

Holiness And Sainthood



Our Saint in the Making Raymond F C Mascarenhas

Touching on 'holiness 'on the path to sainthood, I had written elaborately in my previous article on one aspect pertaining to the 'Life of Holiness 'of the beloved Founder of Bethany, Mgr. Raymond F C Mascarenhas, his profound devotion to the Blessed Sacrament. This piece to highlight another distinctive characteristic in his life, namely 'Obedience'.

Dissent is not disobedience, by any logic. To dissent, is to express disagreement with a widely held view. At the worst, it could mean steadfastly holding on to one's beliefs and convictions; at best, it is what is generally called in gentleman's language, agreeing to disagree, shake hands and part – a principle RFC sincerely and diligently followed.

“He was humble and walked the path of obedience all the way to death....(St. Paul to Phil. 2:8). “Learn from me, I am meek and humble of heart (Mat.11:29). Words of wisdom on his Lord and Master must have been the inspiration for RFC that 'obedience' the off-shoot of humility, the basis for his emphasis on the vow of obedience for the Religious Order he founded and the title he gave to his Religious Sisters - Ancilla Domini – aka OBEDIENCE.

God loves a cheerful giver!- RFC to his Sisters as quoted by the late Sr. Bertha in her book 'From the Lips of the Founder' Applied to himself, cheerfully accepting God's Will and deciding to join the

Seminary was his first great act of obedience; to accept and endure the daily sufferings in life is yet another display of obedience to God's Will. It is no wonder that 'holiness radiated from him 'even so early in his life (ibid P 293).

With the evening shadows lengthening over him, loneliness and solitude hurting, when his call-bell went unanswered (not without reason), he was magnanimous enough to the young Sister 'Yes, my child, you must obey your superior first'. Again, “If any responsibility they have put over you, to obey them....” (ibid P 274). Amazing as it may sound, it is pertinent to realise the seriousness of the exhortation “while using water exceeding the permitted quantity is displaying want, of the spirit of obedience”(ibid P 259).

The subject is so vast and the narration endless, constraint on space forces me to cut short but not without expressing how ironical it was, for a man the very word 'obedience' engrained in his blood, to be accused of disobedience in his lifetime!

To conclude –my apologies to my dear Bethanyites the world over, for being a bit personal – sorry for not being able to contribute any article on our beloved RFC for nearly a year. Sabbatical? Oh, No. I is just that this 89 year old contraption broke down! Trying to get back some steam slowly. Until next time, may God Bless you all.



Uncle James in Bangalore

Inauguration of Renovated Bethany Convent Chapel and the Golden Jubilee of the Sisters



On the 8th of May 2018, Most Rev. Dr Aloysious Paul D' Souza, Bishop of Mangalore, inaugurated the renovated Bethany Convent chapel at Bendur. This chapel was built in 1934 by Mgr RFC Mascarenhas, the Servant of God, and thus it is a heritage of the Institute.



On this occasion, 27 Sisters celebrated the golden jubilee of their religious profession. The Eucharist was celebrated by Bishop Aloysius Paul D'Souza together with six other priests joining in the con-celebration. Rev. Fr Antony Shera, the parish priest of St Sebastian Church, Bendur, preached an eloquent homily calling upon the Jubilarians to count the blessings of God in their lives. Sister Rose Celine, the Superior General, greeted the Jubilarians. The celebration was followed by felicitation programme and a sumptuous meal.



My Beloved is Mine and I am His.



Nurtured and taught in the sacred school of love for the past two years, it was with great eagerness and joy, our Divine Bridegroom 'set a seal of love on our heart' and clothed us anew with our religious garment. With prayers rising above and blessing pouring in abundance, we, the 10 band of virgins, clad in the new garment entered into His presence with lighted lamps and offered our life to our Divine Spouse.



As the great day dawned on 25th April, we went in haste to savour the sweetness of our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. Sr Joy, our Provincial Superior, led us into communion with our Spouse in prayer. The grace-filled moment came as we prostrated ourselves in self offering. We experienced rich blessings and graces flooding us

as our Provincials - Sr Joy, Sr Jyoti and Sr Shaila and our Directress Sr Ruth prayed over us. It was a strengthening experience of God's own Spirit hovering over us.

It was in God's love we entered into the banquet hall accompanied by our parents. With greater trust in His goodness and mercy we

pronounced our vows before His people and offered our lives unreservedly to Him. The celebration was presided over by Bishop Cyprian Monis along with 21 priests. He appreciated the life of religious and exhorted us to be Jesus to all.

Sr Joy welcomed us to Bethany and thanked our parents for their sacrifice. The felicitation programme concluded with a delicious meal. For this beautiful memorable day we sincerely thank Sr Rose Celine, our Superior General, our

Provincials, Sr Joy, Sr Jyoti and Sr Shaila, and in particular, our formators – Sr Ruth, Sr Monica, Sr Vijaya Pinto, and Sr Ottilia for accompanying us and preparing us for this joyous day. We remain ever grateful to Bethany.

**Sr Ashipro Esther and
Sr Roshmita Soreng**
I Year Juniors
Bethany Novitiate, Barasat.

Celebrating 25 years of God's Love



The mountains and the hills of Pithoragarh shouted praises to God's name as the twin Silver Jubilee bells chimed at Bethany Convent and Don Bosco Senior Secondary School, Pithoragarh, which are situated at 5,500ft above the sea level. It was indeed a moment of joy in celebrating 25 years of God's love, faithfulness and His blessings. It was an occasion to express our gratitude to the Almighty who carried our sisters on His palms, to sow the seed of His Kingdom in that mission station. 5 May 2018 was the D' day when the VIP's

of the city along with Bishop Ignatius D Souza of Bareilly and Sr Jyoti, the Provincial Superior, arrived to grace the occasion. Sisters from various communities, the past managers of the school, friends, well-wishers and a vast number of parents present added another glittering line to the Silver Jubilee celebration of DBS.

The Eucharistic Celebration offered by Bishop Ignatius and concelebrated by seven other priests rendered a pious touch to the occasion. With grateful hearts we recalled the ground breaking spirit, daring life and the humble



'Yes' of our pioneers Sr Justinian, Superior and Principal, Sr Joselyta, Sr Luciana Abraham, Sr Veena D'Souza and, Fr Felix Lobo, the first Parish Priest and the Manager. A short power point presentation briefed the history of Bethany Convent at Pithoragarh. It was a treat to hear our Bishop appreciating the service of Bethany Sisters.

Bishop Ignatius, in his speech, highlighted the contribution of RFC Mascarenhas who worked tirelessly to empower and uplift the girl children and the women of rural areas; that the Bethany Sisters tread the Founder's footsteps is an inspiration for all.

Sr Jyoti humbly yet gratefully acknowledged the guidance and support of Sr Agnella, the then the Superior General, Sr Miriam, the Provincial Superior, the pioneers and all the sisters who did the will of God in Pithoragarh. She honoured the present community members Sr Lina, the Superior and Principal, Sr Rosaline and Sr Basanthi Priya who made it a history in celebrating the twenty five years.

Sr Jacqueline Stella B S
Northern Province.

Perpetual Profession in Chintalapudi, Andhra

April 18th 2018
witnessed the
Perpetual Profession
of three young junior sisters- Sr Aruna Kumari, Sr Manisha and Sr Deepthi in Chintalapudi, Andhra. Due to lack of a suitable place the ceremony was conducted at St Francis College, Janapatta. The solemn Mass was officiated by Most Rev. Jay Rao Polimera, the Bishop of Eluru Diocese, and concelebrated by ten other priests.



Sr Ruth Ann & Sr Reji

Rev. Sr Shanthi Priya the General Councillor, was delegated by the Superior General to receive their vows in the presence of Sr Santhosh Maria, the Provincial Superior and Sr Gracy Ignatius, the Assistant Provincial Superior. After the Eucharistic celebration the finally professed sisters were felicitated by Bishop, Sr Shanthi Priya and Sr Santhosh Maria. This event was witnessed by parents and relatives of our sisters, lay people and a good number of our own sisters. It was followed by the fellowship meal. Since it was the maiden celebration many local people participated

and they were inspired by the sacrificing spirit of the Finally Professed. During the homily the bishop emphasised on the vow of obedience and asked them to fulfil God's will and remain committed to the service of the poor and needy.

During the felicitation programme Sr Santhi Priya and Sr Santhosh Maria congratulated them and prayed blessings on them. This was followed by fellowship meal. The liturgy conducted in vernacular language made all the difference. Everybody was overjoyed and they returned well satisfied.

Lay Associates at AtmaDarshan



Bethany Lay Associates of Maria Kripa Convent organized a day's Recollection at Atma Darshan, Andheri, on 21st of Feb, 2018. Fr Gregory SVD welcomed the participants and briefed the day's programme. He shared his views on Transformation Unto Christ stressing that a little more deepening of inner self is needed to get in touch with self and with God, in a special way, so that we may be witnesses to God's love. The call, he said, is to follow the Master as a disciple in a



personal way. He enlightened us on the role of membership as Bethany Lay Associates. After lunch we did the Stations of the Cross meditating and singing. At 3.30 pm there was Eucharistic Celebration. It was a meaningful and touching experience which enriched our souls. At tea break we thanked the Priest and Sr Conceptia, Sr Heleena and Sr Clara for accompanying us. The BLA members bade farewell to Sr Sharlet and Sr Heleena. Sr Conceptia conducted a concluding prayer, during which we thanked the Outgoing Sisters and offered them a memento. There was a family atmosphere all through.

Camp at St Joseph's Chikkamagaluru



A Three Days' Camp was hosted from 17th April to 19th April 2018 for S.S.L.C. Catholic Students of Chikkamagaluru Diocese by the Bishop Most Rev. T. Anthony Swamy at St Joseph's High School, Chikkamagaluru to which 135 students were present. It had triple

theme Leadership, Environment and Vocation. The camp was organized by Rev. Fr Walter S.V.D. for Chikkamagaluru Diocese to train our youth in Leadership, to create an awareness about maintaining clean environment and to promote vocations for the spread of God's Kingdom. Sr

Jacintha, having three student priests serving at Bishop's House, Infants Jesus Shrine and Holy Family Church, Vijayapura, came to know about the camp and at their invitation participated in it along with Sr Victoria Pais for the last two days. A lay Charismatic Brother from Bangalore named Mr Anthony joined us. Sisters from various Congregations sought a chance to introduce their Congregation. We had Eucharist at 7 in the morning officiated by the Bishop and concelebrated by other priests. Prizes were awarded to the winners of various events, S.S.L.C. specially, toppers of the year who secured 90% and above in the Diocese. We had lunch with the Bishop at Bishop's House, exchange of views and his blessing for the success of God's Mission. We made known our Congregation and its charism and



the mission. We thank the three student priests, the Bishop, and our Provincial Superior, at whose invitation, participation in this Vocation Camp was possible and we thank God for it and look forward to its success.

Sr Jacintha S. Madanbhavi(W.P.)

SILVER JUBILEE OF 18 BETHANITES CHIME AT BETHANY MOTHER HOUSE



The Sisters of the Little Flower of Bethany Mangalore with grateful hearts with songs of praise with an outstretched arms blessed and thanked God for the gift of 18 Silver Jubilarians who celebrated 25 years of their Religious Profession in the Congregation. The solemn thanksgiving Eucharist was officiated by Most Rev Dr Peter Machado Archbishop elect of the Archdiocese of Bangalore on Thursday, May 10, 2018, at 10.00 am at Bethany Convent Chapel, Bendur and was concelebrated by four priests.



In his homily the Bishop invited the Jubilarians to give unceasing thanks to God for His unfailing fidelity and steadfast love in their life as Mary magnified the Lord in her life.

The Silver Jubilarians were felicitated during a short programme organized in their honour. Sr Rose Celine the Superior General greeted each one of them on behalf of the Congregation. Sr Shanthi Priya the General Councillor coordinated the entire one month's Renewal Programme and the day's celebration. Sr Michelle compered the felicitation programme.

Home Mission experience at Vijayadka



A band of eight sisters of Mangalore Province were sent for a mission to St Lawrence Parish Vijayadka, the border of Kerala.

The Parish Priest Fr Michal Mascarenhas welcomed us warmly and gave his full support. We stayed in four houses, two each. Our mission began early in the morning, and continued till sun set. We visited the families, listened to their joys and sorrows, woes and worries. We spent in each home more than an hour and prayed with them for their needs. The people were very friendly and open to share their joys and sorrows. They considered our stay as a blessing to them. As we remained with them, we understood their life struggles. We experienced peace and joy of the Risen Christ.

The experience of home mission gave us a boost to go into new parishes and made us joyful witnesses in our given mission.

The Parish Priest Fr Michal Mascarenhas is a man of prayer. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is



arranged in the parish thrice a week and there is continuous prayer of intercession. The people come together to pray for the needs of the parish. On the whole, it was an experience of Pentecostal movement.

We thank our Provincial Superior Sr Cicilia Mendonca and her team for giving us an opportunity to venture into this new mission. This enthused us to fulfil the call of God. Our special thanks to Sr Shubha, the Provincial Councillor and the coordinator of Pastoral ministry, who accompanied us and worked with



us joyfully arranging and looking after all our needs. We thank the Almighty God for His protection and care and intercession of St Lawrence throughout our journey at Vijayadka. Thanks be to God!

Sr Joyceline BS
Maryvale, Kinnigoli

A New Community in Nepal



Bethany opened its 185th Branch House in a new country Nepal, on Sunday the 17th June 2018, as was planned.

Sr Ordilia, Sr Rincy, the Superior designate, and Sr Jessyna Khonglah started their journey from Guwahati accompanied by Sr Edleburgh, the Provincial Councillor, on 8th June 2018. There, Fr Mani SDB, who was instrumental in leading Bethany to Biratnagar in Nepal came to receive them. They proceeded to the Nepal Border known as Pani Tanki and loaded Sisters' luggage on to his Jeep. It is narrated that each packet/ box Fr Mani loaded on to his jeep went with his words "Let this box/ bag remain in Nepal forever"!!!.

They arrived at Don Bosco in the evening of the same day and were warmly welcomed by Fr George Kalapurackal, the Parish Priest, who is also the Dean of East Nepal Deanery, and Fr Amrit Raj, the Principal of the School. Fathers were very welcoming and treated

the Sisters well, like the members of their own family. The Sisters were introduced to the School community in the School assembly and it was a moving experience to the Sisters. Sisters' first day at School was on 10th which was a Sunday. Nepal has Saturday as their weekend day and Sunday is a working day for them. Sisters started attending School from 10th onwards.

Sisters under the leadership of Sr Edleburgh occupied one wing of the 2nd floor of the School building given for their residence for



occupation. Sr Joy, the Provincial Superior, and Sr Mary Diki, the Provincial Councillor, joined them soon.

On 17th Evening Bishop Paul Simick of Nepal arrived from Kathmandu driving for over 10 hours. It was very encouraging to see all the neighbouring Priests and Sisters, and a small Catholic Lay community present in full strength, about 60 people in all. The Celebration commenced with the Holy Eucharist with

Bishop and 9 concelebrants. There was music and the Eucharistic celebration was solemn. After the Gospel reading, with the reading of the Decree, the erection of the community took place. While the Decree was read the 3 Community Members stood in front. People present were touched by the Decree.

Before the final blessing, the ceremony of installation of the Superior was conducted – reading of the letter of appointment and giving of the symbols – the Bible, Book of Constitutions and the Keys. After the Mass many mentioned that it was a beautiful and moving ceremony.

After the Mass, there was a felicitation programme. Bishop expressed his happiness in having one more new religious congregation in his Vicariate. Sr Joy presented a brief Story of Bethany through



the power point. All gathered were very happy to know the history of Bethany.

All present shared in the fellowship meal. We, particularly the Sisters already felt the beginning of a meaningful presence in Biratnagar in Nepal.

On the following day, all of us were welcomed during the Teachers' Assembly and in the School Assembly. Sisters have already begun to feel one with the school community. They have begun to visit families and get to know the neighbours. No doubt the Lord will bless this Branch house, with the intercession of our Founder the SD and our founding Sisters and the prayers of one and all. It was indeed the beginning of a new journey for Bethany in a new Country.

Sr Sandhya BS
North East Province



NEW PROVINCIAL TEAM IN NORTHERN PROVINCE



It is God who ensures growth and we are His instruments. Through Sr Jyoti and her councillors, Sr Chantal, Sr Arpan, Sr Helima and Sr Violet, the Northern Province has shown remarkable growth in every field during

strengthening the Bethany Lay Associates, Bethany Champions and Bethany Buds. Refresher courses for the Office staff were another feather in her cap. Sr Arpan, a veteran social worker, was the inspiring goal setter in all the e Social Work

Centres of the Province. Pioneer in Karunalaya, a Centre for women in distress, she worked against child trafficking and is the president of AMRIT. Sr Arpan is also in charge of the Diocesan and Regional level Women's Commission. Sr Helima gave a new dimension for Education. Seminars and meetings were galore during her tenure as the coordinator of Education. Retreats, dissemination of Founder's life, cultural activities, developing eco-friendly

the last four years. On 25 June 2018, the Provincial team, having completed their term of office handed over the leadership to Sr Erasma and her team. The service of Sr Jyoti and her team can be summed up in one sentence-by saying that they recognized the intrinsic value of every sister while leading the province prayerfully. Through a prayer service, the sisters of the Province expressed their sentiments of gratitude to God for their valuable gift to the province and wished them well as they laid down their office.

Sr Jyoti, the Provincial Superior, is remembered for her priority for prayer, fostering communion in communities, option for the poor and pursuit of knowledge and compassionate love. Pastoral work took a new turn under Sr Chantal, who organized various meetings,

atmosphere in the school were her priorities. As a formator and guide, Sr Violet came across as a soft spoken, self-disciplined and mature personality. Infusing in the young enthusiasm and spirituality of Bethany, she played a great role in goal setting and guiding and directing the young. The demanding task of a Provincial secretary was fulfilled by her patiently.





The new Provincial and Councillors-Sr Erasma, the Provincial Superior, Sr Helima, Sr Violet, Sr Helen D'Costa and Sr Stella D' Souza, the Councillors, were installed by Sr Rose Celine, the Superior General. Professing their loyalty and love, almost sixty sisters participated in this ceremony. Sr Rose Celine reminded them that for the last 55 years, the Northern Province has been built up by the past leaders, and the present leaders are to carry on the legacy forward. She exhorted the sisters to support the team wholeheartedly. During the Holy Eucharist, Fr Arun, the Provincial Superior of IMS Delhi Province, prayed that the newly elected leaders may become Good Shepherds.

Sr Rose Celine. This CD is a collection of songs on Fr Founder composed by the teachers of St Theresa's Convent School, Karnal. The concept and script of the CD was developed by Sr Helima and Sr Grace Maria and the Videography and direction by Fr Edwin Vas. A Punjabi Prayer book released on this occasion is the creation of Sr Diana. Serving the poor in a far away village at the border of Pakistan for six years, she realized the need for a prayer book for the ordinary Catholic.

25 June 2018 has thus become a historical day in the almanac of Northern Province. We wish Sr Erasma and her Councillors abundance of graces.

Sr Grace Maria,
Northern Province

CELEBRATION AND JUBILATION

"I am 101 and I begin 102", says Mother Lucina, as she celebrates her birthday on 8th June 2018. She does not stop here, she begins to sing Psalm 102, referring to the blessings she has received during the past years. "Bless the Lord O my soul, all my inmost being, bless His Holy name! Bless my soul, and do not forget all his kindness". She is right in singing this psalm as she has lived the precious years in early Bethany, the sufferings and humiliations she

underwent in Massabiel Convent, Bantwal, from where she continued her missionary journey.

The words of Psalm 102 naturally give rise to the mind of all those who see Mother Lucina, as she continues her spiritual journey on the strong foundation of early Life in Bethany amidst sufferings and humiliations, still hoping in the merciful love of the Father for Bethany and also to her. Mother Lucina joined Bethany on 3.6.1933, made her 1st Profession and final Profession on



satisfaction of working always for the greater Glory of God and sanctity of our Congregation.

7.5.1943. Her life of sufferings and holiness started while she was still at Massabiel Convent Bantwal. She displayed her heroism and trust in God, our Father, and worked together with our Father Founder RFC Mascarenhas in establishing the Congregation firmly in the Heart of Mother Mary and Divine Providence.

What a noble life of service and dedication! What an example of holiness and growth, still running the race! How long? She says, the Lord is good to me; the Congregation is kind to me; and I have the

**Sisters of
Jayamahal Community**



Response to God's Love



and never to turn back. The message given by Sr Jyoti was enriching and challenging to carry our daily crosses to follow Jesus by saying yes every moment and to dwell in the heart of Jesus to be transformed fully. We were also touched by the skit presented by our seniors. It imprinted in us a great desire to be moulded and shaped by our divine Lord during this novitiate period.

Gratefulness overflows in our hearts for this unique experience and we would cherish this sweet memory throughout our life. We remain indebted to Sr Rose Celine our Superior General and her team all our provincials Sr Joy, Sr Jyoti, Sr Shaila and their councillors for accepting us in this garden of Bethany and giving us opportunities to grow and bloom beautifully in this garden. We thank all past formators for preparing us to enter into novitiate formation meaningfully.

We the twelve Pre-novices entered the Chapel with the lighted diya in our hands feeling pleasant atmosphere of divine presence as our seniors sang the 'Bethany Anthem.' Overwhelmed with joy, happiness and deep desire to offer our life to God we were initiated as Novices on 13 June 2018 by Sr Joy, the Provincial Superior of North East Province. We experienced the purity and transformation within us as we wore a white saree for the first time. The very hymns that we sang "I've decided to follow Jesus and I'll say yes, yes" strengthened and encouraged us to respond God's love as well as it helped us to experience His steadfast love within us. Above all we experienced the great love of Jesus and warm acceptance by the members of our Congregation particularly by the very presence of Sr Joy and Sr Jyoti, the Provincial Superiors of North East and Northern Province respectively, their massages reminded us to focus on our goal like an arrow both in times of joys and sorrows

Sr Lucy and Sr Teresa Gomei
1 Year novices
Bethany Novitiate, Barasat



Course for the leaders of TALITHA KUM network.



15 days course was organized by International Union of Superiors General (UISG) in Rome in 2 phases. The first phase was conducted in the Pontifical Antonianum University, in Rome from 4th June to 16th June 2018. Only selected 22 participants from 22 countries working for TALITHA KUM network, which works for Anti Human trafficking and I am one of them. It was a great experience to be in Rome with different members of different cultures. The coordinator for Talitha Kum Sr. Gabriella Bottani and professor Ivan from Antonianum University were the part of our group.



The following topics were covered during the course:

1. Church's Social doctrine
2. Networking
3. Challenges of Talitha Kum Network and leaders
4. Anthropology and Ethics
5. Public speaking
6. Leadership
7. Internal & external communication for Talitha Kum network

8. Project Design

9. International Legal Framework (Human Trafficking)

The sessions were in English and were very good, informative and useful for the mission. The classes were from 9am to 6pm having one-hour break for lunch. After the class hours there were discussions and sharing of best practices. It was really a great experience to be a part of this training.

Sr. Jessy Maria BS
Eastern Province, Ranchi



Congratulations



Sr Priya Rose BS
Msc in Counselling from
Dalassale University
in Philippines.



Sr Elizabeth Rani BS
for securing second rank in MSc Zoology
from Andhra University for Distance Education!!!!



Sr Swathi BS
who has passed her
NEET Exams scoring
85.53 %



Sr Mariebelle
of Mangalore Province
and
Sr Evangeline
of Southern Province

for being the sub editor of
the Chronicle for the past many
years. May God bless you.



Sr Shalet D'Souza
Mangalore Province
and
Sr Mable Antony
Southern Province

who have been appointed
subeditors of the Chronicle.