

1 November 2014

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**HOMILY OF POPE FRANCIS ON THE HOLY MASS FOR THE OPENING
OF THE EXTRAORDINARY SYNOD ON THE FAMILY**

Prophet Isaiah employ the image of the Lord's vineyard. The Lord's vineyard is his "dream", the plan which he nurtures with all his love, like a farmer who cares for his vineyard. Vines are plants which need much care!

God's "dream" is his people. He planted it and nurtured it with patient and faithful love, so that it can become a holy people, a people which brings forth abundant fruits of justice.

But in both the ancient prophecy and in Jesus' parable, God's dream is thwarted. Isaiah says that the vine which he so loved and nurtured has yielded "wild grapes" (5:2,4); God "expected justice but saw bloodshed, righteousness, but only a cry of distress" (v. 7). In the Gospel, it is the farmers themselves who ruin the Lord's plan: they fail to do their job but think only of their own interests.

In Jesus' parable, he is addressing the chief priests and the elders of the people, in other words the "experts", the managers. To them in a particular way God entrusted his "dream", his people, for them to nurture, tend and protect from the animals of the field. This is the job of leaders: to nurture the vineyard with freedom, creativity and hard work.

But Jesus tells us that those farmers took over the vineyard. Out of greed and pride they want to do with it as they will, and so they prevent God from realizing his dream for the people he has chosen.

The temptation to greed is ever present. We encounter it also in the great prophecy of Ezekiel on the shepherds (cf. ch. 34), which Saint Augustine commented upon in one his celebrated sermons which we have just reread in the Liturgy of the Hours. Greed for money and power. And to satisfy this greed, evil pastors lay intolerable burdens on the shoulders of others, which they themselves do not lift a finger to move (cf. Mt 23:4)

We too, in the Synod of Bishops, are called to work for the Lord's vineyard. Synod Assemblies are not meant to discuss beautiful and clever ideas, or to see who is more intelligent... They are meant to better nurture and tend the Lord's vineyard, to help realize his dream, his loving

plan for his people. In this case the Lord is asking us to care for the family, which has been from the beginning an integral part of his loving plan for humanity.

We are all sinners and can also be tempted to “take over” the vineyard, because of that greed which is always present in us human beings. God’s dream always clashes with the hypocrisy of some of his servants. We can “thwart” God’s dream if we fail to let ourselves be guided by the Holy Spirit. The Spirit gives us that wisdom which surpasses knowledge, and enables us to work generously with authentic freedom and humble creativity.

My Synod brothers, to do a good job of nurturing and tending the vineyard, our hearts and our minds must be kept in Jesus Christ by “the peace of God which passes all understanding” (Phil 4:7). In this way our thoughts and plans will correspond to God’s dream: to form a holy people who are his own and produce the fruits of the kingdom of God (cf. Mt 21:43).

Thanks for your Love and Support

My dear Fathers, Sisters and all the Faithful of our Diocese, from the bottom of my heart I would like to thank you for praying for my Mother and supporting me in the sad time of my mother’s demise. She was a great inspiration in my life. Her death deeply saddens me and my family members. But your love and support for me and for my family is overwhelming. I would like to place a special note of gratitude for the Bishop, Priests, Religious and the faithful of Kannur Diocese for their love for me, shown in this difficult moment. I thank them wholeheartedly. I thank the Bishops, Priests, Religious and lay faithful of the dioceses of Kottapuram, Varapoly, Irigalakuda and Thrissur for their consoling presence and prayers. I would like to thank all the Bishops, especially Archbishop Dr. Francis Kallarakal, Bishop Mar Andrews Tazath, Bishop Mar Mathew Moolakkatt, Archbishop Mar Jacob Thoomkuzhy, Bishop Dr. Joseph Karikkassery, Bishop Mar Poly Kannookadan, Bishop Mar James Pazayattil, Bishop Dr. Peter Abir Antonisamy, Bishop Mar Paul Chittilapilly, Bishop Mar. Remegious Inchananiyil, Bishop Joseph Mar Thomas, Bishop Mar Thomas Chakiyath, Bishop Mar Jose Puthenveetil, and all people who came to see my Mother and to participate in the funeral. May God bless you all.

Rev. Fr Jenson Puthenveetil

Hearty congratulations to Fr. Jenson Puthenveetil who secured the Gold Medal for the best Student in the Pontifical Urbaniana University, Rome for the year 2013. Fr Jenson had finished his Doctorate with flying colours, scoring 99.4 marks.

Christmas Gathering: Sisters

Dear Reverend Sisters, I cordially invite you for our Christmas get-together on Saturday, December 20, 2014 at 10.00 a.m. Kindly make it a joyful experience of unity and fraternity by your presence and participation. Venue of the Gathering will be informed to you later.

Christmas Gathering: Priests

Dear Reverend Fathers, I am extremely happy to invite you for our Christmas get together on Tuesday December 23, 2014 at Navajyothis Renewal Centre, Calicut. We will begin the programme at 10.30 a.m and end it with Lunch. Kindly note this programme in your personal diaries and avoid taking up other programmes on that day.

Samudhaya Dinam Collection

December 3rd is the feast of St Francis Xavier and the Sunday after this feast is celebrated as "Latheen Samudhaya Dinam". Kindly send to Curia the collection taken on Sunday December 07, 2014 to be sent to KRLCC for the activities conducted by Kerala Region Latin Catholic Council. KRLCBC and KRLCC are organizing the Samudaya Sangamam 2014 in the State level at our St Joseph's Church, Calicut on 7th December from 10.30 a.m. to 1.30 p.m. kindly participate in this programme and make it successful.

Seminar on Navadarshan

I thank all our Priests and Sisters who participated in the Seminar on the Navadarshan Programme which was conducted on October 29, 2014. A special thanks to Rev. Fr Antony Arackal who presented motivating talk on Navadarshan Programme.

Youth Meet at Kappenkolly

Our Youth Ministry is organizing a get-together of our Youth in the diocesan level on December 14-15, 2014 at St Sebastian's Church, Kappenkolly. I request our parish priests to encourage maximum number of youth to participate in this and to make this programme an experience of unity and fraternity.

Launching of Home Mission

I thank all the Fathers and Sisters who participate in the Home Mission Programme with great enthusiasm. Home Mission in our diocese was launched for the first time in Little Flower Parish Pozuthana. Twenty five Sisters and eight Priests spent their time and energy for the renewal of our families there. The next Home mission programme in our diocese will be conducted at Little Flower Parish, Mavoor.

Malayalam Missal (Roman/Latin Rite)

In 2002, the Latin III Edition of the *Missale Romanum* was promulgated and in subsequent years the Episcopal Conferences around the world have been hard at work in producing vernacular translations of that Latin Text. As we are aware that the Third Typical Edition of the Malayalam Roman Missal will take some more time as it is still in the translation process and to get the approval from the Holy See. For this *Interim Period*, considering the non-availability of the Malayalam Roman Missal, and the conditions of the Missals that we have in parishes/Institutions/Convents, and constant requests from different places, the Latin Bishops Conference (K.R.L.C.B.C) is planning to reprint limited copies of the Malayalam Missal. Only requested/pre-ordered copies will be reprinted with partial payment in advance.

If you need a copy or more copies, kindly contact Sr. Anna Maria, (cell No. 854-759-3934) in the Bishop's House at the earliest.

Birthdays

November	06	Rev. Thomas Antraper, SJ
	11.	Rev. Fr John Vettimalayil
	13	Rev. Fr Antony Mambra, Sdb
	16	Rev. Fr Shanu Fernandas
	17	Rev. Fr Sebastian Kuriyaparambil
	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"

Obituary

Rev. Sr Hilda Karimbil MPV (36) passed away on 23 October 2014 at Mims Hospital, Calicut. The funeral service was conducted at Sacred Heart Church cemetery, Cheruvannur on the next day. Sr Hilda was working as the Principle of St Joseph's English Medium School at Marikunnu. She was a young and active religious. She fell ill for a brief period and finally succumbed to the illness. Let us pray for the repose of her soul. May her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.

Seminary Formation Fund

Morningstar Church, Chathamangalam5,000.00

Family of Fr Shanu Fernandas, Chathamangalam.....5,000.00

Total.....10, 000.00