ASSOCIATION OF CATHOLIC ENQUIRY CENTRES - INDIA
Know Lord Jesus
A C E C - I
NEWSLETTER
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JULY 2026 | ISSUE#01-07

EDITORIAL

IN SEARCH OF TRUTH, PEACE AND HARMONY


Fr. Norbert Herman SVD
President, ACEC-I

As we celebrate the life and mission of St. Thomas the Apostle, and we also observe Indian Christian Day, commemorating the arrival of Christianity in India through his ministry.

According to tradition, St. Thomas journeyed across seas to India, bringing the Good News of Jesus Christ. Like many of us, Thomas struggled with doubt after the resurrection of Jesus. Yet, when he encountered the risen Lord, his doubt was transformed into unwavering faith, and he proclaimed, "My Lord and my God." His words reflect complete trust, commitment, and surrender to Christ.

St. Thomas preached the Gospel in a land rich with diverse cultures, traditions, and philosophies—a land where the search for truth has always been deeply rooted. His life reminds us that faith and truth can flourish through openness, dialogue, and sincere conviction.

We also draw inspiration from St. Francis of Assisi, the great saint who loved all of God's creation. Living a life of simplicity, humility, and detachment from worldly possessions, he saw the entire universe as one family, affectionately calling creation Brother Sun, Sister Moon, and embracing all living creatures as gifts of God.

Together, these saints invite us to deepen our faith while caring for the world entrusted to us.

As part of creation, our lives are inseparably connected to Mother Earth. Let us learn from St. Thomas and St. Francis to live with simplicity, humility, and gratitude. May we love and protect creation, preserve the beauty and purity of our planet, and live as God intended—in harmony with nature, with one another, and with all creation.

Let us continue our search for truth and strive to build a world founded on justice, peace, love, and care for our common home.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **Divya Deep**
  Hindi YouTube Channel *'@divyadeep01'* airing "Bible ki Kahaniyaan" with kids of different churches in Delhi.
- **Divine Scroll**
  English YouTube Channel *'@divine-scroll'* airing "Daily Dose of Faith" and "Sunday Reading's Reflections."

NEW INITIATIVES

- **Digital Books**
  "Meet Jesus" the book's third part 'Jesus Teacher and Shepherd', which will be available on our website.

  "Yeshu Milan" the book's first part 'Jesus Teacher and Shepherd', which will be available on our website.



THE MOST PRECIOUS OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

In 1John 1:7 we read: "...the blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sin." In the Old Testament, the people of God offered a spotless lamb as a sacrifice for the atonement of their sins. But in the New Testament John the Baptist points out to Jesus himself as the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world (Jn 1:29).

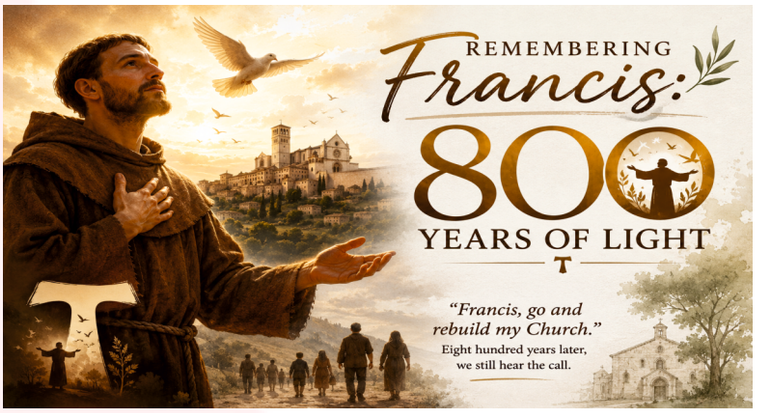
Jesus chose the way of suffering by shedding his blood for us so that we look at him on the Cross and give him a prime place in our heart. Jesus died not just for those who are baptized for also for those who sincerely seek the truth. Gentile Christians have been ransomed from the ignorance of the pagan beliefs their ancestors handed on to them, by the precious blood of the Savior.

Every July, the Church invites us to delve into this profound mystery: the Blood of Christ, poured out on the Cross and given in love for the redemption of the world. It is not merely a symbol or memory—it is life, healing, and the price Jesus willingly paid to redeem us. It follows June's dedication to the Sacred Heart, inviting believers to transition from meditating on Christ's love to experiencing his redeeming, Blood. It's a season to walk with Jesus through Gethsemane, the Trial, and the Cross—and to affirm: "Yes, I believe in the power of Your Blood." St. Catherine of Siena described it as "a sea in which we are washed.". St. Gaspar del Bufalo testified: "There is nothing that the Blood of Jesus cannot obtain." St. John XXIII, devoted his Apostolic Letter Inde a Primis (30 June 1960), to explain the meaning of the devotion to the precious blood of Jesus and approved its Litanies.



The Precious Blood of Jesus can transform our daily life if we reflect on the cost of love and let His sacrifice inspire us to give more generously, forgive more freely, and live more faithfully as Scripture says: "You were ransomed from your futile ways... not with perishable things like silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ as of Christ as of a spotless unblemished lamb". (1 Peter 1:18–19).

– Ms. Cressie Konnat



REMEMBERING FRANCIS : 800 YEARS OF LIGHT

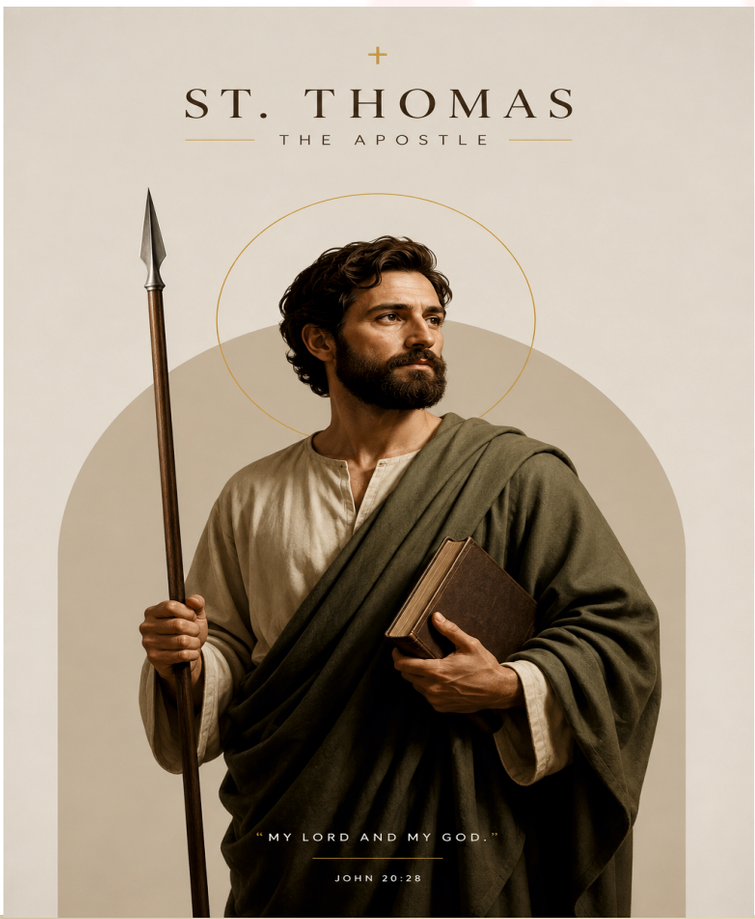
The Year 2026, is significant for the Franciscans around the world as it mark a profound milestone: the 800th anniversary of the death of Saint Francis of Assisi, who passed into the arms of Sister Death on the evening of October 3, 1226. Though eight centuries have passed, the light of Francis's life continues to shine—perhaps now more than ever—calling the Church and the world back to the heart of the Gospel. Celebrations of this anniversary are unfolding globally in churches, communities, and Franciscan orders, offering a moment to pause, give thanks, and renew our commitment to the way of peace, humility, and love that Francis so radiantly embodied. From Assisi to Africa, from monastic chapels to city streets, this is not merely a time of historical remembrance, but a spiritual awakening.

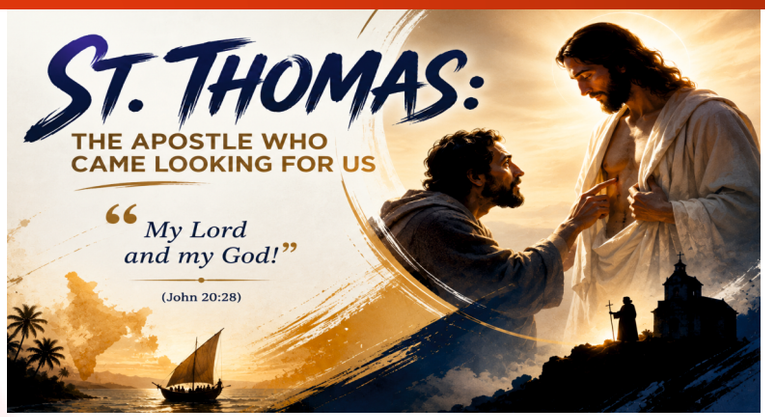
Francis lived in a time not so unlike our own: a world divided by war, marked by growing inequality, and struggling under the weight of institutional religion that had, in many places, lost sight of Christ's radical message. Into that world, Francis stepped with nothing but trust in God and a heart burning with love. He chose poverty over privilege, service over status, and kinship over conquest. His embrace of the leper, his rebuilding of San Damiano, and his Canticle of the Creatures still speak with clarity and grace to a world hungry for healing and meaning. As we celebrate this 800-year legacy, we are reminded that Francis's

death was not an ending, but the beginning of a movement that continues to transform lives. His final years, marked by suffering and mystical union with Christ, left behind not only the marks of the stigmata, but a living witness that still burns brightly in the Franciscan family across denominations and continents. For Companions of the Franciscans order , this anniversary is a special invitation. It invites us to remember why we walk this path—not out of duty, but out of desire to live more deeply into the joy and freedom that Francis found in Christ. It calls us to renew our daily commitment to prayer, simplicity, and peace making. It reminds us that even in our ordinarylives, we are part of something timeless and holy. The 800th anniversary is being marked by pilgrimages, special liturgies, artistic offerings, and environmental initiatives—all in the spirit of Saint Francis. Some will gather in Assisi itself, while others will celebrate quietly in local parishes or small Franciscan groups. But wherever we are, we are united by a common thread: the desire to live the Gospel more fully. As we look to the next century of Franciscan witness, may we, like our beloved saint, be bold in love, gentle in word, and joyful in surrender. And may the peace of Christ—which so filled Francis's heart—fill ours, as we continue this sacred journey together.

“Francis, go and rebuild my Church.” Eight hundred years later, we still hear the call.

– Bro. Mathew Thekkemury CMSF





ST THOMAS:
THE SPOSTLE WHO CAME LOOKING FOR US

Every year on 3 July, Christians in India celebrate the feast of St. Thomas, the Apostle who, according to ancient tradition, journeyed across the seas to bring the Good News to our land. But for me, St. Thomas is much more than a historical figure. He reminds me that faith is not about having all the answers—it is about having the courage to keep searching.

We often remember Thomas as the "doubting apostle." Yet his doubt was not disbelief; it was an honest longing to encounter the risen Christ. When Jesus invited him to "put your finger here," Thomas responded with one of the most profound professions of faith in the Gospel: "My Lord and my God!"

Perhaps that is why Thomas was chosen for India—a land that has always valued questioning, seeking, and discovering truth. His journey teaches us that God is never afraid of our questions. He meets us where we are and patiently leads us to deeper faith.

As an Indian Christian, I find this deeply meaningful The story of St. Thomas reminds us that Christianity in India is not an imported faith but one with ancient roots, nurtured by generations of believers who lived the Gospel with courage and simplicity.

Today, we may not be called to cross oceans as Thomas did. Yet we are invited to cross the distances that separate people—fear, prejudice, loneliness, and indifference. Like Thomas, we are called to touch wounded lives with compassion and proclaim hope by the way we live.

The Apostle who once searched for proof eventually gave his life as a witness to Christ. His journey from doubt to deep faith continues to inspire us. Perhaps that is the greatest lesson of St. Thomas: faith does not begin with certainty; it begins with the courage to seek, to trust, and finally to say with our whole lives, "My Lord and my God!”

– Sr. Pushpa Joseph



Prayer

O Saint Christopher, Patron Saint of Travellers, please intercede on my behalf to the Eternal God and to my Guardian Angel so that in my journey I am protected from the dangers of Accidents, Mishaps, Collisions, Falls and Bruises, Infections, Fires and Earthquakes, and Legal Troubles. This prayer I make through Christ our Lord. Amen.

-Rohan Anirudh Singh

SAINT CHRISTOPHER: THE PATRON SAINT OF TRAVELLERS

Every journey is an adventure, but every journey also needs God's protection. That is why many Christians pray to St. Christopher, the patron saint of travellers, for his intercession to our guardian angels and to the Eternal God. Whether we are going to school, visiting family, or travelling to another city or country, St. Christopher reminds us that God is always with us.

According to Christian tradition, St. Christopher lived during the middle 3rd to early 4th century of the Christian Era. His original name is believed to have been Reprobus. He was a strong man who wanted to serve the greatest king. Later, he learned that Jesus Christ is the true King of all. One famous story tells how Christopher helped people cross a dangerous river. One day, a small child asked him for help. As Christopher carried the child on his shoulders, the child became heavier and heavier. After reaching the other side, the child revealed that He was Jesus, carrying the weight of the whole world. Because he carried Christ, he became known as “Christopher," which means "Christ-bearer.”

St. Christopher is believed to have died as a martyr during the persecution of Christians under the Roman Emperor Decius (r. 249-251 CE). Although many details of his life come from ancient Christian tradition rather than written historical records, his witness of faith has inspired believers for centuries. His feast day is celebrated on 25 July in many parts of the world, when Christians remember his courage, service, and trust in God.

Before beginning any journey, we can ask St. Christopher to pray for us. His example teaches us to trust God, help those in need, and walk with Jesus every day. When we travel with faith, we are never alone because God watches over us wherever we go. May we also become "Christ-bearers" by showing kindness, love, and faith wherever we travel.





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- Help train volunteers and catechists for mission

A Prayer for Our Benefactors

Loving God, bless all those who support this mission with their prayers, resources, and goodwill. Grant them peace, joy, and abundance, and reward them for their generosity. Amen (Optional – if space allows)All donations are used solely for ministry, outreach, and faith formation purposes.

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