

The Compassionate Pastor

December 2018

Vol - 11

No. 2



“Do well whatever you do;
do it for God and for God alone;
and your life will be
a continual canticle of praise,
a continual Gloria Patri...”
- R F C Mascarenhas

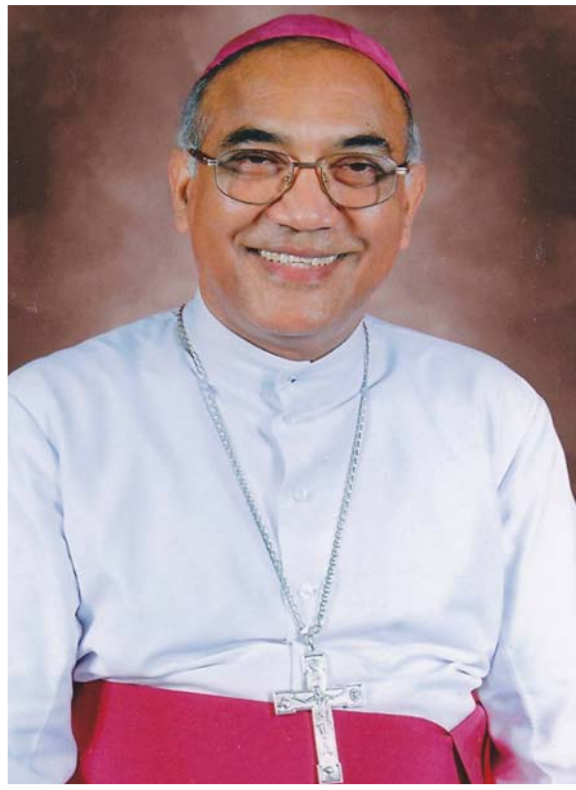


58th

Death Anniversary
23 December 2018

**Bishop Peter Paul Saldanha places wreath
at the tomb of the Servant of God
Raymond F C Mascarenhas
on the occasion of the
58th Death Anniversary celebration**

A Loving Gratitude



Most Rev. Dr Aloysius Paul D'Souza
Bishop Emeritus, Diocese of Mangalore

Bethany gratefully acknowledges dear Bishop your compassionate pastoral care for 22 years in the Diocese of Mangalore and especially to our Congregation. We are grateful to you for initiating the Cause of the Beatification and Canonization of the Servant of God Mgr Raymond F C Mascarenhas on 17 August 2008. Thank you for your blessings, guidance, and support to pursue the Cause.

Prayerful Wishes



Most Rev. Dr Peter Paul Saldanha
Bishop of Mangalore

Congratulations and Prayerful wishes to you dear Bishop. We pray that God may bless and guide you that you may be a shepherd according to His heart. We assure you our prayerful support. May your motto: "To the praise of His glorious grace" be realized through your life and mission.



Prayer for the Beatification of the Servant of God Raymond Mascarenhas

God our loving Father, we thank you for choosing your servant Raymond to be your faithful priest and the Founder of the Congregation of the Sisters of the Little Flower of Bethany. His ardent devotion to the Eucharist, love for the Mother Church, Zeal for the proclamation of the Gospel and his compassionate love especially for the poor have borne abundant fruit. Like him may we too in union with Mary, our Mother, become bearers of the Good News.

We humbly implore you Father to grant us this special request through the intercession of your beloved servant Raymond...
(mention your request).

Deign O Lord, to grant your beloved servant the honours of the altar for your greater glory and the spreading of the Gospel.
Amen.
Glory be...

Imprimatur

Most Rev. A.P. D'Souza

Bishop of Mangalore

Mangalore

16.06.2008

N.B. Please report any favours or miracles received through the intercession of the Servant of God Raymond Mascarenhas to:

**The Vice-Postulator, Cause of Beatification and Canonization of the
Servant of God Raymond Mascarenhas,
Bethany Convent, Bendur, Mangalore D.K. 575002.
Ph: 0824-2211806; Email: rfcmas@gmail.com**

58th Death Anniversary Mass

Mgr RFC Mascarenhas, St Sebastian Church, Bendur,
officiated by Bishop Peter Paul Saldanha



Homily by Rev. Fr Gregory D' Souza OCD

58th Death Anniversary Mass

Mgr RFC Mascarenhas, St Sebastian Church, Bendur



THE COMPASSIONATE PASTOR

December 2018

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EDITORIAL

THE POWER OF HIDDENNESS



"In doing good never seek applause from the world or approbation from superiors and companions, but do it solely and exclusively for God."

- Mgr RFC Mascarenhas

We are living in a digital world and are getting rooted in self-promotional culture experiencing a need to toot our own horns. Most of the decisions we make are colored by the question: Will I look good and appear competent if I do this? The only thing we like to be secret about is our failures, be they personal or moral in nature. But Jesus says, "...when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret and your Father who sees in secret will reward you"(Matthew 6:3-4). Henri Nouwen in his article, 'Hiddenness, a Place of Intimacy' depicts hiddenness as an essential quality of the spiritual life. He reminds us that the life of Jesus was hidden and it is in hiddenness that we, like Jesus can increase in wisdom, in stature and favour with God and with people"(Luke 2:51), and it is in hiddenness that we can find a true intimacy with God and a true love for people.¹

Expounding the mystery of Incarnation, the Servant of God Mgr Raymond Mascarenhas thus taught the Sisters of Bethany: "God had every opportunity to choose for Himself every circumstance of His birth but He chose what was poor and lowly – Mary and Joseph, a lowly manger to be laid in, a cave outside the city, the cold wintry night, with no facilities for ease and comfort."² The Son of God chose to be born in a stable unnoticed and unrecognized. Mgr Raymond used to shed tears while he spoke about the mystery of Incarnation - the ignominy of stooping down from the bosom of the Father to the womb of Mary and from the womb to the stable and from the stable to the cross. All through his life he strove to live this mystery in his personal life, and his apostolic life. Monsignor Marian Castolino who was the close friend of our dear

¹ <https://henrinouwen.org/meditation/hiddenness-a-place-of-intimacy>

² Bertha BS, *From the Lips of the Founder*, 91

Raymond Mascarenhas testifies thus: "Monsignor Mascarenhas was a great man but lived a simple life, a life of poverty and detachment. His food was simple. As regards his dress, I wonder if he had more than two pairs of trousers at any time. All his life in Bendur was spent in a small building, formerly a soda shop. Being quite close to the dusty road, it continually accumulated dust. One can imagine the inconveniences and nausea the pastor had to put up with for 17 long years."³ In the hiddenness of his pastoral ministry in the parishes of Udyavar, Agrar, and later in Bendur, he grew like Jesus, in wisdom, in stature and favour with God and developed a true love for the people. To him, these remote hidden places were homes of intimacy. Being a visionary much ahead of his time, Mgr Raymond Mascarenhas had to undergo many bitter ordeals of rejection from various quarters including his own daughters of Bethany. Not only he was rejected but the Congregation he had founded to be the apostolic arm of the Church too was measured unfit to exist at par with the renowned religious establishments of the time for it was the brain child of an ordinary priest of the diocese - till then unheard of. "Will Bethany survive?" questioned the common folk.

At one time, when Monsignor Raymond was deprived of all the diocesan responsibilities and took residence at Bethany house at Bendur, and was going through intense suffering and pain, his purified self-emerged offering to the Mother Church the best gift, namely the translation of the New Testament in Konkani, a food that the people were hungering for. The Holy See applauded him for this precious gift to the local community of the diocese of Mangalore. Then gushed from the crevices of loneliness, rejection and hiddenness, spiritual and apostolic activities such as translations of hymns from Latin and English into Konkani, compositions of religious literature, helping Bethany to reach out to the remotest villages of Karnataka and Kerala to labour with the missionaries who worked for the marginalized and the tribals.

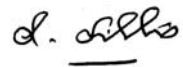
In moments of hiddenness and suffering, his maxim would be: "If suffering was the roadmap to glory for the Son of God, how can we

³ Sr Violette D'Souza, *Unless the Seed Die...*, 86

humans believe that there is any other way for us to heaven and to the ultimate union with His Divine majesty."⁴ It was obvious that in his hiddenness, he was sustained by the presence of the Eucharistic Lord before whom he used to spend hours in contemplation. While bedridden and deprived of all human consolation, he would ask the sister helper, "Go and call the Blessed Sacrament." His death wish to Mother Macrina, the then Superior General was, to have perpetual adoration in Bethany which is now being fulfilled. That was his legacy to his spiritual daughters who revealed Himself to Mgr Raymond, hiding him in the cleft of the rock of obscurity and hiddenness.

On 23rd December 1960, when everything was set to celebrate the birth of Christ, our beloved founder, the saintly priest of the diocese of Mangalore, was taken away from his hiding place to that glorious heavenly abode wherein the Heavenly Father would acknowledge him as a beloved Servant of the Mother Church whose fragrance of life is being diffused even across the seas.

Hiddenness and silence could be precious moments of building up interior energy. Let us not forget that the strength of a mighty tree rests on the power of its roots which are invisible and silent. The roaring sea displays vehement force of her strength only because of the depth of its existence which is calm and silent. Powerful people in every front are those who have become so, because of the concealed hours of silent and serene work. The modern man needs to back track from his shallowness of self parade and enter into the depth of his being which is only possible when he is invaded by the power of hiddenness.



Sr M Lillis, BS

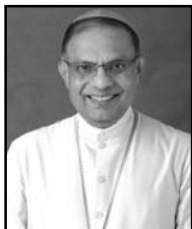
Chief Editor



⁴ Sr Violette D'Souza, *Unless the Seed Die ..*,95

MESSAGE

19.12.2018



The first 'Servant of God' of the Diocese of Mangalore Msgr Raymond Francis Camillus Mascarenhas was a Compassionate Pastor. The integration of his spiritual life with the challenging context of the Diocese of Mangalore enabled him to offer pastoral care to his flock with utmost dedication and compassion. His pastoral activities in the remote parishes of Udyavar, Agrar, and Kallianpur and later as the founding parish priest of Bendur are indeed laudable. We owe a debt of gratitude to him for translating the New Testament into Konkani and thus feeding the faithful with the Divine Word. The hymns he translated from Latin and English into Konkani are still sung in our parishes.

More specifically, the charism and spirituality of Msgr RFC Mascarenhas emerged from his profound faith and deep contemplation on the Mystery of the Incarnation. It has offered a treasured gift to the Church in the birth of the Congregation of the Sisters of the Little Flower of Bethany. His charism and spirituality is continued with zest and commitment through the life and mission of the Bethany Sisters bearing fruit in India and abroad. He made a difference in the Church and the society through his farsighted vision and mission. Here I sincerely thank the Bethany Sisters who taught me in the primary school and thus influenced my life in my tender years.

The bi-yearly bulletin *The Compassionate Pastor* has been an instrument to bring to light the contributions made by Msgr RFC Mascarenhas to the Church and society through his life of integrity, living of heroic virtues, and his writings. I congratulate the editorial board and all the contributors for sharing their memories, reflections, and his message to the present time since December 2008, bringing awareness that the life of holiness of Msgr RFC Mascarenhas is a source of blessing and an inspiration for imitation. It is our earnest prayer that the Lord number him among the communion of saints.

Wishing you blessings of Christmas and a blessed New Year 2019.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Paul Saldanha'.

+ Most Rev Dr Peter Paul Saldanha

Bishop of Mangalore

Servant of God Raymond: EPITOMISING HOLINESS

- Fr Cedric Prakash SJ

Exactly fifty-eight years on 23 December, Servant of God (SD) Raymond Francis Camillus Mascarenhas, was called to his eternal reward. A packed congregation assembled together on Saturday 22 December 2018, at the St Sebastian's Church, Bendur, Mangalore, to celebrate the anniversary of his death. The Eucharistic Celebration presided over by the Bishop of Mangalore, Most Rev Peter Paul Saldanha was truly a significant one. The ceremony recalled warm memories of this remarkable son of Mangalore and brought to mind one clear message that during his life on earth SD Raymond Mascarenhas was an epitome of holiness!

Bishop Peter Paul set the tone of the celebration with his introductory remarks of how SD Raymond contributed immensely to Church and society in so many different ways. The Church of Mangalore, he said, takes legitimate pride in having produced such a worthy son. The homilist Fr Gregory D'Souza OCD, in a detailed and very well-articulated homily spelt out the rich facets in the life of SD Raymond. Among the several dimensions he highlighted were his tremendous love and loyalty to the Church, his commitment to Sacred Scripture (particularly his indefatigable work in translation) and above all, the way he reached out to the poor, the marginalized and the unloved.

It was a feast of 'holiness' for the hundreds gathered: priests, religious and laity; the Bethany Sisters, were present in large numbers: the Superior General Sr Rose Celine, the General Council, the novices and the tertians from Rosa Mystica, Gurple, Sisters from the Mother House and the other communities in and around Mangalore. There were also several students from the schools run by the Bethany Sisters; close associates, friends and well-wishers and even some members of the immediate family of SD Raymond.

Immediately after the Eucharist, all present gathered at the tomb of SD Raymond, which is now a shrine on the left flank of the Church. It was an emotional moment for all, a time of grace. Wreaths were placed at the tomb. Prayers were said and hymns were sung; several

knelt at his tomb in fervent prayer. Three booklets were released, in three different languages: Konkani, English and French. Very symbolic – highlighting the Universal character of the Congregation – with its rootedness in the local reality!

A key booklet released on the occasion was a 52-page masterpiece *A Treasury of Pearls* which consists of sayings of Mgr Raymond F C Mascarenhas. Compiled by Sr Miriam, BS, this is surely a labour of love. Sr Miriam has been working as the Vice-Postulator for the Cause of the Beatification of the SD Raymond Mascarenhas, since the past ten years. Sr Miriam has carefully and painstakingly gleaned apt quotations of SD Raymond from various authentic sources. In the 'Foreword' to the booklet Sr Rose Celine BS, the Superior General of the Bethany Sisters writes, *"The proper use of 'A Treasury of Pearls' of the thoughts of Mgr Raymond F C Mascarenhas would enable us to better our lives on our journey towards holiness."* Whereas Sr Miriam in her 'Preface' makes it evidently clear, *"This book is a tribute to our Founder. I hope and pray that if each of us read just one quote a day and reflect on it, it will be a source of strength in our life and will continue to inspire us to live a truly holy life."*

Both the words of Sr Rose Celine and Sr Miriam are bang on point. Even a cursory glance through this spiritual tome, will leave one spellbound and in no doubt of how SD Raymond truly epitomised holiness in his lifetime. The entire booklet is classified under thirty-four themes- all which were a very integral part of the life of Mgr. Mascarenhas. The last three pages comprise the 'Last Will and Testament of Mgr RFC Mascarenhas,' dated March 28, 1942 – which serves, in fact, as practical directives on 'holiness'. The entire booklet is a 'pearl of great price'- but there are some choice quotes in the chapter on 'Holiness'; for example, *"sanctity consists in little things."*

A few months ago on 9 April 2018, Pope Francis gave to the world his latest Apostolic Exhortation, a 103-page document, entitled ***Gaudete et Exsultate*** ('Rejoice and Be Glad') An Apostolic Exhortation, is less authoritative than a papal encyclical, but is nevertheless an important papal teaching. At the very outset, Pope Francis makes clear that *"it is not meant to be a treatise on holiness"* but to *"re-propose the call to holiness in a practical way for our own time."* Interestingly, when one reads this path-breaking exhortation and one reflects on the life of SD Raymond and particularly on his 'Pearls' one cannot help but resonate

with the Pope's Exhortation which seems so integral to the life of SD Raymond.

Among other things, in his exhortation, Pope Francis writes,

- *"Holiness is the most attractive face of the church."*
- *"The important thing is that each believer discern his or her own path, that they bring out the very best of themselves, the most personal gifts that God has placed in their hearts, rather than hopelessly trying to imitate something not meant for them."*
- *"In times when women tended to be most ignored or overlooked, the Holy Spirit raised up saints whose attractiveness produced new spiritual vigor and important reforms in the church."*
- *"We are frequently tempted to think that holiness is only for those who can withdraw from ordinary affairs to spend much time in prayer. That is not the case."*
- *"We are all called to be holy by living our lives with love and by bearing witness in everything we do, wherever we find ourselves."*
- *"This holiness to which the Lord calls you will grow through small gestures."*
- *"Do not be afraid of holiness. It will take away none of your energy, vitality or joy."*
- *"Thanks be to God, throughout the history of the church it has always been clear that a person's perfection is measured not by the information or knowledge they possess, but by the depth of their charity."*
- *"In this call to recognize him in the poor and the suffering, we see revealed the very heart of Christ, his deepest feelings and choices, which every saint seeks to imitate."*
- *"It is true that the primacy belongs to our relationship with God, but we cannot forget that the ultimate criterion on which our lives will be judged is what we have done for others."*
- *"The saints surprise us, they confound us, because by their lives they urge us to abandon a dull and dreary mediocrity."*
- *"I do not believe in holiness without prayer, even though that prayer need not be lengthy or involve intense emotions."*

- *“Let us ask the Holy Spirit to pour out upon us a fervent longing to be saints for God’s greater glory, and let us encourage one another in this effort.”*

The parallels, the similarities are amazingly striking. There is no doubt about. Already in June 1934 of *Mangalore* (the organ of the Catholic Association of South Kanara) in the article “The Return of the Holy Year Pilgrims” Mgr RFC Mascarenhas while sharing his impressions on the Holy Year Pilgrimage states, *“May God vouchsafe some Saints in our midst. For one Saint, as Father Faber says, gives more glory to God than a million ordinary souls.”* The ‘Father Faber’ being referred to, is St Peter Faber who together with St Ignatius Loyola and St. Francis Xavier was one of the Founding Fathers of the Society of Jesus. Interestingly, on close scrutiny of the ‘Pearls’ one can also detect that SD Raymond was deeply steeped in Ignatian spirituality.

Bishop-emeritus of Mangalore Aloysius Paul D’Souza and the Mangalore Diocese who had opened the Cause of the Beatification and Canonization of Mgr Mascarenhas in 2008 and the Bethany Team led by Sr M Lillis, the Postulator – are doing all they possibly can to make known the life and works of SD Raymond and the tremendous impact he has had on the lives of hundreds of people all over. The celebration on 22 December 2018, was once again a strong reiteration of the many ways SD Raymond epitomised holiness!

May he continue to intercede for us from above!



Homily preached on the occasion of the 58th Death Anniversary of Mgr RFC Mascarenhas

- Fr Gregory D'Souza OCD

Most Rev Bishop, Rev Fathers & Sisters and my dear friends,

We are on the third week of the holy season of Advent. It is a Saturday and within a couple of days we will be celebrating the solemnity of Christmas recalling the birth of Christ. When the solemnity is so close perhaps we are all busy involved in many external things in preparation for this feast but the liturgy of today draws our attention to how we are to prepare for this feast. Both the readings of the liturgy have the same message.

In the first reading taken from the Book of Samuel we heard that Hannah, the wife of Elkanah did not have children. With prayer and fasting, with tears and sorrow she was crying day and night to the Lord to give her a child. The Lord listened to her prayers and she conceived and gave birth to a child, whom she called Samuel. When the child Samuel was weaned, she took the child and a three-year-old bull, an ephah of flour and a skin of wine, went to the temple and offered these to the Lord in a spirit of gratitude. She did not hesitate to offer what was most dear to her, namely, her child. God also blessed her, her family and above all her child who became a prophet of the Lord. In the Gospel of today we heard in response to the prayer and fasting of the humanity, especially the righteous ones, the Lord sent angel Gabriel to a virgin called Mary and told her that she would conceive and bear a child by the power of the Holy Spirit and he would be the Saviour of the world. Mary in response sang a hymn of gratitude, *Magnificat* the greatest of canticles.

God has bestowed on us a number of gifts. He has sent His only Son as our Redeemer whose birth we will be celebrating in a couple of days. In preparation for this feast as we are involved in many things, the liturgy of today draws our attention to our interior spiritual preparation.

Whenever God touches a person or gives him His experience, the first and foremost experience in that person is of his own nothingness or humility. From this flows a spirit of gratitude. This is exactly what we see in the life of Hannah in the first reading and in the Virgin Mary in the Gospel.

The greatest gift from God to the humanity is the mystery of the Incarnation. Some writers and mystics especially St John of the Cross speaks of the mystery of the Incarnation in terms of a wedding, a wedding between the divine nature and the human nature. Just as there cannot be a wedding without the bridegroom or bride, so too there cannot be the mystery of the Incarnation without the divine nature which may be called bridegroom and the human nature, the bride. Both the divine and the human nature are essential for the mystery of the Incarnation. The divine nature in this mystery comes from the divinity, human nature comes from the humanity according to divine plan. The angel Gabriel brought good tidings from God and Mary gave her consent also on behalf of the humanity. Thus in this mystery we see how the mortal human nature is brought to be one with the immortal divine nature. Who can understand what is the breadth and length and height and depth of God's love for us! This truth overwhelms us with humility and heartfelt gratitude to God.

Very Rev Mgr RFC Mascarenhas whose 58th death anniversary we are celebrating today teaches us how we are to be grateful to God. I had the fortune of seeing the Monsignor and speaking to him. He impressed upon me very much as an example of a Catholic priest.

When some people die in less than a year their memory is forgotten. On the contrary, there are others whose memory lives and grows on as the years pass by. Why is this difference? Mgr Mascarenhas definitely belongs to the second category. No, though we do not want to die yet after death, our body goes straight to the grave without ever missing its path. But as the spirit takes flight to God its source, human selfishness becomes its stumbling block. Rev Mgr Mascarenhas shows us how we are to overcome this inherent obstacle of selfishness and pride.

He knew that Jesus Christ is our Redeemer, the beginning and the end. He is the perfect image of the invisible God. He is the Way, the Truth, and Life. He lives forever. Every person dedicated to Him engrafted on Him, lives and works for Him shall live with Him in eternal life. He who has been the partner of the mystery and the mission of Christ in this life shall also be the partner in the glory of Christ. The most outstanding aspect of the life of Mgr Mascarenhas is his unconditional, irrevocable, perfect dedication to his Master, Jesus Christ. That's why he is remembered today even after his 58 years of his death.

Jesus Christ our Redeemer to whom Mgr Mascarenhas is dedicated is present in our midst today through His Word, the Gospel. The Word of God is the light to those in darkness. Human life is like the grass of the field and its greatness is the flower of the grass. Without the Word

of God, the grass withers and flower fades but the Word of the Lord lives forever. Therefore, knowing this truth Mgr Mascarenhas spent all his energies to live by the Word, to meditate on it and to proclaim it in every way possible. He did not hesitate to teach catechism to children, proclaim it from the pulpit. In order that the ordinary people may have access to this life giving Word he translated the Gospel into the vernacular Konkani. If the Word of God lasts forever, the one who spends his life for that Word shall also last forever. This is precisely the reason why he is fully alive in our mind and heart even after 58 years of his death.

We are saved and sanctified not as isolated individuals but as members of a saved community, the Church. We should be happy that we belong to the Church. Mgr Mascarenhas worked relentlessly for the Church. Wherever he went or was sent he worked day and night for the Church in his capacity as pastor or teacher. We could say that Mgr Mascarenhas did not hesitate to undertake anything which he was convinced would contribute to the growth of the Church. The living proof of this truth this very church of Bendur which he built working day and night. How many thousands of people have been gathering here to worship the living God! It should be our privilege to rejoice because we are the children of the Mother Church. The Catholic Church is holy, yet because her children she is also imperfect. It is our responsibility as children to make her perfect. However perfect the Church may be, her imperfect children can render her to some extent imperfect. Similarly however imperfect the Church may be, her children can make her perfect. Whether the Church is perfect or imperfect, is also our responsibility. As St Teresa of Avila, a great mystic and writer, lay in her deathbed joyfully exclaimed "I am a daughter of the Church".

If one loves the Mother Church one will also love her children. We cannot deny that the poor and the underprivileged are the privileged children of the Church. Mgr Mascarenhas was convinced that the service to the poor is one of the best ways to please the Lord Jesus Christ and His spouse the Church. He therefore undertook to uplift the underprivileged through different forms of ministries such as, education, social service, and health care. In view of that he made provisions to start schools in rural places and thus make education available to the poor especially the girls. He started also basic health care and social centres. In these and other ways he promoted education, health, hygiene, and overall upliftment of the culture of the people.

But he was aware that he would not be able to do this adequately during his life time left alone. It is in this context, in response to the prayer of the poor inspired by the Holy Spirit, he started the Congregation

of the Sisters of the Little Flower of Bethany. This is another reason why Mgr Mascarenhas continues to live even today and perhaps in the ages to come.

In a word, Mgr Mascarenhas continues to live through his dedication to his Master Jesus Christ, through his proclamation of the Word of the Master, through the Mother Church, and through his daughters and through his service of the poor. Jesus Christ founded the Church to continue His mission. The Church called Mgr Mascarenhas to continue her mission and Mgr Mascarenhas inspired by the Holy Spirit called the Sisters of the Little Flower of Bethany. But all these had just one purpose, viz. to promote the Kingdom of God

Looking at the Sacred Scripture we can say whenever God calls a person he does so in response to the prayer of the people for a particular mission. Moses was called in response to the prayer of the Israelites. His call is to be understood in his service to the Israelites. In his way he is indebted to serve the Israelites. Mgr Mascarenhas was called in response to the prayer of the poor and the downtrodden. His call is to be understood in this ecclesial context. He did this service because he was in this way indebted to the poor. His daughters, the Sisters of Bethany are called to religious life with a charism handed down by Mgr Mascarenhas. They are called to continue his work towards the poor in response to whose prayer they have been called. His daughters therefore, are like him indebted to the poor in response to whose prayer the Spirit inspired Mgr Mascarenhas to start the Congregation. As long as they continue to serve as did their Founder, their convents will be full and their generation shall last.

To conclude, just as Mgr Mascarenhas found meaning to his life and fruitfulness to his ministry, so too, his daughters the Sisters of Bethany shall find meaningfulness to their life and fruitfulness to their ministry in their intimate relationship with Christ. Just as their Founder lived by the light of the Word of God, meditated on it, assimilated it and tried to become the presence of the Word in his very life, so too his daughters shall find light to their life in the Word of God and proclaim it especially through teaching catechism and life witness. Mgr Mascarenhas saw his very existence in the Church, working for her wherever he was placed, his daughters too shall find meaningfulness to their religious existence working for the Church especially the local Church. Like their Founder, they will do all this placed amidst the poor and the underprivileged knowing that these poor are the privileged children of the Church ready to receive the Gospel message of the Kingdom.

Mgr Raymond's Love for Our Lady and Rosary

- Prof Stephen Quadros

In the year 2012 The Bethany Educational Society asked me to prepare a simple Kannada handbook on the Servant of God Mgr Raymond Francis Camillus Mascarenhas. This gave me a golden opportunity to spend time reading about the life and works of the great beacon of light. As I read through the works and writings available on his life I was impressed by his devotion to Our Lady and to her Rosary.

In her book *Mgr Raymond-A Mystic and a Prophet* Sr M Bertha one of the early followers of the Servant of God remembers an incident which gives us a picture of the devotion of Mgr Raymond Mascarenhas to Our Lady and her Rosary. "Once returning from Gadenahalli, Monsignor was travelling by bus and he was fully engrossed with his Rosary. The bus ran for some time and suddenly rammed into a huge tree and came to a standstill, there were nearly no casualties. The conductor being shocked, loudly declared that 'there must be a holy man travelling in the bus due to whose presence God



saved the passengers' (ಬಸ್ಸಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾರಾದ್ರೂ ಪುಣ್ಯವಂತರು ಇರಬೇಕು ನೋಡೋಣ) The driver, who had by now observed and being impressed by the holy man, replied 'Yes there is one, one in the white garb, he has beads in his hands and he is praying' (ಇದ್ದಾರೆ ಒಬ್ಬ ಬಿಳಿ ತೊಟ್ಟ ಸನ್ಯಾಸಿ ಇದ್ದಾರೆ ಅವರ ಕೈಯಲ್ಲಿ ಜಪಮಾಲೆ ಇದೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಪ್ರಾರ್ಥನೆ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಾ ಇದ್ದಾರೆ)" This incident in itself is enough to give us a clear picture of Monsignor's craving for Rosary.

Servant of God always carried his Rosary of the Seven Sorrows. The Rosary of the Seven Sorrows, also known as the Chaplet of Seven Sorrows or the Servite Rosary, is a Rosary based prayer that originated with the Servite Order. It is often said in connection with the Seven Sorrows of Mary. Monsignor, somehow found this prayer very dear to him. During his tenure in the Mount Rosary Kallianpur, he took special care to spread the devotion of Rosary, concentrating mostly on the youngsters. His desire was to bring the youth nearer to the devotion of Holy Rosary.

Contemporaries have shared sweet memories of his devotion to Rosary. Servant of God, being the Vicar General of the diocese of Mangalore, used to travel to Calicut often. Once a companion of his sought his guidance about going to Calicut and asked him about the distance from Mangalore to Calicut. The founder, who had, in all his

travels to Calicut had only spent time in reciting Rosary said that he is not sure about the exact distance from Mangalore to Calicut but the time taken is enough to recite 17 full Rosaries. An understanding of the then travelling facilities available, will give an idea about the prayers included in one Rosary recited by the Servant of God. It seems, he repeated the same answer to one of the sisters who asked him about the distance from Mangalore to Calicut, saying, 'I do not know but I can recite 15 to 16 Rosaries from Mangalore to Calicut.

Mgr Mascarenhas used to tell his friends in the seminary that for him Rosary is the best thing that anybody can gift and reciting Rosary would be the best part of his day. He used to tell them that Joanna, his mother, lived only for the children. Her one aim was to inculcate Christian virtues in them; above all, a lively faith, confidence in God, a spirit of prayer, and a tender devotion to our Blessed Mother. The evening family Rosary was a regular feature of their daily schedule. It is from his childhood and due to his mother he felt drawn to the praying of the Rosary.

Mr J P Rego in one of his writings has narrated an incident as told to him by one of the travel companion of the Monsignor. While travelling from Mangalore to Bombay by a ship, while rest of the travelers would spend their time in merry making and fun, this holy priest would only spend time in reciting Rosary, asking fellow travellers to join him in praying and praising Our Lady. It seems he was spending entire night sitting in a camp chair, reciting the Rosary. Fr Mark Fernandes who was the Parish Priest at Uppinangady has noted that during all his visits to Mgr RFC Mascarenhas, he found him with the Rosary and in a prayerful mood. "A man of iron will, great administrator shared with me that his achievement if any is only due to Mother Mary and his Rosary" states Fr Fernandes.

When the Servant of God was asked, what prayer would he love to make on his death bed? He was spontaneous to say that he would be very glad to recite his Rosary spending all time available to him calling out 'Hail Mary full of grace, the Lord is with you blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb Jesus'. He added that he will praise, praise, praise Mother Mary and will die peacefully.

Mgr Mascarenhas held his Rosary very near to his heart even during the worst situations. When the beautiful Bethany study hall connecting the Chapel and the building on the other side was brought down because of the objections of some of the parishioners of Bendur Parish, which he had loved and nurtured, he stood there watching and holding his Rosary very close to his heart. It is said that he could subside all grief,

insult and the pain he experienced, only because of the strength he got through the Rosary he held so near to his heart.

Many a time people spoke to him in doubtful tones about the continuity of the great project Bethany after his going. The founder, it seems, was having only one answer, "Do well whatever you do, do it for God and for the love of his Mother. Never ever forget to go to her with your Rosary." He insisted that the sisters pray the Servite Rosary (The Rosary of Seven Sorrows of Our Lady) and he spent time in teaching the same to them. He also translated books on the devotion to Mary both in English and Konkani.

Sr Theresine remembers that 'The Rosa Mystica Campus itself was dedicated to the Lady of Rosary by the Monsignor and he made October 7th the feast of the Holy Rosary its titular feast. In 1954 he had the convent chapel extended to accommodate the growing number of sisters, novices, and students. He wanted all the inmates of the Rosa Mystica Campus especially the sisters and novices to pray the Rosary in the chapel meaningfully. He therefore had the 15 mysteries of the Rosary painted beautifully by a renowned artist in Mangalore and on 6th of May 1954, had the mysteries fixed on the walls inside the chapel, with a Rosary long enough to go round the chapel encircling the 15 mysteries. Thus he made the mysteries of the Rosary alive and meditation on them made easy during the recitation of the Rosary.'

Those who lived with him or knew him from near quarters give evidence to the fact that the Marian Devotion in general was very dear to the heart of the Servant of God. His devotion to Mary was such like that of a child to its own mother. He would call her Mai'n (Mother) in Konkani and would seek from his sisters also, the same sense of belongingness to her mother. Whenever a new Marian devotion appeared in the Church or the old one was reintroduced with newer emphasis, he was very eager to spread it. In Bethany or even before that, he encouraged the spread of Marian devotion, devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, or the Prayer of Our Lady's request to three children of Fatima "O my God, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of hell, lead all souls to heaven, especially those who are in most need of your mercy."

His love for our Heavenly Mother and her day was such that every new house of the Congregation was not only opened on Mary's day (Saturday) or on her feast day but was also named after some attributes of her. (Maryvale) or a place made sacred by association with Mary-(Massabielle, Lourdes, Genezzano Convent etc.) After founding the Congregation, *he gave Mary to the Bethany Institute as its queen and*

WELCOME TO THE MEMORIAL OF RAYMOND F C MASCARENHAS

ARTICLE

DISCRIPTION

F 142.13



GREEN STOLE

This green colour silk stole used by the Servant of God RFC Mascarenhas has machine embroidery on both sides and it has a green cotton lining; a few stains are found; soiled and colour has faded.

F 142.14



BLACK STOLE

This black colour silk Stole used by the Servant of God RFC Mascarenhas has silk lining and printed crosses are fixed on both ends; there are white and black fringes too.

F 142.15



PURPLE STOLE

This purple colour silk stole which is narrow used by the Servant of God RFC Mascarenhas is joined with yellow flowered ribbon; yellow ribbon crosses and yellow fringes are fixed on both sides.

F 142.16



ALTAR CLOTH

This white cotton altar cloth used by the Servant of God RFC Mascarenhas for the Eucharistic Celebration is torn and has patches; there are a few stains. Size: 206.5 cm x 50 cm.

F 142.17



ALTAR CLOTH

This white cotton Altar cloth used by the Servant of God RFC Mascarenhas for the Eucharistic Celebration is torn and there are a few yellow and black stains. Size: 216 cm x 52 cm

F 142.18



WHITE CASSOCK

C Mascarenhas is of thick white cotton with red piping and red buttons on the sleeves and with middle opening. There are a few stains. Two buttons are hanging at the middle opening; buttons on the sleeves are intact.

F 142.19.1



WHITE CAPE

This white cotton cape used by the Servant of God RFC Mascarenhas is part of the cassock with red piping; has some stains.

F 142.19.2



WHITE CAPE

This white cotton cape used by the Servant of God RFC Mascarenhas with red piping has stains and holes.

F 142.20



WHITE ALB

This alb used by the Servant of God RFC Mascarenhas is of fine white cotton cloth with white narrow lace; it is torn in some places and there are a few stains.

F 142.21



WHITE SURPLICE

This white surplice used by Mgr RFC Mascarenhas for the Eucharistic Celebration is of fine cotton cloth with broad white lace fixed for the sleeves and at the hem. There are white cords to tie. It has iron stains and looks reddish.

F 142.22



WHITE CASSOCK

This white cotton cassock is of Mgr RFC Mascarenhas. There are a few stains in some places; white round cotton buttons are fixed at the centre opening all along.

F 142.23



WHITE CASSOCK

This cotton cassock used by Mgr RFC Mascarenhas has become cremish. Button holes are stitched in red thread on the opening and on sleeves.

... to be continued

mother and he was thoroughly convinced that Bethany was the work that Jesus, the great lover of Bethany had entrusted to her. He called Bethany, "Our Blessed Mother's Garden." He reminded the sisters in and out of season that she is "expert gardener" and she will not tolerate any rotten plants in her garden; certainly she will weed them out. So, his frequent advice was to listen to Mary and to "do whatever she tells you." The tell-tale marks of his love and devotion to the Holy Mother of God are all over Bethany. As we enter the Bethany parlour and climb the first step we see the statue of our Blessed Mother ready to welcome us- and the words from his favourite hymn "Ave Maris Stella"- "Show Thyself o Mother" (*Monstra Te Esse Matrem*). Commenting on those words he would say often "She will show herself to be your mother, but do you show yourself and behave as her child?"

As a mark of complete dedication to the Heavenly Mother, on 16 July 1946 he consecrated the entire Congregation of Bethany to the Immaculate Heart of Mary and insisted his sisters give their quality time to Mother by spending it in her praise, in Rosary, Angelus, singing her litany, and novenas in preparation for her feasts. He had the grotto erected in every community and asked the sisters to gather in front of the grotto and recite Rosary. He instructed the sisters to motivate lay faithful to spend some time in front of the grotto.

Mgr Mascarenhas was greatly touched by the sorrows of Our Lady. He would spend most of his evenings reflecting on her seven sorrows. 'Stabat Mater' was the hymn he often sang. He used to give reflections to his sisters on its verses. Towards the end of his life when he had to face uncalled for humiliations and complications this thought of his Mother on the way to Calvary would greatly comfort him. To one of his sisters who in her letter tried to sympathize with him he wrote, "Don't worry my child about my sufferings; it is true that I am going through very difficult times, but I am not alone, I am at the foot of the Calvary with my blessed Mother."

For Mgr Mascarenhas the hymn of *Magnificat* was a revolutionary hymn. Mary a simple girl said 'yes' and that made the salvation easy. That 'yes' brought about a tremendous change. Monsignor himself was in the path of bringing about revolutionary change by the grace of God and therefore it is but natural that he took the divine mother as his dearest and nearest person throughout his life. Rosary was his way of expressing that unconditional love to his mother - a child's pure and complete love to his mother. When the statue of Our Lady of Fatima, in its world tour, arrived at Mangalore for a short visit he managed to take it to Bethany at Bendur. He placed it on a highly decorated altar amidst

the Marian hymns and Rosaries. While it was time to take the statue to other places 75 year old went up and carried the statue with love and devotion.

His pure love to Mother Mary is seen throughout his life. In joys and sorrows he turned to her. In time of trials and troubles his thoughts were deep with Mother Mary. He used to say that both Mother and the Son are there at Calvary and whom should I fear. Is not this child of Mary a model to us? His dedication and steadfast Marian spirit will always guide us. He firmly believed that the devotion to Our Lady will only take us nearer to her son. In today's challenged times we need to remain closer to Our Lord and in this endeavour Monsignor's method, I believe is best suited to us.

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Mgr Raymond Mascarenhas

- In the footprints of 'The Suffering Servant'

- Sr M Shalet D'Souza BS

Introduction

"Sufferings are a sign of God's love for us. Sufferings strengthen our spiritual life; one who suffers exactly as God wishes, enjoys spiritual joy. What was the life of our Blessed Lady, but a life of suffering? From the Incarnation, she had her cross on her shoulders... ask her to give us a great desire to suffer for Jesus; to love suffering and to suffer lovingly." (RFC Mascarenhas, *Conference on the Crucifixion*, dated 21.12.1940). These words coming from the mouth of Mgr Raymond Mascarenhas, sets the tone for a reflection on the meaning and significance of suffering in the life of a Christian in general and a disciple of Jesus in particular.

The life and ministry of Mgr Raymond Mascarenhas has been a guiding lamp on the question of human suffering. His life and ministry reflects the value of human suffering. Suffering, he considered, as God's powerful loudspeaker to speak to us. While the Bethany Congregation was in its infant stage, he told the founding sisters, "You are the Sisters of Bethany. Bethany is close to Gethsemane. Go constantly in spirit to that garden of Olives and see Jesus there agonizing for you and for sinners... It is your garden - your mountain, where you should resort to frequently, to pray and gain strength in your spiritual warfare..." (R. F. C. Mascarenhas, *Conference on the Example of Jesus – Obedience*, dated 21.12.1940).

It is very true that our founder does not give us a theological or spiritual discourse on suffering, but his was a living testimony for the value of suffering. His life and his positive and daring attitude towards sufferings he underwent put us in the correct perspective of the importance of suffering as it is reflected in Christian theology and spirituality.

1. Suffering - A Human Reality

There is no doubt that suffering is an inevitable human reality and has remained a dilemma for human mind. It has puzzled several minds including thinkers, philosophers, and even theologians. This human reality if contemplated only from a human knowledge, gives more

questions, doubts, puzzles and dilemmas. However, life of Christ and the history of Christianity have been able to shed great light.

For Christians, the Creator of all things is a perfectly good, perfectly just, and perfectly loving Father. Suffering and death, and all the evils we experience in this life, have their origin in human sin against God our Father. While very often man thinks his suffering is ultimately meaningless and pointless, Mgr Raymond believed and lived the Christian understanding of suffering according to which no suffering is ultimately meaningless or pointless. Because we believe that a loving God is providentially orchestrating all things, in a way that upholds our freedom. For that reason, we believe that when God allows us to suffer, He is doing so to protect us from a greater evil, or to lift us to a far greater and outweighing good. God always has a good purpose in allowing suffering, even when that purpose is inscrutable to us.

2. The Servant Songs, a Prelude to Jesus' Sufferings

Mgr Raymond did reflect on sufferings of all sorts in his pastoral ministry. Through his sermons, visits to the sick, and assisting the persons in their death bed, we could certainly see his love for the sick and the dying. At various occasions he does make a reference in his homilies to the Servant Songs of the Old Testament and sees in them a prelude to the sufferings of Jesus and draws strength from them for his sufferings.

The Servant Songs are songs in the Book of Isaiah. The songs are written about a certain "servant of YHWH." These songs (or poems) describe the servant as the one, God chose to "bring justice to the nations" (42:1) and "to lead back the people of Israel" to God (49:5). But the servant will also be "a light" so that other nations will recognize God's "saving power" (49:6). Unlike others in the Jewish Scriptures who are called the Lord's servant (for example, Abraham, Jacob, and Moses), the servant in Isaiah suffers physical pain and humiliation (50:6; 52:14; 53:3-5,7) in the work the Lord called him to do. The Songs recognize that the suffering of the servant will help accomplish the work he was called to accomplish. In other words, his own suffering will ultimately take away the sins and guilt of others (53:4, 5, 10, 11), and the Lord will reward the servant for sacrificing his life for others (53:12).

There are four Servant Songs in Second Isaiah: 42, 1-4; 49, 1-6; 50, 4-9; 52, 13-53, 12 and they have their own theology independent

of the rest of the book. The identity of the Servant Songs has been a point of discussion among scholars. The Jews before the Christian era had given a Messianic interpretation to these songs. Jesus saw his own identity in these Servant Songs.

The First Servant Song is regarding God's designation of someone as his servant. But the identity of this individual designated as the servant is not clear. The first verse ends mentioning the task entrusted to the servant: to bring forth justice to the nations. When the servant brings judgment to the nations, he is not to follow the traditional or worldly ways. He is not supposed to follow the royal traditions of public proclamations. 'He does not shout; His voice is not heard in the street'. The Servant will not become weak or perish before completing his task i.e. establishing justice on the earth.

The Second Servant Song is addressed to the foreign nations. The servant stands for all faithful Israelites, more precisely, the disciples of the exilic prophet and very precisely, the prophet himself. The prophet in his evaluation finds that his mission so far was fruitless and in vain. The mission of the servant was unsuccessful, yet God vindicated and accepted it. The seeming failure of the mission of the servant has not cut his ties with God; instead, God approves it and rewards him. He is a light to the nations who will bring God's salvation to the ends of the earth.

The third Servant Song represents the confession of confidence uttered by a mediator of the word. Duetero-Isaiah regarded his task, his sufferings and his relationship to God as those of a prophet. The servant commissioned with an office of the word confesses unshakeable confidence in God. "I have offered my back to those who struck me, my cheeks to those who plucked my beard; I have not turned my face away from insult and spitting". This verse supposes that the speaker had experienced hostility, attacks on his person, even blows and abuse. Despite the attacks and insults on him, the servant has not rebelled against receiving the word from God and has not refrained from coming forward with it to those for whom it was designed. The servant accepts the suffering and shame willingly, and allows himself to be smitten and takes the attacks, blows and insults as designed by God.

The Fourth Servant Song is about the servant's humiliation and exaltation. The song contains what people say about the servant and what God says about the servant. The suffering isolated the servant

from the community and grew up without regard and neglected by all. In the traditional way, the sufferings of the servant were taken by the people as God's punishment. In the case of the servant the people first believed that his sufferings were due to his own sins. Later only they understood that he was bearing the sins of the people and their consequent punishment. The stripes that he received gave healings to the people, i.e. forgiveness as well as removal of punishments. In his final moments of suffering the servant stood alone; no one comforted him or sympathized with him.

These songs were a prophecy of Jesus' vicarious suffering and death. The evangelists and other NT authors saw in Jesus' suffering, death and resurrection the fulfillment of the prophecy; " For Christ died for sins once and for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God" (1 Pet 3,18; Rom3,26).

3. Mgr Raymond, in the crucible of Suffering

Having gazed very succinctly on the meaning of suffering in the life of Christ and Christians, one can see that sufferings were an integral part of our Servant of God. Mgr Raymond Mascarenhas all through his priestly life was subject to various sorts of human suffering. His love for God and neighbour was tested and purified. I would like to give some of the examples from his life situations. Ms Judith Mascarenhas, the god-child of Fr Raymond Mascarenhas writes:

"...He was a visionary who saw, thought and acted far ahead of his times had to meet with many difficulties, misunderstandings, yet he took all in his stride with great determination and trust in God and Our Lady. Like all prophets he was tested in the crucible of suffering-criticism, lack of support from persons higher up. Misunderstanding was the thorny path he had to tread to form a band of Bethany Apostles for the Kingdom..." (J Mascarenhas, *Speech*, 04.03.2000).

Fr Raymond's penetrating vision enabled him to look far ahead so that the means he used in present situations could solve not only present problems but also those of the future. He desired that the Church in India should stand on its own resources: he was one of the first and strongest champion for the appointment of an Indian Bishop for the Mangalore Diocese. During those days one of the priests wrote:

...Dear Father, you have played your part; the drama of your life, the goal of your labours is reached. Even if the diocese is to ignore you,

positively it will be grateful to you for the pen you wielded in vindication of its inalienable rights. Others will reap what you have sown amidst the rain of suspension and mistrust. There is something within me that tells me that you will have only a silent role to play in the new drama to be staged in the Mangalore Diocese... (*Letter*, 02.02.1928).

...He had many sufferings to undergo while starting the Congregation and even later on. Still he was calm and serene. His only trust was in our Blessed Mother and Eucharistic Lord. It was at this time that the Founder began in Bethany the devotion to Our Lady of Sorrows. She was his strength... (*M Gemma, Memories on Mgr Raymond*, 23.07.2002).

When one of the sisters wrote to him about the sufferings that 'Bethany' had to endure, he replied, "Bethany has been placed under a great affliction, which makes everything so difficult for us, especially for our work in the outside Diocese. But it is God's will and He with His Blessed Mother will take us through. You must all pray much." (*Letter*, RFC Mascarenhas to Annunciata BS, dated 26.10.1946).

The last three years of his life were lonesome and desolate. God permitted that he be stripped of everything - material possession (which he had none), status and power and personal affection. In those challenging moments Jesus and Mary were his consolation. His motto was:

**"All for Jesus, Man of Sorrows;
Through Mary, Mother of Sorrows;
For Bethany, close to Calvary and Gethsemane."**

Mgr Raymond was well aware that disciple of Christ cannot follow the Master without carrying his cross. Cross constituted the life force of Jesus, and also in the life of Monsignor Raymond. He saw in suffering only an extension of the sufferings of Christ. He would remind his spiritual daughters saying, "We suffer with him that we may be glorified with him." (RFC Mascarenhas, *Conference on the Crucifixion*, dated 21.12.1940).

Conclusion

Mgr Raymond considered that all the suffering that God allows us to experience in this life, is ultimately medicinal, i.e. for our good in some respect, even when we do not see that we need any treatment. Because we are joined to Christ, our suffering is joined with His, and

participates in the Redemption He accomplished. The New Testament authors teach this same thing. "For, as we share abundantly in Christ's sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too"(2 Cor, 1:5). "We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; *always carrying in the body the death of Jesus*, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. For, while we live we are always being given up to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may be manifested in our mortal flesh ... knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus"(2Cor, 4:8-11). "That I may know him (Christ) and the power of his Resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that if possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead." (Phil, 3: 10-11) "Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I do my share on behalf of His body, which is the Church, in filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions(Col 1:24).

Does that mean that Christ's work was insufficient? Our Servant of God would say, no, Christ's work was sufficient for its purpose. But God has graciously allowed us to participate in Christ's work of redeeming the world, the greatest of all God's works. As Pope St John Paul II writes: "*For, whoever suffers in union with Christ*— just as the Apostle Paul bears his "tribulations" in union with Christ— not only receives from Christ that strength already referred to but also "completes" by his suffering "what is lacking in Christ's afflictions" (*Salvifici Doloris*, 24). Or again the saint writes: "Those who share in the sufferings of Christ preserve in their own sufferings a very special particle of the infinite treasure of the world's Redemption, and can share this treasure with others" (*Salvifici Doloris*, 27).

For Mgr Raymond, Mary is the exemplar of suffering in union with Christ, as she was told by Simeon, "and a sword will pierce even your own soul." When St Paul writes, "For we are God's co-workers" that is not just for Paul or for the Apostles, but for all of us who are joined to Christ through baptism. By our union with Christ, our suffering gets to count, as a participation in His suffering; our suffering becomes meaningful in the realm of eternity. Our founder Monsignor Raymond would fully accord with Pope St John Paul II who writes: "In the Cross of Christ not only is the Redemption accomplished through suffering, but *also human suffering itself has been redeemed*, ... Every man has *his*

own share in the Redemption. Each one is also called to share in that suffering through which the Redemption was accomplished. He is called to share in that suffering through which all human suffering has also been redeemed. In bringing about the Redemption through suffering, Christ has also *raised human suffering to the level of the Redemption.* Thus each man, in his suffering, can also become a sharer in the redemptive suffering of Christ (*Salvifici Doloris*, 19).

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He Lived the Purpose

- Sr M Venisha BS

Formed by God with a purpose
Gracefully grew in a holy womb
January 23rd, 1975 the great day rose
To bring RFC Mascarenhas to the globe

Born to a God fearing family
At early age Raymond became holy
Drew closer to God day by day
His parents he would always obey

His schooling days were memorable
To teachers and students he was lovable
In all his studies he was stable
True wisdom made his progress remarkable

At the teenage he could boldly discern
About his future concern
Deeply reflected and said yes to God
Rejecting the attractive world

Period of training were a means
To listen attentively poor man's pains
Consecrated his life to the lost and needy
To fight for their rights was ever ready

It was a call within the call
To help spread the Good News to all
Boldly decided inspired by the Spirit
He had Mary to direct

His heart was filled with deep compassion
Served the poor and lowly with passion
Pain and sorrows did not make him retire
With trust and confidence won the world entire

He is no more here today
But his spirit works in us every day
Bethany is growing wonderfully
Recalling his memories gratefully

Lived a saintly life here on earth
As Servant of God he has taken rebirth
We pray he be a saint very soon
To make him known to everyone



THE COMPASSIONATE PASTOR

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The Vice- Postulator
Cause of the Servant of God Raymond Mascarenhas
Bethany Convent, Kankanady Post
Mangalore – 575002
Karnataka, India.

Managing Editor

The Tale of Unparalleled Reward

- Ms Binita Lama

St Maria Goretti School, Kolasib

Raymond, a man of supreme vision
Revered for your zealous passion
To carry on the Lord's mission
Of saving the poor from oppression

Though you stood the brightest
No rewards did you expect
Adhering to the Lord's precepts
Served the poor with due respect

Fund of virtues at the seminary
Carved you into a zealous missionary
You befriended the poor being ordinary
We salute thee oh great visionary!

Ignored none; the refined nor the crude,
Cared for all; the humble and the rude
Lone and the orphans found in you abode
Through Bethany you continue to abide.



FAVOURS RECEIVED

July 11, 2018

A teacher of Class V was hit by a fan on the back of her head in the staff room as it came swirling down. She was rushed to the hospital as she was under shock and was nauseating. On hearing and in my anxiety I prayed to our beloved Founder to intervene and keep her safe from major harm.

Though she felt hazy and was throwing up initially, God saved her from major harm. On investigation, MRI showed no major injury and was out of danger. I thank God for the favour received through the intercession of the Servant of God, Mgr RFC Mascarenhas.

Sr M Ophelia Tauro BS

Bhatinda, Punjab

I was suffering from fungal infection on the middle finger of my left hand for the past seven years. I tried all the possible medications from various doctors but there was no improvement. During my visit to the Founder's Memorial I earnestly prayed through his intercession for the healing and I was miraculously healed from my illness. I thank God for healing me through the intercession of our beloved Founder.

Sr M Felcy Veigas

Bethany Convent, Bendur

03.09.2018

My granddaughter in Australia had a severe case of fissure. She suffered a lot for a week. I turned in prayer to the Servant of Raymond FC Mascarenhas and within three days. I was informed that she was on the road to recovery, 90% healed.

Today, she has recovered totally and even reported to duty after a gap of ten days.

Thank you Servant of God Raymond F.C. Mascarenhas. Through your intercession, this is the second favour has been granted to me. I pray that your beatification and canonization be granted early.

Mrs Mary D'Souza

B.C. 87 Camp, Independence Road, Belgaum 590 001.

Since five and a half years I was suffering from blackout and numbness in my hands and mouth as well as restlessness in my body. I had consulted medical doctors and had medical tests of my heart, head, and the whole body. There was no improvement.

I joined as the receptionist in Bethany Generalate in July 2018. I also had the same attack twice. I prayed and the Bethany Sisters prayed for my healing through the intercession of the Servant of God Mgr RFC Mascarenhas. I experience the healing in my body. Since one and a half month I did not have any such attacks. I thank God for this healing received through the intercession of Mgr RFC Mascarenhas.

Miss Usha K Monteiro

Maryhill, Mangalore.

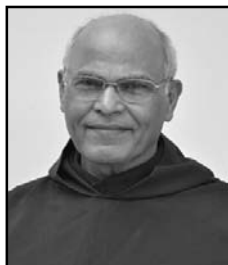
My nephew lost his job in the gulf suddenly and he was desperate to get another job. We prayed through the intercession of Mgr Raymond Mascarenhas and he got a very good job within two days of our prayers. I thank God for the favour received.

Lydia M Fernandes

Amboli, Andheri, Mumbai

CONTRIBUTORS

Fr Gregory D'Souza, a Discalced Carmelite priest from the Karnataka-Goa Province is well known in India and abroad. He has secured an M.A., Ph.D. in Philosophy from the University of Mysore for his thesis, "Mystical Experience in St Teresa of Avila" and later another M.Th., Th.D. from Teresianum, Rome for his thesis, "The New Man in St John of



the Cross." He is a retired Professor of Theology from Post graduate Department of Christianity, University of Mysore, India. He continues to teach both Philosophy and Theology in different seminaries and institutes in India and abroad. He is an acknowledged authority in Mysticism. He has contributed a number of articles and research papers in leading national and international magazines and journals and has authored many books.

Fr Cedric Prakash SJ of the Gujarat Jesuit Province is an internationally acclaimed human rights activist and writer. He is the great-grandnephew of SD Raymond Mascarenhas. After working with the St Xaviers' Social Service Society, he was the director of PRASHANT-the Jesuit centre for human rights - which he founded in Ahmedabad



on October 2, 2001. He has been rendering his generous services at the Jesuit Refugee Service Centre, Beirut, Lebanon working among the thousands of internally displaced people for the past three years. This has been his long cherished dream. He has to his credit numerous national and international awards. Contact: cedricprakash@gmail.com

Prof Stephen Quadros Permude, Teaching History since last 27 years is presently Head of the Department of History at Government First Grade College for Women, Puttur. He has authored more than 130 books in Konknai, English and Kannada, including a biography of Mgr Raymond F C Mascarenhas. He has compiled world's first 50000 head entry English-Kannada-Konkani Dictionary).



Sr M Shalet D'Souza BS is a Bethany Sister from Mangalore. She is the Assistant Novice Directress at Rosa Mystica Novitiate, Kinnikambala. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Theology from St Joseph's Inter-diocesan Seminary, Mangalore and Diploma in Formator's Course at Institute for Formators in India, Bangalore. She worked in the field of formation for the past ten years. At present she is pursuing her MA in Holistic Spirituality under Mysore University through St Philomena's College, Mysore.



**Book Release on the 58th Death Anniversary
of the Servant of God
Raymond F C Mascarenhas**



A Treasury of Pearls, sayings of the Servant of God compiled by Sr Miriam BS., was released by Most Rev Dr Peter Paul Saldanha, the Bishop of Mangalore.



A Treasury of Pearls is a collection of the sayings of the Servant of God Raymond F C Mascarenhas, the Founder of the Congregation of the Sisters of the Little Flower of Bethany. The sayings are selected from various documents written by Mgr RFC Mascarenhas, his letters, conferences, teachings, sermons, retreat instructions, and speeches on various occasions during his lifetime.

**Book Release on the 58th Death Anniversary
of the Servant of God
Raymond F C Mascarenhas**



The Konkani translation of *A Treasury of Pearls* (*Mothyanchen Khazaan*) by Mr Gilbert Miranda was released by Sr M Rose Celine BS., the Superior General.



A Treasury of Pearls was translated into Konkani by Mr Gilbert Miranda, brother of Sr Miriam BS. It was edited by Rev Fr Francis Rodrigues, the Parish Priest of Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, Vorkady, Kasaragod Dt. This booklet could be useful to the Konkani speaking people. It will be a source of strength in our life and will inspire us to live a better life.

**Book Release on the 58th Death Anniversary
of the Servant of God
Raymond F C Mascarenhas**



**Congratulations and thanks to Sr Miriam BS
for her ceaseless efforts to compile and categorise
topic-wise in *A Treasury of Pearls*, the sayings of the servant of
the God in order that it could be beneficial
to all the readers.**



***Si le grain ne meurt pas* French translation of the book
Unless the Seed Die was released by Dr Mrs Lourdes Prabhu,
great-grand niece of the Servant of God.**

**Book Release on the 58th Death Anniversary
of the Servant of God
Raymond F C Mascarenhas**



Congratulations and grateful thanks to Fr Antoine LAURAS SJ, former professor of Literature at the Catholic University of Paris and former Vice-Chancellor of the Jesuit College in Paris for translating the book *Unless the Seed Die* into French. Heartfelt thanks to Fr Maurice CADILHAC, member of the Society of Our Lady of Africa (SOLA), a French Professor for his collaboration with Sr Ignatia D'Souza BS for editing the book. A special thanks to Sr M Ignatia D'Souza BS who is a Bethany missionary in West Africa for having taken the responsibility about the translation. This book, a brief biography of the Servant of God Raymond F C Mascarenhas, Founder of the Bethany Congregation be a source of inspiration for all those who speak French.

**These books released on this special occasion,
are a tribute to the Bethany Founder.
May all our readers be enriched through the wisdom
and insights offered by the Servant of God.**



58th Death Anniversary Mass

Mgr RFC Mascarenhas, St Sebastian Church, Bendur



58th Death Anniversary Mass

Mgr RFC Mascarenhas, St Sebastian Church, Bendur

