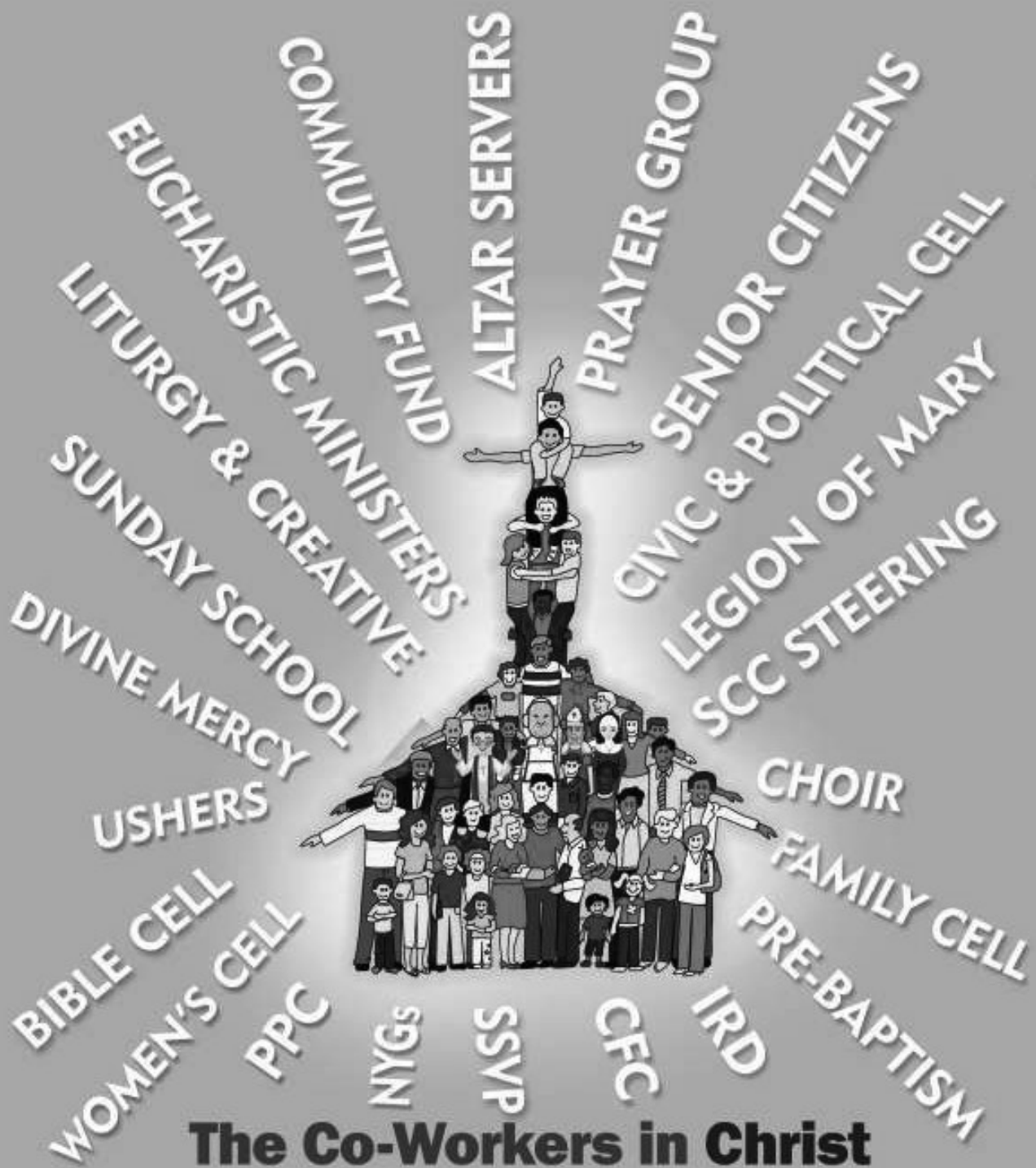


# Pallotti Notes

September 2019

Vinpal Family of God moving towards a society where love and concern within the family and neighbourhood is a way of life

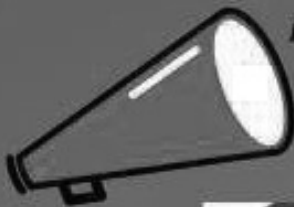




# SHAILA CARDOZA

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# Yes, We are Co-workers in Christ

Today we live amidst independent and self-reliant people. At times we are happy to rely on technology than human persons around us. All of us want to manage our own tasks, our house hold activities and families. This attitude has been slowly creeping into the Catholic Church too. People want to contribute but single-handedly. Therefore, purpose of a Community striving to have an undivided heart, to be people of one heart and one mind, working together as a community, just as Jesus intended and the joy of coming together is lost. In our Christian life as a result, we see many crisis. Keeping this in mind we have chosen the theme a co-worker in Christ' for the first issue of the Parish Bulletin.

Everyone who is baptised in the Church in the name of the Holy Trinity is called for a mission in the Church. Some are called for specific ministry of the proclamation of the Word and to administer Sacraments while others for different ministries or services. The aim of each one's calling is the same, to contribute to the building up of the church which is the Body of Jesus Christ. St. Paul in 1Cor 3:9 says *"For we are God's servants, working together: you are God's field, God's building."* Through this, the Church calls each of us to work together, support each other and become partners with Jesus. It is good to introspect to know why God needs our help. After all we are His creatures. The answer befits all those who desire to be co-workers or partners for serving in the field of the Lord for the good of humanity at large. This is how God intends to involve his chosen and beloved people within the church, to shoulder the responsibility in keeping the unity among believers. We in turn contribute in our own way for the work of salvation which Jesus began.

We do not do it alone but as a community. It is possible if only we are willing to put our

resources, talents, energy and time at disposal for the common good. At times we might experience hurdles in our daily life, yet we must not give up. The imprint of this concept was so visible in the life of St. Vincent Pallotti who took no time to grasp the deeper meaning of being God's co-worker in Christ for the church. Moved by these vibes he once gave a keynote message for all his friars saying *"if you can pray for the salvation of men...if you can give good example... if you can exhort your neighbour to do good... if you can speak for the benefit of others...you are an apostle."* Perhaps apostles were the first co-workers of Christ... so then let our thoughts, words and actions be oriented towards building up of the church as 'Co-workers in Christ.'

**Fr. William D Cunha**

## **Editor:**

Fr. William D Cunha

## **Bulletin Co-ordinators**

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## **Pallotti Notes | September 2019**

Bulletin of St Vincent Pallotti Church

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# Shepherds Voice

Dear Parishioners

At the beginning of our new pastoral year we have chosen to serve as 'co-workers in Christ' as our theme that challenges us to be like what St. Paul says in his letter to the Corinthians 'Gods co-workers'. Every year we are called upon to read, meditate and implement the Word of God in our lives. The theme 'co-workers' in Christ brings to my mind the image of a cycle wheel, where the spokes of a wheel are many yet every spoke is important to bridge the gap and make the wheel move on smoothly. The closer they come the tighter the grip of the hub and smoother the run. In the same manner the Cells, Associations and Committees that we have in our parish are equally important to the hub, (the parish) which holds it unitedly. So is the leader (hub) who holds the seat of honor yet becomes powerless when the other members of his group do not cooperate.

We all as leaders are called upon to spring forth the talents, gifts, blessing of our members for mushrooming of God's love, peace and joy in this world. The spokes have its identity as a whole without which it is just a rod or a piece of iron but when used together for a particular purpose then it takes on its identity and purpose, so is we as Christians have our unique identity and purpose and are called upon to build our unique identity in Christ. This can be achieved only by our way of living in fellowship with Christ and one another, that is by centering the spoke of our lives on the hub. The Christ. So dear friends, St. Paul in his letter to the Corinthian reminds us that we all are nothing but co-workers in the mission of Christ to establish God's kingdom.

We as individual and as members of the Associations, Cells or Committees are placed within the mission of the church to bring about

God's good news in order to establish His kingdom here on earth. So our given office (position) as individuals and as a group must be looked upon as a blessing with a responsibility, not a reward. It is implied that the powers to perform are given towards this end. It is given for a good purpose and not for individual or groups benefits. Therefore all our powers, resources, talents and gifts should be used to build Gods kingdom and not one's own kingdom. In this mission everyone is same though we may have different roles and position to play. For St. Paul warns us to "be careful how you build" because the foundation that was laid is Jesus Christ. So, when we begin to expand on it, it has the mixture of the apostles, prophets, elders and laity as well.

Everybody is called to build on the same foundation. God gives everybody without distinction the gifts and talents to enable them to do so. To some God gives gifts to be apostles, prophets, to others preaching, social worker, pastors, teachers, or whatever. Every time when God gives an office, he also gives to the person along with that office the power, gifts, strength to fulfill that office. But one must remind oneself constantly that an office is not meant to exert one's power over others but a position from which to exercise service. The authority is certainly there, since God gives it but one must have a right perspective on how to use the office God has given him. The office is given and not earned. Therefore, perhaps we all need a reminder, whether we spend worship time on the chair or on the benches, whether on the presidential chair or the pews, that neither the Cells, Associations, groups nor the ministry belongs to us.

The church does not belong to any sect, group or the market place. It doesn't even belong to particular theologians, linguistic,



cultural or particular denominational group. The church belongs to God. It is God's establishment and not any human handy work. The church is called to see, in and through the co-workers in the church, that God is the one who is bringing growth, maturity, and the full flowering of the seed that has been planted through the preaching and the living of the gospel by its co-workers.

Let us remind ourselves at the beginning

of this new pastoral year and at the beginning of the formation of the new PPC and Heads of the Association, Cells and Committee that we are nothing but co-helpers in the larger mission of Christ to build his kingdom where there is peace, justice, love and care for all.

**Fr. Reginald Mascarenhas**  
Parish Priest

## New Experience in a New *'Field'*

*"5 What then is Apol'los? What is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, as the Lord assigned to each. 6 I planted, Apol'los watered, but God gave the growth. 7 So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. 8 He who plants and he who waters are equal, and each shall receive his wages according to his labor. 9 For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building." 1 Corinthians 3:5-9 (RSV)*

A society never remains static but always undergoes a change, a period of transition. From the Medieval period to the Renaissance, from the Renaissance to the Industrial Revolution, from the Industrial Revolution to the Technological Revolution and today's Intellectual revolution; every century passes through various phases of advancement. There is no field that man has not delved into, in the pursuit to find answers to quench his curious thirst. This progress is always regarded as a movement upward, with the motto of the generation being; 'Go, grow and show that humans are reaching the highest potentialities.'

However, the question that strikes my mind here is, "Have we completely forgotten to look back at our past legacy with a grateful heart?" History teaches us lessons for a better future and thus it can be never ignored. There is a shift today from rich royal blue life to the motto of 'Go green.' Everywhere there is a consciousness created about the role of each individual in making a better world, a greener world and to protect the surrounding and nature.

People who come from a village atmosphere must have seen their grandparents and even their parents talking about and taking pride in their 'land.' The land was considered as the greatest treasure of the family and even today it is a great asset. However, as time passed by, as generations evolved, the purpose of land also underwent a drastic transformation.

'Land', in the past was a treasure for those who owned it and cultivated it, because it was the primary source of food, a source to fulfill the basic need of human beings. The yield of land was harvested and the fruit was enjoyed by the community. Every household was characterized by self-sufficiency. The scenario today is however quite different. Due to the advancement of science, technology and also pressure of population; the 'land' factor proves to be a financial boon, a source of investment. But it is sad to note that the dire consequences of turning farm lands into housing apartments and corporate

complexes are never given a second thought.

All these environmental issues were discussed in my school and college days, with the aim to make us conscious about how the nature is being destroyed because of man's greed and what is our role in saving and protecting our mother earth. After completing my graduation in Loyola College-Chennai, I was back to Goa to pursue my Philosophy studies at Casa Pallotti, Assagao in June 2011. We were altogether 70 Brothers and in the new academic year something new awaited ahead of us. The Fathers introduced to us that we will be going to our paddy field at Parra and for me it was new experience.

Early morning all of us said "Good morning" to the sunlight and started our trip to our Parra field. As the work progressed, the sweat on the brow mingled with the raindrops and no one realized how fast the time passed by. All were assigned various duties and all were seen enjoying the work of weeding, making the ground ready, separating the seedlings and planting them.

Everyday labour was never skipped without a sumptuous breakfast at 9'O clock. The time when many people outside report to their jobs in the offices, we had already completed a half-a-days work. The eyes that were fixed on the land just a few minutes before would be distracted when the van with breakfast appeared. There was a great joy to share the bread, be it in the small chapel in the centre of the field or on the roadside. The energy that was lost in work, in mixing our hands in the soil, throwing mud on each other; was regained and then with the satisfaction of the appetite and a renewed spirit the brothers would resume back for the field work.

It was not just us who were having fun but even the nature joined us in the play, fun and work; even as the monsoon drops

chilled our spirits. When the whole ground was ready, a queue of brothers would start planting and one by one all the fragments of the field were planted with tiny green paddy saplings. After the end of five days, when all of us looked back at the field, it was a mesmerizing sight. It looked really beautiful and there was a great sense of satisfaction.

It was my first and a memorable experience. I remember how we longed to see how much the paddy had grown and looking at the lush green sight was a great delight. The ready grains were swinging at the tune of the breeze, as if to welcome us. Then the harvest work also gave us another occasion to come together and to collect generously from the nature's bounty and when we took the grains in our plates on the table, there was great joy in our hearts.

An added factor for our good harvest was our band of 70 Brothers. I wondered how so many farmers who work single-handedly or may be with few of their family members, who support them in their daily toil. Really how much joy and satisfaction they must be getting when they see their crop, the fruit of their labour. The fingers of our youth today are busy either on the keys of their cell phones or on their laptops. If only they could mingle their hands in the mud as sons and daughters of the soil and could take delight in their interaction with the nature! How nice that would have been? May be all won't get opportunities to work in the fields like us. Yet we all have a role to play in God's field, the Church itself.

In the **Catechism of the Catholic Church** we read: "The Church is a cultivated field, the tillage of God. On that land the ancient olive tree grows whose holy roots were the prophets and in which the reconciliation of Jews and Gentiles has been brought about and will be brought about again. That land, like a choice vineyard, has been planted by the

heavenly cultivator. Yet the true vine is Christ who gives life and fruitfulness to the branches, that is, to us, who through the Church remain in Christ, without whom we can do nothing.” (CCC 755) Pope Francis provides the analogy or one of the most beautiful images of the Church that of the “field hospital” during a time of combat or war using it in the context of sinners who precisely recognize themselves in need the mercy of God to become healed.

God wants us as a community and as an individual to be FRUITFUL not in terms of numbers of people gathering in a local church, but more importantly in lives changed by the power of God... minds renewed, hearts transformed and people laying down their lives in love for God and in service to others. In farming 3 important factors are required for a field to be

exceptionally fruitful. The faithfulness of the farmer, state of the soil and the weather. Each of these have something to do with how that field will be fruitful. When all of these things are working together, we can be confident to expect growth. Ultimately, it is God who makes us to grow. Our job is to continue to plant seed and soften the soil of our hearts. Then may the rain of the Spirit and Light of God do a miracle that will allow us to bear fruit for His Glory. **May we all constantly and consciously remember our identity as members of the Church and participate and contribute in whatever way possible and bear fruit in abundance.**

**Fr. Jerry De Costa SAC**

## **Novena Theme – Celebrating Mary**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Day</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Offerings</b>
30-Aug	Friday	Introduction – Celebrating Mary throughout the Year	<b>Money</b>
31-Aug	Saturday	Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary	<b>Soap</b>
1-Sep	Sunday	Feast of The Annunciation	<b>Tea</b>
2-Sep	Monday	Feast of The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary	<b>Rice</b>
3-Sep	Tuesday	Feast of Mary, the Holy Mother of God	<b>Dal</b>
4-Sep	Wednesday	Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows	<b>Money</b>
5-Sep	Thursday	Feast of The Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church	<b>Sugar</b>
6-Sep	Friday	Feast of the Assumption and the Queenship of Mary	<b>Rice</b>
7-Sep	Saturday	Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary	<b>Dal</b>
8-Sep	Sunday	Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary	-

PPC CALENDAR 2019-2020		
Date	Event	Organised by
07-Jul-19	Paper Drive	Youth
28-Jul-19	Parents Day	Youth
04-Aug-19	Clergy Sunday	PPC
15-Aug-19 30 Aug - 8 Sep 2019	Independence Day - Nativity Novenas	Civic & Political Cell Sunday School
02-Sep-19	Bible Cell Recollection	Bible Cell
05-Sep-19	Teacher's Day	Youth
29-Sep-19	Grandparents Day	Sunday School
01-Oct-19	Mother Mary's Statues	All Communities
02-Oct-19	Paper Drive	Altar Servers
05-Oct-18	World Elder's Day	Senior Citizens
06-Oct-19	Mission Food Stall - 1st Day	Communitites
13-Oct-19	Mission Food Stall - 2nd Day	Communities
20-Oct-19	Mission Food Stall - 3rd Day	Associations & Cells
25 to 28 Oct-19	Sports Day	Youth
03-Nov-19	Doctor's and Nurses Day	SVP
10-Nov-19	Bible Quiz - Sunday School	Sunday School
17-Nov-19	Tele Games - Sunday School	Sunday School
24-Nov-19	Christ the King Feast	PLT
01-Dec-19	Choir Day / Choir Recital	Choir
08-Dec-19	Paper Drive	Sunday School
21 & 22 Dec - 19	Christm Bazaar	All Communities & Associations
24/25 Dec - 19	Christmas Masses	PLT
26-Dec-19	Christmas BALL	Youth & PYAT
Christmas Week	Live Crib	Altar Servers
28-Dec-19	Senior Citizens Christmas Celebration	Youth
28-Dec-19	Special Children's Christmas Celebration	Legion of Mary
31-Dec-19	Thanksgiving - Holy Hour for the Parish	Prayer Group
01-Jan-20	New Year Masses	PLT
17 to 25 Jan - 20	Novenas for Parish Feast	Communities & Associations
26-Jan-20	PARISH FEAST & FAMILY DAY	PPC
26-Jan-20	Republic Day - Flag hoisting	Civic & Political Cell
02-Feb-20	Mass for students of X & XII	Sunday School
09-Feb-20	World Marriage Day - Renewal of Vows	Family cell/CFC
11-Feb-20	World Day of the Sick	SVP/Eucharistic Ministers
16-Feb-20	Bible Quiz	Bible Cell
23-Feb-20	Sacrament of CONFIRMATION	Sunday School - Confirmands
26-Feb-20	Ash Wednesday	PLT
08-Mar-20	Women's Day	Women Cell
15-Mar-20	Sunday School Annual Day	Sunday School
Fridays of Lent	Way of the Cross	PLT
05-Apr-20	Palm Sunday	PLT
09-Apr-20	Maundy Thursday	PLT
10-Apr-20	Good Friday	PLT
11-Apr-20	Easter Vigil	PLT
12-Apr-20	Easter Sunday	PLT
19-Apr-20	1st HOLY COMMUNION	Sunday School - Communicants

# Pre- Baptismal Catechesis



The Archdiocese of Bombay has made Pre-Baptism Catechesis mandatory for “First time Parents to be.” It is advisable for the expectant parents to not wait till the due date or the birth of the child to enrol for the sessions, as it can be tiring and inconvenient for the mother.



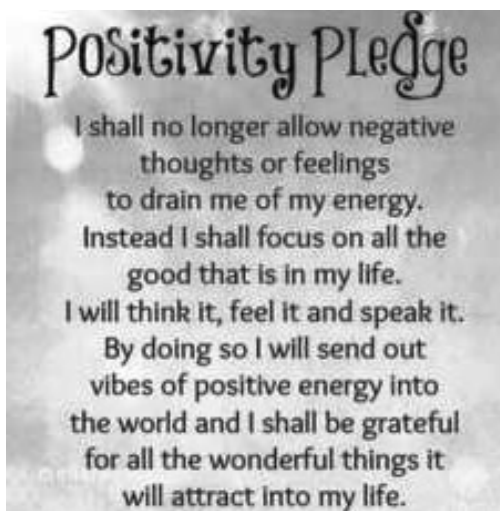
***The Pre- Bap Catechesis sessions at St Vincent Pallotti Church Marol, are held on the first and second Sundays of the months of July, October, January and April.***

The sole objective of the two half day sessions, is to ensure that the new-borns are welcomed into a family where practice of the Christian faith is experienced and learnt. A happy family will make for a happy Christian. The parents are called upon to reflect on their journey as man and woman and grow in love, respect and faith. They are reminded that they are the first teachers of the Christian faith to the young life and they must do this by being good role models.

During the sessions the participants are helped to reflect on the Baptismal Promises, the role of Parents, God-Parents in faith formation of the child and the symbols and rites of Baptism. This helps make it a faith experience and hence allows the Parents and God-Parents to participate meaningfully in the Baptism of the child.

The Pre-Baptismal Catechesis team is part of the Family cell of the Parish.

***It invites committed couples to join them in this mission of strengthening the faith journey of the young parents.***



**Caroline Pinto**  
Pre-Baptismal Catechesis

## Here I am Lord

When we hear the term ‘co-workers of Christ’ a lot of people run through our mind like clergy, religious, missionaries etc. But something that most of us are not aware of is that ‘We all are called to be God’s Co-workers.’ All Christians are called to some kind of ministry or service. We are all ministers or servants of Christ. In fact, that is what the word ministry means. So, to be in Christian ministry means to be serving others in some capacity.

There are many wonderful titles for those who do God’s work. We can be called servants, teachers, pastors, elders, preachers, deacons and so forth. Here in 2 Corinthians 6:1 St. Paul gave one of the most amazing and wonderful titles: workers together with Him. St. Paul saw himself as a co-worker with Jesus Christ. The use of ‘we’ instead of ‘I’ shows that St. Paul didn’t only consider himself as a co-worker with Jesus, but also others who served the Savior. What an amazing job you have: workers together with Him! It isn’t that God needed St. Paul, or that God needs any of us. Instead, it is that God wants us to be workers together with Him for our good. What does this look like? In what way are we working together with God? What exactly is our work, and what exactly is God’s work? Being a “co-worker” with the creator of all things sounds like fun to me! Surely, we are labouring together towards a “common” goal.

Jesus, the Son of God was co-working together with his Father on this earth in exactly the same way we are to co-work with God today. I am the kind of person who wants to know what my responsibilities are in this working relationship so that my Heavenly Father will not be ashamed of me, or that I do not bring contempt upon his court. Another way of serving God is by spreading his word. The priest ends the mass by saying ‘Go forth the mass is ended.’

And hence, it is our responsibility to do so which many times we overlook. It would mean the world to God if we go out of our way to help him get his lost sheep back despite of having our own hurdles. Moses told the Lord, “I cannot carry all these people by myself; the burden is too heavy for me.” As a result, the Lord chose seventy elders to be his co workers. If Moses needed co-workers, today even the church needs. Let us always answer by saying ‘Here I am, Lord. I will go, Lord, if you lead me.’

**Benecia Crasta.**

## Together in Service

In Ephesians 2, we read ‘**we are called to live a life of love.**’ It teaches us that while our good works can not save us, we are called to do the Good Works that the Lord has prepared for us to do long ago. These beautiful verses are meaningful and simple to understand. As Christians, we have the privilege and the responsibility to serve in the name of Christ, and that is what we must do. But what does it mean when we are asked to be co-workers with Christ?

1 Corinthians 3:9 says, “For we are God’s fellow workers; you are God’s field, God’s building,” which essentially teaches us that we are co-workers or co-labourers with Christ. We are called to work TOGETHER in the service of the Lord. We are called to serve the Lord in different ways. Now “different ways” here represents an important truth. Most people assume that only Pastors, Priests or Teachers of the Word of God can serve the Lord. But that is not true. All of us are ministers or servants of the Lord. The term “ministry” is derived from the Latin word “ministro,” which itself means “to serve.” To serve in a Christian Ministry means to serve others in any capacity in the name of Jesus Christ. And

it doesn't have to be a renowned or glamorous kind of service, absolutely any good deed done for the service of others is a service to Christ.

In the early chapters of First Corinthians, Paul has beautifully compared the Church to God's field, and himself and Apollos as the field workers who work together to raise a harvest. He has also described the Church as a building where co-labourers work together to raise the walls. Paul says, "What then is Apollos? What is Paul?" Christian, being referred to as a Co-worker with the Lord is nothing short of amazing. It is a privilege for any human being to partake of anything with the Lord. But here comes the big question, does God really need co-workers? Does he really need help from anybody? He created the entire universe single-handedly, so it is highly doubtful that he needs our help now, right? Well, think about this. As a parent or grand-parent, you may have let your child or grandchild help you in a household project. Surely you didn't do this to ensure higher efficiency. You did this because you knew your child or grandchild would love to be a part of this project. You wanted him/her to learn and grow by sharing this experience with you. You did it out of love. And this is exactly what God hopes to achieve with us.

God has a vision. He has created us to give us dignity and purpose by allowing us to share in his work. And as Co-workers in Christ, this is what we must do. We must be co-labourers in the garden of the Lord. As Paul said in Philippians 2:12-13 "work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure."

**Karen Soares**  
St. Antonys Zone

## **"I have no Hands but Yours"**

An often-repeated story that has its setting in World War II... A statue of Christ in an European village was knocked over. At the end of the war, when the villagers went to restore the statue, they discovered it fairly well intact except for the hands. These were missing and could not be found. Rather than mould new hands, the people left the statue as it was with an inscription "I have no hands but yours". An apt reminder of the fact that Jesus entrusted the mission of making disciples to each of us.

We are called to do the work of bringing peace and hope of Jesus into the lives of others. Especially into the families and communities and in the church. Jesus Christ designed his disciple's ministry to be a team work. The Gospel of Luke 10:1...tells us that the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. He sent his disciples two by two as a training exercise for spreading the word of God. They were "Co-workers in Christ". Jesus had a purpose of sending his disciples in two's so that they could support one another.

Christian Ministry is not a contest where one group wins by defeating all rivals. It is like a field where many different workers co-operate to raise a harvest. The Church is like a building where co-labourers work together to raise the structure. We have to be faithful co-workers in Christ. Being faithful co-workers in Christ, we will not always receive good reports. But this should not deter us from working in the vineyard of the Lord. We can help build our Parish Community by joining any of the Associations. Very often, we feel like Moses when, out of the burning bush, God called him to speak for him before Pharaoh to lead the



Israelites out of Egypt and into Canaan. Moses was terrified but God assured him that He would be with him. Jesus does not call the qualified but he qualifies the called. All you need to do is to give a little of your precious time and be willing to say...I give my hands to do your work...And Jesus Lord I give them willingly.

**Maria Pinheiro**  
St. Jude Community

## **Senior Citizens' Trip to Rasayani**

We the ever enthusiastic senior citizens of St. Vincent Pallotti Parish were full of excitement on the morning of 15th June 2019. The day started at 6.30a.m. A bus carrying fifty senior citizens, in an upbeat mood, left the church premises to reach Christ the King Church at Rasayani, Panvel.

Christ the King Church is situated amidst lush greenery. At Rasayani we were welcomed by Rev. Fr. Charles Fernandes, the Priest-in-charge of the Church. We were famished because of the journey. So we were offered breakfast and a hot cup of tea.

Fr. Charles then led us into an hour of prayer and worship, in the Church, followed by Benediction. Having begun well the day with prayer we then proceeded to the Home for The Aged run by the Pallottine Sisters. It was good to see the interaction that took place. The elderly inmates were happy to have us and thanked us for the courteous visit.

After that we returned to the Church hall, where a couple of musical games were played in which everyone participated, enjoyed

and won prizes too. Some of the party lovers drifted and swayed to the music and had a good few rounds of dancing as well. At noon we were served delicious meal. It was followed by a lovely game of housie, after which some of our members spent some time exploring the greenery around the Church.

We were happy to meet Fr. Anto, Fr. Dhanraj and Fr. Jackson – the members of the Pallottine Community of Reeseewadi, Rasayani. After a day of fun and laughter and togetherness we returned to our Homes by 7.15p.m.

**Mrs. Nelly Rego**  
Senior Citizens Association

## **Through the Song**

Jesus came to proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom of God – a kingdom of holiness, love, truth, justice, and peace. It is this kingdom that the Universal Church strives for. The Acts of the Apostles describes the Holy Spirit as a fire who bursts onto the scene and burns in the hearts of the apostles at Pentecost, a force who propels them to spread the Good News. The sacraments fill us with the grace of the Holy Spirit which can make vibrant like apostles.

The Church exists to give glory to God and to continue Christ's work of proclaiming the Good News. We must use our gifts to strengthen this mission of Christ and the foundation of the Church. It also gives us many opportunities to be co-workers in Christ through the Lay Associations and ministries. By our participation we not only learn to work together in faith but also strengthen our relationship in Christ and the Church.

The Choir is one such group that plays a very important role in the celebration of the Eucharist. We have a common purpose; to share the gospel through song, encourage and lead the congregation in praise and worship. It also provides an avenue through which individuals may share their gift of voice and musical talent to enhance the Eucharistic celebrations. When we sing together, a bond is created that unites us unlike any other activity. These bonds extend to our families and close ones and in turn give us the support and encouragement we need to continue our ministry with integrity and loyalty. By spending the time and effort to rehearse each week, we express love for Jesus.

Every Christian is called to go into the world and make disciples, but everyone may not be like St. Peter or St. Paul. You might be a behind-the-scenes person; you might be someone who is reluctant or intimidated. We don't have to be in full-time vocational ministries to be co-workers in Christ. Worshiping God with the community of believers is one of the best ways to express to God how much we love Him. 1 Corinthians 15:58 – "So then, my dear friends, stand firm and steady. Keep busy always in your work for the Lord, since you know that nothing you do in the Lord's service is ever useless."

**Vinod Baretto**  
Choir

## **Nineteen Jewels for Meaningful Participation in the Eucharist**

1. One must fast for at least one hour, if possible before receiving holy communion. The only exceptions are medicine, water or unless someone is ill and needs to eat sooner.
2. Don't pack a snack basket for kids. Its no picnic. The only exceptions would be milk for infants, water for the priest or choir and sick.
3. Don't bite your nails, it indicates nervousness. Don't shake your legs, it indicates tension. Don't fidget with your hair, it indicates distraction. May be you haven't been taught this when you were young, that it is wrong to focus on any other person or object, when the focus should be on God alone.
4. Never chew gum in church.
5. Dress modestly, the service is not fashion show. And Christmas and Easter services are not a part of Milan fashion week. Dress in a way that gives witness to your faith not to seduce anyone.
6. Come early and be as close to the altar as possible. Don't walk in when half service is over. Don't stand outside the church. One shouldn't go to church for the heck of it or to be noticed or to avoid uncomfortable questions.
7. Cell phones should never be used during service for checking messages, making calls or texting. Keep them on silent mode. No call is more important than God's word.
8. Youngsters should offer their seats to pregnant, sick or aged who are standing.
9. When we enter and leave church, bend your knee toward the sanctuary. Christ is present for our sake. By allowing our right knee to hit the floor, we acknowledge he is our Lord and God. If someone is physically unable to do it, then a bow is sufficient. During service if you pass in front of the altar or tabernacle, bow reverently.
10. Sit quietly in the church. don't talk or comment on what others wear. You don't go there to judge anyone's dressing style, make-up or accessories.

11. Take loud children behind. Sometimes the baby will be restless. Parents with young kids should sit at the end of a pew, so that you can take the kid behind quickly. Don't joke with them and disturb others during service. Stop them from playing with hymn books and reading material.
12. Prepare your offering before service. Christ tells us not to let your left hand know what your right hand is doing. Come to service with your offering prepared.
13. No sleeping, day-dreaming and bulletin readings during service. Pay attention to God's word.
14. Respect the worship. Stand during the gospel reading and other times during worship. Kneel at the consecration, exception is given only to those who have knee problem, aged, and infants.
15. Bow before receiving holy communion, you are before God. Say Amen after receiving. Don't drop the host, or play or bite it.
16. Don't leave early. We should stay till the end. Receive the blessing and go out only after the recessional hymn. Remember who left the last supper early. (Judas)
17. Pray after service, thank God for the gift of the Eucharist.
18. Leave quietly. We encourage you to visit others especially your pastors as a part of Christian fellowship, but once you are outside of the main sanctuary of the church. Don't disturb those who want to stay inside and pray.
19. Don't say thank God service is over when you come out. You will sound as if you were forced to attend or as if it is weekly punishment.

**You may have followed the above or may not have followed but its never too late to learn.**



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# One Size Fit All

When I look at the statue of the Ascension of our Lord behind the altar in the church, observing his arms open wide, I am awestruck at how great God's love is, such that He can hug all of us, his creatures in one embrace. His one hug fits us all. Thus, uniting us all in that one purpose of making us co-workers of Him. There is hardly any person who has not heard the story of a dying old man who called his sons for a last instruction on his deathbed and asks them to bend a stick. They all succeeded in breaking the stick, however when the sticks were tied into a bundle none could break it. Thus, followed the moral that 'united we stand and divided we fall'.

I could apply this to our Christian life where we are nothing without Christ and outside of Him there is no salvation for us. God became man and a servant for the sake of our salvation. Jesus asks His co-workers to be servants first and then leaders. To be a slave for Christ. St. Paul is the best example that comes to mind as a co-worker of Christ and the one who shaped christianity. 1Cor 3:6 'I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth.' Being co-workers in Christ is our Christian calling. To live and work for the kingdom of God.

There are many associations and cells in the church. To lead young couples to start a family on a firm footing of faith, the church has ensured a **Pre-Baptism** course to lead couples in that direction. The **Prayer group** lifts the intentions of the parish in prayer. the **Eucharistic Ministers** serve the community by helping in the distribution of communion. the **Divine Mercy group** recites the chaplet invoking for God's mercy and kindness over all his people. The Liturgy is prepared by the **Parish Liturgy Team** that takes care of training and arranging lectors at every mass. There is a band

of dedicated **Altar Servers** and **Choir** singers who serve to make mass more alive and vibrant. The greeters of the community are the **Ushers** who make sure there is order in the church.

Salvation is not by faith alone but by faith and good works. The good works of helping the needy in and around the parish is diligently carried out by **St. Vincent De Paul association** bringing joy and hope to the ones who need it the most. Faith formation of 450 children from the parish is the responsibility of the dedicated catechists on every sunday. The **Bible Cell** takes care of the adults with discourses and lectures that are organized on every friday. The beaming glory of the parish are the **Youth** who with their energy and enthusiasm lead the parish into exuberance and life. **Family Cell** and **Couples for Christ** lead couples to build a loving family based on the teachings of Christ. The **Women's cell** and **Civic and Political** cell take care of the physical and legal issues of the parish. In keeping with the secular principles of the country the Inter Religious Dialogue cell organizes activities which foster togetherness and harmony. The most important and vibrant association in the parish is that of the **Senior Citizens** whom Pope Francis has rightly called the powerhouse of the church for their abundance of wisdom and experience of life.

These associations and cells foster the value of being co-workers in Christ. Together we work to build the church. It is ultimately God who leads one to become a co-worker. All are called to be co-workers in Christ. If you wish to be a co-worker for Christ in the parish then there is an invitation and a warm welcome waiting for you. Choose the association that you would wish to be part of and enroll yourself for the same.

**Blessy Rebello**  
Ave Maria Community

# Legionaries as Co-workers in Christ

Every Christian is called to serve in Christ's name, in other words, to be a co-worker in Christ. To be a co-worker essentially means working as partners for a specific purpose. It is not an easy task being a co-worker of anyone. It is simpler to be the Lord's servant than to be the Lord's co-worker. To be a co-worker of Christ means to be bound together with Christ. It is the ultimate synergy with God in the work of salvation.

In the holy Bible we have numerous instances wherein the prophets tell us that God's spirit is dwelling in our hearts and with the help of this spirit, we are called upon to propagate his word and bear fruit. Thus, it is only when we use our talents and abilities for the glory of God that we can attain spiritual growth. The gospels equip us to use our God-given talents in leadership and service regardless of gender, ethnicity, or class. We are called upon to inspire and mobilize women and men with the Bible's call, to lead and serve in the Lord's vineyard. So, to be in the Christian ministry means to be serving others in some capacity for the sake and in the name of Jesus Christ.

In keeping with this dictum, today we have numerous Associations/Cells in the Church. Legion of Mary is one such association. The Legion of Mary consists of active members & auxiliary (praying) members. The main role of the Active members lies in active apostolate for the legion and the church. Auxiliary members support the legion through their prayer. Both are essential to the Legion.

Through the Visitation of Homes the legionaries have a personal contact with many people, and extend the Church's concern for every person and every family in the parish. The Legion

of Mary also visits Institutions like Hospitals, Home for the Aged, Orphanages, Clergy Homes etc. During these visits, they reach out to people with love, understanding, and deep sympathy, pray for them, distribute miraculous medals.

Crowd contact is another manner in which the legionaries connect with the lay people. This approach is made during the feast masses (Miraculous medal feast) and during the annual Bandra fair celebrations where the legionaries assist in crowd control and provide spiritual assistance to the faithful by praying for them and their intentions. They also distribute holy articles like rosaries, pamphlets and miraculous medals to the faithful. A celebration for the Special Children of the Parish is organised by the Legion of Mary, on the Day of the Holy Innocents in December. Through this celebration we make them feel loved and wanted.

The Legion of Mary also has a Junior Praesidia for the spiritual development of persons under 18 years of age in the parish. The junior legionaries do valuable work like teaching catechism to young children, visiting the sick and elderly, contacting high school pupils, altar serving, and distributing catholic literature at fairs, bazaars, parades and other places alongside Senior Legionaries. In addition they are engaged in helping their parish priests in making of the crib during Christmas, enacting the Nativity scene, assisting in the Food stalls to raise funds for the Missions thus serving as co-workers in Christ in the real sense of the word, as they seek the Lord, work in his vineyard and spread his light in the world.

We believe this is how we can become co-workers in Christ. All are invited to become Co-Workers in Christ by joining the various Associations/Cells to continue the ever-fruitful work of building Christ's church in the world.

**Sandra Dsouza**  
Legion of Mary

# Co-workers of God and Fishers of Men

The very first promise that Jesus made to his disciples and followers was, if they would follow him, He would show these Fishermen how to ‘Fish for People.’ This is applicable to each one of us who are baptized in the church. It is made clear that a follower of Christ has to be a co-worker to carry on the mission entrusted to him/her. In fact, we may do it through different associations. I belong to ushers association and I would like to explain through this article how ushers are co-workers.

As the faithful enter the Church, they first come in contact with the Ushers at the doorstep. This makes Ushers ministry extremely important as they represent the image of the Christ service. An Usher is a Spiritual ambassador for the local Church. the Ushers see to it that an atmosphere of reverence and order is maintained during and after the service. The goal or vision of the Church is also realized through the Ministry of Ushers.

As a Minister, an Usher represents the Church in a very visible way, and helps turn the tone in preparation for the Worship service, as well as assist with the smooth

operation within the service. Ushering Ministry is set in the Church for following reasons.

- \* Helping to make the Worshipper feel at ease through greetings and welcome.
- \* Leading Worshipper to their seat, making the Seniors and the Youngsters feel that they are being cared for.
- \* Distributing Church related materials to members.
- \* Collecting and delivering the Offerings to the Church Treasurer.
- \* Maintaining alertness in case of any emergencies as a first response to medical, and also contact the concerned if need be to provide proper assistance.

Ushers today provides an invaluable service to the local Church body. In many ways, the Ushers are the ‘FACE’ of the Church, the first ones to be spotted by the congregation, when they arrive and the last ones to be seen when they leave. It’s an honorable position in the Church, requiring integrity, cordiality and wisdom. The heart of an Usher is the heart of a Servant, and he/she does their work for the Lord. An Usher has true love for the people of the Church and a desire to promote an atmosphere of reverence and worship in the house of God.

**Jerome Martis**  
Ushers Ministry

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St. Ignatius of Loyola	Ajith Augustine	9820182959
St. Anthony	Terrence Vaz	7738815432
St. Theresa	Jacob Fernandes	9821916518
St. Teresa of Calcutta	Rona Menezes	8879808149
Ave Maria	Blessy Rebello	9594682589
Don Bosco	Elson Sequeira	9819144726
Holy Family	Wendy D'Souza	9821477720
Infant Jesus	Lizarda D'Souza	9619593293
Rose of Sharon	Ivy D'souza	9029547077
Sacred Heart	Anita Monteiro	9833110057
St. Patrick	Jerome Martis	8108320642
St. Michael	Max Gomes	9821632745
St. Lawrence	Inez D'Souza	9167455085
St. Peter	Francisca J. Aranha	9833849805
St. Paul	Prima Rebello	9821630764
St. Francis Xavier	Camilo Pinto	9820169073
St. Jude	Anita Arahna	9920705657
St. Sebastian	Clinton Lewis	9029686699
St. Stephen	Catherine Joy Peter	9004032910
St. Bonaventure	Cleo D'Souza	9773333759
St. Joseph	Romi Furtado	9820085013
St. Thomas	Rocky Brahmane	9082183098
St. Mary	Maria Pragasam	9322933629
Velankanni	Arockiadas	8652098357
Poomeri	Bilson	8169095848

<b>Heads of Cells and Associations</b>		
<b>Association</b>	<b>President</b>	<b>Contact No.</b>
Prayer Group	Laura D'Silva	9322245581
Eucharistic Ministers	Blendina Fernandes	9930967702
Liturgy	Lucy Rego	9867810655
St. Vincent de Paul	Saver Elias D'Souza	7718905257
Divine Mercy	Flavia D'Souza	9867114606
SCC Steering Committee	Sanjana Anthony Xavier	9930499336
Sunday School	Vinita Rodrigues	9819241272
Confirmation	Quentin Fernandes	9594046490
Altar Servers	Clement Lewis	8097185923

Legion of Mary	Julie Antao	9892316483
Choir	Andrea Rodrigues	9821212824
Bible Cell	Sheril Cabral	9892319877
Ushers	Stephen D'Souza	9619186550
Youth	Shawnel D'Souza	9920048778
Couples for Christ	Saji & Anu Sebastian	9619975650/9867642106
Family Cell	Ralman Pereira	9820725626
Pre-Baptism Catechesis	Caroline Pinto	9322136602
Senior Citizens	Margaret Vas	9820566227
Women's Cell	Henrietta Nayak	9820119326
Civic & Political Cell	John D'Costa	9820021013
Inter- Religious Dialogue Cell	Richard Cornello	9967055409
St. Mary	Maria Pragasam	9322933629
Velankanni	Arockiadas	8652098357
Poomeri	Bilson	8169095848

## Become a Co-worker

Jesus lived among the people. So, he had experienced and shared in the joys, sorrows, success and failures of the people. He appointed disciples to carry on His teachings and instructed them to go and spread the ‘Good news’ to the world. Hence we are also part of the plan to become ‘co-workers in God’s service.’

Faith is important, but I must remember that faith does not replace my doing good works. Works do not save us, but are required nevertheless as evidence of our faith. (James 2:20, 26) God created me to give dignity and purpose by allowing me to share in His work. I am expected to carry on the work of earth keeping entrusted to our first parents. Most importantly, I am enlisted as a co-worker in the salvation of souls – first my own salvation and then in the salvation of my brothers and sisters. The word ‘co-worker’ implies I am not alone. Jesus assures me with His words “Where two

or three have gathered together in My name, I am in their midst. (**Mt 18:20**) At the washing of the feet, Jesus established the basis of true human community. Washing of the feet is the lowering of oneself before the others in one’s community. Jesus gave to his followers the pattern that would give them God’s holy way of living their lives together. **1 Corinthians 3:8-9** teaches me about different tasks that God’s servants do. The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose, and they will each be rewarded according to their own labour. For we are co-workers in God’s service;

Jesus’ personal encounters in the Gospel indicate that he met people one-on-one. Peter at his nets, Matthew at his tax table, woman at the well, thief on the cross ..... Therefore, as co-workers in Christ we ought to **go out** in search of the needy and also have a **personal relationship** with one another. In John 2, when Jesus performed his first miracle at the wedding feast in Cana, the guests were unaware but the servants witnessed the miracle as they followed

Jesus' orders. Co-worker discovers and develops **spiritual gifts**. 1 Corinthians 12 compares the church to a human body. Just as our bodies are made of many parts serving specific functions, the church is made up of people with different

skills and abilities. By themselves they aren't very useful, but together they work wonders.

**Viola Saldhana**  
St. Peter's Community

## Vinpal Diary

### BORN IN CHRIST

21-04-2019	Alivia Misal	Goregaon
21-04-2019	Baby Castelino	LT-9/2 Vijaynagar
21-04-2019	Snigdha Dutta B-005	Mayur Towers
05-05-2019	Kevin D'Souza	Aarey, Goregaon
12-05-2019	Adriel D'Souza	Main Pump House, Aarey
02-06-2019	Eva D'Souza	Main Pump House, Aarey
23-06-2019	Gabryelle Pereira	D-704 Marol Hill View
14-07-2019	Keenan Picardo	A/4, A-602 Panchavati

### REST IN CHRIST

16-05-2019	John Anthony Lewis	LT-6/33 Vijaynagar
21-05-2019	Leena Saldanha	A-602 Panchavati
30-05-2019	Florie Barbara D'Souza	8/1 Blossom Society
04-06-2019	Ruby Cresey Philomena Jacinto	B1/14 Vijaynagar
07-06-2019	Theresa Monthu Pereira	B-406 Tulip Park
11-06-2019	Olga Rodrigues	11/1/11 Bhavani Nagar
22-06-2019	Nancy Maria Fernandes	D2/3 Vijaynagar
10-07-2019	Esperance Moraes	A/603 Shivalik

### JOINED IN CHRIST

15-04-2019	Albert D'Souza & Monica D'Souza
27-04-2019	Stephen Barboza & Nathaline Rodrigues
04-05-2019	Placid D'Souza & Boulangerie Menezes

### SNAPSHOTS

10-03-2019	A special workshop on 'Digital Privacy & Safety' was organized for youth by the Confirmation team.
15-16/3/2019	The parish devoutly welcomed the 'Jericho Cross' in the parish. The associations and communities prayerfully conducted adoration service throughout the 2 days.
17-03-2019	The Parish Liturgy Team organized a Lectors Training Session.
24-03-2019	Couples for Christ organized a programme titled 'Love & Respect' for young married couples.
24-26/3/2019	Lenten Mission in Konkani was preached by Rev. Fr. Henry from Atma Darshan.
3-7/4/2019	Lenten Mission in English was preached by Rev. Fr. Oswald from Sarzora, Goa.
18-21/4/2019	The parish solemnly celebrated the Paschal Triduum.
28-04-2019	The Sacrament of First Holy Eucharist was administered to 41 parish children.
01-05-2019	The Legion of Mary conducted rosary at the church grotto during the Marian month of May.
05-05-2019	The Sacrament of Confirmation was administered to 59 parish youth.



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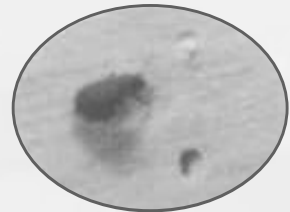
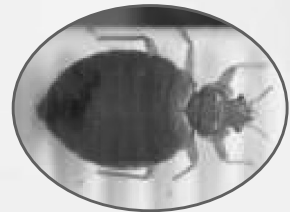
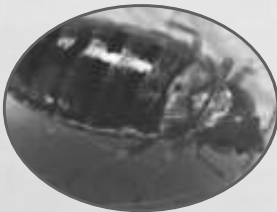
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# Am I a Co-Worker in Christ?

I have always been amazed watching a Formula 1 car take a pit stop. The team in a matter of seconds jumps into action, each one doing a specific role without interfering with another and trying to accomplish a common goal. It is a perfect example of team work and collaboration to achieve a common goal. Every member on the team views themselves as a co-worker.

I ask myself can our parish function in perfect synergy like we witness a Formula 1 pitstop? Is it possible for everyone to work as co-workers and achieve the mission of the parish? I am sure most will agree that it is possible but the reality we experience something quite different. One reason for this is that I think we have not understood what it means to be Co-workers in Christ. St. Paul in 1 Corinthians 3:9a says: For we are co-workers in God's service.

I would like to highlight 3 points on understanding our role as co-workers in Christ

## 1. Common Mission

The mission that we as a Church have, is to continue the mission of Jesus Christ. There is therefore only one mission for all of us. Every individual, zone and association contributes to this mission of Jesus through the charism with which they are blessed. Therefore, there is no place for solo performers, isolated groups in the parish but those who will take collective responsibility to achieve the mission of Jesus.

## 2. Collaboration without Competition

One sure path to disaster in the parish is excessive competition to prove one individual or group is better than the other. As co-workers our aim should be to collaborate and work in synergy. To collaborate means being sure of your contribution along with acknowledging the contribution made by others and helping the

other towards the common purpose. The task as co-workers is to progress together and grow with one another. Competition focuses on the strength of the individual whereas collaboration focuses on the strength of the community.

## 3. Interdependence

If we are co-workers in Christ then we need to realize that we are called by him for a specific purpose. We need to encourage others to participate and take up areas of ministry so that all are putting their hands together in accomplishing the mission. It is not possible for one group to cater to all needs of the parish community and so we need to be dependent on one another and respect the work done by another.

It seems rather strange that Jesus would need Co-workers because if He managed to create the world, He can definitely manage to look after it. But why does He need co-workers? I remember as a young boy helping my grandmother arrange her cupboard. She definitely didn't need my help but in the process of helping her I became aware of my responsibility, my ability to stretch myself and enjoyed the satisfaction that I did something bigger. God like my grandmother allows us to be His co-workers because he knows the joy it will bring us and how it will help us grow to become better people. As we work together in the parish let us remember the words of Mother Teresa who said, *'I can do things you cannot, you can do things I cannot; together we can do great things.'*

**Dn. Calvin Santis**  
St. Pius Seminary

## Walking with the Lord

We are all invited to a life of service in Christ, to be co-workers in the vineyard of our Lord. A Christian way of life is one of mercy, compassion and forgiveness. We are called to embrace these qualities of Christ as we journey along.

As a co-worker in Christ one has to be prepared to face trials and difficulties. Just as Jesus during His ministry was misunderstood and faced ridicule and opposition, we too may come across hurdles along the way. But one shouldn't give up. Rather it is these struggles and times of despair that lead us closer to Jesus. We become one with Him in His suffering. We also cannot hope for any recognition or reward for our efforts in this world, since Jesus' kingdom is not of this world. However, we can be sure of abundant grace and blessings in His kingdom.

This is easier said than done. Prayer and a strong faith help us surmount obstacles along

this journey. Jesus too spent time in prayer and contemplation. In moments of strife, we too can retreat in His arms to find strength, solace and comfort. Therefore, we should give our time and talents and be co-workers in Christ by joining the various lay ministries in the church. Jesus relies on us to pass on His love to the world, irrespective of gender, caste, colour, creed. Just as the hymn goes "Walking with the Lord ... Black and white and brown together walking, walking ..." We are His hands and feet.

But even if we are not a part of any lay ministry in the church, we have a moral obligation given to us by our faith to be co-workers in Christ. Our lives should exemplify this obligation. Therefore, as we journey in life, let us be co-workers who are led by the Holy Spirit to fulfil our Christian duties with utmost sincerity of heart and also lead others along this path of love.

**Ingrid D'Silva**  
St. Stephen's Zone

## Guidelines For Ministers Of The Word (Lectors)

### Who is Lector?

**The one who proclaims the Word of God.** The Word of God is to be "proclaimed," not just "read." For Lectors to properly proclaim Scripture, they must be prepared. The passages for each Sunday/week days should be read, prayed with, and proclaimed aloud a number of times during the week before you are scheduled. Effective proclamation involves the delivery of the message with clarity, conviction and appropriate pace. Proclamation is a special ministry which presupposes faith.

When the Sacred Scripture is read in the Church, God himself speaks to His people. Therefore, the reading from the Word of God are to be listened to reverently by everyone, for they are the element of the greatest importance in the Liturgy. The proclamation of the Word of God is truly a service to the Church. Lectors bring the living Word of God to the Liturgical assembly. The ministry of the Word should, therefore be treated seriously and with great dignity.

**Practical Guidelines:**

- Since our body speaks before our words, we must dress appropriately. The way we walk and our eye contact while we read is also part of body language.
- Come early 10-15 minutes prior to Mass and check the readings with the liturgy coordinator. Practise loudly at least 3-4 times.
- Say a Prayer. Remember you are going to proclaim the Word of God. The priest always says the prayer before he goes to read the Gospel.
- When reading the introduction at the beginning of the mass do not read the word “Introduction”.
- Proclaim the Word from Lectionary only and not from any leaflet.
- The lector comes to the lectern for the reading after the Presider’s prayer (the collect) is over, not during it.
- The lector does not begin reading till the people sit and the commotion caused by it, is over.
- Announce the reading as marked in the Lectionary. Do not announce “First Reading”/ “Second Reading”, but start straightaway, e.g. “A reading from the book of Genesis”.
- The line in Italics or in red letters or in bold letters, should not be read. Chapter and the verse numbers should be omitted.
- Read at regular speed – neither too fast nor too slow, follow the punctuations.
- Don’t merely read out the Good News. PROCLAIM IT enthusiastically. If the text has a sentence or words within brackets, they are to be read.
- Check the mike-if it is too loud, step back. If it is too soft, move closer. Keep the mike head at the level of your chin. If the mike comes in the way of your sight, move the book sideways, don’t move your mouth away from the mike. Do not hold the mike while proclaiming.
- When you end, pause briefly (about 10 seconds), before saying, “The Word of the Lord”.
- Announce the response and get the people to repeat it. Say “our response is...” don’t say “Your response”. Say the response with the people after every verse, especially if it is a long one.
- When there is a Second Reading, the Second Reader must join the First reader after his reading, at the center; both bow together and proceed to their respective places.
- At the end of the Psalm say “Kindly stand for the Gospel. Don’t say kindly stand for the “acclamation”. We stand for the Word of God, not for the acclamation.
- For the Prayer of the Faithful do not say, “Response” each time but only, e.g. Let us pray to the Lord”. Do not leave the lectern until the priest has completed the concluding prayer.

**Lucy Rego**  
Parish Liturgy Team

# St. Vincent Pallotti Church Community Fund

No.	Name of the	2018	2019	15% to	15% to	Prev	Prev	Total	Total
	community	Cont	Cont	Com 18	Com19	Bal 18	Bal 19	due	due
1	Ave Maria	122	800	18	420			18	420
2	St. Theresa of Kolkata	282	600	42	390			42	390
3	Don Bosco	97	200	14	580			14	580
4	Holy Family	130	000	19	500			19	500
5	Infant Jesus	98	300	14	745			14	745
6	Rose of Sharon	251	300	37	695			37	695
7	Sacred Heart	132	900	19	935			19	935
8	St. Micheal	59	141	8	871			8	871
9	St. Lawrence	79	000	11	850	12	277	24	127
10	St. Peter	199	300	29	895	9	266	39	161
11	St. Theresa	120	500	18	075			18	075
12	St. Paul	135	500	20	325			20	325
13	St. Francis Xavier	126	300	18	945			18	945
14	St. Patrick	114	250	17	138			17	138
15	St. Jude	165	800	24	870			24	870
16	St. Anthony	245	200	36	780			36	780
17	St. Stephen	216	400	32	460			32	460
18	St. Bonaventure	299	900	44	985			44	985
19	St. Ignatius of Loyala	212	600	31	890	29	305	61	195
20	St. Joseph	225	000	33	750	6	646	40	396
21	St. Thomas	3	600		540	3	931	4	471
22	St. Mary	13	540	2	031	9	449	11	480
23	Poomeri	7	860	1	179	10	275	11	454
24	Velankanni	16	300	2	445	9	446	11	891
25	St. Sebastian	128	800	19	320			19	320
		3484	091	522	614	90	595	613	209

Expenditure: Medical Assistance – 4,18,565  
Education Aid – 1,26,450  
Community Activities – 6,13,569

**Prepared by Treasurer (S.V.P.C.C.F)**  
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# Let's Come Together As One

The Pope being the first co-worker in the vineyard of the Lord, well supported by Cardinals, Bishops, Priests, Deacons, Nuns and other religious, gives us, lay members of the Parish, an opportunity to be a co-worker in Christ.

It is a tedious job for Parish Fathers to go to each and every parishioner to find out their needs and requirements and cater to each of them. Hence, we have different Associations, Cells and other Ministries in the church. All these ministries need to work in unity and with lot of commitment and dedication to see that the church functions smoothly with their support and feedback.

Co-workers are seeking the Lord and doing His work in the vineyard. Many hands make work light, and as Christ's co-workers, we have to do our best to be His hands and His voice here on earth. So, co-workers are full-fledged members of the ministries they are working for. They are Sons and Daughters of God, the Father, and Brothers and Sisters in Christ.

Pre-requisites to be a Co-Worker: 1. Under the Lordship of Jesus and living in the Holy Spirit. 2. Obedient to the Teachings of Jesus Christ. 3. Active in the church. 4. Must have - give and take attitude. 5. And most important: must be friendly, helpful, cheerful and reliable.

**Building up oneself as a good co-worker.** Attend the Holy Eucharist daily or as often as possible. Read the Bible daily to share Jesus and His word with others. Go for confessions regularly. Pray the Rosary at home with the family. Fast and pray, if possible, especially in difficult situations.

Our experience as co-workers in the ministries we work. Joe, my husband and I, are privileged to work for the Lord in whatever way we can, as we are retired and can spare some

time for the church activities. We do thank and praise the Lord for giving us the desire and the health to be His co-workers, in the following ministries: In the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, we got opportunity to serve and to reach out our not so fortunate brothers and sisters. In Couples for Christ: we strive to renew and enrich family life spiritually and through families, build strong Christian communities.

In the Family Cell we attend programs held by the Archdiocesan Family Commission for the family, to organise such programs and talks for our parishioners, in order to help the family, grow with strong bonds of belonging, supporting and encouraging each other. As Animators in the Zone, we try to cater to the needs and requirements of the area we belong to. To organise events for the families of the Zone which can help them grow spiritually as well as bring them together to grow in love and concern for each other. To build a community which is ever willing to come forward and participate in the various activities of the church to make our church vibrant.

In conclusion I would say as co-worker in Christ, be it a Leader or member, one must be open to suggestions and corrections, in order to work for the best interests of all concerned. Good advice and support are a must. It will not be possible to do all things by. Work should be delegated to the members, so that they learn in the process. Every Ministry is a team work and should work as a team. Lastly, take care of yourself, you can't take care of others, if you don't take care of yourself.

**Safira Fernandes**

SSVP, CFC, Family Cell and St. Paul's Zone

# Walking with Christ

When I heard of wall collapse in Kurar village I remembered the words of St. Paul ‘We are God’s fellow workers.’ Putting these words into action the members of the IRDC (Inter – Religious – Dialogue- Cell) of St. Vincent Pallotti Church and the SDSMM (Sarva Dharma Sadbhavna Manch, Marol) had decided to help the victims of the ‘wall collapse.’

Through the generosity of the members of the IRDC, SDSMM and well- wishers, 12 of our members set out to Kurar Village on the afternoon of 12<sup>th</sup> July, with relief material consisting of groceries, clothes and other miscellaneous goods, besides cash. We reached the place heard the difficulties of people and gave the assistance that possible for us. We on our part hope and pray that life returns to normalcy for the people out there.

A few days later the same IRDC and SDSMM, organized a trek in the Aarey forests. ‘A walk with nature.’ Besides being a nature

trek, it also had multi-purpose benefits, like empowering tribal women, giving them an opportunity to earn for themselves. A local expert member of the WWH and SDSMM helped us appreciate the forest of Aarey. It helped bond with people of different faiths. The trail that led to the forests helped us feel one with nature. Harkening to the sounds insects and birds, stepping into the mushy ground amidst the flora and fauna was enthralling, making one feel one with the Creator-God himself.

Both these events helped us bond with nature and with people, thus leaving us with a feeling of thrill that as co-workers in Christ we had done our bit (in service and appreciation of Creation) as partners with God in His work of salvation.

Melissa Nair  
IRDC

## 1.Members of SDSMM



## 2. Visit Aarey (Trek)



## **“Gray Hair Is A Crown of Glory, It Is Gained in A Righteous Life.”**



After a life time of working, raising families and contribution to the success of this nation in countless other ways, Senior Citizens deserves to retire with dignity.

Ageing is a natural process, which leads to weakening of the body and the mind. The productivity and the working ability also decrease of a person. It is the duty of the family of a person to take care of him/her in his/her old age. Our attitude towards Senior Citizens in India is sad to the point being almost hilarious. It's amusing on how we stay detached and take a distant view of our Seniors, as if it's a phase that we will never reach! We are so consumed in our daily lives that other than vaguely acknowledging them once in a while, we rarely try to emotionally connect. If there is one thing every Senior Citizen, man or a woman craves for its emotional connect. All they expect from the current generation is a little love and attention.

They would gladly and graciously ride into the Sunset of their lives. But then the reality is harsh. Don't we hear stories almost daily on how an ageing Mother or a Father and sometimes both have been abandoned by their Sons or Daughters and left to fend for themselves? So what's ailing our Society?

What's making us so hard and materialistic that we tend to ignore the very people who spent sleepless nights when we were ill as Children? Remember how they spent all their earnings and time just to provide us a decent home, the best they could afford? Let alone disrespecting and ignoring our Elders, downright abuse is very prevalent happening around us. We just need to open our eyes and see.

The survey report, titled “Elders Abuse in India 2018” changing cultural and impact of technology, released a day ahead of the World Elders Abuse Awareness Day, points out, 56% of Elders nationwide perceived their Sons to be the perpetrators, followed by Daughter-in-laws 34% cases. To uphold the family honor 55% of the above cases are not reported to anyone. Most of the Senior Citizens experienced disrespect, neglect and verbal abuse.

Let's wake up and be more sensitive to the Elders around us. Dear friends The World Senior Citizens Day is celebrated on 1st.October. It's a day to recognize and appreciate the contribution made by the Senior Citizens to the society.

**Jerome Martis**  
Senior Citizen Association



# **STAND OUT IN THE CROWD... GET COUNTED! NURTURE THE NATURE**

In the Book of Genesis, we are told how God took His time and used each day of the week to Create, fill the Earth and then entrusted man and woman to Nurture, Care and Enjoy all of it. From then on it has become our Christian Responsibility to Care and Nurture God's Creation. In his Encyclical, "Laudato Si" On Care for Our Common Home, Pope Francis says "A fragile world, entrusted by God to human care, challenges us to devise intelligent ways of directing, developing and limiting our Power."

On September 2018, the Archdiocese of Bombay had launched the Green Diocese Initiative. Let us look at some ways on how we can be co-workers in this Mission of the Church...

- **Segregate your garbage at Home.** Use 2 Bins –One for Recyclable Waste (Plastic, Paper, Glass) and the other for Wet Waste (Kitchen waste).
- Ask the members of the Managing Committees in your Housing Societies / residential Complexes to **make Segregation of Waste Compulsory.**
- Encourage your Garbage Collectors to store the recyclable waste in a Corner of your Housing Society and **dispose it off weekly.** The money they earn from it, will be an incentive to Collect the segregated waste separately.
- **Say No to Plastic Carry Bags.** Take cloth and other reusable bags to the market and when shopping.
- **Make the 3 R's A Way of Life- Reduce, Reuse and Recycle.**
- **Use Energy saving devices at home-** CFL lights, solar panels.
- **Join hands with neighbourhood initiatives** for a Cleaner and Greener Neighbourhood.

The **Marol Citizens Welfare Association ( MCWA) and Military Road Residents Welfare Association ( MRRWA)**, are two Organisations in our neighbourhood, that comprise of members of all faith, who are working together to improve the Quality of Life of the residents of the area. Your whole hearted support and cooperation in their ventures would be a step in this Mission of the Church.

**As Christians we are called to be the "yeast" in the dough. Let us Rise to the occasion.**

**Caroline Pinto  
St. Joseph Community**

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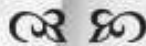
*"Love of Christ urges us on" 2 Cor. 5:14*

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