



*“They are trees planted by streams of water; they bear fruit; their leaves do not wither; in all that they do they prosper.” Ps 1:3*

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**The Theme for 2018: “LISTEN AND OBEY” Jas:1:22 & Lk:8:21**

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### **MOTHER MARY -THE OBEDIENT DISCIPLE** *(Ref- Reflections by Pope Francis - Oct 8, 2016)*

Pope Francis said, “Mary was not only Christ’s mother, but also his obedient disciple and a model of concrete service to others. Throughout her life, Mary did everything that the Church is asked to do in perennial memory of Christ”.

With her faith, “we learn to open our hearts to obey God; in her self-denial, we see the importance of tending to the needs of others; in her tears, we find the strength to console those experiencing pain.”

Mary guides us toward the path we are called to take “in order to

be true disciples of Jesus,” he said, adding that in praying the rosary, we feel her closeness in each mystery and contemplate her role as “the first disciple of her Son, for she does the Father’s will. Pope Francis stressed that Mary can help teach us what it means to be a disciple of Christ, because while she was “eternally chosen to be his Mother,” she also learned how to be his disciple.

“Her first act was to listen to God,” he said, noting how she then obeyed the angel’s message and followed Jesus closely, “listening to every word he spoke” and keeping them in her heart. ‘Mary treasured all that was said and pondered the words in her heart.’ (Luke 2:19). However, the Pope stressed, ***“It’s not enough simply to listen.” While this is the first step, it must be followed by concrete action.*** ‘By her complete adherence to the Father’s will, to his Son’s redemptive work, and to every prompting of the Holy Spirit, the Virgin Mary is the Church’s model of faith and charity.’ (CCC#967)

“The disciple truly puts his life at the service of the Gospel,” he said, and, recalling Mary’s own actions, pointed to how after the Annunciation, Mary immediately went to her cousin Elizabeth to help her during her pregnancy. In each of these moments, Mary “expresses the wealth of divine mercy that reaches out to all in their daily need.”

The Pope noted how from the earliest centuries of the Church Mary has been invoked as the “Mother of Mercy,” explaining that the prayer of the Rosary in many ways is a “synthesis of the history of God’s mercy, which becomes a history of salvation for all who let themselves be shaped by grace.” By reflecting on the important moments in Jesus’ life, we see how His mercy is shown to everyone from all walks and stages of life, he said, adding that Mary always accompanies us on this journey, pointing us in the direction of her Son, “who radiates the very mercy of the Father.”

Not only did she then give birth to the Son of God, but she also showed her concern for the young spouses in Cana by interceding

for them. When Jesus was crucified on Golgotha, Mary “did not flee pain but stood beneath the cross of Jesus and, by his will, became the Mother of the Church.” After Jesus rose from the dead, she then “encouraged the apostles assembled in the upper room as they awaited the Holy Spirit, who would make them fearless heralds of the Gospel,” Pope Francis said.

Pope Francis invokes Mary’s intercession, praying that she would be “a protection, help and blessing for us all the days of our life.” “We fly to your protection, holy Mother of God. Scorn not our petitions in the hour of need. O glorious and blessed Virgin, deliver us always from every peril.

As we follow the theme for this year 2018 “Listen & Obey” Let us walk in the footsteps of Mary our mother. Being named after her: "Mary Immaculate Praise Community", let us imitate her humble submission in doing God’s will always.

Let me end with a prayer as we plead to God to give us a listening heart to draw ourselves closer Him.

***MAMA MARY***

*Mama Mary help me be open,  
to let the light shine through me;  
Mama Mary teach me obedience,  
make me transparent like you.*

*Behold the handmaid of God,  
May all your heralds come true;  
in him alone I am satisfied,  
forever blessing his name.*

*Mama Mary help me be open,  
to let the light shine through me;  
Mama Mary teach me obedience,  
make me transparent like you.*

***TEACH ME TO LISTEN***

*Teach me to listen, O God, to those  
nearest me, my family, my friends, my  
co-workers.*

*Help me to be aware that no matter  
what words I hear, the message is,  
“Accept the person I am. Listen to me.”*

*Teach me to listen, my caring God, to  
those far from me*

*The whisper of the hopeless, the plea  
of the forgotten, the cry of the  
anguished.*

*Teach me to listen, O God, to myself.*

### ***MAMA MARY***

*My soul rejoices in God,  
his works has blossomed in me;  
in him alone I am satisfied'  
forever blessing his name.*

*Mama Mary help me be open,  
to let the light shine through me;  
Mama Mary teach me obedience,  
make me transparent like you.*

### ***TEACH ME TO LISTEN***

*Help me to be less afraid to trust the  
voice inside — in the deepest part of me.*

*Teach me to listen, Holy Spirit, for  
your voice — in busyness and in  
boredom, in certainty and doubt, in  
noise and in silence.*

*Teach me, Lord, to listen.  
Amen.*

- Core Team Member

## **Seeking Godly Wisdom**

*Continued from the last issue ..*

**So then, let's examine the attributes of Godly Wisdom:**

**James 3 : 17-18** says “**The wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere**”

We can use this sentence as our standard or benchmark to test if we are using Godly Wisdom or Earthly Wisdom in our decisions. It is very simple really – if the outcome of the decision brings peace and is full of mercy , if it is not manipulative and if it bears the fruit of the Holy Spirit in our lives and the lives of those we interact with, **then it means that we are employing Godly Wisdom.** This will often mean that we will have to die to self and be willing to subject our will to the will of God and do as He directs rather than do what our flesh or carnal mind might desire.

This brings us to our next question – **How do I get Godly Wisdom?**  
**Some key verses which are helping me daily to acquire Godly Wisdom are :-**

- Wisdom is known by those who **look for** her, she hastens to meet those who **long for her** (who earnestly desire her) Wisdom 6:12 – this verse says that we have to earnestly seek and long for Godly Wisdom with all our heart.
- James 1:15 : "If any of you lacks wisdom, you should **ask God**, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you". James encourages us to pray for God's wisdom.
- The beginning of Wisdom is a sincere **desire for discipline**.(Wisdom 6 : 17)  
We have to make every effort to be disciplined by having a regular prayer time, eating healthy, sleeping well and doing our daily exercise which our body needs. When we **practice self control** in our thoughts, speech, what we watch on TV or elsewhere and listen to the Lord, He will speak HIS WISDOM into our hearts and minds.
- **The fear of the Lord** is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight. Sirach 1:14 - Where there is fear of the Lord, there tends to be **obedience**. Where there is no fear of the Lord, there is often disobedience and disregard for the Lord and there can never be any true wisdom.
- **Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path**  
Psalm 119:105  
If we read the books of Sirach, Proverbs and Wisdom, we will be able to get deep insights on how to gain Godly Wisdom. And not just these books alone because the whole Bible is our manual for life, the more we read, understand, memorize and apply it to our lives, the more we will walk in Godly Wisdom.
- Wisdom **enters holy souls**, making them friends and prophets of God. God loves those who live with wisdom - Wisdom 7:27, 28. Finally, seeking of Godly Wisdom necessarily implies a walk in Holiness as the above verse says that Wisdom will enter holy souls.

- If we look at the lives of the Saints, all of them were human beings just like us. However they loved the LORD with deep passion and this deep love for God helped them to be holy, to suffer much and be great witnesses for Jesus.

**What are some of the benefits of living a life based on Godly Wisdom?**

- Whoever is on the watch for wisdom, **will be free of anxiety.** Proverbs 6:15
- Exalt wisdom and she shall **promote you and bring you honour.** Proverbs 4 :8
- Wisdom brought with her all the other **good things and untold riches.** Proverbs 7 : 11

So dear brothers and sisters, we have everything to gain and nothing to lose if we seek God’s mind and heart rather than follow the dictates of our flesh and carnal mind, So Let’s make a decision today to get **Godly Wisdom because it is supreme; to gain Godly understanding because it is the principal thing. Amen!**

*Ann Pinto*

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**MIPC - Ministering through Prayer and Action**

“Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.” – **Hebrews 13:16**

Radio Telephony Restricted (Aeromobile), is the most difficult exam for pilots in India. One month after, I applied for the Radio Telephony exam, the supporting documents of my application, got rejected due to invalid attestation. I was attending classes in Delhi at that time and I didn’t know any Class 1 officer in Delhi. I asked one of the MIPC cell members to help me, as she is from Delhi. She used her contacts and got my documents attested in a short time.

The exam centre was in Chennai and another old MIPC cell member who

is based in Chennai, welcomed me to stay at his home and arranged for my transport to the exam centre and back.

The exam was very tough, but God helped me at every step and Praise God, I cleared the exam. The whole experience was very touching for me, as I cleared the most difficult subject with God's grace and in the whole process, MIPC cell (which helped me to grow in faith), was a very important part of it and supported me with not only prayers, but with all the other assistance that was required at every step. I am very grateful to God, for making me a part of the MIPC and making the members of the MIPC, instrumental in realizing my dream of becoming a pilot.

- *Lenish Chacko*

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## **Listen and Obey- Theme -2018**

God through His Holy Spirit always directs us by giving every year a Theme. So what I do is, I take that theme only for that year. Once that year is over, I forget about that theme as I start for the new year, a new theme. But it should not be that I forget about the previous theme and put into practice only the new theme.

This year God gave us the theme: – “**LISTEN and OBEY**”

Listen and obey are two activities put together making one directive of God. Just listening is not enough it has to be followed by obeying. Then only God's command will be fulfilled. As in the letter of James 1:22 be the doer of the Word. Mt 7:24 says everyone who listens and acts on them will be like wise men, God's promise of wisdom in taking the right decision for our prosperity, success and security depends not only in listening but obeying. Most of the time I fail to act and the reason is ‘unbelief’, I have not believed in the Word I read or I heard from the anointed ones. We read or we listen, but no conviction to put it into action what we heard. Sometimes, when our prayers are not answered, we lose hope and give up. We become lukewarm in our walk with the Lord. Now a days, everything and anything is instant. We all look for quick fix. We cannot put time limit for God our Creator.

**Lets go to Genesis 12 : 1-4 - The Lord said to Abram when he was 75 years of age to move out of Haran and go to Canaan with his wife Sarai and all the possessions along with the persons and his cattle acquired in Haran. The scripture in verse 4 says Abram listened and obeyed God. Abram left the place and Lot too tags along with them. Abram is going to a place where he knows not how the land and people are. He knew he will be an alien there but he acted or rather obeyed. The Scripture says with promise in Verse 2: **‘I will make of you a great nation and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing’.****

**Gen:15:1-7** - After these things, **The word of Lord came to Abram and said** – ‘Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield, your reward is exceedingly great’. We all know what Abram tells the Lord – "You have not given me a child of my own and how can I be numerous. I have only a steward of my house, Eliezer of Damascus". The Lord says, "no, but only through your own seed your very own son". Lord took Abram out and showed him the sky, the countless stars - can you count them? Such will be your descendants. Verse 6: and **Abram believed and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness.**

**Genesis 17:1-24 "And when Abram was ninety nine years, the LORD appeared to Abram,** (the Lord comes personally to Abram). The covenant was to circumcise and Abraham did obey and circumcise every male child including himself. Abram’s name was changed by God to Abraham. Abram means the venerated father but God changed it to Abraham, because God said I will make you the father of nations. So **Abraham means - father of many nations.**

And God changed Sarai’s name to Sarah and the Lord said I will bless you with a son whom you will name ‘Isaac’. Sarah was 90 years old when she gave birth and Abraham was 100 years old.

Three times in Genesis we are told that God told Abram that he will be the father of nations (Chapter 12, 15, 17). See the duration of 24 to 25 years but during this time Abraham kept on obeying God and God’s promise was fulfilled after 25 years. Many times, we give up on obeying God, when the word we heard has not come to pass. We become only the hearers of the Word. Abraham was again tested when the Lord told him to



sacrifice his son, his only son Issac. No question asked but Abraham leaves with the wood and see how confident he was as he said to his 2 slaves“ we will come back”. What made Abraham to say ‘that we will come back’. Abraham had conviction of God’s promise of son, which God fulfilled after 25 years and God said that through Issac only he will be the father of nations. And now if he kills his only son, how can the Lord keep his promise. So he believed God and said "we will return". God cannot lie and God never gives us false promises. That was the belief of Abraham.

As we have seen in Gen 12 ,15 and 17 the Lord speaks to us in different ways. We too hear God’s word everyday. He speaks to us through his anointed servants, incidents, books, articles, our family members and even others. We have to listen and put it into action every day. Initially beginning with small things and doing much bigger things later as we go on, such as praying in the morning, fasting and lifting up the intentions at 6.30 am prayer call, attending prayer and intercessory meetings, availing sacrament of reconciliation and regular Eucharist, giving our talents to God in serving the community. We need to do this throughout our lives on earth and not just for a year.

- *Renato Gomes*

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### **Glimpses of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Oman Catholic Youth Convention**

The 2nd edition of the 3-day Oman Catholic Youth Convention, “Ablaze” held at Sts. Peter and Paul Church, Ruwi kicked off to a grand start on 23rd August, 2018, with more than 200 catholic youth of various age groups coming from different parts of the country, eager to experience the Fire of the Holy spirit.

Day 1 started with the inauguration ceremony that showcased a flash mob with the youth carrying lights to adorn the central altar, and waving flags representing the respective participating parishes. The conference was declared open by Fr. Raul, the parish priest of the hosting Church, who went on to introduce the resource speakers, Br. Lenny Soares, and Fr. Rodson Goes. The theme song composed by a youth of the Parish, was performed by the in-house gospel band "By grace", which became an instant hit with all the youth. The first session of the conference on God's love was by Br. Lenny who captivated the youth with his poignant

testimonies and a couple of inspiring videos. The evening ended with the Holy Mass, and a Spirit filled hour of adoration, led by Br. Lenny.

Day 2, emphasized on sin, repentance and reconciliation, and began with a powerful praise and worship session. It was followed by an intuitive session on 'sin and repentance' by Br. Lenny. After a tea break Fr. Rodson delivered an insightful talk on " Salvation in Jesus Christ ". Lunch break served a perfect time for fellowship among the participants. The afternoon began with a soulful session of praise and worship. Later, Fr. Rodson conducted a thought-provoking session on the many aspects of Confession, after which the youth were led to introspect their lives and examine their conscience by Br. Lenny, replete with penitential hymns. It was followed by the inner healing adoration, which spoke to each of the participants as they bared their soul to God's healing touch. Post the Mass that followed, the participants all geared up for the highly anticipated gospel concert. The gospel band, put up a power-packed performance, with the young and old alike clapping and dancing along to animated hymns of praise.

Day 3 started with renewed energy. The day began once again with a beautiful session of praise and worship, after which Fr. Rodson delved more into the Person of the Holy spirit, that was to be the theme of the day. Br. Lenny went on to elaborate in the following session, about the fruits and gifts of the Holy spirit. The interactive session proved quite eye opening, thanks to his demonstrations with balloons and fire. An infilling session ensued, and as the hall reverberated with hymns to the Holy spirit, eyes were opened, tongues were loosened, and a mighty outpouring of the Holy spirit fell on all the youth present. Post lunch break, the youth were led into an empowering session of praise and worship, and the spiritual fest continued on, with the energetic band dishing out a few of the action-filled praise numbers, to keep the youth fired up. The talk by His excellency Bishop Paul Hinder was the highlight of the evening, as he addressed the youth on "Life in the Holy Spirit" after which, hands were laid on all the participants by the Priests and the Bishop just before they headed for Mass. The closing ceremony featured enrapturing dances and a video incorporating the highlights of the conference put together by the Media team, after which the vote of thanks followed suit. The night ended on a

high note with the in-house gospel band leading the Youth in Praise with a medley of its popular gospel tracks.

All glory and thanks to God, for truly the three days were a grace-filled time for everyone involved. The youth were mightily led by the spirit, leading to an atmosphere that, in every sense of the term, was a “Church on fire”.

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### **QUIZ CORNER - Quiz on Gospel of John Ch. 4 to 6**

*Refer the New Revised Standard Version Catholic Edition Bible*

**Tick ( ✓ ) the right answer**

1. According to John 4, we know that:
  - a. Jesus is the Christ
  - b. this is truly the Savior of the world
  - c. That everyone who believes will be saved
  
2. The royal official begged Jesus to come and raise his son from the dead.
  - a. True
  - b. False
  
3. What does Jesus say about his food in chapter 4 :
  - a. that to do the will of Him who sent me and to complete his work.
  - b. that to baptize sinners
  - c. to make disciples
  
4. What did Jesus tell the disciples after all had eaten and were satisfied?
  - a. Give thanks
  - b. Gather up the fragments leftover
  - b. Take rest
  
5. Who said it, to whom "It is the Sabbath: it is not lawful for you to carry your mat":
  - a. Peter said it to the man who had been healed
  - b. The Jews said it to the man who had been cured
  - c. The Pharisees said it to the invalid.
  
6. According to John 5 there is in Jerusalem near the Sheep Gate a fountain.
  - a. True
  - b. False

7. According to John 5: where did Jesus disappear into?
  - a. the large crowd
  - b. the crowd
  - c. the crowd that was there
  
8. According to John 5 the man went away and told the Jews that :
  - a. it was Jesus who had healed him.
  - b. it was Jesus who had made him well.
  - c. it was Jesus who had performed the miracle.
  
9. In chapter 6, what was Jesus doing when He said " It is I; do not be afraid"
  - a. Walking on the sea
  - b. preaching
  - c. praying
  
10. Jesus asked Philip," Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?" because he wanted to test Philip :
  - a. True
  - b. False
  
11. What was the name of the pool where Jesus healed a man who was ill for thirty-eight years?
  - a. Beautiful
  - b. Bethesda
  - c. Siloam
  
12. Jesus was teaching the Bread of Life discourse in the synagogue at:
  - a. Capernaum
  - b. Jerusalem
  - c. Galilee

### **ANSWERS FOR THE QUIZ ON John Ch. 1 to 3**

- 1) a. Elijah 2) c. Nicodemus 3) b John the Baptist 4) c. Passover  
 5) b. Nathanael 6) a Nicodemus 7) b. light 8) d. overcome  
 9) c. John the Baptist 10) b. Capernaum

**Hearty congratulations to Aaron Menezes, Susan Pinto, Brenda Netto, Juliet D'Souza and Yohan Yesudas** for the correct answers.

We also appreciate Perpetual Fernandes for participating.



***MIPC Prayer Meeting: Every Thursday at 8:00 pm in the Parish Hall.***

***General Intercessory Meeting: First Monday of every month at 8:00 pm.***