

The Compassionate Pastor

July: 2022

Vol: 15

No: 1



The Bethany Congregation was founded by the Servant of God Raymond FC Mascarenhas in the parish of Bendur in 1921 for the poor girls. The Sisters lived a life of prayer and service. Their mission consisted of pastoral work, education, social work and family visits. They were also engaged in weaving, tailoring, baking, animal husbandry and floriculture. At the centre is the building built by the Servant of God Raymond FC Mascarenhas.

*Painting at the 'Mgr Raymond Memorial'
by Mr Ashwath Rasquinha, Mangalore*



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 Postulator, C/o Office of the Cause of Beatification and Canonization
of the Servant of God Raymond Mascarenhas, Bethany Convent
Bendur, Mangalore D.K. 575002.**

Ph: 0824-2211806; Email: rftcmas@gmail.com, Website: www.mgrrfcmascarenhas.com

THE COMPASSIONATE PASTOR

July 2022

Editorial Board	Contents
Managing Editor	Page No
Sr M Rose Celine BS	1. Editorial 2
	2. The Vision of SD Raymond FC Mascarenhas - Its Inexhaustible Relevance 4 - Sr M Clara Mendonca BS
Chief Editor	3. Purpose-driven Life of the Servant of God Raymond FC Mascarenhas 11 - Sr M Rose Margaret BS
Sr Mariette BS	4. The Man of God (<i>UOMO DI DEO</i>)—A Blessed Memory 16 - Sr M Paula BS
Members	5. Words of Welcome on the Occasion of the book release 'Life Sketch of the Servant of God Raymond FC Mascarenhas' 33 - Rev Dr Praveen Martis SJ
Rev Fr Joseph Martis	6. Glimpses of the book 'Life Sketch...' 36 - Sr M Lillis BS
Rev Fr Cedric Prakash SJ	7. From the Lips of the Author 'Life Sketch...' 39 - Prof Edmund JB Frank
Prof Edmund JB Frank	8. Speech on the Occasion of Launch of 'Life Sketch...' 44 - Sr M Rose Celine, BS
Mr Ivan Saldanha-Shet	9. Words of felicitation at the release of 'Life Sketch...' 46 - Rev Fr Melwyn Pinto SJ
Sr M Jessy Rita BS	10. Presidential Address on the Occasion of the book release 'Life Sketch...' 49 - Most Rev Dr Peter Paul Saldanha
Sr M Hilarita BS	11. New Miracle Book: On First Saint for Canonization from Kanara 52 - Mr Ivan Saldanha -Shet
Sr M Gracy Bennis BS	12. About the Contributors 55

EDITORIAL



"I have a dream," said the American civil rights activist Martin Luther King Jr. at Washington Mall on 28 August 1963 during the March for Jobs and Freedom. "I have a dream that one day the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave owners will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood... I have a dream that one day my four little children will live in a nation where they will not

be judged by the colour of their skin but by the content of their character." In 1921, a farsighted visionary anointed by the Spirit of God and inflamed by the Gospel fire in Mangalore said, "I have a dream" and he was none other than the Servant of God, Mgr Raymond Francis Camillus Mascarenhas. "I have a dream that one day Bethany will open schools in villages for the rural poor; that one day the poor and the girls in particular will be educated and empowered to build their future and make their living." The prophetic words of this great stalwart have become a reality over 101 years and have made this noble soul, immortal. Hundreds of Bethany Sisters and many stakeholders have taken his vision forward and have served as catalysts in the transformation of the society.

The Servant of God Mgr Raymond was a man of discernment. He was open to the Spirit. He dialogued with God about the contemporary challenges that confronted him. He knew that any initiative, which, springs from prayer, is authentic and will produce fruit in abundance. Therefore, he took to prayer the existential situation of his times and looked at them through the eyes of Jesus. His faith in God led him to question the way the society was functioning, side-lining the poor on one side and pushing women to the margins on the other, without paying heed to their dreams and aspirations. Mgr Raymond, a servant of the Spirit discussed with God about their plight and was interiorly moved to communicate to them that God hears their cry and has come to "set the captives free" (Lk 4:18). He was convinced,

"If we work on marble, it will perish
If we work upon brass, time will efface it
If we rear temples, they will crumble into dust
But if we work on immortal souls and if we imbue them with principles,
With fear of the Creator and love of fellow men
We engrave on those tablets something, which will brighten all eternity"(Daniel Webster)

This bulletin is divided into two parts. The first part deals with the matter directly related to Mgr Raymond, the Servant of God. Sr Clara Mendonca BS, in her article entitled "The Vision of SD Raymond FC Mascarenhas – Its Inexhaustible Relevance" expounds from the socio-religious perspective how the vision of the transformation of the society took birth in Mgr Raymond, matured gradually and got actualized over the years. With her background as an active social activist, she penetrates into the heart of the Servant of God and invites the reader to keep his FIRE aflame by translating his vision into action. On the other hand, Sr Rose Margaret BS through her article, "Purpose-driven Life of the Servant of God Raymond F C Mascarenhas" dives deep into the personality of Mgr Raymond and elucidates as to how he relentlessly led a purposeful life and under no circumstances compromised his principles. In her article, "The Man of God (*Uomo Di Deo*) – A Blessed Memory" Sr Paula BS a senior member of the Congregation unearths the virtuous life of the saintly priest – Mgr Raymond - and takes delight in finding her family roots in the family of the Servant of God.

The second part brings together the speeches made by the illustrious dignitaries at St Aloysius College, Mangalore on 4 March 2022 on the occasion of the release of the book entitled, 'Life Sketch of the Servant of God Mgr Raymond FC Mascarenhas' authored by Prof Edmund JB Frank, a profound thinker, prolific writer, noted philanthropist, admirer of RFC and an ardent promoter of his Cause. The eminent speakers highlight in splendid terms the sanctity of the Servant of God and his far-reaching vision translated into action. The well-researched work of the author is praiseworthy. I pray that the youth may emulate this great alumnus of St Aloysius – Mgr Raymond - while pursuing their dreams.

As I conclude, I thank everyone who has contributed to this issue by way of articles, insights and probing questions. Special and mighty thanks to Rev Sr M Lillis BS who has served as the Editor of 'The Compassionate Pastor' for the past 14 years since 2008. Her matchless efforts in procuring relevant articles, unparalleled enthusiasm in contacting writers and unflinching zeal to promote the Cause of Mgr Raymond is commendable. If there has been a steady progress in this project, the credit goes to this ever-searching and persistent labourer, Sr Lillis. May God bless her abundantly!

Sr Mariette BS
Chief Editor

THE VISION OF SD RAYMOND FC MASCARENHAS - ITS INEXHAUSTIBLE RELEVANCE

Sr M Clara Mendonca BS

Introduction

To have the gospel preached to the poor was the foremost desire of Raymond FC Mascarenhas (RFC), the Founder of Bethany Sisters. What we the Bethany Sisters plan now annually in the specified bodies and in our General Chapters in making Bethany relevant for the times, was already envisioned by our Founder 100 years ago. He was far ahead of his times in responding to what he saw as the call for action. One might wonder at the sharpness of his vision, unfolding today in the fresh planning and execution of ministries and lifestyle of the Congregation that is spread world over.

This article is a small effort to throw light on the socio spiritual relevance of the Vision of our revered Founder RFC Mascarenhas. He has endeared to everyone because of the ever appealing characteristics of his persona which is equally reflected in his inexhaustible vision for Bethany and for the promotion of God's reign in the wider society.

Of the multifaceted giftedness of RFC what is most admired is his sharp acumen that shaped him to be a visionary priest and a founder. We could discuss here some areas, which confirm that Bethany as a Congregation still exudes relevance to today's society, through the compactness of the vision of its Founder surpassing boundaries of time and space! His keen intellect was one such that it could intersect any thought and subject and discover possibilities of building up God's rule with due justice and prosperity to common people. It is his rare capacity immersed in the touch of the divine, that made the gospel vision emerge and Bethany today in its totality is the result of it.

The Congregation of the Sisters of the Little Flower of Bethany is a solid proof that testifies to the matchless vision of RFC. The same vision continues to be relevant for Bethany in her turn, and to people and structures that aim at sharing the good news; in concrete

terms, it is to bring about development or a desired social change whereby all live as brothers and sisters.

Birth and Shaping of Raymond's Vision:

Raymond grew up in a normal family of those days where the mother trained her children "in the ways of the Lord"¹ and that served to be the seedbed for the future visionary. Deep within his heart, he cherished the desire of becoming a minister of the Church so that he might be able to dedicate himself to the welfare of his beloved native land.² "As a seminarian, although he was far ahead of his companions in intelligence, he was unostentatious and humble. He was highly successful in every subject that he had to study. He would impressively argue with them on different subjects. Even as a young man in the seminary, he was very fervent, detached and faithful to the minute prescriptions of the Rules."³ The seeds of a great vision were in their conception in young Raymond!

As a newly ordained priest Raymond's immediate dream was to educate his young parishioners. Through founding Bethany his aim was to carry the good news to the poor and the neglected to all parts of the country⁴. The vision of our Founder is a flowering of his charism⁵. It is a divine spiritual gift given to an individual or group for the good of the community. The charism of a religious congregation refers to its founding vision. Inspired by Christian faith, the founders feel that they are called to respond to a particular need of the Church and the society of their times. From the way Bethany has carried forward the sharing in the charism of the Founder, which is his founding vision one can deduce that his vision was deep-seated not only in the then needs and times but also had the sharpness of capturing the future trends, after decades and a century.

One reason why RFC was able to meet the needs of people around him was that he did not get bogged down by the immediate needs and limitations. His penetrating vision made him look far ahead so that the means he used in present situations could solve not only

¹ Sr M Violette D'Souza BS, *Unless the Seed Die*, p.4

² Ibid, p.10

³ Ibid, p.12

⁴ Ibid, p.28

⁵ Book of *Constitutions*, p.162

present problems but also those of the future. He envisioned that there could be no missionaries to come to India after the national independence due to the surge of 'Nationalism'. So he observed the need to train local clergy, religious, laity to be trained under the qualified foreign missionaries that are there.⁶ He envisioned that the Church should stand on native resources if it has to be vibrant and growing. It is he who championed for the cause of having the Indian bishop in the native land.

For Raymond the Church, the mission, and its needs meant embracing the whole of the society irrespective of religion and caste, and as a minister of God he never left an opportunity pass by unattended, if that could better up the lives of people in general. A spiritual revolution was brewing up in young RFC very specially as a consecrated priest. And this urge called him constantly to make a difference in the context of a dire need, be it in education, social upliftment of the poor, livelihood or vocational sector, empowerment of women and girls, spiritual and religious progress of the Catholics, and any other area, so that it promoted the reign of God.

RFC - Actualizing the Vision:

A visionary leader ensures that his/her vision becomes a reality by stating clear goals, outlining a strategic plan for achieving those goals and empowering each member of the team to take action on the plan at the organizational, team and individual levels. Raymond was a man of such calibre of working hard to achieve the goals, as well as persuading his team and colleagues, priests, and the sisters alike, to catch up with the similar enthusiasm towards a goal that was noble.

As a zealous pastor, he worked to meet the spiritual, intellectual and even material needs of his people. This is evident by the way young and enthusiastic Raymond attended to the sick, the illiterate and poor farmers in the parishes like Udyavar. He visited the sick and the sorrowing in their homes both in rain and sunshine.⁷

To transform his vision into reality it needed strong determination, courage and ability to stand alone. He was not one to stay on beaten

⁶ Sr M Violette D'Souza BS, *Unless the Seed Die*, p.63

⁷ Ibid, p.17

track if the way to the Kingdom of God was to be found elsewhere. He did not bother if that was traditional, but took on what is right, and what is practical. Will it extend the Kingdom of God or hinder the progress was his tool for making a choice. He courageously differed with others and acted straightforward. His relinquishing of the office of the Vicar General of the diocese when he had to adhere to one role as Bethany's Founder and guide, is an outstanding example to say that he was stuck to his commitment.

'Raymond and a couple of rupees can do nothing, but Raymond, a couple of rupees and God can do everything.'⁸ He was a man of deep trust in the Lord. The vision embodied giving up everything. He created leaders. He was not a banyan tree under which nothing else could grow, as someone once remarked. He was a special preacher and homilist on important occasions in the diocese. His zeal was all-embracing and his activities extended far beyond the confines of his parish.

Relevance of Founder's Vision: The Socio-Spiritual Facets

The universality of the vision of our Founder and its multi-faceted composition has made Bethany stand appropriate to the society including the Church, with its changing needs, both within and outside India. Here is a brief analysis to see if Bethany stands the same as that which once founded in response to the crying needs of the times in 1921.

i. Bethany Sisters- Called to be Active Contemplatives:

Thanks to the vision of our Founder who wanted his spiritual daughters to be deep as Mary the Mother of God in her contemplation of the divine through her faith surrender, and active missionaries as ever-zealous saint Ignatius of Loyola who desired to conquer all things for the greater glory of God. Today Bethany has survived on account of keeping her spirits deep in the experience of God through prayer and at the same time responding in action to the confronting needs of the society and the Church, be it the education of the poor masses or joining hands to rescue the trafficked women and children, or supporting the migrants towards a life of dignity. Contemplation in action

⁸ Ibid, p.25

that was envisaged through the model of Martha and Mary will not exhaust its meaning for the Religious sisters given the signs of times, for the years to come.

ii. To share the Compassionate Love of God:

RFC was soaked in the compassionate love of the God, which he shared with the rich and poor alike through his preaching and service to the poor, especially the most neglected lot - the women and children of his time. Such outlook was handed on to Bethany Sisters in the form of their apostolates. Today too, the aspect of compassionate insertion into a society is adding quality to Bethany's presence in the Church. Time and again our General Chapters have unfolded us the call of the divine to listen to the cry of the poor!

iii. Being Prophetic in Responding to the Times:

Bethany was founded as a result of Raymond's courageous initiative to respond to the educational needs of the poor rural girls and to give opportunity for girls desirous of joining religious life. "He threw himself whole-heartedly into whatever work he undertook. At the same time, those who knew him admire the calm way in which he accepted the obligations, the conveniences or inconveniences, the mishaps and surprises of every day events."⁹ When ill fate struck Bethany in the form of quite many young sisters dying due to tuberculosis during the World War II, Founder stood steady in the face of so called failure and criticism. His vision for the Kingdom of God entailed him to be a fearless prophet of his times. "*He did not know the meaning of the word 'compromise'*"¹⁰ He was a man of impartiality and fair play.

Today this aspect of the vision of our Founder well applies to us too, as undertaking any mission today in the service of the poor and needy is frowned upon by many a skeptic minds, especially in a time when government policies have created havoc and confusion in running our institutions or programmes of service. It is here, we need to be aware that Bethany has a history of overcoming troubles courageously!

⁹ Ibid, p.60

¹⁰ Ibid, p.50

iv. Relevance with Regard to Plans to Actualize the Vision:

The Constitution No.4 of the Bethany Sisters well summarizes the charism and vision of our Founder. It reads, "To fulfil our mission according to our special charism, we devote ourselves to Christian education, the teaching of Christian doctrine in parish communities and schools, the instruction of catechumens and neophytes, and other pastoral, social and medical activities. All our Apostolates are to be directed mainly to the service of the poor and the neglected."

The society of hundreds years ago in timeline, had the similar needs as of today, and this Rule No.4 stands quite apt as it points to the broad way of reaching out to the society equally well in today's context, by Bethany and her associates.

v. Vision for an Equitable Society:

Raymond was open to the crying needs of his times, especially of women, children and rural youth. It was during those times when training of women in job skills was unheard of, he started vocational training centres for young women to empower them financially and thus help poor families to earn a living. Hundreds of women completed their training in weaving, knitting and tailoring. In this regard, St Martha's Industrial School for women was set up in the vicinity of Mother House as early as on July 1, 1922. Opening the Primary Schools in the interior villages, a large number of hostels for rural boys and girls, were also a sign of his desire to provide just opportunities for the deprived of his time.

Today, just like Founder, Bethany too has been responding in some way to the newer needs of the society, other than traditional ministries. Centres for the care of Drug-addicts and HIV patients, venturing into avenues of countering human trafficking, work among the migrants, work for children and adults in slums, ministering to the prisoners, etc. are our small efforts to build an equitable society.

Conclusion: Keeping the FIRE Aflame

How can we keep fulfilling the mandate of RFC our Founder that our early sisters so well tried to emulate in their life and mission? Founder was an exceptional man with regard to his calibre, a giant of his time on many fronts, one who catered to the needs of his people being a pastor, educator, reformer, champion of the poor and the down trodden, and a prophet of his times.

In 1929, during the government order that may be termed as *Magna Carta* of Catholic schools, he represented the team that met Simon Commission. He was elected to the Municipal Council more than once; he was an intellectual and spiritual masterpiece. From such a person's vision for a better world, we all have received great benefits. It is befitting that we his spiritual daughters try to emulate his qualities too, in order to keep alive Bethany's charism and to keep our vision focused, all for God's glory and greater good of humanity.



PURPOSE-DRIVEN LIFE OF THE SERVANT OF GOD

RAYMOND FC MASCARENHAS

Sr M Rose Margaret, BS

Before I took shape, your eyes saw me, and before any one of my days came to be, they were written down in your book (Ps 139:160).

On the 147th birth anniversary of SD Raymond FC Mascarenhas, the Founder of the Sisters of the Little Flower of Bethany, Mangalore, it's worth recalling and ruminating his purposeful life and fruitful mission. Mgr Raymond knew from his very childhood that he was not an accident but a Divine choice. He had deep insight into his life at the very young age and was certain that he was the child of God and the beloved of the Father and our Blessed Mother. He was convinced that God created him and wanted him to live a purposeful life. When he realized that he was made by God and for God alone, his life here on earth made a profound sense and a deep significance for him.

The illustrious poem 'You are who are for a reason' by Russell Kelfer sums up: "You are part of God's intricate plan, precious and perfect, unique design called God's special woman or man. You are who you are for a reason, you've been formed by the Master's rod; you are who you are, beloved, because there is a God."

Eventually in his very early life, he discovered his origin, his identity, his meaning, the ultimate purpose, and the significance of his destiny. No one could alter the vision and direction of his life, as his life was built on values and principles, eternal truths and an intimate relationship with the Heavenly Father who sent his only beloved Son into this world. He was awestruck by the mystery of the Incarnation. This divine intervention led him to a continual and relentless search to live a purposeful life. The mystery of the Incarnation grew in him day after day powerfully in the Blessed Sacrament, the Holy Eucharist and devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Immaculate Heart of Mary, his beloved Mother.

While addressing the Ephesian elders St Paul said, "My life is worth nothing to me unless I use it for doing the work assigned me by Lord Jesus, the work of telling others the good news about God's

wonderful kindness and love" (*Acts: 20:24*). God's call was incessantly inviting Raymond to be his instrument and to be available to do his work. Driven by God's purposes and not of his own plans, Mgr Raymond was committed to divine intimacy, communion with the saints and angels, passion for his mission and compassion towards the downtrodden. Once he placed his life in the hands of his Heavenly Father, to be put into his service as per his own designs and purposes, there was no turning back come what may. His undeterred spirit led him to be a priest of God's own heart of compassion, kindness, sacrifice, and suffering.

A life devoted to things is a dead life, a stump; a God-shaped life is a flourishing tree (*Proverbs 11:28*). God's plan for Raymond was to be a diocesan priest, the Vicar General, the Founder of Bethany- an indigenous Congregation and now a saint in the making in the diocese of Mangalore. A clear purpose in him energized and produced passion for mission. Living for God's glory with single-minded devotion was his greatest achievement. He opened the doors of new opportunities and toiled day and night to bring good news of love and compassion to the broken and fragmented world in order to make a difference in other's life and make his own life worthwhile bringing glory to God on earth.

Obsessed by the purpose of his life and ministry for the needy, love for the poor and the marginalized, Mgr Raymond undertook numerous works in the diocese as a Priest, Vicar General, Founder of Bethany, President of the Catholic Association of South Kanara (CASK), Member of the District Educational Council, Member of the Municipal Council, President of the Mangalore Roman Catholic Pioneering Fund and the President of the Konkani Catholic Truth Society. In all these, his only aim was to save souls and promote the Kingdom of God. While doing so, he always remained humble and down to earth.

We know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose (*Cf Rom 8:28*). When God calls a person for a project, a mission, he does not show him the whole plan at once. When a person says, "Yes" to the first step and does what is asked of him, he is pleased to call him/her to the next step. Raymond would say "God doesn't show us the

future. He only shows us in whose hands our future is. He gives us one day at a time. But whatever be the cross he gives, he will measure us for the cross. He will not try beyond our strength. God never abandons us" (*A Treasury of Pearls pg. 43*).

"For God has planted them like strong and graceful oaks for his own glory" (Is 61:3). Mgr Raymond, the Founder could have ignored the gifts of grace or the gifts of the spirit (as many of us do) and not be faithful to God's call for a special task. But as we have seen, heard or read, our Founder did not refuse to comply with or respond to our heavenly Father, with fidelity. As God was incessantly inviting him, to be his instrument, to be available to do his work further and further he surrendered himself totally to His plans saying, "Yes" to him as Mary, the Mother of Jesus did in her mystery of the Annunciation and the Incarnation. This mystery of God was very dear to this humble and obedient soul.

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future (Jer 29:11). Without God, life has no purpose, and without purpose, life has no meaning. Without meaning, life has no significance or hope. In the Bible, many different people expressed this hopelessness. Isaiah complained, "I have laboured to no purpose; I have spent my strength in pain and for nothing" (Is 49:4). Job said, "My life drags by-day after hopeless day" and "I give up; I am tired of living. Leave me alone. My life makes no sense" (Job 7: 6, 8, 16). The greatest tragedy is not death, but life without purpose. George Bernard Shaw wrote, "This is the true joy in life being used for a purpose recognized by yourself as a mighty one. Being a force of nature instead of a feverish, selfish little clot of ailments and grievances, complaining that the world will not devote itself to making you happy."

Mgr Raymond walked the path traced and marked out by God without complaining or blaming anyone however tough the less travelled road was. With his solid faith and vivid hope in the promises of God, he never lost sight of the light at end of the tunnel.

Blessed are those who trust in the Lord... They are like trees planted along a riverbank, with roots that reach deep into the water. Such trees are not bothered by the heat or worried by long months

of drought. Their leaves stay green, and they go right on producing delicious fruit (Jer 17:7-8). The purpose driven life led him to be an integrated person with a broad vision, clarity of thought, sharp intelligence, genius mind, compassionate heart, insightful learning, astute wisdom, profound knowledge, generous sacrifices, long suffering sanctity of life and total trust in the Lord, which crowned him with a rare honour of Domestic Prelate by Rome. Such was the heart-warming reward God granted him for his dedicated and resolute life. On this momentous occasion Rev Fr A J D'Souza, Catholic Ashram, Palda, Indore on 7th August 1955 felicitating Raymond wrote, "When Mgr Raymond FC Mascarenhas was invested with the Sacred Purple-unique honour of "Domestic Prelate" conferred upon him by the Holy Father in recognition of his meritorious services to the Church and State, on no better and worthier person the purple robes of a Domestic Prelate could have their proper lustre and significance than on your dear and venerable person! Your Picturesque Priestly life laden with merits has been given its due here below as a presage of the Glorious Crown of Life that will be yours hereafter in God's good time".

On the same occasion congratulating Mgr Raymond on his honour of being the Domestic Prelate, Isidore Coelho of Mahim, Bombay, 19 August 1955 wrote: "I most respectfully congratulate you on being created Domestic Prelate to His Holiness the Pope. The service you have rendered to our Holy Church and to the public is enormous. As a Parish Priest, as a Vicar General, as an organizer and Founder of Bethany Convent and sisters, as an author of several large and useful books, as a powerful and forcible preacher and as building a few new Churches, above all as a great sympathizer, worker and charitable helper to the poor and needy; all these when considered, my humble opinion is that you are one of the best and foremost priests in the Diocese of Mangalore. The honour bestowed on you is not a day earlier; in fact it was overdue by some years."

Give yourselves to God... Surrender your whole being to him to be used for righteous purposes (Rom 6:13). God prepares a righteous person for eternity. The Bible says, God has... planted eternity in the human heart (Eccles 3:11). Mgr Raymond had an inborn instinct that longed for immortality. This is because God designed him in his image, to live for eternity. Even though we know everyone eventually

dies, death always seems unnatural and unfair. But the reason for which one lives forever is that God strengthens our purpose with that desire!

Fr Raymond's heart and mind was always directed towards heaven his ultimate goal and destiny. In his talk to the Bethany Sisters on their Annual Retreat on 16th and 17th December 1940 he spoke at length on heaven and said, "It is salutary and proper that we should frequently think of heaven and excite in us a desire to go there. If an angel were to come and ask you, whether you are ready now to go to heaven, are you willing ready now to quit this earth immediately? See what things you are attached most. Despise and reject every other love and desire, than that love of Jesus." Sharing the reflection on the joys of Heaven he said, "The essential happiness of the elect will be the possession of God." He would exhort the sisters saying, "To become saints amidst prosperity, honours, talents, and appreciation is more difficult than amidst adversity, suffering, and persecutions; to become saints without the least suffering or self-consequent is impossible."

On the hundredth ordination anniversary of Mgr Raymond on 4 March 2000, Sr M Violette D'Souza said that he lived for sixty years as an exemplary and fervent minister of God at the service of others. She recalls her conversation with the Bishop when she met him to present the biography of the Founder. She wraps up her conversation saying: "Our time is short and it is impossible to do justice to the person and works of a versatile personality such as Mgr RFC Mascarenhas. It is suffice to say:

Whoever he saw a wrong, he tried to right it;
Wherever he saw a need, he tried to meet it;
Wherever he saw some hurt or pain, he tried to heal it;
Wherever he saw hatred, he tried to overcome it with love;
Wherever he saw rejection, he tried to give acceptance;
Wherever he saw ignorance, he tried to provide knowledge."

Such was the purpose-driven life of the Servant of God, Raymond FC Mascarenhas, the Founder of Bethany in a nutshell. May the rich and lasting legacy of the two-fold spirit of our Founder - his passionate love for God and compassionate love for His people, grow in us, flower and bear fruit in plenty in the years to come.

THE MAN OF GOD (*UOMO DI DEO*) – A BLESSED MEMORY

Sr M Paula BS

“Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.” (Mathew 19:14)

When Jesus said: “Let the little children come to me,” He was reaching out to a segment of society that was thought to be insignificant. Children, in their weakness and vulnerability, had no social status in Jewish society. Not only did Jesus make time to be with the children, he paid them a tribute saying that to them belongs the Kingdom of Heaven.

Captured by the spirit of Jesus, the Servant of God Raymond Francis Camillus Mascarenhas, a holy priest of the Diocese of Mangalore, understood the importance of paying attention to the little children. Once while he was deeply meditating on the life of children Sr Bertha, who was closely associated with the Founder asked him: “Father, what are you thinking?” Spontaneously came the response “How to love God in my children and my children in my God.” The love he had for the children, very specially the children deprived of social and economic status is evident from the numerous schools, boarding houses, orphanages and industrial schools he established for their all-round development and growth. A number of his parishioners have witnessed him going on his old cycle and bringing the drop out children to the school, convincing their parents of the necessity of a good education. Being the recipient of the benevolence of this magnificent personality it will be fitting to highlight the significant role the man of God played in shaping my life and my vocation. He was indeed “*Uomo Di Deo*.”

Reconnecting with Family

I begin with the Family Tree. Reconnecting with my family near and far helps me to see God's providential plan in my life. Family history helps me to live my life of commitment to God and His people in the Bethany family. It is interesting to note that from my maternal as well as paternal side we had a large number of religious women and men, distinguished for their life of holiness and generous service to humanity. With gratitude and admiration permit me to mention a few of them who are edged in my memory as they truly have made

this world a better place by their life of total dedication and service.

It was such a joy to develop a close bond with our Founder through our family tree. Even before I came to know him personally, I was privileged to be a regular guest of my Aunt Precy, the daughter of Florine Farias, a loving sister of our Founder. Married to my maternal uncle James Mathias, the only brother of my mother Elizabeth Mathias, the second daughter of John Mathias and Silu Mathias of Kalianpur. James Mathias, my uncle was a coffee planter at Chickgrar, Balehonnur, Chickmagalur District and was away in the estate most of the time. Precy, my aunt lived with her mother Florine (Pula Bai) in a house, close to Bethany Convent, Bendur. Their house served me as a transit house enroute to my residential school, as I travelled from quite a distance from my home in Western Ghats.

Early Memories

Recounting my childhood stories, I remember my elders telling me that our ancestral home was at Kadri near the temple pond. It appears that it was almost close to Bejai parish. However, my father Alexander J Gonsalves owned a business of handloom cloth with 18 handlooms, in St Sebastian Parish, Bendur. But my father seems to have closed his business at Bendur, and moved to Balehonnur, JMJ Coffee Estate which he received as a dowry from my maternal grandfather John Mathias. My mother Elizabeth was a good home maker. I was born in our estate house, amidst the sweet-smelling coffee plantation as the youngest child of the family.

Connected to Bethany Family

I was delighted to know that I belong to a family that is deeply religious. I was not aware of our family circle which is a vast one. As I began to explore the numerous religious vocations in our family it was indeed a great surprise to know that the pioneering sisters of our congregation are from our close family. Sr Gertrude Regina Gonsalves, one of the first four, and her sister Sr Mechtilde Gonsalves, were the first cousins (paternal) of my father, Alexander J Gonsalves. My family seems to have contributed to the infant Congregation by being promoters of vocations. It appears to me that the family might have had great admiration for their parish priest, the Founder of Bethany congregation, and that they had trusted in his courageous initiative and did not hesitate to send their daughter Alice Gonsalves

to Bethany, though there were other options. Sister Lucia nee Alice Gonsalves, is the youngest sister of my father.

She was one of the sisters from the second batch of the sisters who joined Bethany on May 25, 1930, when Bethany was just 9 years old. She was one of those who made the special novitiate from May 15 to May 25, 1934 making her first profession on May 26, 1934, and her perpetual profession on May 5, 1940. Perhaps she was influenced by her cousin sister Regina Gertrude Gonsalves one of the First Four, the nucleus of the new indigenous religious family, Bethany, who lived up to see the platinum jubilee of the congregation in 1996. Margaret Gonsalves known as Sr Mechtilde, sister of Sr Gertrude who joined Bethany in 1928 lived an exemplary life till 1992 enriching the congregation with her prayerful, self-sacrificing life and hard labour.

Two saintly Bethany Sisters, Sr Carmella and Sr Dorothy, my mother's close relatives hailing from the city of Mangalore joined Bethany and were finally professed in the first batch. They contributed much to the growing congregation by their commitment and hard work in times of crisis and humiliations the Congregation and the Founder went through. Contrary to the belief that initially all the candidates who joined Bethany were from poorer classes, there were also the candidates from middle class and upper middle class who opted for a congregation that was different from the traditional ones, who received only the well-educated and rich girls from the city. The simplicity of life-style of Bethany sisters appealed greatly to these young seekers and they became a great support to the nascent congregation. As a sister, headmistress, superior at Jyothi Nilaya, Bishop Patrick D' Souza from Varanasi, hailing from Bendur Parish, Mangalore used to visit our convent whenever he was in Bangalore for conferences and meetings at Catholic Centre, Bangalore. He was my father's uncle and one of those who was groomed by our Founder. He used to guide me to live a good religious life, to be charitable and mission-oriented person.

Fr Cedric Prakash SJ is the great grandson of our Founder's brother, Simon Mascarenhas. Bishop Patrick D' Souza is the brother of great grandfather from my father's side. Bishop Gerald Mathias is my first cousin, my mother's brother's son. John Mathias, my maternal grandfather and Silu, my grandmother were devoted Catholics.

Blessed with three daughters Therese, Elizabeth and Devdeet, and one son James he brought up the children with Christian values. Religious vocations bloomed in the family. My aunt Devdeet's son Augustine D' Souza joined the Jesuits and is serving in North East India as a missionary. Her grandson Fr Melwyn Pinto SJ is the present Rector of St Aloysius Educational Institutions, giving an excellent service to the Christian Community and society of Mangalore.

Gerald John Mathias, presently Bishop of Lucknow hails from Kalianpur. He is the son of William Mathias, my uncle from Kalianpur. There are other priests and religious with whom I am related with affinity of whom there are three Rebello brothers – Fr Francis Rebello SJ, Fr Eugene Rebello and Fr Arnold Rebello, Capuchin Fathers. I had the privilege of not only meeting these priests but receiving their advice which helped me to grow in my religious commitment. I gratefully recall the role each one of them played at various stages of my life and enabled me to grow gracefully in the garden of Bethany.

My Early Education

My early education was at Koppa, in J M J Estate house of the family. My eldest brother Raymond, and my brother William were my tutors during their holidays as there was only one school with a single teacher far away from my home. Raymond, the eldest brother was baptized by the Parish Priest Fr Raymond, our Founder, and was named after him in St Sebastian church at Bendur. My brothers taught me up to class IV whenever they came home for holidays. So up to standard IV I had home schooling. In 1955, at the age of 9, I was admitted to Little Flower School, Kinnigoli. My parents thought that I was big enough to travel from Ghats to Mangalore. Stany, my older brother was studying in Padua School, Nantur, staying in the boarding house at Nantur, managed by the Carmelite Priests.

Was it a coincidence that I was to be admitted in a residential school managed by the Bethany Sisters at Kinnigoli in the year my elder sister was married into a family in Kinnigoli? The year my parents considered me fit to travel from the house for a formal school, my sister Martha was married to Elias Monis from Kinnigoli, 30 Kilometers away from Mangalore. My parents considered it a good opportunity to have a house close to the school, where I could live with my sister. Sr Lucia, my aunt was a member of Providence Convent, Balkunje, the second branch house of Bethany which is

about 10 Kms away from Kinnigoli. However, I was not happy to be in the house of my sister and so my father left me in the care of the Bethany sisters and Maryvale boarding house became my second home. I studied at Little Flower School till class VIII. I used to travel with him to Mangalore from Ghats and spend the night at Precy aunty's house. In the morning, my aunt would help me to board the bus going to Kinnigoli. This went on until I joined Bethany in the year 1958.

Looking back at my school days I was about 9 years old, when I was admitted to Little Flower School, Kinnigoli. I recall the first day I was taken to the class four. I was traumatized by the strange appearance of a nun in black dress. I had not seen any religious nuns till then. I refused to sit in her class. Then, my kind headmistress took me to the class of Miss Florine Sequeira (Pullu Teacher), presently known as Sr Nazarene BS. With her charming smile and comforting touch of a mother I felt at home. Now at the age of 90 Sr Nazarene has grown in her exuberant and zealous spirit inspiring all with her child-like smile and overflowing love. God be praised! The school laid a solid foundation to my religious vocation even though there were many odds and challenges on my way to religious life.

Glimpses of Our Founder

Descending from the Ghats after the vacation was quite an ordeal. My brother Stany and I would travel early morning from our estate, and reach Mangalore quite late in the evening. Stany would go to his hostel leaving me with Precy aunty. Following day, early morning, my aunt would help me board the bus going to Kinnigoli. This was a usual custom until I completed my IV Form (Std VIII).

Little did I know about the Bethany Founder and his connection with our family or his greatness. I remember him as an old priest, visiting my aunty and her mother. My uncle used to be away in the estate. I used to observe as a child, whenever the bearded elderly priest came to the house, we, the children after asking for customary blessing from him had to leave the place and were instructed to play outdoors. I recall one special visit of Father. He came late in the evening with a cloth bag and he was collecting some papers from his sister. Children were immediately sent out to play and not allowed to hang around to listen to their conversation. It was in the 1958. Looking back, I understand the reason of that particular visit. Father

was asked to collect the controversial booklet called 'Apology', which was distributed by him as it was discouraged by the Diocesan Authority. He was asked to take it back from everyone to whom he had distributed it. I am sure his close family members suffered with him in his agony.

As a child what I saw and heard about our Founder was confirmed from what I heard from my Novice Mistress Mother Esperie, and what I read from her book "My Joy and My Crown". Mother Esperie's writes: "When we went to say goodbye to his eminence, Cardinal Fumasoni Biondi we met Mgr Pompeo Borgna who was directly involved with the affairs of the Diocese of Mangalore and was in touch with our congregation. Since he was familiar with our Founder, I spoke spontaneously and said: "Mgr our Founder has written two booklets against the local church authority. Mother General is worried." Now that he is old and his intellect and will is not so strong, please ask the local authority to forgive him. Our mother General is worried. His reply was: "Tell your Mother General, not to worry. Your Founder has not written any heretical writings. Those books are with us. Your Founder has sent those books to us and to the Holy Father. Your Founder is a man of God – *Uomo di Dio*. See what he has done for your country, for your diocese, for the people, and for the Church in India." (Sr M Esperie B S: BTHANY My Joy and My Crown, page 23)

When I was schooling at Kinnigoli and Kulshekar Founder used to visit the Convent and School either for his work or to attend the functions. He was tall and had a radiant face with compassionate eyes. What a sight to behold the Founder with royal purple dress of Prelate surrounded by the little children and he enjoying their presence with twinkling eyes and graceful smile. He dealt with the children with the compassionate heart of a Father. Now when I recall his visits, I feel confirmed in my heart that he was truly a Man of God – '*Uomo di Dio*'.

After I completed Form IV (Std VIII) at Little Flower's Girls' School, Kinnigoli, I was shifted to Santa Cruz Convent, Kulshekar to complete my V and VI Form (equivalent to present IX and X Std) at Sacred Hearts' Girls' School. After my V Form, I joined Bethany Congregation and after 6 months, I received my Postulant Dress in 1959.

Soon after my matric exams during summer vacation in 1959 in the months of April and May I was in Bethany Mother House as a candidate prior to the admission to the Novitiate. I was assigned to the hospitality ministry and I enjoyed taking care of the guests who used to come to see our Founder. On one occasion when I was at Bethany Mother House, Sr Lucia, my aunt took me to Father Founder to introduce me and seek his blessing. I knelt at his feet and felt the awesome presence of God in him. He was very happy to know that I was the daughter of Elizabeth, and the niece of Sr Lucia. It was he who blessed the nuptial of my parents and named their first born as Raymond. I was thrilled to receive his blessing and was surprised that he could recall my mother's name and say: "So, you are the daughter of Elize!" It is my conviction that if I have survived many challenges including death-like situations, and could live joyfully to this day in the congregation, it is due to his fatherly blessing. I have carried out variety of assignments in the congregation fairly with success, with God's unfailing grace, and our Founder's compassionate love, acceptance and blessing.

Engaged in taking care of the guests, I got many opportunities to visit the Founder. Once he expressed his need to have a pair of glasses as he could not see with his glasses. Without knowing the seriousness of his need, playfully I said I would give him a pair of spare glasses I had. I offered him my old spectacle frame without glasses, asking him not to touch the glasses. But contrary to my instructions he put his fingers across the frame soon to realize that I had given him only the frame and not the really glasses. Instead of getting offended or getting angry with me he enjoyed my mischief, indicating his childlikeness and ability to enjoy the simple pranks of children.

Father Founder was eager to attend my vestition ceremony. Whenever I met him, he used to ask me about the date of my vestition, and expressed his desire to be present for the ceremony. Since he kept repeating the same thing again and again, once I invited him to come for my vestition. He enthusiastically enquired the date of the vestition. I jokingly told him that it could be in the following year. He laughed and expressed in Konkani: "*Daryantasa Maso, Alenkadtha Piso*" which means "the fish is in the sea and the fool is getting ready to cook the fish grinding masala." His simplicity and humane qualities are evident in these simple dealings affirming his Godly life.

Another interaction with our saintly Founder that has left an enduring mark on my young mind is that the way he used to sit on a reclining chair outside his residence with a fixed gaze towards the Chapel. It was a daily sight to me as I moved in and out. One day I approached with the freedom of a child and asked him: "I see you looking in the direction of the chapel. What is it that you see there?" Spontaneously he responded: "My child, I am not able to go to the chapel to visit the Blessed Sacrament. So, sitting here I am gazing at the Tabernacle light burning for Jesus day and night." Indeed '*Uomo di Dio*' – a man of God alone could enter that cloud of love, no matter what his human condition was. Nothing could stop him living in the loving presence of his beloved Jesus.

Let me now narrate three events of my life, where I felt the divine intervention and it is my belief that it is due to the saintly Father Founder I am alive today. When I was in class V at Kinnigoli I had fever and about to die. Dr Champa, the only doctor available at the time almost gave up hope, but gave me one injection and told the sisters to keep a watch over me. Fr Francis Serrao, Parish Priest anointed me, and prepared me for my death. Sr Lucia, my aunt was brought from Balkunje to be with me thinking that it was my last day. It is said on the following day I slowly opened my eyes. I attribute this miraculous recovery to the blessing of the Founder, the man of God.

I was once again in 1990, when I was at Jyothi Nilaya Convent, Kacharakahally, Bangalore I was admitted at St John's Medical College, Bangalore for my thyroid operation. It was a very risky operation. I believe that it is due to the blessing and intercession of our Founder that the surgery was successful and I am alive today.

Third time, I went through a surgery for hysterectomy. It was another near to death experience and I want to re-affirm that my recovery is only due to the intercession of the Servant of God, our Founder, a man of God.

Recalling the last days of the Founder, of which I was an eye witness fills me with blessed memories. As a Postulant I was at Bethany, Bendur, when the Congregation celebrated Founder's Diamond Jubilee of priesthood. Although the exact date of ordination was 4th March, according to the suggestion of Fr Alexander Pinto, the parish priest, celebration was anticipated to 29 February 1960

as there was another function in the parish on 4th March. Solemn Mass began at 10 am. Founder was officiating the Mass. Founder intoned the Gloria, read the Gospel, and sat down for the homily. Fr Freddie Veigas SJ preached the homily. After the homily to everyone's dismay, Founder was unable to rise from his chair and proceed to the Altar for the offertory. It was a great shock. He might have suffered a paralytic stroke. He was then carried to his residence. Eucharistic Celebration was continued by the Vicar General by Fr William Lewis of the diocese of Mangalore.

In the evening Fr Gilbert Gonsalves, brother of Sisters Gertrude and Sr Mechtilde, planned the celebration. The milestones of Founder's life were enacted – his love for the poor, his dealings with Sacristan Jacob Correa, his attendants Mr Monam and wife Piad, his driver Shila Fernandes, they were all part of the scenes of his life. His life as a priest, his zeal and fervour of his ministry, in different parishes, and his role as a good shepherd.

After the 10th month of his attack on December 23, 1960 Holy Founder breathed his last. Although we were only postulants we were taken to attend Founder's funeral mass, at Sebastian's Church, Bendur. Funeral procession before mass began in Bethany Chapel and then the body was taken in procession to the Church from the main road. It is said that bells were tolled in all the churches of Mangalore.

In my young age I never attended any funeral. I was scared of seeing any dead body. The very first funeral ceremony that I attended was that of the Father Founder. Now I am extremely happy that I attended and had the privilege to be with our Founder in life and death.

It was a great blessing to reminisce the blessed memories of my childhood and of my youthful days. Looking back, I now realize how close I lived with a saintly person and I thank God for making me a part of his extended family. May his holy life continue to inspire us and help us to see that he was truly a man of God—'*Uomo di Dio*.'





Release of the Book 'Life Sketch of the Servant of God Raymond FC Mascarenhas' on 4 March 2022, authored by Prof Edmund JB Frank



The classroom where Raymond Mascarenhas studied for his Matriculation with Register No. 33 at St Aloysius College, Mangalore

Visitors to Mgr Raymond Memorial, Bethany, Mangalore



Most Rev Niranjan Sualsingh, Bishop of Sambalpur, Orissa along with Rev Fr Bartholomew Bilung, the Vicar General of Sambalupr Diocese and Rev Fr Paul Mathew - Sambalupr Diocese



Dr Saji Varghese, Department of English, Christ University, Bangalore along with Mr Selwyn Mascarenhas, Welfare Officer, Office of International Affairs, Christ University, Bangalore



Mr J.W. Lobo, Regional Director, Indian Council for Cultural Relations and Adviser for Office of Internal Affairs, Christ University, Bangalore along with Mr Selwyn Mascarenhas, Welfare Officer, Office of International Affairs, Christ University, Bangalore

Visitors to Mgr Raymond Memorial, Bethany, Mangalore



Regional Propaedeutic group, St Joseph's Seminary Jeppu,
Mangalore, along with their Director and Spiritual Director



St Joseph of Cluny Sisters, Pondicherry



Rev Fr Rayappa J, Rev Fr Nelson Menezes, Rev Fr Sunil Anselm - Bellary Diocese

Visitors to Mgr Raymond Memorial, Bethany, Mangalore



BLA - Bethany Convent, Thavam, Kerala



BLA - Bethany Convent, Pakhal, Faridabad, Haryana



Visitors to Mgr Raymond Memorial, Bethany, Mangalore



Candidates, Bethany Convent Nanthoor, Mangalore



Candidates, Bethany Home Kirem, Mangalore



Tertians, Rosa Mystica Tertiate, Mangalore



Visitors to Mgr Raymond Memorial, Bethany, Mangalore



Staff, St Paul's Senior Sec. School, Thenhipalam, Kerala



Staff and students, St Theresa's School, Bendur, Mangalore



101st Foundation Day Celebration at Bethany Mother House, Mangalore - 16.07.2022



101st Foundation Day Celebration in the Institutions founded by SD RFC Mascarenhas - 16.07.2022



Presentation KG School,
Dharwad, Karnataka



Presentation Pry School,
Dharwad, Karnataka



Presentation Girls High School, Dharwad, Karnataka



St Michael's Girls Higher Secondary,
West Hill, Kerala



St Joseph School Santibastwad
Belgaum, Karnataka

**WORDS OF WELCOME ON THE OCCASION OF THE
BOOK RELEASE 'LIFE SKETCH OF THE SERVANT OF
GOD RAYMOND FC MASCARENHAS'
-REV DR PRAVEEN MARTIS SJ**

Distinguished dignitaries on the dais, eminent guests off the dais, my dear Reverend Sisters, Fathers and friends, a very good afternoon to you all! Today, 4 March, 2022 is a very auspicious day for all of us. If you go back to the history of this day in 1900, we will find that it was the ordination of the Servant of God Raymond FC Mascarenhas and today, we have gathered here to commemorate him with a great tribute. Obviously, there is a link between the diocese, the Jesuits, the Sisters of the Little Flower of Bethany and all of us who have come together. **'The Life sketch of the Servant of God Raymond FC Mascarenhas'** - the book release will happen today and we are all brought together by the author, Prof Edmund Frank. He is the one who desired to write this book when I asked him to publish a book under **St Aloysius Prakashana**. He replied, "I am writing a book and you must see that this book gets released in the classroom where the Servant of God Raymond FC Mascarenhas studied many decades ago." I said, "That's not the worry at all. We can definitely do it. But then, we will also know the life sketch of him in the school." He told me that something was missing of those years of his schooling and nothing much was written and preserved. Further, he said that he knows about it, he has done some study on it; he will fulfil the desire of the Congregation and see that everything will be put in place.

Prof Edmund has done it beautifully today, linking all of us together as one community. It was between 1887 and 1890 that the Servant of God studied here at St Aloysius College High School. During those days, it was called the College High School. You all know that he secured a First Class with Distinction in the Matriculation Examination under the Madras Presidency. So, that was the distinction in a simple human being and a great holy man. He desired to be a diocesan priest and subsequently became the Founder of the Congregation of the Sisters of the Little Flower of Bethany. This is nothing short of a miracle. We all have assembled here to celebrate this event today and it happens to be the day the Sisters concluded

the General Chapter of their Congregation, which was supposed to have concluded on 3rd March but they extended it to the fourth, to mark the beginning of this celebration. Hence, all things fit in well today and we are extremely grateful to God for this wonderful occasion and location that we have assembled here.

On this occasion, I would like to welcome our own dear Bishop Most Rev Dr Peter Paul Saldanha. He is the one who is a positive link between the Jesuits and the Bethany Sisters today. The history of this link has been growing from strength to strength evolving into a pleasant bond. We are proud that we have a holy, simple and profound spiritual leader in Bishop Peter Paul Saldanha. We are extremely happy that he is here today to preside over this occasion and formally release the book on behalf of all of us. On behalf of all of us gathered here, I would like to accord a warm welcome to Bishop Peter Paul Saldanha. The second link is our Rector, Rev Fr Melwin Joseph Pinto. He is another link because he comes from Bendore where your Founder started St Sebastian Church and then follows the whole history of your Congregation, and our Rector hails from Bendore. He is also very dynamic and visionary leader and has been supporting this venture for a long time. So, I would like to warmly welcome on behalf of all of us gathered here. We have got another link in your Superior General Sr Rose Celine BS. She is just re-elected the Superior General for the Congregation for a second term and we are very happy that she has done extremely well. She has come to St Aloysius College and has been a very strong support to Jesuits and to St Aloysius College Institutions. Today she leads the Congregation from the front and has been a great leader and looking after the well-being of the Congregation and sees that your Founder becomes a Saint. I am sure that will happen during her tenure with the prayers of the Congregation. On behalf of all gathered here, I accord a warm welcome to you Sr Rose Celine. We have strong pillars here along with the Superior General, the Asst Superior General Sr Shanthi Priya is with us and I am sure she is also the strong support for the Cause of Raymond Mascarenhas. I would like to warmly welcome you Sr Shanthi Priya. We have the band of counsellors here represented by Sr Mariette and Sr Santhosh Maria and Sr Sandhya who are here. I would like to warmly welcome you on the occasion of the book release.

I was saying something more about the author. He is the star of the day today - Professor Edmund Frank. He told me that there was one eminent alumnus studied here and we are here to release his book. He was recently awarded the Eminent Aloysian Award 2022. He is a great link and a great philanthropist He is always there for any work that is asked of him in the College; has served this College almost for 25 years as Dean of PGDBM, and is working hard to see that this programme becomes very successful. Recently we had 40 years celebration of that particular programme and all that has happened is because of his hard work. I would like to warmly welcome you Professor Edmund Frank. We have here Sr Lillis BS. She is the former Assistant General of the Sisters of the Little Flower of Bethany, a very holy person and always supports us. Whenever I come there for Mass, I always look at her face and it really brings us so much of peace; a person who is calm and serene. With her serenity, she always leads us to that kind of holiness. I would like to warmly welcome you dear sister to this particular programme.

We have with us the Registrar of St Aloysius College (Autonomous) Dr Alwyn D'Sa. He is a great support behind this work and I would like to warmly welcome you, Dr D'Sa. We have started Aloysius Prakashana just about 8 months ago and this is the 8th book which is getting released through it. It is because of the hard work of our Director Dr Vidya D'Souza. I would like to warmly welcome Dr Vidya D'Souza. A warm welcome to all the Directors and all the Fathers from St Aloysius College Institutions!

A special welcome to all the sisters of Little Flower; all of them are here supporting this Cause. I would like to welcome all of you. A Special welcome to all our friends, our alumni, the members of the SACAA! The SACAA President Mr Stephen Pinto is here. A warm welcome to you and all the members of the SACAA! In addition, I would like to welcome members of the Faculty from both St Aloysius Institutions and Bethany Institutions and our friends here. A warm welcome to all of you! A special welcome to the Mangalorean.com here without who we will not get enough publicity for this programme. A warm welcome to you and all the media persons! As I said, today is a special occasion for all of us. Let us make it a memorable occasion and see that our prayers go high to the heavens as we emulate the wonderful example of the Servant of God, Raymond FC Mascarenhas in our lives. A warm welcome to each and every one of you! God bless!

GLIMPSES OF THE BOOK 'LIFE SKETCH OF THE SERVANT OF GOD RAYMOND FC MASCARENHAS' - SR M LILLIS BS

I have the great pleasure of introducing the book 'Life sketch of the Servant of God Raymond FC Mascarenhas' authored by Professor Edmund Frank. The main specialty of this book is that in addition to unfolding the life story of the Servant of God, the book reflects the times in which Mgr Mascarenhas lived, and the numerous historical events that shaped the personality and spirituality of the Servant of God especially in Ch.1. To mention a few, the origin of Mangalorean Roman Catholics, Portuguese invasion of Goa, migration from Goa to South Canara, the captivity of Mangalorean Christians, history of Francis Mascarenhas, the grand uncle of Raymond Mascarenhas, the arrival of the Jesuits in Mangalore, the shifting of the family of the Servant of God from Shimoga and other such events mentioned have notable links with the life of Mgr Raymond. Chapters two and three illuminate Shimoga, the birthplace of the Servant of God, the narration of the family atmosphere especially the influence of Joanna, the mother of Mgr Raymond speaks of the vital contribution a family and society make in shaping the future of a child.

As a professor in St Aloysius College Professor Edmund seems to have found a closer connection with the Servant of God who too was a product of Jesuits in Milagris primary school as well as at St Aloysius. The tireless research of Professor Edmund has unearthed many hidden facts of the early life of the Servant of God which are valuable in connection with the Cause of beatification of the Servant of God. The simple facts such as the Servant of God as the only student who secured a first class in the matriculation examination in that particular year of his passing out, and the documents connected with it in the book, and the photos of the certificates of honours that the Servant of God procured speak volumes about the dictum of excellence that the Servant of God upheld whether in studies, spirituality or apostolic activities.

Chapters 6-9 depict the rare achievements of the Servant of God as the Founder of Bethany Congregation, a parish priest, vicar general of the diocese, his post retirement achievements in the

missions, contribution towards education of the poor. The author paints well the joyful and painful events of the life of the Servant of God such as conflicts with the ecclesiastical authorities, his agonizing days as well as joyful events of jubilees, receiving the honour of domestic Prelate from Rome.

I was fascinated to come across a simple fact about the Servant of God in the book that was unknown to me. The author writes that Raymond had joined a government aided commercial course while in the high school which was intended for pursuing higher studies which Raymond didn't. Some of the subjects were accounting, bookkeeping etc. Later we see that while as the Founder of Bethany Congregation and that of Bendur parish Mgr Raymond successfully introduced various self-reliance programmes for the poor and also for poor Bethany.

The narration of the memories of the Servant of God on his seminary formation under the Jesuits underscores how diligent and motivated he was in his religious studies, and the zest and zeal the Servant of God had from the beginning of his priestly ministry. In Chapter 10 of the book referring to the Servant of God as one of the noted social reformers like Raja Ram Mohan Roy and some other luminaries the author underscores the concern of the Servant of God to the underprivileged of the society. The notable contributions made by Mgr Raymond in the diocese of Mangalore in various parishes as well as Vicar General are well captured.

Having visited most of the mission areas wherein Bethany serves Pro Edmund illustrates vividly the burning apostolic zeal of the Servant of God in founding Bethany convents and institutions in the remotest part of Karnataka and Kerala to bring the compassionate love of Jesus to the poor and the flowering of the vision of Mgr Raymond through Bethany Sisters all over India and abroad.

The biography consisting of 14 Chapters brings alive a luminary of Mangalore, a spiritual force, whose life and writings have powerful messages to the people of all categories. It is creditable that Professor Edmund has well narrated the process of beatification and canonization of the Servant of God which only a very few lay people would be interested in. Having this programme in an unusual manner outside Bethany campus is an indication that the luminary Mgr

Raymond belongs to all and the Servant of God, an alumni of St Aloysius has a special message for the youth.

The fact that Most Rev Peter Paul Saldanha, the Bishop of Mangalore has not only encouraged and guided Prof Edmunds's initiative but has given imprimatur for the book is a matter for the author to be really proud about. It is indeed a great tribute to the Servant of God. I would like to acknowledge the great contribution of Professor Edmund to Bethany and to the Cause of beatification and Canonisation of the Servant of God Raymond FC Mascarenhas. My salute to the diocese of Mangalore and especially to the Jesuits who shaped a great holy priest to walk closely on the footsteps of Jesus Christ and to be a light to the world.

The Compassionate Pastor

Published twice a year, in July and December. No subscription. The Roman Phase of the Cause of the Beatification and Canonization is in Progress in Rome. Sr Dona Sanctis BS continues to be the Roman Postulator.

Donations will be gratefully accepted to meet the expenses of the process of Beatification and Canonization sent to the following addresses:

Foreign Contributors:

INTESASANPAOLOSpA

FILIALE TERZO SETTORE

DISTACCAMENTO SAN BENEDETTO DEL TRONTO

IBAN IT47 MO30 6909 6061 000 0168 945

For Indian Currency:

Cheques/drafts may be made in favour of:

Cause of MsgR Raymond FC Mascarenhas

C/o Office of the Cause for Beatification and Canonization

Bethany Convent, Kankanady Post

Mangalore - 575 002

Karnataka, India.

FROM THE LIPS OF THE AUTHOR 'LIFE SKETCH OF THE SERVANT OF GOD RAYMOND FC MASCARENHAS'- PROF EDMUND JB FRANK

My dear Rt Rev Dr Peter Paul Saldanha our beloved Bishop, Rector of St Aloysius Institutions Fr Melwin Pinto, Superior General of the Bethany Congregation Sr Rose Celine, the Principal St Aloysius College Rev Dr Praveen Martis, Assistant Superior General Sr Shanthi Priya, 2nd Councillor Sr Mariette, former Assistant Superior General Sr Lillis, Registrar Dr Alwyn D'Sa, Director of St Aloysius Prakashana, Dr Vidya D'Souza, off the dais we have two General Councillors, Sr Santhosh Maria and Sr Sandhya, Superior of the Bethany Mother house and Superiors of Bethany Convent communities, the relatives, great grandnieces and great grandnephews of the Founder who have come from faraway places, thank you for gracing this occasion by your presence, Directors, Deans, Heads of Departments, SACAA President, Rev Fathers, Rev Sisters, my colleagues from the Prison Ministry and especially Dr Ronald Fernandes and everyone assembled here:

Never in my wildest of dreams, did I imagine that one day I would be writing a book on the Servant of God Raymond FC Mascarenhas. It was just about some eleven or twelve years back, when Sr Wilberta BS was the Superior General, I got a phone call saying, "I am Sr Lillis speaking. Are you Mr Edmund Frank?" I said "Yes, what can I do for you?" She continued "we wanted to have a lay person on the Editorial Board of our magazine the Compassionate Pastor? We asked Sr Jessie Rita and she recommended your name. Can you make it convenient to meet me?" I asked where and she told me.

On the appointed day, I met her at the Bethany Generalate. She told me about Mgr Raymond Mascarenhas being declared as the Servant of God, to which I asked her, "Aren't we all servants of God?" Then she said no, no, not like that and she explained to me what Servant of God meant and a lot of things concerning the Bethany Congregation, the Compassionate Pastor magazine and Mgr Raymond Mascarenhas. She then asked me, "Will you be on the Editorial board of the Compassionate Pastor?" I asked her "What I have to do?" She

said a little bit of editing work and a little bit of article writing for the Compassionate Pastor. I said ok, but then when I was going back I scratched my head and asked myself "Why did I say yes?" That's how it all began.

After that I got involved with the Compassionate Pastor magazine. I do not know whether it is my weakness or my strength, when I get into something, I will see that I completely grasp it and give it my best. While going through the Compassionate Pastor magazines given to me I used to read that Mgr Raymond studied at St Aloysius High School and got a 1st class in Matriculation. This made me very happy. Then I also read in some books, 'unfortunately we don't have any information at all of his schooling days at St Aloysius High School'. That used to tickle me. 'How come somebody who studied at St Aloysius has no record.' So I said let me find out. So it all started from there.

Initially it was only to find out some details of his school life. From there the rest of the things started. And when I was doing that I completely ransacked our libraries, not only at St Aloysius but also at St Joseph's Seminary. Then I got most of his details. Not only that, the year he was admitted by his parents, what were the fees paid, what were the subjects he studied and what were the marks he obtained in different Forms in III, IV, V and VI Form. In fact he mastered Latin when he was at Aloysius itself. That was one of his main subjects of study. That's how he could memorize all those lengthy Latin verses there in the Seminary in just about 2 or in 3 days' time.

Sometimes you see big heaps of soil, mountains of soil and when you go close and examine you find a small hole there drilled by some reptile. You will never know that such a big heap of soil was dug out from that. Same thing happened, when I was trying to do some research on his school life. I unearthed so much information, it was just like that big heap and there was so much of it and I said I can write a book from this. Not only that, when writing this book I uncovered so much more information that I had to keep aside exactly more than 50% of what I have put into this book and I can get Volume 2 of this book immediately. That much work I was able to get during the last four years and I did not know how it all happened

because all I was trying to do was to get some information about his studies at St Aloysius High School.

As I already mentioned, I don't know how I got into the act of writing a book on him because everything that is to be written on the Servant of God is well written and every inch of his biography is well documented. So what was there for me to write? We all know that Mgr Raymond's ancestors came from Goa. But from the information I got, I could connect with the fact that Goans came to Canara in three different waves and that Mgr Raymond's ancestors came in the third and final wave. They settled down in Moodubidri and later Antony Mascarenhas the father of Mgr Raymond's great grandfather with his wife Seraphina and three children moved to Bondel and were accommodated in their farm lands by the Banghela Kings of Mangalore. It was from Bondel that they were taken captive by Tippu's army in 1784 and taken to Shrirangapatam. In captivity Antony Mascarenhas and his wife Seraphina died, they were probably killed. Their son Paul Mascarenhas came back to Mangalore with his two sisters Anne and Regina and from here starts the history of the ancestors of Mgr Raymond Mascarenhas post captivity.

Mgr Raymond's grand uncle Francis Mascarenhas, the youngest son of Paul Mascarenhas, was one of the first historians of our community post Tippu's captivity. In fact he started a school in Milagres in 1842. If I am not mistaken it can be the Milagres School. Diwan Bahadur Alex Pinto was one of his first pupils. Francis Mascarenhas knew many languages. Apart from Konkani, Kannada, Tulu and English he was well conversant in Latin, Italian, French and German. A great scholar, he wrote many books. And the books on history written by him were given to Fr Muffei SJ of St Aloysius College. That became the source material for Fr Moore's history published in 1905 and to all the historians who were writing extensively on Tippu's captivity and everything connected with that. So this academics or whatever you call it was in their family itself.

I had to get some important information about Lazarus Mascarenhas from Shimoga and I thought it was going to be very tough. But fortunately for me, I had my friend Dr Ronald Fernandes in Bangalore, a member of the KPSC and with his help, right from the then Chief Minister Yediyurappa's Office I got the signal to the

Information Department in Shimoga to go and see whatever I wanted. So I camped in Shimoga for a few days to find out and get the information I was looking for regarding what Lazarus Mascarenhas did in Shimoga and what made him return to Mangalore and all this is given in the book. Sr Lillis has very well mentioned most of the things and I am not going to repeat that. But one thing I am telling you, if you open this book you will not close it till you have read through a few chapters. Mr Praveen Patrao of Prasad Printers has done such a wonderful job of this book with the printing and in lending clarity even to very old photographs. I had to actually increase the size of the book to crown size to incorporate the pictures.

I also thank our dear Principal, Rev Dr Praveen Martis for telling me that we have the St Aloysius Prakashana and we will publish the book from here itself. We have Dr Vidya D'Souza here, an efficient Director of the St Aloysius Prakashan and then with all their help, I said let me do it from here.

I must thank Sr Rose Celine the Superior General for taking the first consignment of 360 books of the Servant of God Raymond Mascarenhas. Thank you very much. So with this I thank everyone who has helped me. My special thanks I must say go to Sr Lillis, Sr Jessie Rita and Sr Miriam who gave me company right through and were always there for me when I needed photographs and material and for any guidance and consultation. Without their active support and cooperation, it wouldn't have been possible for me to complete this book.

I used to keep the bishop informed wherever I went and also our Principal and both of them would always cheer me up saying, "carry on, carry on you are doing some very good work." When planning the agenda for today's function, in fact the bishop himself kept saying, "This item should come here and that should go there" and he seemed even more interested than me in setting the programme agenda for today. Then he asked me Professor, where I have to speak. I said last. "Oh!" he said. I said, you want to speak first? He said "No, no, the irony is, I always have to speak last and very often I have to speak to empty chairs". No, I told him that is not going to be the case here. Then he said "Those who speak before me have said everything I wanted to say and there is nothing left for me to say".

I must say our Bishop has gone through every word in my book. There were so many things which he pointed out which I did not know because he was a Professor there in Rome and he was very well acquainted with the Diocesan phase which is also a part of the subject matter of my book. When I said I was including a chapter on the Diocesan phase of the Servant of God, he went in to his personal library and gave me a very good book and said, Professor you refer this book, everything is there in it. So I did not have much trouble in getting a book for reference. It all came from him and he was guiding me through out.

About the Imprimatur, that word was new to me and I did not know what exactly that meant. Sr Lillis kept telling me, Edmund you have to get the Imprimatur and every time I kept saying ok, I will do that. Since the Cause was in progress at the Sacred Congregation of Saints in Rome, I thought I had to get something from Rome, but very soon I learnt to my relief that Imprimatur was the permission to print from the Bishop.

Thank you all very much for being here to grace this function. It is really wonderful to have such a big audience. Thank you, thank you very much.



**SPEECH ON THE OCCASION OF LAUNCH OF 'LIFE
SKETCH OF THE SERVANT OF GOD
RAYMOND FC MASCARENHAS'
- SR M ROSE CELINE, BS, SUPERIOR GENERAL**

'Life sketch of the SD Raymond FC Mascarenhas' authored by Prof Edmund Frank is launched today by Most Rev Dr Peter Paul Saldanha, the Bishop of the Diocese of Mangalore and it is a matter of joy that this has been facilitated by St Aloysius Prakashana.

On this memorable occasion, it is worth celebrating the joys we experience at the life of holiness of this great luminary Servant of God Raymond FC Mascarenhas (RFC) whose Cause for sainthood is in progress in Rome. A life sketch of this compassionate pastor who was urged to found the Congregation of the Sisters of the Little Flower of Bethany, which has just completed a century is a loving tribute to this star of Mangalore by Prof Edmund Frank. Bethany gratefully acknowledges Prof Edmund Frank who has fallen in love with RFC our Founder, manifesting it in many a valuable and outstanding way which I wish to acknowledge before this august assembly.

At the exhumation of the grave of SD Raymond FC and shifting the mortal remains to the new grave, at St Sebastian's Church, Bendur, it was Prof Edmund Frank who gifted the casket.

Prof Edmund brought out a lovely attractive calendar on SD RFC to mark the Centenary year of Bethany Congregation that RFC founded.

At the inauguration of redesigned SD RFC memorial, in Bendur, Mangalore Prof Edmund spotlighted the special features to the delight and admiration of one and all.

He seized every opportunity where he could expound on the life of SD RFC, be it in the half yearly magazine "The Compassionate Pastor" or the "Bethany Centenary Souvenir" and now he has magnificently brought out a volume on the Life Sketch of the SD RFC.

Bethany thanks you Prof Edmund – you are a gift to Bethany. As a philanthropist, and Founder cum Trustee of the Sylvester and Tressy Frank Foundation, your social entrepreneurship is noteworthy. St Aloysius College your Alma Mater has deservedly honoured you with the prestigious 'Eminent Aloysian Award 2022' among its six achievers this year and way back in June-July 2017 when you represented India at the International Convention of World Jesuit Alumni at Cleveland, Ohio, USA. Though you have authored books on business and Industry Management which are used by students at Undergraduate and Post Graduate levels, this one 'The Life sketch of the SD Raymond FC Mascarenhas' will be a priceless treasure not only for us Bethanites but a valuable gift to the Church at large. Through the one-man Trust that you have founded, you are making a big difference for the wounded humanity. Hats off to you not only for the 10 houses you have built for the homeless, over 350 educational support scholarships and financial support to educational institutions in rural areas, orphanages and Homes for the children of prisoners and Rehabilitation Centres for HIV+ children and women. As an active member of the Prison Ministry of India and many other Social Service Organizations your vision and mission to bring Christ's love for the poor is unparalleled.

On this happy occasion on behalf of the entire Bethany Congregation I congratulate you for your work on SD Raymond FC and pray God's choicest blessings on you and on all your endeavours.

I profusely thank Rev Fr Melwyn Pinto SJ the Rector of St Aloysius College community and Rev Fr Dr Praveen Martis SJ, the Principal of St Aloysius College for providing this momentous occasion of participating in the launch of 'Life sketch of the Servant of God RFC Mascarenhas'. May this book illumine many souls to experience the sanctity of the Servant of God and imitate his virtuous life.



WORDS OF FELICITATION AT THE RELEASE OF 'LIFE SKETCH OF THE SERVANT OF GOD RAYMOND FC MASCARENHAS'- REV FR MELWYN PINTO SJ

Good evening everybody! It is a beautiful day... a day which bids us to go forward... Being the 4th day of March, you also call it March fourth (forth) and if you have to march forth you have to go ahead and beyond what we see today and that's what we are here for. This book release shows us the road ahead.

Dear Rt Rev Peter Paul Saldanha the Bishop of Mangalore, Sr Rose Celine, Superior General of the Sisters of the Little Flower of Bethany, Fr Praveen Martis SJ, dignitaries on and off the dais, relatives of the Servant of God Raymond Mascarenhas, other benefactors especially the sisters of the Little Flower of Bethany. It is a beautiful day as I said, the day when we witnessed a book released on the Servant of God. In the past few years ever since RFC was declared as the Servant of God in the Diocese of Mangalore, things have happened in quick succession and we are indeed moving ahead. I was wondering where Prof Edmund Frank developed love for the Servant of God RFC Mascarenhas. I was really wondering where he got it all and finally today he revealed the secret that he was invited by Sr Lillis to be on the Editorial Board of The Compassionate Pastor. Then on, he discovered that the Servant of God RFC Mascarenhas was a student of St Aloysius High School. Prof Edmund being loyal to this institution and as an eminent alumnus, desired to highlight this aspect of the Servant of God as an alumnus and therefore this beautiful book that he has come up with. Prof Edmund Frank, thank you very much for having made the Servant of God RFC Mascarenhas belong not just to the Bethany sisters but also to all of us as Sr Lillis pointed out.

There is a thought among the people in the diocese and everywhere that the sisters want their Founder to be canonized a saint but it is not just an honour for the sisters; of course, it is an honour for St Aloysius Institutions too. It is an honour for the parishioners of Bendur as well. I do not know how many of them realize it as an honour for the diocese of Mangalore and beyond... the Church in India. Whenever someone is canonized from India we

feel very happy. Recently there was an announcement in November that Devasahayam Pillai, who was baptized Lazarus, is going to be canonized as a saint on the 15th of May, this year, if I am not mistaken. So it's happening. There are many more Indian saints that are coming up; we require these saints. When we are going through troubled times we require saints to be presented to us as models, not because we want to bask in their glory, but for something more. When we have these role models, we tend to walk in their footsteps and carry on in the light that they have shown us.

Making of a saint is not an easy task. The process is long as Mr Manoj, the Master of Ceremonies told us in the beginning. The level one as Venerable, level two, Blessed and level three, a saint. I was working for some years in the Vatican and I have seen how much of a struggle it is for those who are working for the Causes of Saints. Right now, there are thousands of cases in the pipeline. For some the process is going on for hundreds of years, perhaps, centuries. The causes of some have perhaps been forgotten but they are there in the pipeline as Servants of God. There are many who are venerable, many who are blessed and they can once again be numbered in thousands. The Church has to wait for what we call a miracle.

Miracles are indeed plenty. One of the greatest miracles is the way the Bethany Congregation has grown up. There cannot be a greater miracle than that. If you want to recognize one, it is the works that the sisters are doing in all parts of the world now. I really don't know whether the Servant of God RFC Mascarenhas ever imagined or envisioned this, that someday there would be sisters in other parts of the world. I guess you are in Africa and some other parts of the world. Isn't that a real miracle?

However, to first of all be beatified and then to be canonised, there has to be a miracle which is spontaneous and a lasting remission of a serious, life-threatening medical condition, which is something rare, something spectacular that has to be reported and has to be verified. It has to go through the process. Please do not think that Raymond Mascarenhas has is yet to reach heaven or that highest heaven where he has to be canonized. It is something to do with the process because as human beings we need it. So let us pray for it that one day this canonization may take place and that we may

start seeing these miracles through the prayers and the intercession of the saint so that we have a great person to emulate.

Prof Edmund himself is a great miracle I should say. The way he has gone about working for this book, the way he has gone in search of the sources everywhere is indeed a miracle. It is not easy when it comes to the history of Mangalore, as he just mentioned, The Christian community which had been taken to Srirangapatna in captivity by Tipu Sultan has been a very painful part of our history. So many families got separated and disrupted and the churches got destroyed and yet what remained firm was the faith that these people had. We have got some hymns and songs composed during that period which are with us even today. They held on to their faith while in captivity and returned to rebuild their churches and homes while spreading out into the Northern parts of Kerala and Mangalore. To find those sources is not easy. Prof Edmund Frank has done that and I really congratulate you sir. It is a great job. May God bless you for this work because it is going to inspire not only the sisters but also many more to whom Servant of God RFC Mascarenhas belongs.

May this diocese as well as Bendur Parish to which I belong feel proud of the Servant of God. I feel proud that I belong to that parish. I grew up in the vicinity of the Bethany Convent, and came there to serve at Mass initially with my brother who used to take me along with him. Today is a beautiful day and I feel privileged to speak on this occasion and congratulate not just Prof Edmund Frank but also the Bethany Sisters who have been praying hard every day for the Cause of the Servant of God. Let us march forward; let us all march forth! Thank you.



**PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS BY MOST REV DR PETER
PAUL SALDANHA, BISHOP OF MANGALORE
DIOCESE, ON THE OCCASION OF THE BOOK
RELEASE 'LIFE SKETCH OF THE SERVANT OF GOD
RAYMOND FC MASCARENHAS'**

My dear Fr Melwin Pinto, the Rector, Sr Rose Celine, the Superior General, Fr Praveen Martis, the Principal, Sr Shanthi Priya, the Vice Superior General, Sr Lillis, the former Vice Superior General, Sr Mariette, the Second Councillor, Dr Alwyn D'Sa, the Registrar, Dr Vidya D'Souza, the Director of the Aloysius Prakashana, Prof. Edmund Frank, dear guests, relatives of the Servant of God Mascarenhas, sisters, and everyone present here. Good morning.

As Prof. Edmund Frank has said, I have gone through every word of the book he wrote, because I had to give the *imprimatur* (the permission to print), ascertaining that there are no errors with regard to faith and morals. Does a book of this sort which is more of a historical sketch, require *imprimatur*? Well, since the Cause for Beatification and Canonization of the Servant of God Raymond Mascarenhas is on and being a person who taught faith and morals, I thought that everything should be in the right perspective about him and the Church as well.

Prof. Frank wouldn't write anything against the Servant of God, because he has immense love towards him. I could perceive it when he came to me and narrated his findings, brimming with joy. Every time he visited me, he had something new to tell me, and plenty to say.

Prof. Frank told me that only fifty per cent of the material collected is used here and he had to pick and choose. That means, the research has gone really deep and he has culled out a few things which are very essential. The beauty of this book lies not only in the historical narration of precise dates and facts, but also in making the surroundings of Shimoga and Mangalore of the time of the Servant of God alive thanks to the photographs of the localities. According to Prof. Frank, Mr Lazarus Mascarenhas, his father, was perhaps deputed to Shimoga and later he returned to Mangalore to have his children educated by the Jesuits and/or because he became sick. Mr Lazarus died of bronchitis on 27 August 1895 and the register of his funeral is in the Milagres Church.

In 1784, Tippu's army invaded some 27 churches both in North and South Canara and the churches were destroyed. Naturally, the Christians were big losers not only of the churches but also of the properties. The Christians were cultivators and they had lot of land which they lost during the deportation. However, after the death of Tippu in 1799, the Christians returned to their homeland. Quite a few might have fallen away from faith, and some died on the way. However, those who returned, persevered in their faith. Msgr Mascarenhas' ancestors were among those who returned from the captivity.

Prof. Frank has gone searching for the roots of the Servant of God, gleaning from the primary sources at the Sacred Heart Cathedral, at the Bishop's House in Shimoga, at the Deputy Commissioner's Office, Tahsildar's Office, Municipal and the Commissioner's archives. One can only imagine how many times he had to travel to and fro to get all the necessary permissionsto scan through the documents and the archives. Other than that, at St. Aloysius High School, we have already seen the classroom where the Servant of God had been sitting, heard about all the prizes he secured and the grades and honours he received for excelling in studies. The curriculum and the certificates have been well documented. Thus, the book becomes very interesting. This great work of Prof. Edmund is a feather in his cap. This is his eighth book and, this is the eighth book of St Aloysius Prakashana. I heartily congratulate him for accomplishing this wonderful task.

Often it is said that the great minds discuss ideas, mediocre minds discuss events and small minds discuss others. But I should prove this wrong, because great minds can also discuss others as Prof. Frank has done it, investigating into the life of a holy man. As we know, saints are placed before us to inspire us and intercede for us. The Servant of God Raymond Mascarenhas is given to us to inspire us and to pray for us. We thank God for the good example set by the Servant of God.

Jesus says in the Gospel, 'be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect', and 'be compassionate as your heavenly Father is compassionate'. We are called to imitate God the Father by contemplating Jesus, his Son who is present in our hearts, in the Community, in the Word of God, in the poor and above all, in the

Eucharist. Jesus, whom to see is to see the Father, invites us: 'Come, follow me', that is, 'don't go ahead of me, but walk behind me, in my footsteps'. The Servant of God Raymond imitated the Lord Jesus. The last part of the book narrates the pain and struggles he had to undergo in his old age, bearing with the misunderstandings, and many other hazards he had to face. He was tested in the crucible of suffering. Yet, he suffered courageously, remaining faithful to God without complaining but always blessing God and blessing others. That is the greatness of the man.

Now, we are praying for a miracle asking God to give us a testimony that the Servant of God lived a holy life both in private and public. Miracles are a kind of confirmation to say whether a person has always sought to do the will of God. Heaven confirms it by giving us this sign and the Church through an arduous process recognizes it admitting that he is a model of sanctity and his intercession is effective because he lives with God. God's concurrence is required for the Church to establish that this particular person is in heaven. The Church goes through the long process, taking every caution because she does not want to fall into error by declaring someone as Blessed or Saint in a hurried manner. Now this type of literary work, as Prof. Frank has produced, helps us to know more about the Servant of God and ask for his intercession.

Prof. Edmund has made strenuous efforts to understand the process and shown a few glimpses that will help us to know the process of beatification and canonization. I felicitate him for having gone through the documentation, and the basic sources, narrating his many visits with photographs. I convey my good wishes to the printers and St Aloysius Prakashana for the good job.

It is often said that behind every successful man there is a woman. In our case, behind Prof. Frank there is Sr Lillis who brought him into the Editorial Board of the *Compassionate Pastor* and it has given him some insights and filled him with the flame of love. As you know, he is a great philanthropist, educationist, a social worker, having tremendous love for the poor and especially for those who are in prison. I wish that one day he also maybe there in the list of the Servants of God. In fact, all of us are called to be Saints. May God bless us all.

NEW MIRACLE BOOK: ON FIRST SAINT FOR CANONIZATION FROM KANARA

Mr Ivan Saldanha -Shet

This is a well researched precise and minute life story. The recently set up St Aloysius Prakashana, publication unit of St Aloysius College (Autonomous), Mangaluru, in association with the Bethany Congregation jointly hosted the launch of the amazing Book, **"Life Sketch of the Servant of God Raymond FC Mascarenhas", authored by Prof Edmund JB Frank, Dean PGDBM**; the book was released by the Bishop of Mangalore Most Rev Dr Peter Paul Saldanha on March 4th, 2022. This miracle book takes the reader into well researched detail through the life and times of the first ever Servant of God from Mangalore and Kanara, Mgr Raymond F C Mascarenhas. It unfolds his early days at Shimoga, Milagres, Mangalore, times at St Aloysius College High School, his 17 epoch-making years 1914-31. As a young priest in Milagres, Udyavar, Agrar; pioneer parish priest of Bendur 1914, who built the church now standing (his tomb is also here a special attraction for all). Founding the indigenous Bethany Sisters 'BS' Congregation 1921, as Vicar General of Mangalore, being conferred the honour of Domestic Prelate, from Pope Pius XII (1955), his last days and death (1960) at the 'Cottage' in Bendur, now a museum. His Cause for Beatification and, Canonization being pursued at the Sacred Congregation for the Causes of Saints in the Vatican. The Bethany Congregation founded by Mgr Raymond Mascarenhas today runs 278 Schools and Colleges, orphanages, hospitals, homes for the destitute and senior citizens, all over India and few places overseas. Bethany Congregation has just completed a century - 1921-2021, which was marked in memorable ways.

The book was released ceremoniously, first in the very classroom that this saintly personality sat in at St Aloysius College High School, Mangalore 1887-90, the details of his life researched to an unfathomable depth by the phenomenal author Prof Edmund of this

institution. There was an unmatched gathering of the College Jesuits, Faculty, staff and students, The Bethany Superior General V Rev Sr Rose Celine, her Councillors, a good representation of BS nuns, prominent persons and interested laity.

The formal book launch, later in the evening was at the Fr LF Rasquinha Hall, LCRI Block, St Aloysius College was unmatched.

The Miraculous life of Servant of God Raymond FC Mascarenhas 1875-1960, an admired priest of Mangalore diocese, has inspired and impressed the church and people of this region so much that he is now the first person, declared a 'Servant of God', the first step towards Canonization in the Catholic Church from Kanara. This book, released on the 122nd anniversary (March 4, 1900 to 2022) of the Ordination of SD Rev Raymond FC Mascarenhas is also noteworthy - an eminent Aloysian bringing to light a book on another Aloysian is indeed a wonder. The saintly priest's academic records too and his roll No 33, and fine details at School and at the Inter diocesan St Joseph's Seminary Jeppu here have been all meticulously documented by this doyen of detail Prof Frank. This is his 8th book on different topics and educational material. Sd RFC, was a prolific writer, poet, musician, speaker and was even labelled as 'Apostle of the Media' who handled controversies in British times in a rare manner.

Prof Edmund JB Frank, from a well known renowned family, is known in the region as an exceptional asset of the community, marked by simple living and high thinking and working for many deserving causes. This idealistic and selfless, true Aloysian alumnus par excellence, after working for years in the industry in various key positions at home and abroad, in good fortune pitched in to serve his '*Alma mater*' St Aloysius College as 'Dean'. Simultaneously, as a Bachelor, highly educated and qualified, serves many causes in Education and Jesuit platforms at home and abroad in ways beyond calculation, over the last quarter of a century. His good offices and philanthropy are impossible to list here. He was awarded the most prestigious and coveted honour "Eminent Aloysian Award 2022" by the College's highest echelons on January 11, 2022. Prof Edmond

Frank is commended at every level of the church and civilised society for this masterpiece and his respected and valued works in a multi-pronged pattern that can never be found in any other enterprise perhaps. His life, thinking and work too is a phenomena that inspires and uplifts humanity to greater heights always. It is worth reading and knowing the most intricate details of our own hero **"Servant of God Raymond FC Mascarenhas"**, who hopefully will soon be a saint on the altars of the Universal Catholic Church, from Mangalore, said to be the Rome of the East.



ABOUT THE CONTRIBUTORS

Sr M Clara Mendonca BS



Sr M Clara Mendonca is a Bethany Sister based in Northeast India, currently Assistant Provincial Superior, Silchar Province. She hails from Karkala in Karnataka State. Finding God in the poor and the exploited has been her passion through a commitment for social justice. Presently she is the Socio-Medical Coordinator of her Province. She has a degree in Science, Law and Social work, and all of them provide her means to discover God and share that divine presence. Her commitment to the poor is so great that she takes delight in bringing smiles on their faces. Her readiness to walk the second mile through down-to-earth approach has created ripples in the society, bringing transformation in the places least expected.

Sister M Rose Margaret, BS



Sister M Rose Margaret, BS has worked extensively in different parts of India, Northeast, North and South in various capacities as the Superior, Principal, Provincial Councillor, and Province Coordinator for Social Work and Vocation Animation. She has a vast experience in the field of education, social work, pastoral work and administration. Being a writer, she contributes articles to The Compassionate Pastor, Bethany Connection and other publications of the Congregation. She conducts seminars on Vision, Goal and Core Values of Bethany Educational Society and transformative Education for fullness life, Spiritual Orientation Programmes and retreats to the staff, students and religious sisters. At present, she is the Provincial Councillor of the Northern Province and Province Coordinator for Pastoral Work.

Sr M Paula BS



Sr M Paula BS is a member of the Congregation of the Sisters of the Little Flower of Bethany, belonging to the Western Province (Dharwad). She is a joyful, responsible, loyal, sacrificing and committed religious, seeking God in all her endeavours. Endowed with the gifts of heart and mind, she has served the institute in various capacities like Superior, teacher, Headmistress, member of the Council of Management, Treasurer and the Deputy Secretary of the Bethany Educational Society® Goa for long years. With her passion for education, she has handled educational matters ably and confidently and has been exuberant to accomplish any mission entrusted to her. Her love for Mgr RFC Mascarenhas, the Servant of God is matchless. As part of the family tree of Mgr Raymond and as an eyewitness, she recalls with delight her personal experiences with the saintly priest and narrates in her article, “The Man of God - ‘*Uomo Di Deo*’ – A Blessed Memory” the way the Servant of God had influenced her life and mission.



Hearty Congratulations



*The Re-elected Bethany Superior General Rev Sr M Rose Celine BS (Centre) and her Team at Bethany Generalate, Mangalore.
(L to R) Sr M Santhosh Maria BS, Sr M Shanthi Priya BS (Asst. Superior General), Sr Mariette BS and Sr M Sandhya BS, the General Councillors*

THANKS



Thanks to Sr M Lillis BS for being the Chief Editor of 'The Compassionate Pastor' for 14 years (2008-2022). We appreciate her committed services rendered with love and diligence.

WELCOME



We Welcome Sr Mariette BS as the Chief Editor of 'The Compassionate Pastor' and pray blessings on her.

Life Sketch of the Servant of God Raymond FC Mascarenhas



Prof. Edmund JB Frank