



POPE FRANCIS: LET US NOT BE MUSEUM CUSTODIANS

(Homily during Mass at Casa Santa Marta on 31/10/2017)

To help the **Kingdom of God** grow, **courage** is needed to sow the mustard seed and mix the yeast, in the face of many who prefer a “pastoral care of conservation” without dirtying their hands. Pope Francis made the point in his homily at Mass, Tuesday morning, in the chapel of the Vatican’s Casa Santa Marta. The Pope took his cue from Luke’s Gospel where Jesus compares the Kingdom of God to a **mustard seed and yeast**, which though small, “have a power within” to grow.

Suffering to glory

In his Letter to the Romans, the Pope said, St. Paul speaks about the many anxieties of life that are nothing compared to the glory that awaits us. Commenting on the struggle between suffering and glory, the Pope said, in our sufferings there is in fact “an ardent expectation” for a “great revelation of the Kingdom of God”. It is an expectation that belongs not only to us but also to creation, that is frail like us who are yearning for the “revelation of the children of God”. This inner strength that leads us to hope for the fullness of the Kingdom of God, the Pope pointed out, is the Holy Spirit.

Holy Spirit brings hope, growth

The Pope said it is this hope that leads us to fullness, the hope of coming out of this prison, this limitation, this slavery, this corruption, and reaching glory, is a journey of hope. And hope, the Pope said, is the gift of the Holy Spirit who is in us and leads us to liberation, to great glory. This is why Jesus says that inside this tiny mustard seed there is the force that “unleashes an unimaginable growth’ ”. It is the same within us and in creation, the Pope pointed out. It is the Holy Spirit that bursts forth and gives us hope.

Getting hands dirty rather than being museum custodians

The Pope noted that in the Church one can see both the courage and the fear to sow the seed and mix the yeast. There are those who feel secure with a “pastoral care of conservation,” that denies the Kingdom of God to grow. The Pope admitted there is always some loss in sowing the Kingdom of God. One loses the seed and gets hands dirty. He warned those who preach the

Kingdom of God with the illusion of not getting dirty. Comparing them to **museum custodians**, he said they prefer beautiful things without sowing that allows the inner force to burst forth, and without mixing the yeast that triggers growth.

The Pope said that both Jesus and Paul point to this passing from the slavery of sin to the fullness of glory. It speaks of hope that does not disappoint, because like a mustard seed and yeast, hope is small and humble like a servant but where there is hope, there is the Holy Ghost, who carries forward the Kingdom of God, the Pope added.

Feast of St Francis Xavier

The Solemnity of St. Francis Xavier, the Patron of our Diocese is on 3rd December which is to be celebrated as a Solemnity in all our parishes, institutions and Convents. The diocesan celebration will be in St Joseph's Church, Calicut at 5.00pm during the time of Retreat by Fr Xavier Khan Vattayil.

Appointments

- Rev. Fr Jiju Palliparambil is appointed as the Public Relations Officer (PRO) and the Director of Altar Boys.
- Rev. Fr Jaison Kalathiparambil is appointed as the Diocesan Youth Ministry Coordinator.
- Rev. Fr Vincent Pulickal is appointed as the Director of Legion of Mary Association.
- Rev. Fr John Vettimalayil is appointed as the Director of Pithruvedi
- Rev. Fr Johnson Kochuparambil is appointed as the Diocesan KCYM Director
- Rev. Fr Geoline Edezhath is appointed as the Director of Proclamation
- Rev. Fr Paul A. J. is appointed as the Pastoral Centre Director

Priests' Christmas gathering

Dear Reverend Fathers, I am extremely happy to inform you that our Christmas gathering of 2017 will be on Thursday 21st December in Navajyothis Renewal Centre at 10.00am. Kindly note this program in your personal diaries and avoid taking up other programs on that day.

Religious' Christmas gathering

Dear Reverend Sisters, I am extremely happy to inform you that our Christmas gathering of 2017 will be on Saturday 23rd December in Cathedral hall at 10.00am. Kindly note this program in your personal diaries and avoid taking up other programs on that day.

Birthdays

November	11	Rev. Fr John Vettimalayil
	16	Rev. Fr Shanu Fernandas
	25	Rev. Fr Alfred Vadakethundil
	30	Rev. Fr Leo Pottackal

We join you dear fathers in thanking the Lord for the gift of life and wish you a very happy Birthday and God's blessings. "*Ad Multos Annos*"

BISHOP'S DIARY- NOVEMBER, 2017

November 1	:	All Saints Day
November 2	7:30am:	Visit to the Cemetery, Marikunnu
	5.00pm:	All Souls Day, Mass at Cemetery, Westhill
November 3-20	:	Australia
November 21	:	Board Meeting, Carmelgiri Seminary, Aluva
November 22	:	Board Meeting, Carmelgiri Seminary, Aluva
November 23	10:30am:	Theology Commission Meeting, Ernakulam
November 24	7.00am:	Feast Mass, Maria Nilaya
November 25	10:30am:	Confirmation, Our Lady of Dolours Church, Mattul, Kannur
November 26	4:45pm :	Christ the King Church, Mavoor
November 27	10:30am:	Calicut Forane Meeting
November 28	:	Meeting people, Bishop's house
November 29	:	Engaged
November 30	:	Blessing of Bishop's House, Sultanpet