

Christmas

THE BIRTH OF A DREAM



Let us just be in the dream world of a universe, where all beings live in peace and harmony, where all share and care for one another. What a dream!!! Wouldn't it be heaven? Christmas is the beginning of that dream.

Christ came as light to open our minds, to be the peace that enters and fills our hearts. We are privileged to be a part of that Divine Dream.

Let us rest in contemplation of that fragile mystery wrapped in royal robes to be the grain of wheat buried in the ground to die and give new life. Sharing the Good news of Joy with all people we sing "Glory to God in the Highest." Every moment is Christmas; Jesus brings us joy and peace through every event of life.

Dear Friends, Our loving wish and prayer for you at this Christmas is

Perfect peace

Infinite love

Eternal joy

May the Holy Family bless you with love, peace and joy at this Christmas and remain with you all through the New Year.

Holy Family Contemplatives, Nagoda. Kandana

Now Let us share with you, dear brothers and sisters some principal events that we lived as community in 2015.





PAPAL VISIT BRINGS US JOY

With the dawn of 2015, January 13th – 15th we the Sri Lankans had been blessed with the visit of His Holiness, Pope Francis, the messenger of peace and reconciliation. The special Significance was the elevation to sainthood of Blessed Joseph Vaz; - the first canonization to take place in our land- the pearl of the Indian

ocean. Certainly the joyful memories of this event would remain forever in the hearts not only of the Catholics but of all the Sri Lankans.



NATIONAL RELIGIOUS DAY

A national day of reunion of Religious was organized by the conference of Major Religious Superiors on the 14th Nov. 2015 at the National Basilica of Tewatte. The theme Considered was ***“Religious Men and Women: Witnesses and Prophets to wake up the world”*** The agenda designed was to facilitate a renewal understanding of our commitment to consecrated life and its mission in the local church. It would certainly have been a clear witness of our Christian faith and religious commitment. Also our representation as Holy Family Contemplatives was a witness to the Contemplative Vocation within the Local Church.



COMMUNION WITHIN THE SPIRITUAL FAMILY

The remarkable event of celebrating one Family- Family of P.B.N was held at Madhu Shrine 30th – 31st Oct. It was also thrilling to see the active participation of many members from all parts of the Country. They were extremely enthusiastic and burning with love and zeal for the Family and the Founder. The one thing visible was ***“We are one Family- Family of P.B.N.”*** Really our Charism was made alive. Certainly our Founder would have smiled at us encouraging us all once again, saying ***“Go***



Forward my dear Sons and daughters” Wouldn't he?



DARE TO MOVE:

"Asian Young Holy Family seekers, dare to move" was the theme chosen for the Asian young sisters meeting which was held at Wennappuwa, 08th-17th May. We the young Holy Family Contemplative sisters appreciated and profited much from the opportunity of participating at this event. Looking back on the past few years of our



Spiritual journey, it became a moment of renewal for us as joy filled committed persons. Our Early Mothers are great models for us to live the Spirit of God Alone even in the present context. Yes, their availability to be at the disposal of the Founder is most alarming and challenging. It is a call for us also to give priority to God in all things and commit ourselves in total availability to God and the whole creation. ***"If we don't dare now, when?"***



FOOTSTEPS OF OUR FOUNDER

We Srs. Sinthy and Rishmala had an opportunity to walk in the footsteps of our Founder in Martillac- France. Our hearts are filled with gratitude as we ponder over our experiences of the 6 months of preparation for our final commitment. A special word of appreciation and thanks, is due to our Vicar, who gave us the opportunity of living at Martillac at the feet of our Good Father where his spirit prevails even today. It was a thrilling experience to be with our sisters there and share their life. We experienced the four seasons of nature and enjoyed the beauty and wonders of natural surroundings.



We owe much gratitude also to Srs. Mary slaven and Aine HAYDE who helped us in our spiritual journey and made us aware of our identity as Holy Family members. It was a wonderful experience as we inhaled the fresh air that P.B.N breathed once upon a time. We warmly welcome his request ***"Go Forward- Live for God Alone"***



A CALL TO LOVE GOD IN FAITH

Our Srs. Freeda and Ruwani responded to the call of God once again and renewed their religious commitment on the 12th June, the Feast of Our Lady of all Graces. Also Srs. Sinthy and Rishmala made their final commitment on the 29th August. The following is an article of appreciation sent to us from Sr. Romuald Manuelpillai, expressing her rich experiences on this eventful day. She says thus:





Communion and Contemplatives

"At the beginning of the Eucharistic Celebration the Traditional Lamp was lit by the main celebrant and also by the **REPRESENTATIVES OF THE 5 VOCATIONS** of the Holy Family. It was indeed a touching experience; a sign of a Family sent on mission. The five vocations merged together to be a **LIGHT** to our common home- the universe.

The Parish choir singing in harmony was a strong witness to the relationship that exists between the Contemplatives and the Parish community. On the whole, at the Eucharistic Celebration and at the refreshment hall **there was spontaneity, freedom, joy and in a word 'FAMILY.'** I remembered our Holy Father Pope Francis' call to consecrated Religious to **"celebrate it (consecrated life) with your entire 'family' so that you can grow and respond together to the promptings of the Spirit in society today"** I wish and pray that vocation to Contemplative life may flourish and increase in numbers and virtue (P.B.N.), so that the Family may flourish."



I TOO HAVE A DREAM

"To meet Jesus face to face" was the dream of our dear Sr. Gertrude KARUNARATNA while on earth. She attained her eternal bliss with the Lord on the 18th October. This is what she longed for. Though hidden, she fulfilled her mission in an effective way making intercession for the church and the whole universe. She was a person who lived with serenity, gratitude and joy towards God and one another. She would often say, **"I am in Jesus and Jesus is in me; therefore I fear nothing"**. Yes, she died as she lived, A Peaceful and happy life.



GOD'S BLESSINGS - 60 YEARS

Our Srs. Violet and Michael sing the glories of God's fidelity towards them as they celebrate their Diamond Jubilee this year. We thank the Lord for His call, for all the blessings with which he has filled our sisters! 60 years! A daily offering of an entire life! A life received and given... A wonderful exchange of Love!



Looking back on the past in gratitude, we too praise God the almighty Lord for His immense blessings for all of us specially in this year dedicated to Consecrated life. At the same time, we welcome with the entire Church the year 2016- the Year of Mercy **"We entrust this year to the Mother of Mercy, so that she may turn her gaze towards us and watch over our paths"** - Pope Francis.

This is our sole desire, wish and prayer for you too dear readers! May God's Love and blessings accompany you ALL.

