Salesian ministry for God and His people in his

Congregation and the Church.



+ Antonysamy Peter Abir
Bishop of Sultanpet

Bishop's Appointments

Date	Time	Programme	Place
5		KRLCBC Meeting	Verapuzha
6-8		Mission Congress	Vallarpadam
11		Directory Meeting	Palakkad
13		Out of Station	
14	5.30 pm	Mass for Pilgrims	Villiyannur
15		BCC Units' Meetings	Cathedral Parish
16	04:00 pm	Mass: Mother Eliswa Birth Anniversary	Kurisinkal
18	10:00 am	Bishop's House Blessing Meeting	Palakkad
19		TOR Provincial Visit	Palakkad
22	08.00 am	Pastoral Visit	Chittur
23-27		Clergy Annual Retreat	Hosur
28	10.30 am	Kolping Annual Day	Palakkad
29	08.00 am	Pastoral Visit	Erumaikaranur
30-Nov 03		Classes	Chennai

From Vicar General Desk

The annual retreat for the clergy will take place from 23rd to 27th October at Zion Retreat Centre, Hosur. Rev. Fr. Jerry Rosario, SJ will preach the retreat.

On account of the annual retreat there will not be the monthly recollection for the clergy for this month. The next recollection for the Clergy will be on Monday 20th, as usual, at 10.30 pm. The Consulters' meeting will be held on the same day at 9.30 am.

Mission Congress

KRLCC is conducting the regional Mission Congress at Vallarpadam (Eranakulam) from 6th to 8th October. Delegates from all the Latin Dioceses of Kerala are participating in this Congress. From our Diocese more than 40 members are taking part in this. This is also the BCC Convention. This congress will motivate the people to be active missionaries in our Dioceses and in the country at large. Please keep this in your prayers for the success of the Congress.

Mission Sunday

All the parishes are requested to prepare for the Mission Sunday celebrations in the month of October-November in our diocese. The pastoral letter of our bishop in this regard will be posted to all the priests of our diocese on Monday 9th October and it should be read in all the masses on Sunday 15th October.

*Rev. Msgr. A. S. Madalaimuthu,
Vicar General*

Catechetical Commission

Dear Fathers, we have First semester exam for the Sunday Catechism students on 29th October, Sunday. Kindly prepare your students and teachers for this exam. It is compulsory for all the Parishes. It is not an optional.

*Fr. Antony Xavier Pious
Secretary, Catechetical Commission*

Family Commission

Next Marriage Preparation Course will be held at Christ the King Church, Sorapara on 21st and 22nd October 2017.

*Fr. Paul Vincent,
Secretary, Family Commission*

From the Procurator's Desk

Mission Sunday

- a) All parish priests are requested to collect Mission Sunday calendar and envelope from procure office.
b) All parish priests and religious are requested to collect Mission Sunday collection within three months (October to December) according to your convenience and raise the collection for the missionary work of the Universal Church and send the same to the Procurator's office before the beginning of January 2018.
c) Last year's (2016) Mission Sunday Collection is given below for your kind reference:

Athicode	25000	Pazhaniyarpalayam	115000	Pampuparai	13000
Attapallam	15000	Soraparai	50000	Shornur	102000
Chittur	30000	Sayathurai	50000	DSS Shornur	1000
Eruthenpathy	15000	Vadakkenchery	15000	St. Theresa's Convent, Shornur	6000
Erumaikaranur	5400	Walayar	50000	Immaculate Convent, Ottapalam	5000
Kanjikode	7000	Mannarkkad	25000	Presentation Shornur	1000
Kanakankalam	18500	Nellipathy	7000	Prakashbhavan	5000
Menonpara	16000	Mukkaly	7500	Missionaries of Faith	3000
Nemmara	20000	Ottapalam	27000	St Anns, Athicode	5000
Cathedral, Palakkad	206600	Kovilpalayam	16000	Presentation Convent, Palakkad	12000
Padagiri	10000	Villoony	20000		

Kindly raise the contribution in this year (2017) more than what you had collected last year.

Medical Fund

We distributed medical help in September, to the parishioners as follows:

Kanakankalam Parish : Rs.3000/- Pazhaniyarpalayam Parish : Rs.5000/-

Education Fund

Opening Balance	14,69,586.00	Sorapara	5,000.00	Menonpara	10,000.00
Marriage Sayathurai	5,000.00	Villoony	5,000.00	Pattambi	5,000.00
				Closing Balance	14,99,586.00

*Rev. Fr. Lorance L.,
Procurator*

Charismatic Commission

Dear Rev Fathers

There will be a Bible convention in Tamil during the month of November fri sat and Sun at Sorapara church premises This will be conducted from PM PM including praise and worship reflection on the word of God mass and adoration This convention will be led by the Ofm capucian Fathers Please do pray for the success of this convention and deliverance for our people

In view of starting prayer groups in all the parishes and thereby form a prayer group for the vicariate and diocese the secretary along with the existing prayer group in some of the parishes will be conducting prayer services in the respective parishes dates are given below to initiate the people and to form regular prayer groups in all the parishes Once the groups are formed at the vicariate and diocesan level they will be trained further at different levels to lead the prayer groups throughout the diocese

Palaniyar Palayam Parish

Menonpara Parish

Pampuparai Parish

Kullarayanpalayam Parish

Kanakkankalam Parish

Athicode Parish

By God's grace and initiative from the parish priests of Vilooni and Erutenpathy prayer groups were initiated and started there on _____ and _____ respectively. After the Holy Eucharist there was the praise and worship, short reflection and then adoration led by the secretary for this commission. This was benefitted by many people and expressed their willingness to continue this every month. Many came forward to be a part of their parish prayer group. The total prayer session went up to _____ mins. Thanks for the willingness and cooperation of the parish priests and the people.

Fr. C. Maria Joseph
Secretary Diocesan Charismatic Commission

Blessing and Opening of the Presbytery

The blessing and opening of the Presbytery at Kularayanpalayam was held on Friday 15th September 2107. Our Bishop blessed the presbytery and Rev. Fr. Muthusamy, MSFS Provincial of the Nagpur Province opened it. This was followed the Holy Mass presided over by the bishop.



BCC unit Meetings of Cathedral

Our Bishop participated in the BCC unit meetings held in various houses of the Cathedral parish on Sunday 10th September. He explained to the people the relevance of the biblical text (Lk10:28-42) for our life in today's social and political situation.

Fr. Jesmin Nelson
Secretary to the Bishop

News From Menonpara



On Independence day Awareness camp for Alcoholic Addiction was conducted in Holy Cross Church at Menonpara. Fr. Anbin Amalan Ofm Cap who is the director for Deaddiction programme from Anbagam at Okkur with the team from Coimbatore conducted the programme. He preached very good homily on the consequences of addiction. Three persons filled with the tears narrated their story of addiction. This was very meaningful Independence Day. Now People started to come for counseling and guidance for overcoming addiction. On 10th September, Our Youth boys conducted the Eye camp with the collaboration of Holy Trinity Hospital from Palakkad. 159 persons disregard of religion benefited from this free check up.

Frs. I. Sathian & Prem
Holy Cross Church, Menonpara

SMSSS News

EXIT 2017 (ExcellenceIn Talents 2017)

Every year SMSSS organizes EXIT(ExcellenceIn Talents) cultural fest for the skill development of the Children. Children from 15 Parishes participated in the EXIT 2017effectively on 9th September andAthicode parish was filled with children numbering about 400 in numbers. Overall championship was achieved by the children from St. Stanislaus Church,Walayar. Fr. Antony Xavier Pious, Secretary for the Catechetical Commission presided over the programme. Fr. Aloysius and Parishioners ofAthicode supported and many parish priests and assistants were present in the programme.





Onam celebration at Athupathy

Onam celebration was conducted on 3rd September 2017 in athupathy. Various games and competitions were conducted to children, Youth and parents. After the games, members were shared their onamSatya (food) with the Palaniyarpalayam Kolping. Fr. Prince Robert the Director of SMSSS awarded the participants.

Onam Celebration at Attappadi

Onam celebration was organized by SMSSS in Attappadi on 7th September, 2017. Agali Block panchayat president Mrs. EashwariReshan presided over the function and distributed the prizes to the children and women. More than 200 participants of Children and women took part in the events very enthusiastically. The programme ended with the Onamsatya (food).



*Rev. Fr. Prince Robert,
Director, SMSSS*

Vatican News



Pope and Peruvian president discuss Venezuela, upcoming papal visit

Pope Francis met with Peruvian President Pedro Pablo Kuczynski Friday to discuss the country's fight against poverty, the crisis in Venezuela and the Pope's upcoming visit, among other topics.

Pope Francis: God is calling you to work in his kingdom

No one is "unemployed" when it comes to spreading the message of the Gospel, Pope Francis has said, because each one of us is called to take up the task and to do our own part in God's plan of salvation.

Rise in immigration makes us missionaries at home, Pope Francis says

Pope Francis said that the mass arrival of migrants and refugees may have its challenges, but also gives us the opportunity to be missionaries – even without leaving home.

In abuse cases there should be no recourse to appeals, Pope Francis says

There should be no opportunity for appealing canonical cases of sexual abuse against minors when allegations have been proven by evidence, Pope Francis said in spontaneous comments Thursday.

Pope reiterates Church's 'zero tolerance' on abuse of minors

Thursday in a written speech Pope Francis reiterated the Catholic Church's commitment to the protection of minors from sexual abuse, stating that the Church will continue to take a "zero tolerance" stance against offenders.

Pope Francis prays for Mexico during this 'moment of sorrow'

On Wednesday Pope Francis expressed his closeness to the people of Mexico after they suffered a devastating earthquake Sept. 19, asking for the intercession of Our Lady of Guadalupe for all those who have died or lost loved ones.

Mother Cabrini's care for immigrants remains relevant, Pope Francis says

In a letter Tuesday to the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, Pope Francis reflected on the role of their foundress, St. Frances Cabrini, explaining how her example is a fitting guide for the challenges of migration we face today.

BIRTH DAY

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|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 07 Fr. Stanley Stephen | 23 Fr. ArockiaChristuraj, msfs |
| 15 Fr. George KadappurathThayil, ocd | 24 Fr. Anil Vattukulathil, mc |
| 16 Fr. Thomas Mooleparambil, msfs | 27 Fr. Mathew Manayathumariyil, msfs |

*S.N.L wish you a
Happy Birth Day*