

Electoral Assistance Bureau to re-open soon

The Electoral Assistance Bureau (EAB) is due to re-open within the next two weeks as the country moves closer to General and Regional Elections which are due before the end of the year.

The EAB is a Guyanese, non-partisan, non-profit, nongovernmental organisation. It was formed in June 1991, with the main objective of assisting in the establishment, maintenance and preservation of democracy, particularly with regards to the election process. The EAB has functioned in the main as a citizen-based election monitoring organisation during both regional and national elections here. This time around the organization will have a new Project Director in the person of Abbas Mancey. A new Board of Directors will also be empowered. Since its formation the EAB has monitored all of the national and regional elections which have been held since then along with the Local Government election which took place in 1994.

The programmes they undertook included testing of the voters' lists, the Preliminary

Voter's List and Final Voters Lists for all elections, voter education, media and campaign monitoring and the fielding of local observers at polling stations.

This time around the group may be limiting the scope of its work. However

one of its first activities will be to thoroughly check the final voters list when it becomes available. It has also put heavy emphasis on having an observer at every polling station on election day.

Its operations are being funded in part by local and international donors.

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Why is Guyana so quiet in an Election Year?

BY MIKE JAMES

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According to calculations by the Guyana Elections Commission (GECOM) the current Parliament "began its deliberations on 29 September 2006 five years thereafter brings us to the 28th of September 2011 and there are provisions that could possibly extend the election day to three months after that and which will carry us to the 28th of December and there will be no more time."

Presidential and parliamentary elections therefore must be held in 2011, and most probably within the next five months if we are to avoid elections taking place in the month of December.

The business community, and especially retailers, who generate more than 50% of their sales and income during the Christmas period must certainly be hoping that General elections do not take place in December. Previous general elections in Guyana have invariably been traumatic affairs marked by major disruption of economic and social life combined with a sharp rise in racial tensions. However no public concern has been raised by the business community (or the wider Guyana population of all religions for whom the celebration of Christmas is such an important time of year) about elections being held close to Christmas. These are strong and positive signs reinforcing a view held by many that a culture of orderly democratic processes of political transition is indeed taking root in the country and that whenever General Elections are held, near or far from Christmas they will generally be peaceful and non-disruptive.

Some point to a general stability in the economic life of the country and a gradual improvement in the quality of life of Guyanese as a major cause of less concern about issues of political power. Elsewhere, for example in Belgium, political party divisions along racial, cultural and language lines (French vs Walloon) have resulted in that country now holding the world record of over a year without a government in place, but economic life for ordinary people continues to improve generally so there is no real crisis or major concern in the country that there is no functioning government.

The two attached charts giving a

New Archbishop installed in Kingston



The sixth Archbishop of Kingston is seated in his Cathedral by the Most Rev. Thomas Gullickson (Apostolic Nuncio) and Most Rev. Donald J. Reece (Archbishop Emeritus of Kingston).

By Msgr Kenneth Richards

In an atmosphere that was charged with expectation as with electricity, the presence of the Holy Spirit was truly felt as approximately two thousand four hundred persons gathered at Holy Trinity Cathedral for the Installation Mass for the Sixth Metropolitan Archbishop of

Kingston, Jamaica the Most Reverend Charles H. Dufour, DD, CD.

The Most Rev. Thomas Gullickson, the Papal Delegate presided over the Rite of Installation, and he was assisted by Archbishop Emeritus Most Rev. Donald J. Reece, DD, GCM., in seating the new Archbishop in his Cathedra.

Dignitaries present for the occasion

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Please turn to page 9

Nothing to hide?

Just why have the authorities changed their minds about that forensic audit of the new Enmore packaging plant.? Just why have the police suddenly instructed their commanders, just after this particular drug bust, that they are not allowed to speak to the media without permission from the very top?

Whenever information is withheld which one would normally expect to be given, suspicion is aroused that there is something to hide. The track records of the previous and current administrations in Guyana have shown that there usually is. The authorities must be aware of the very widespread perception, nationally and internationally by the US government, Transparency international, the World Bank and others that corruption runs deep in the current administration.

In a recent Human Rights report the US government said, "The World Bank's worldwide governance indicators reflected that government corruption was a serious problem. There was a widespread public perception of serious corruption in the government, including law enforcement..."

With this reputation we would have

expected that the authorities would have eagerly seized the opportunity to demonstrate that it has nothing to conceal with regard to this US\$12.5 Enmore sugar packaging project.

According to reports the audit of the Enmore project would not have resulted in any financial costs to the administration. The Managing Director of Kaieteur News, Glenn Lall, said that he was willing to stand the cost of the exercise with his personal money in the interest of transparency,



accountability and decency.

Chartered Account Christopher Ram claimed that Kenya's largest sugar miller, Mumias Sugar Company (MSC), recently built at a cost of US\$3M a new 11-machine, state-of-the-art packaging plant with a daily capacity of 700 tonnes of sugar.

GuySuCo pointed out that the US\$12.5M (\$2.5B) price tag on the Enmore factory is the total cost of that project which

includes the upgrade of the Enmore factory and the supply and installation of packaging equipment and warehouse, among other things. The cost of the packaging plant as such was said to be in the vicinity of US\$4.5M. However as was pointed out that an explanation is still needed as to why did Enmore cost US\$1.5 million more than Mumias when Enmore has only five packaging machines with a processing capacity of 110 tonnes per day compared to Mumias' eleven processing 700 tonnes per day. Now for the second time in less than one year a major cloud of dubious financial conduct hangs over Guysuco. Guyanese are also still awaiting more details on the establishment of the Constitutionally mandated Public Procurement Commission, which would have provided the needed transparency and fairness for Public Procurement activities, and on the Amaila Falls road and hydro project.

We can even further back and ask what about the audited accounts for the funds used during the 2005 Floods, the Cricket World Cup, the hosting of CARIFESTA X and the ICC Twenty/20 tournament not to mention the numerous well known "scams"

So what exactly did the Minister mean when he said "We have nothing to hide?"

PASSION

The question of self-control often arises, especially when we witness events which sadly demonstrate the dangerous paths and consequences of explosive passions.

So many times we hear persons in their quiet moments of reflections, admitting that there are certain situations which invoke their annoyance and outrage. In certain circumstances, their reactions are a manifestation of hostility and aggression. Reason takes flight, and there is no limit as to what depths they may go to satisfy the fury within.

The admission by some persons that they are hot-tempered, and may easily fly into a passion given certain situation, seems more a request for others to tolerate and accommodate them. It is also a sort of passive warning that others must beware as their anger and frenzy are a natural outflow.

So beware! Stay clear! Accept the outbursts, threats, abuse and assaults, even be forgiving.

Why? Why should this be? Because they seek to have their outrageous anger categorized as an inherent characteristic and weakness of themselves. They suggest that they are really good persons. They will wish to be seen and accepted as sociable individuals whom may be easily provoked into a rage. But should this be?

To my mind when an adult talks about lack of self-control and/or demonstrates

that – it is an admission of immaturity. Possibly related to impatience, lack of tolerance and lack of manners. Those passionate people are self-destructive and are their own enemies. They need to be censored, condemned and be held accountable at all times for their aggression and hostility.

Writing on 'Passion', Richard Cumberland an English Bishop observed:

"People have a custom of excusing the enormities of their conduct by talking of their passions, as if they were under the control of a blind necessity and sinned because they could not help it."

Too often the uncontrolled temper surfaces in a variety of ways and causes psychological and sometimes even physical injuries to the persons targeted. Sadly, there are cases of parents who in dealing with typical parental problems, demonstrate a total lack of reason. Rather than examining and discussing the issues and seeking to counsel, they simply 'hit the roof'. Children may then be insulted, threatened and abused in a blaze of temper.

There are similar cases of husbands who even on speculation and suspicion and without discussion may violently assault their wives in temper.

The explanation or excuses may be that they lost their temper and in that process, their reason rioted. After the outbursts and in moments of apparent repentance,

Viewpoint By Vibert Parvatan

they automatically expect forgiveness, acceptance and restoration of normal relations, with genuine love and matrimonial privileges. But should this be?

Those who claim having that attitude to anger easily need to look at themselves critically.

What claim can those persons make to being human beings – the highest level of animal life, if they are incapable of reasoning? If their best approach to dealing with most issues which surface is to explode, assault and or abuse.

Pope Leo XIII on the subject of "Reason" stated:

"It is the mind, or reason, which is the predominant element in us who are human creatures; it is this which renders a human being human and distinguishes him essentially and generically from the brute".

On that premise you and I may conclude that there are many brutes in our society. You may certainly recognise such persons. They need help to lift themselves from being self-proclaimed hot-tempered persons, to that of mature individuals, where reason flourishes and flying into a rage is suppressed.

Many crimes – including domestic violence and even murder emerge from situations where talking and discussing

Sunday



Scripture

Corpus Christi

Year A

FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 8: 2-3; 14-16

He fed you with manna which neither you nor your fathers had known.

Moses said to the people: "Remember how the Lord your God led you for forty years in the wilderness, to humble you, to test you and know your inmost heart - whether you would keep his commandments or not. He humbled you, he made you feel hunger, he fed you with manna which neither you nor your fathers had known, to make you understand that man does not live on bread alone but that man lives on everything that comes from the mouth of the Lord.

"Do not then forget the Lord your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery: who guided you through this vast and dreadful wilderness, a land of fiery serpents, scorpions, thirst; who in this waterless place brought you water from the hardest rock; who in this wilderness fed you with manna that your fathers had not known."

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL

PSALM: Psalm 147

O praise the Lord, Jerusalem!

1. O praise the Lord, Jerusalem!

Zion, praise your God!

He has strengthened the bars of your gates, he has blessed the children within you.

2. He established peace on your borders, he feeds you with finest wheat.

He sends out his word to the earth and swiftly runs his commands.

3. He makes his word known to Jacob, to Israel his laws and decrees.

He has not dealt thus with other nations; he has not taught them his decrees.

Alleluia!

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 10:16-17

That there is only one loaf means that, though there are many of us, we form a single body.

The blessing-cup that we bless is a communion with the blood of Christ, and the bread that we break is a communion with the body of Christ. The fact that there is only one loaf means that, though there are many of us, we form a single body because we all have a share in this

one loaf.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL: John 6:51-58

My flesh is real food and my blood is real drink.

Jesus said to the Jews: "I am the living bread which has come down from heaven. Anyone who eats this bread will live for ever; and the bread that I shall give is my flesh, for the life of the world."

Then the Jews started arguing with one another: "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" they said.

Jesus replied:

"I tell you most solemnly, if you do not eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you will not have life in you.

Anyone who does eat my flesh and drink my blood has eternal life, and I shall raise him up on the last day.

For my flesh is real food and by blood is real drink.

He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood lives in me and I live in him.

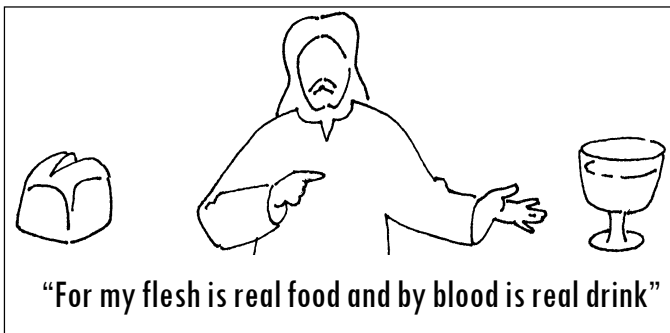
As I, who am sent by the living Father,

myself draw life from the Father, so whoever eats me will draw life from me.

This is the bread come down from heaven;

not like the bread our ancestors ate: they are dead, but anyone who eats this bread will live for ever."

The Gospel of the Lord.



STEWARDSHIP CORNER

The Israelites were on a journey in the desert for forty years. They were able to survive as a people because God was with them all along the way. God fed them and gave them water when hunger and thirst overcame them. Like the Israelites, we too are on a journey. It is a journey through life and it is one for which we must be prepared. Sometimes we find ourselves wandering a great deal, unsure of the direction to take. Sometimes we too wander into the "deserts" of life, places of spiritual hunger and thirst when we journey alone. And it is in our "desert moments" that we depend on God for nourishment. But the greatest nourishment we can receive on our spiritual wanderings is the Eucharist - the Body and Blood of Christ. The Eucharist reminds us that we do not journey alone. Although we are many, we are one with our brothers and sisters in faith.

* * * * *

Throughout life we suffer from

many kinds of hunger. There is, of course, physical hunger for which we need food. There is also the human hunger for acceptance, for forgiveness, for companionship, for compassion. In the Gospels we read of Jesus offering to satisfy the hunger of many people. He offered the bread of compassion to the widow who was burying her only son. To the thief dying at his side he offered the bread of reconciliation. To the rejects and outcasts of society he offered the bread of companionship and brotherhood. To the lonely woman at the well he offered the bread of kindness. Jesus shared himself in many ways to others until, finally, at the Last Supper, he offered himself to all as food and drink.

* * * * *

Jesus is present in the Bread and Wine of the Eucharist. He is real in the Eucharist and not just as a symbolic presence. For those who have no sense of the presence of God in the world, it becomes a problem believing in the presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. But

for those who have a deep sense of God's presence in the whole of creation, it is natural believing that Jesus is present in the Eucharist in a special way. This is why the Eucharist is to be the centre and focus of our lives. It is one of the important ways we are fed during our spiritual journey through life. Jesus says that those who do not eat and drink of him have no life in them. This would be our fate if we set off on our journey without the food he gives.

* * * * *

Each human being has two main hungers - the physical hunger for food and the spiritual hunger for love. Just as the physical body cries out for food and drink, so too our spiritual side cries out for nourishment. At the celebration of the Mass, we are, first of all, nourished by God's Word that comforts, guides, inspires and challenges. And we experience Jesus' presence with us in his Word and in his Eucharist. It is not some hazy memory of someone who existed long ago. It is a real, life-giving presence that can transform us if we respond to it, both as individuals and as a group. One thing is clear is that, as community, we cannot be in relationship with Jesus if we are not in relationship with one another.

The Incredibility of the Bible

Dear Editor,

Once again last Sunday evening, a time that is sacred family time to many Christians, there was on a certain television channel, a programme which can only be described as anti Christian and in particular, anti Catholic. The speaker, Dr Ray Higgins, is attempting to prove in a series of lectures that Christianity is an invention of the white man to keep black people enslaved

or oppressed. He seems to have a burning desire for people of African descent to rediscover their ancient African religions, their African spirituality.

All religions acknowledge the existence of a supreme being whom they worship in various ways. I find nothing wrong in learning about the religion of my African ancestors or about African spirituality but why this zeal to first destroy the faith which millions, including notably, the late Dr. Martin Luther King, have chosen to embrace?

Last Sunday, June 19th, his topic was 'The Incredibility of the Bible.' I am not certain which version or translation of the Bible he was using to make his assertions, but books on

the history of the Bible and how it was compiled are easily available. It is known that in the past Protestant Bibles consisted of 66 writings while the Catholic Bible contained 73. Nowadays, most of the new revised editions tend to include all 73. Furthermore biblical scholars tell us that there were other writings, which for reasons of authenticity, were not included. The fact

Letters to the Editor

remains that it is known that they did exist. This information is not hidden.

These lectures challenge all Christians. For us Catholics they underline the importance of our parish Bible classes for adults, and Sunday or weekday catechetical instructions for our children. Fellow Catholics let us always seek to truly know our faith. Catechists, always ensure that you teach the children well.

I find it sad that someone with such God-given intellect and ability should use these gifts in an effort to discredit a book which for millions will always be the inspired Word of God. He is not the first neither will he be the last to try to do so. Therefore, let us pray for him that in his search, like St Paul of the distant past, or Scott Han of more recent times, he will eventually find the truth and the truth will indeed set him free.

ELAINE THOMAS

Asked to pay for "free" service

Dear Editor,

A certain city hospital on June 14 advertised a few urology clinic and some phone numbers to call for further information. So I called one of the numbers and inquired whether the urology test was free. The female who answered replied yes.

On Thursday 16th I went to this city hospital and asked for the free urology test. I was told by the receptionist that the counseling is free but that I would have to pay for the test.

In consumer protection language there is a term used called "bait and switch". It means a business place advertises a product it does not have and when a customer asks for that product he or she is told that one is finished but we have this other one which is just as good and perhaps costs more. Is this what this city hospital is promoting, bait and switch?

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That advert is most deceiving. That is not the way an institution which attends to sick people should behave.

Saint Joseph's Mercy Hospital on the other hand was quite clear that it was giving a discount for the same service on Fathers' Day.

W.P. GEORGE

Please Mr Sattaur, no more computers!

Dear Editor,

I was filled with despair when I heard the Commissioner General of the Guyana Revenue Authority (GRA) say this week that he was moving to computerize the entire operations of that entity. This was after he admitted that at present the only computerized unit was the motor vehicle section.

Having just had a very frustrating, personal experience of the extreme problems computerization of the motor vehicle section has been causing I just do not understand how the Commissioner General can still want to introduce more computers into his system.

Please allow me to use your columns to say, "Please Mr Sattaur no more computers!".

ANITA SINGH

ECHO on disposal of dangerous substances

Dear Editor,

In your June 10, 2011 issue, the Communications Director of the Environmental Community Health Organisation (ECHO) advised, among a list of practical things to do to help preserve a good environment, that we always dispose of unwanted chemicals responsibly.

Unlike the other items in the list where we were advised what to do, we were here advised what not to do. This still leaves us without positive advice on the by far (weight for weight) most environmentally dangerous things on the list.

I therefore call on the Communications Director of ECHO to fill in this information gap in good environmental stewardship. Please remember that it must be practicably applicable to us here in Guyana.

AIFRED BHULAI

Conflict of interest at popular charity

Dear Editor,

Over the past two years a friend of mine would give me a ticket to go to a fund-raising lunch at the Georgetown Cricket Club on behalf of a very popular charitable organization.

He would purchase the tickets but he would not attend the events because of ethical issues. As I pondered his reasons for not going it led me to investigate the "issues" that were preventing him from attending this popular charity event. What I found out was astounding.

The Chief Executive Officer of this charitable organization has a catering business on the side and it is alleged that he caters for all of the fund raising events of this charity. It is said that most of the items for these catering events come from this charitable organization.

It puzzles me that the Chairman of the Board of Directors of this popular charity allows this conflict of interest to take place.

L SINGH

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Through the eyes of a child

We received the following from a friend this week and we enjoyed reading it so much that we would like to share it with our readers:

A child was asked to write a book report on the entire Bible.

"Through the eyes of a child: The Children's Bible in a Nutshell."

In the beginning, which occurred near the start, there was nothing but God, darkness, and some gas. The Bible says: 'The Lord thy God is one!' but I think He must be a lot older than that.

Anyway, God said:

'Give me a light!' and someone did.

Then God made the world. He split the Adam and made Eve. Adam and Eve were naked, but they weren't embarrassed because mirrors hadn't been invented yet. Adam and Eve disobeyed God by eating one bad apple, so they were driven from the Garden of Eden.

Not sure what they were driven in though, because they didn't have cars.

Adam and Eve had a son, Cain, who hated his brother as long as he was Abel.

Pretty soon all of the early people died off, except for Methuselah, who lived to be like a million or something.

One of the next important people was Noah, who was a good guy, but one of his kids was kind of a Ham. Noah built a large boat and put his family and some animals on it. He asked some other people to join him, but they said they would have to take a rain check.

After Noah came Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Jacob was more famous than his brother, Esau, because Esau sold Jacob his birthmark in exchange for some pot

roast. Jacob had a son named Joseph who wore a really loud sports coat.

Another important Bible guy is Moses, whose real name was Charlton Heston. Moses led the Israel Lights out of Egypt and away from the evil Pharaoh after God sent ten plagues on Pharaoh's people. These plagues included frogs, mice, lice, bowels, and no cable. God fed the Israel Lights every day with manicotti. Then he gave them His Top Ten Commandments. These include: don't

too, because my mom is always saying to me: 'Close the door! Were you born in a barn?' It would be nice to say: 'As a matter of fact, I was.' During His life, Jesus had many arguments with sinners like the Pharisees and the Democrats. Jesus also had twelve opossums. The worst one was Judas Asparagus. Judas was so evil that they named a terrible vegetable after him. Jesus was a great man. He healed many leopards and even preached to some Germans on the Mount.

But the Democrats and all those guys

put Jesus on trial

By Chris & Noelma Lam

lie, cheat, smoke, dance, or covet your neighbours stuff. Oh, yeah, I just thought of one more: Humour thy father and thy mother.

One of Moses' best helpers was Joshua who was the first Bible guy to use spies. Joshua fought the battle of Geritol and the fence fell over on the town.

After Joshua came David. He got to be king by killing a giant with a slingshot. He had a son named Solomon who had about 300 wives and 500 porcupines. My teacher says he was wise, but that doesn't sound very wise to me.

After Solomon there were a bunch of major league prophets. One of these was Jonah, who was swallowed by a big whale and then barfed up on the shore. There were also some minor league prophets, but I guess we don't have to worry about them. After the Old Testament came the New Testament. Jesus is the star of The New Testament. He was born in Bethlehem in a barn. (I wish I had been born in a barn

before Pontius the Pilot. Pilot didn't stick up for Jesus. He just washed his hands instead.

Anyways, Jesus died for our sins, then came back to life again. He went up to Heaven but will be back at the end of the Aluminium. His return is foretold in the book of Revolution.

Mind Puzzler Corner

Our last Brain Teaser was:

I'm seen only when all around me is cold. For most of the time you just live and ignore me; Then you gasp for me, stop for me, mutter below me. When I leave you, you leave too!

What am I?

The answer is: Your breath.

Now here's this week's Brain Teaser:

It runs and runs but can never flee. It is often watched, yet never sees. When long it brings boredom, when short it brings fear. What is it?

Look for the answer in our next issue.

were studying the US history, and asked them how many states they could name. They came up with about 40 names. He jokingly told them that in his day students knew the names of all the states.

Little Johnny snickered: "Yes, but in those days there were only 13".

- - A Card Hallmark Would Never Print:

You say you're young at heart, but you're older in most other places.

- - Answer to Bible Question:

Delilah. - see Judges 16: 4

Afterward it happened that Samson loved a woman in the Valley of Sorek, whose name was Delilah.

- - Answer to Teaser:

Yesterday, today, and tomorrow!

Spiritual Titbits

- - This Week's Reflection:

Matthew 11: 29 tells us that Jesus is "gentle and lowly in heart" and that we will find rest for our souls. What a wonderful promise. We pray that the Holy Spirit will remind us of this when we are in the midst of pain and struggles. Jesus will carry our burdens for us if you take on His yoke.

God Bless You! Have a Great Week!

- - This Week's Bible Question:

Q. Who lived in the valley of Sorek? (Answer below.)

- - This Week's Teaser:

Name three consecutive days without using the words Wednesday, Friday, or Sunday.

(Answer below.)

- - Today's Bible Verse:

Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

- 2 Timothy 2: 16

- - Today's Bits of Wisdom / Reflection:

* Thank God for what you have, Trust God for what you need.

* Better ask twice than lose your way once.

- - Humour:

The old priest made it to a practice to visit the parish school one day every. He walked into the class, where the children

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Laity Have Right To Turn To Nuncio: Cdf Official

The lay faithful "must know that they can turn to the nuncio when there are issues that have repercussions in the pastoral ministry of bishops," according to the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith's promoter of justice. At a June 18 news conference devoted to an upcoming conference on the clerical abuse scandal, Msgr. Charles Scicluna was asked, "And when the bishops are not good shepherds, what can be done?" He replied: People must know that they can turn to the nuncio when there are issues that have repercussions in the pastoral ministry of bishops, but not to denounce them, but to say: "We have confidence in the ministry of Peter, which the nuncio represents; we have a concern, and we have the duty, not just the right, to present it to Peter." This possibility also forms part of the education of the ecclesial community.

Deacons Should Preach Less At Mass: US Bishop

Permanent deacons should not preach at Mass often. Rather, they should preach at other services and serve the Church in the course of their daily witness to Christ, Bishop Alexander Sample of Marquette, Mich. has said in a new pastoral letter on the deacon's role in the Catholic Church. Bishop Sample's 19-page letter, titled "The Deacon: Icon of Jesus Christ the Servant," cited the principle that the one who presides at a liturgical service or who is the principal celebrant at Mass should also give the homily. "I express my deep gratitude to my deacon brothers for their selfless service to God's people in the image of Christ the Servant," Bishop Sample said. "Let us pray for them and support them as they care for the special children of God among us.

French martyr beatified

Sister Marguerite Rutan, a nun who refused to renounce her faith during the Reign of Terror and suffered martyrdom by the guillotine, was beatified in Dax, France, on June 19 before a crowd of 7,000. Cardinal Angelo Amato, prefect of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints, presided at the beatification; Cardinal Jean-Louis Taran and ten other bishops were in attendance.

Pope John Paul II, Venez Bishops At Odds On Ousting Chavez

The Catholic bishops of Venezuela resisted entreaties from Pope John Paul II to steer clear of efforts to oust the country's strongman, Hugo Chavez, in 2002, according to confidential documents from the US State Department made public by WikiLeaks.

The Bush administration had quietly encouraged an abortive coup in Venezuela

in April 2002. Although Chavez had a long history of conflict with the Catholic Church, Pope John Paul II did not want Church leaders involved in political maneuvers. The Pope "urged the Venezuelan bishops to 'cool it' on political

activism and instead to encourage dialogue," according to a cable from James Nicholson, who was US ambassador to the Vatican at the time. Nicholson told the State Department, however, that the Venezuelan bishops were resisting the Pope's instructions. President Chavez has remained at odds with the Venezuelan hierarchy, frequently accusing the bishops of efforts to destabilize his regime.

Republican Candidates Must 'Ignite' Catholics On Life And Marriage: Hudson

While Gov. Haley Barbour has told the Southern Republican Leadership Conference that primary voters should not expect a "perfect candidate" or demand "purity," commentator Deal Hudson says Republicans must have a "pro-life and pro-marriage" nominee to attract Catholic voters. "It's not a matter of demanding 'purity' from a candidate but rather a matter of expecting principle and prudence. It's a matter of principle because the Catholic Church teaches, and most Americans agree, that unborn life should be protected and that marriage is between a man and a woman," Hudson said. The Southern Republican Leadership Conference had over 2,000 attendees. Speakers included presidential hopefuls former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum, former House Speaker Newt Gingrich and Reps. Michelle Bachmann (R-Minn.), Ron Paul (R-Texas) and Herman Cain (R-Georgia). Both Catholic candidates, Santorum and Gingrich, were received "warmly and enthusiastically," Hudson reported. Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal, a Catholic, also spoke at the conference.

Establishment of US Anglican Ordinariate Advancing

A personal ordinariate for Anglicans wishing to enter into full communion with the Catholic Church will most likely be established in the United States this fall, says Cardinal Donal Wuerl, archbishop of Washington, D.C. Cardinal Wuerl, the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith's delegate for the implementation of "Anglicanorum Coetibus" in the United



Justice & Peace Desk

States, presented an update on the implementation of an ordinariate at the Spring Assembly of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, held last week in Seattle. Around the world, other ordinariates are under consideration in Australia and Canada.

The Psalms: The Book Of Prayer Par Excellence

Benedict XVI dedicated his catechesis last Wednesday to what he described as "the book of prayer par excellence, the Book of Psalms". The audience was held in St. Peter's Square in the presence of 10,000 people.

The 150 Psalms of the Book of Psalms "express all human experience", said the Pope. "All the truth of the believer comes together in those prayers, which first the People of Israel and later the Church adopted as a special way to mediate their relationship with the one God, and as an adequate response to His having revealed Himself in history".

NY Senators Delay Gay 'Marriage' Vote, Possibility Still Looms

New York state senators did not reach a conclusion about homosexual "marriage" as the Senate met before its summer recess on June 20. "Every day that goes by and the bill does not pass is a good day, (but) we are realistic enough to know that this is a very serious danger," said Denis Poust, New York Catholic Conference director of Communications, in a June 20 interview. While senators discussed the issue, dozens of citizens gathered in the New York State Senate building to protest and pray against the legalization of same-sex "marriage." Many of the protestors carried signs and recited chants, led by Baptist ministers and Jewish clergy. On June 14, Governor Andrew M. Cuomo presented the "Marriage Equality Act" to the state legislature after a key Republican senator voiced support for it.

PLA Training at Kurukabaru



By Paulose Vellacada SJ

The last of a series of training programmes for Parish Lay Assistants held at Kurukabaru by Fr Dermot Preston commenced on May 15th and was successfully concluded on May 22nd. In spite of the heavy rains and floods 36 persons from 12 communities participated in the programme. It was a very important and unique training session as Fr Dermot was well acquainted with the background of the Amerindians in the North Pakaraimas due to his continuous presence over the past few years.

He had established a good rapport with the PLAs over the years and so they felt at ease with him.

He dealt with the Gospel of John in addition to a number of practical things like teaching them

how to conduct prayers, preparing for Mass, Sunday Services, homilies and other topics.

Every day the PLAs were divided into groups to collectively prepare a homily. A representative from each group then presented the homily and the best one

was selected and preached during the daily Mass by the participants themselves.

Everyone was surprised and impressed by the confidence with which they preached.

Every night a different part of a film on Saint John's Gospel was shown. The participants also made an attempt for the first time to dramatise some of the scenes from the New Testament. It was a thrilling experience for them.

An attempt was made to introduce Patamona into the liturgy but it has a long way to go. Br. Sylvester, one of the PLAs has been organizing Patamona reading classes for the past few months. The PLAs Training Program was concluded on 22nd with Fr Dermot celebrating Mass for the whole congregation there and with people bidding farewell to him by singing 'God be with you till we meet again'. The PLAs benefited a great deal from these training programmes and they will surely miss Fr Dermot.

After the conference, he was stranded in Kurukabaru due to inclement weather and was only able to fly back to Georgetown after 6 long days. A record time of waiting for any Regional Superior!!

Colombian criminals seek church help to surrender

Bogotá, Colombia, June 22 (CNA) .- About 5,000 individuals involved in organized crime in Colombia have expressed a willingness to turn themselves in to police. They have asked for the assistance of the Church to do so.

"There are some 5,000 individuals, and this requires some logistics. The government needs to assure them that certain rights are going to be respected: where this will take place, who will take custody of them, where they will be going once they surrender," Bishop Julio Cesar Vidal of Monteria, Colombia said.

Bishop Vidal noted that the persons in question are not interested in negotiations but rather that the Church finds a way for them to discuss surrendering.

99 not out!



Mrs Agnes Beatrice Benjamin of Silvercity, Linden, celebrated her 99th birthday on Monday, May 30th with her church family including Fr Jaime and Parish Lay Assistant, Desmond Clement. For many years she generously supplied Sunday meals for Jesuits at Linden.

The photo shows Mrs. Benjamin cutting her birthday cake with Fr Compton Meerabux, who

worked in Linden and whom she adopted as a son.

For the last 12 years she has been blind but she still enjoys cooking. (Guyjest)

Pope's Missionary intention - June

The Holy Father's Missionary Prayer Intention for June 2011: "That the Holy Spirit may bring forth from our communities missionaries ready to be consecrated to spreading the Kingdom"

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Why is Guyana so quiet

From front page

summary of Guyana's progress on the UNDP Human Development Index since 1980 provide a strong documentary evidence that to support the argument that as health, education and income gradually improve, however slowly, political issues tend to be put on the backburner.

On the other hand, there are those in Guyana that argue that none of the fundamental political issues that conspire to divide Guyanese have been addressed. The major political parties, more or less overtly still appeal to race as the fundamental reasons for people to vote for them. Political power is still increasingly concentrated in the hands of a few (witnessed by the consensus of the major parties to postpone for a 14th consecutive year local government elections last held in 1994, and their similar enthusiasm in voting for "recall legislation" not as one might imagine by giving power to the people to force by-elections to replace parliamentarians who notoriously fail to represent their interests, but on the contrary, to allow paramount leadership to replace any parliamentarian who fails to toe the party line without any need for bye election consultation with constituents. The doctrine of paramountcy which decreed that the government owned Guyana Chronicle, sustained by taxpayers of all political persuasions, should almost exclusively promote the partisan political interests of then President Burnham is to all intents and

purposes very much alive and kicking in this respect today.

These and other indications of political stagnation and reverse contribute to Guyana's continued lagging behind as the poorest nation in the founding Caricom countries and the fourth poorest in the hemisphere. The critics argue that while this year's elections may well be the quietest that Guyana has ever experienced,

they will be characterized by abstentionism, especially by younger Guyanese totally fed up of the appeals to race and personality, rather than by debate over policy, transparency, commitment to systemic change to remove the current culture of corruption and non-accountability of persons in high places. They predict that young people will continue to vote with their feet.

Christians for their part will hope that the Christmas season election coming up will be one marked by true peace and justice. They are also challenged to work for the long term dismantling of race-based politics in Guyana, the single most serious obstacle to true peace and progress in Guyana. "There is neither Jew nor Greek, (Indo-Guyanese or Afro-Guyanese) slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus." Galatians 3:28 (with clarifications)

Church Multiplies Resources to Fight Sex Abuse

ROME, JUNE 21, 2011 (Zenit.org).- A conference at the Pontifical Gregorian University in February and an electronic database with best practices and research results are two more means the Church is offering to the global fight against sexual abuse. The Feb. 6-8, 2012, conference, "Toward Healing and Renewal," was presented at the Gregorian on Saturday.

Some 200 participants will analyze the pastoral, juridical and psychological aspects of abuse. The program will serve as an aid for episcopal conferences worldwide, which have been asked to turn into the Vatican by May 2012 their guidelines for dealing with sexual abuse.

Passion

From page 2

problems may not be entertained. Some persons simply refuse to listen or hear and will only respond brutally.

Persons can surely change and they need to strive to curb bad traits such as being hot-tempered which are certainly not cast in concrete. Those panting, hostile persons shouting and glaring are not suffering from any hereditary disease. They typify their own values and often can be considered as just lacking manners.

As Edmund Burke the English Orator and Statesman observed:

"Manners are of more importance than laws. Upon them, in a great measure, the laws depend. The law can touch us here and there, now and then. Manners are what vex or soothe, corrupt or purify, exalt or debase, barbarize or refine, by a constant, steady, uniform, insensible operation, like that of the air we breathe in. they give their whole form and color to our lives. According to their quality, they aid morals, they supply them, or they totally destroy them."

MY VIEW IS THAT PERSONS SHOULD NOT BE HOT-TEMPERED. THERE IS SO MUCH TO BE LOST AND NOTHING TO BE GAINED IN SO BEING.

Remember to tune in to
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At Soweto parish, US first lady urges young people to lead Africa's future

CAPE TOWN, South Africa -- First lady Michelle Obama urged a crowd of more than 2,000 that included hundreds of young women to help shape Africa's future by combating corruption, building strong democratic institutions and working to improve the lives of the poor and sick in a speech at Regina Mundi Church in Soweto. Regina Mundi is the largest Catholic Church in the most populous black urban residential area in South Africa.

Obama "spoke from the heart for 45 minutes," in what Oblate Father Benedict Mahlangu described as a powerful and inspiring presentation. The church, the largest in Soweto, served as a refuge for anti-apartheid activists for decades. Bullet holes in

the ceiling and the broken marble altar have been preserved and serve as reminders of the apartheid era.

Obama invoked the memory of leaders of the U.S. civil rights movement and South Africa's anti-apartheid struggle to encourage young leaders, including 76 women from across Africa who were brought to Soweto to hear the speech and to meet her. "It is because of them that so many of these young women leaders can now pursue their dreams. It is because of them that I stand before you as first lady of the United States of America. ... All of you, the young people of this continent, you are the heirs of that blood, sweat, sacrifice, and love," Obama said.

She said her husband, U.S. President Barack Obama, is focused "on partnering with Africans who will shape their future by combating corruption, and building strong democratic institutions, by growing new crops, caring for the sick. And more than ever before, we will be looking to all of you, our young people, to lead the way."

"You can be the generation that ends HIV/AIDS in our time, the generation that fights not just the disease, but the stigma of the disease," Obama said. "You can be the generation that holds your leaders accountable for open, honest government at every level, government that stamps out corruption and protects the rights of every citizen," she said. "True leadership often happens with the smallest acts, in the most unexpected places, by the most unlikely individuals," Obama said, noting that in Soweto in 1976 it was schoolchildren who led an uprising against apartheid that is now commemorated in a national holiday.

Before Obama's speech, Archbishop Buti Tlhagale of Johannesburg, president of the Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference, told of his own experience in South Africa's struggle against apartheid. Father Mahlangu said the archbishop explained that Regina Mundi Church "has always been a place of protection and of hope." The archbishop also reminded people that the struggle for human rights is not over in South Africa and that the church has a crucial role in play in such work.

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EAB to reopen soon

From front page

The EAB will also be looking at the possibility facilitating another group which at the last election looked at the issue of election related violence. The International Foundation for Electoral Systems' (IFES) Election Violence Education and Resolution (EVER) program has in the past looked at the patterns of electoral violence in Guyana and shared this data with electoral stakeholders to

enable development of mitigation strategies to counter the pattern of election violence observed through their monitoring.

Over the years, well respected citizens have served on the EAB's Council of Management, including the late Dr. Makepeace Richmond, Clairmont Lye, Eileen Cox, Nigel Hughes, Miles Fitzpatrick, David Spence Philip Chan, Fr. Malcolm Rodrigues, Chairman, Christopher Fernandes, Sheila George, Simone Mangal and Carl Sylvester

New priest joins Diocese



Fr. Ruben Quisver IVE joined the local diocese in May. He was born and ordained in Argentina, is based at Santa Rosa Mission, Moruca, Region One.

His hobbies are swimming, fishing and sports especially soccer. We welcome him to the Diocese!!!

Members of the Missionaries of the Institute of the Incarnate Word (I.V.E) have worked in Guyana since 1995.

The institute of the incarnate Word in Spanish is "Instituto del Verbo Encarnado", was founded by Fr. Carlos Miguel Buela in Argentina on the 25 March 1984. This is a missionary order since they work to inculturate the Gospel — to evangelize all cultures in order to bring Christ to the entirety of man and to all of mankind. They work in various apostolates around the world such as; parish priest, running orphanages, teaching in seminaries.

In Guyana the IVE priests first served at Port Mourant and at present care for the parishes on the Pomeroon, Essequibo Coast and Santa Rosa. They also manage a Boys Hostel at Charity for those who live in riverain villages.

New bishop in Jamaica

From Front Page

included His Excellency the Most Hon. Patrick Allen and Lady Allen; the President of the Antilles Episcopal Conference, Most Rev. Patrick Pinder, Metropolitan Archbishop of Nassau Bahamas; Most Rev. Neil Tiedeman, Bishop Mandeville; Most Rev. Robert Kurtz, DD., Bishop of Hamilton Bermuda; Archbishop Emeritus of Kingston, Most Rev. Edgerton R. Clarke, DD.; Hon. Dr. Horace Chang, MP (representing our Prime Minister, Hon. Bruce Golding); Hon. Dr. Peter Phillips, MP (representing Leader of the Opposition, Most Hon. Portia Simpson-Miller); President of the Senate, Hon. Oswald Harding; Rev. Gary Harriott, General Secretary of the Jamaica Council of Churches; Rt. Rev. Alfred Reid, Anglican Bishop of Jamaica and the Cayman Islands; Rt. Rev. Howard Gregory, Suffragan Bishop of Montego Bay; Rt. Rev. Robert Thompson, Suffragan Bishop of Kingston; Members of Parliament; Members of the Diplomatic Corps; other dignitaries

There were also over one hundred and fifty local and visiting priests and

deacons; Religious Sisters and Brothers; Archbishop Dufour's family members and other overseas guests; the laity of the local church; well wishers and members of the local media.

In a stirring homily that elicited periodic applause from the congregation, Archbishop Dufour, pledged to build on the legacy of his predecessors. His charge to the Archdiocese included the call for a recommitment in the following areas: to safeguard the dignity and sanctity of life from conception to natural death; to build on the efforts of his predecessors to restore Catholic presence and values in our Catholic Schools; to renew the value of family life as central to societal transformation and advancement. Archbishop Dufour also highlighted the importance of wholesome family life in facilitating the mission of the Church in building the Kingdom.

May the clergy, religious, and laity of the Archdiocese of Kingston respond to the charge of our Archbishop in making his charge to the Archdiocese a reality! All for the Glory of God!