

Gethsemane Newsletter



“Come & See”

He Has Risen - He Is Mercy!!!



Jesus our crucified Savior has risen from the dead. Through His death and resurrection He has borne all our iniquities and by His stripes we have been redeemed. This great redeeming love is the greatest manifestation of Divine Mercy towards us, in that God loved us sinners, that He sent His only Son to die on the Cross for us, to save us from sin and death. Jesus has already paid the price for our sins and therefore, let us approach the throne of Grace by imploring His mercy attained for us through his suffering, passion and death. As noted by St. Faustina in her diary, “the greater the sinner, the greater the mercy”. Each one of us at Gethsemane have been blessed personally, through our individual experience of God’s mercy to us - of His presence in our miserable lives when He has healed, comforted, forgiven and filled us with His peace. We who have experienced mercy are expected to show mercy towards others, “Blessed are the merciful for they shall obtain mercy (Mt. 5:7). In the words of our Holy Father, “The Church sees in these words a call to action, and tries to practise mercy... Man attains to the merciful love of God His mercy, to the extent that he himself is interiorly transformed in the spirit of that love towards his neighbour”, Handbook of Devotion to the Divine Mercy, Val Conlon, Divine Mercy Publications, 1995. Let us celebrate the Feast of the Divine Mercy on April 3, 2005, in a state of grace and reaffirming with our whole heart, “Jesus I Trust in You”.

Marriage, Family And The Same-Sex Legislation



Bishop Fred Henry of Calgary, Western Catholic Reporter, January 17, 2005 - “Contrary to what is normally alleged, the primary goals in seeking legalization of “same-sex marriage” are not financial or health benefits associated with marriage; nor are the goals the search for stability and exclusivity in a homosexual relationship. It is not really even about rights. The goal is to acquire a powerful psychological weapon to change society’s rejection of homosexual activity and lifestyle into gradual, even if reluctant, acceptance. It is significant to note that 18 months after same-sex marriage arrived in Canada (principally as a result of court decisions in Ontario and British Columbia) some 95 per cent of adult Canadian gay couples have chosen to ignore their new legal right.”



Archbishop Brendan O'Brien, President of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCCB), Catholic Register, February 27, 2005, “The Catholic Bishops of Canada are united in their belief that marriage is the unique, essential and fundamental relationship of a man and a woman. This has been the teaching of the church since it’s beginning, and reflects human history. For this reason, the Bishops of Canada reaffirm their opposition to the proposed redefinition of marriage as they have already declared on a number of occasions.”

Schiavo's Fate is Euthanasia



Vatican City (CNS) - Removing the feeding tube from Terri Schindler Schiavo, a brain damaged Florida woman, or other patients in a similar condition amounts to “direct euthanasia,” a “cruel way of killing someone,” said the Vatican’s top bio-ethicist, Bishop Elio Sgreccia, President of the Pontifical Academy for Life. He further added that the Academy usually does not comment on specific cases before courts, but “silence in this case could be interpreted as approval.” The Bishop told Vatican Radio March 11th that withdrawing Schiavo’s gastric tube would not be a matter of allowing her to die, but would “inflict death.” Michael Schiavo - who remains legally married to Terri but now has two children with another woman - says his wife would have wanted the feeding tube removed, Catholic Register, March 27, 2005.

Terri Schiavo died on March 31st at the Pinellas Park hospice. Her death was confirmed by Michael Schiavo’s attorney, George Felos, and announced to reporters outside her hospice by a family adviser, Toronto Star, March 31, 2005.

Gethsemane Ministries' Presentation to the Priests' Council

Gethsemane Ministries was honoured to make a presentation on Tuesday March 15, 2005 to the Priests' Council, at the request of His Eminence Aloysius Cardinal Ambrozic.

On behalf of Gethsemane Ministries Mr. Suresh Dominic made a presentation of the goals, objectives and various aspects and activities of the Gethsemane Ministries to the Priests' Council. The presentation included an overview of the Ministry from its origin to its (cont'd pg 2)

Gethsemane Ministries' Presentation to the Priests' Council (cont'd)

growth to date, across parish borders, incorporating a wide spectrum of ethnic as well as mainstream communities. Mr. Dominic attributed the complementarity of this lay Catholic movement to the institutional church, purely to be the work of the Holy Spirit, which is also evident in the various charisms given to the group. Mr. Dominic also explained how the members' Catholic faith is strengthened through prayer and fellowship, resulting in active involvement in various ministries of their respective parishes.

Auxiliary Bishop, Most Rev. Richard J. Grecco commented highly on the dynamic and spirit filled youth group and also praised the prayerful way that whole families gather for fellowship and witness their faith.

His Eminence Aloysius Cardinal Ambrozic in conclusion, expressed his appreciation and thanked Mr. Dominic and all the members of the Gethsemane Ministries for witnessing their faith and contributing to the Church.

Upcoming Events

- **Monthly Youth Program:** (second Saturday) - scheduled for Saturday, **April 9th** is **CANCELLED**, due to the Lift Jesus Higher Rally. Please attend the Rally.
- **Lift Jesus Higher Rally: April 9, 2005** at the Metro Convention Centre. We encourage as many as possible to attend this event.
- **World Day of Prayer for Vocations: April 17, 2005** - God has called each person to love Him, follow him and to be in obedience to His will. The path in life that each one of us must take to love God fully and to do His will, through the guidance of His Holy Spirit is our individual "vocation" or "calling" from God.
- **World Day of Youth: April 24, 2005** - Keep the Gethsemane youth in prayer and youth all over the world, that they heed the "call" of God.
- **The National March for Life: Thurs, May 12, 2005** - in Ottawa, organized by Campaign Life Coalition, to "unite pro-lifers across Canada in prayer, helping to bring our nation closer to the day when it will legally protect unborn children". You may participate through your parish or for more information contact Campaign Life Coalition at (416) 204-9749 or 1-800-730-5358.
- **Mother Teresa, in "My Life"** said, "I feel that the poorest country is the country that has to kill the unborn child to be able to have extra things and extra pleasures. They are afraid to have to feed one more child!"
- **Youth Conference: Fri, May 13, 2005, Ottawa** - an all day session will be held for youth at Carleton University. We happily announce that the Gethsemane Youth Music Ministry will be providing the music for the day. Keep them in your prayers that they will sing for the glory of God.
- **Gethsemane Live-In Retreat:** Saturday June 18 & Sunday June 19, 2005, at the Salvation Army Conference Centre, 1890 Metro Road North, Jackson's Point, Ontario L0E 1L0. Charges: Adult - \$95.00; Youth (9-16Yrs.) - \$75.00; Children (3-9Yrs.) - \$25.00 (accompanied by parent, no separate bed). Please contact Alwin Fernandes or Suja Lukose for registration. For more details visit our website.
- **Youth 2005 Summer Camp:** Details of a one-week Youth Summer Camp being planned during the month of July will be available soon. Watch for details!

Personal Testimonies To The Power Of Prayer

Sheldon - I praise and thank God for helping me with my driving test, for guidance during the test through His holy spirit, which kept me calm and confident.

Gabriella - I thank my God for His presence with me while I was cooking - I heard a loud noise and I realized that a fire was starting up. I prayed to the Lord, while I tried to put out the flames with water. Eventually the flames subsided.

Ben - praise and thank my Lord for His calming presence and for blessing me with double success this week - I passed my road test for my G licence and I also scored exceedingly well on a very difficult Math test. Praise the Lord!!

Maria - I want to thank the Lord for His mercy shown to my son Sherwin. He had a very high temperature and he suddenly could not walk. We rushed him to the Sick Kids hospital. The doctor confirmed for us that it was only a virus. He is now well and I praise and thank God for his healing. Further, Sherwin had a routine scan done on him last week and the Doctor informed us that he is getting better. Praise the Lord!

done on him last week and the Doctor informed us that he is getting better. Praise the Lord!

Tina - I was having severe shoulder and back pain today. However, during the prayer meeting, I was able to clap and lift my hands and praise the Lord.

Amy Dias - I suffer with cerebral palsy and I work with children with special needs. For the last seven months, I have been working with one child and have been having difficulty with the teacher, since I used to support the child. I asked Suresh to pray for my situation and he told me not to worry - there were guardian angels watching over me. Suddenly the other teachers started supporting me. I am now working in another class and I praise and thank my Lord for what He has done.

Kim - I have been looking for a job in my own field for the past three years and have not been successful. I often feel very frustrated, but after the praise and worship at today's meeting, I truly felt light in my heart and believe that my God will take care of everything.

Our weekly evening prayer and fellowship is held at
Madonna Catholic Secondary School, 20 Dubray Avenue, near Keele and Wilson.
 In English: Friday at 7:30 p.m. | In Malayalam: Saturday at 6.30 p.m.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE NEWSLETTER?

This is our newsletter. We are happy to hear from you. Feel free to contribute articles, testimonies and your feedback, at the prayer meeting, to:
 Stan Rodrigo, Mathew Pongonthara, Joseph Kulathinal, Wilma Ambrose or Michael Fonseca