ASSOCIATION OF CATHOLIC ENQUIRY CENTRES - INDIA
Know Lord Jesus
NEWSLETTER
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EDITORIAL

LIVING GOD'S LOVE THROUGH FAITH AND CARE FOR CREATION


Fr. Norbert Herman SVD
President, ACEC-I

God loved the world so deeply that He gave His only Son, Jesus Christ, to reveal His boundless mercy and compassion to humanity. Through Jesus, God shared His divine love with the world, offering redemption, healing, hope, and solace to all people. The Heart of Jesus reflects the very heart of God — a profound sign of selfless love that invites humanity to respond with faith and love in return.

Christ's life, suffering, death, and resurrection reveal God's enduring presence among His people. By offering Himself on the cross for the redemption of mankind, Jesus showed the greatest expression of sacrificial love. His message continues to inspire humanity to live with compassion, forgiveness, and unity.

Jesus also commands us to love God and love our neighbours. This love extends beyond human relationships to caring for Mother Earth and protecting the environment for future generations. As children created in the image of God, we are entrusted with the responsibility to protect, preserve, and contribute to the care of His creation.

Inspired by saints like Saint Anthony of Padua, who brought hope and joy to those who experienced loss, we are called to live in peace, equality, brotherhood, and harmony with nature. Promoting a healthy environment and safeguarding God's creation is not only a social responsibility but also a spiritual mission.

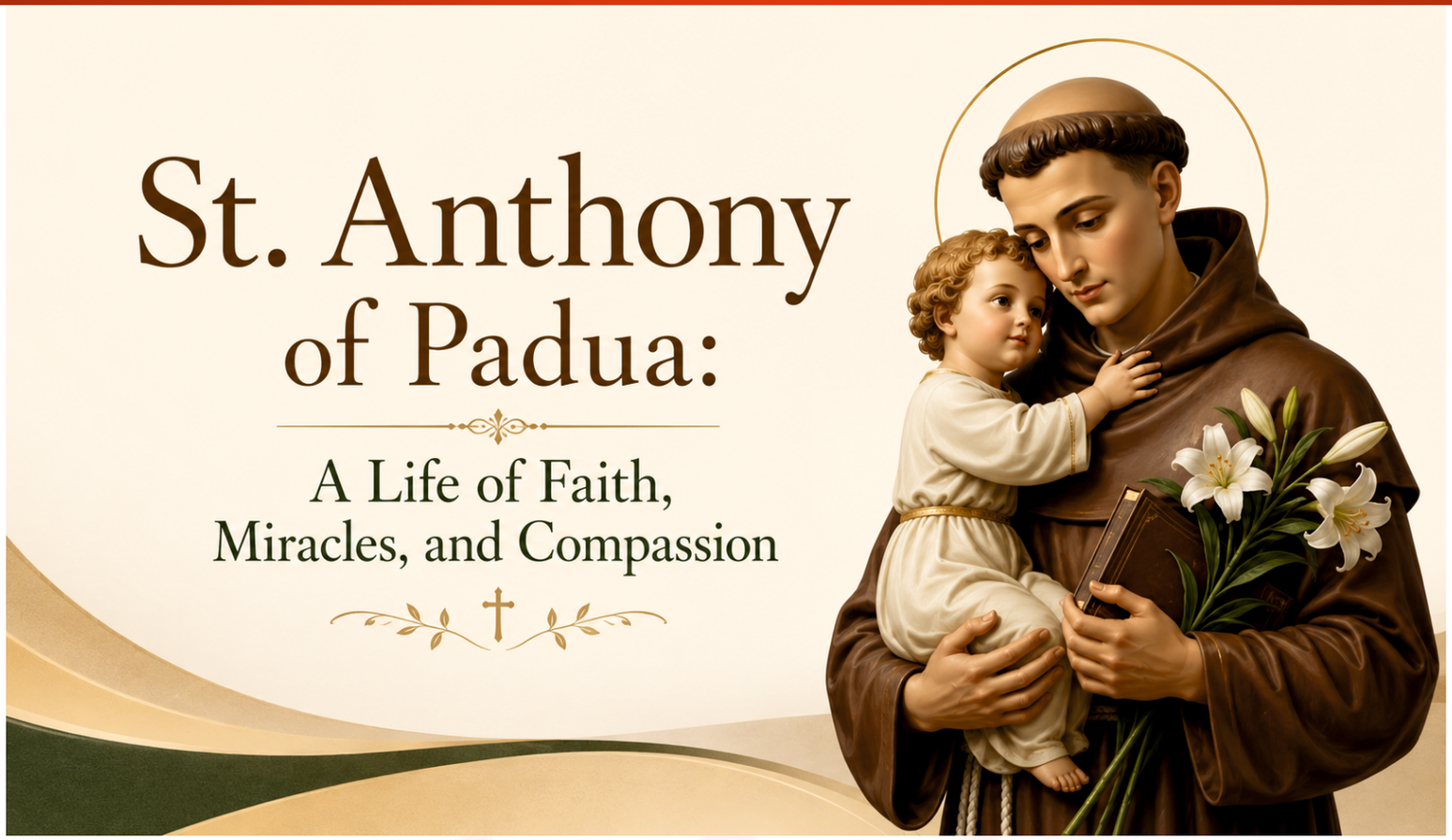
May we continue to reflect Christ's love through our actions and become faithful stewards of God's beautiful creation.

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

- **Holy Mass**
  Every Friday at 4:00 pm on our YouTube channel @divyadeep01.
- **Digital Books**
  "Meet Jesus" the book's third part 'Jesus Teacher and Shepherd', which will be available on our website.



SAINT ANTHONY OF PADUA: A LIFE OF FAITH, MIRACLES AND COMPASSION

St. Anthony of Padua is one of the Catholic Church's most popular saints. Saint Anthony of Padua, patron saint of lost and stolen articles, was a powerful Franciscan preacher and teacher. He's typically portrayed holding the child Jesus—or a lily—or a book—or all three—in his arms. Many people give Bread in thanksgiving to God for blessings received through the prayers of St. Anthony.

St. Anthony of Padua's life is what every Christian's life is meant to be; a steady courage to face the ups and downs of life, the call to love and forgive, to be concerned for the needs of others, to deal with crisis great and small, and to have our feet solidly on the ground of total trusting love and dependence on God.

St Anthony is beloved throughout the world and is responsive to all people and all needs. His intercessory powers before our God are awesome.

Legends about Anthony abound. But let's turn to the known facts about him. Anthony was born in 1195 (13 years after St. Francis) in Lisbon, Portugal and given the name of Fernando at Baptism. His parents, Martin and Mary Bulhom, apparently belonged to one of the prominent families of the city.

At the age of 15 he entered the religious order of St. Augustine. Monastery life was hardly peaceful for young Fernando, nor conducive to prayer and study, as his old friends came to visit frequently and engaged in vehement political discussions.

After two years he was sent to Coimbra. There he began nine years of intense study, learning the Augustinian theology that he would later combine with the Franciscan vision. Fernando was probably ordained a priest during this time.

At 25, Saint Anthony was led to join the Franciscan Order (at which time he took the name Anthony in honor of Saint Antony of Egypt). Deeply inspired by the history of Franciscan martyrs, he strove to emulate the sacrifice of

those who preceded him. He requested permission to journey to Africa on mission, and was granted approval, but became so ill upon arrival was forced to reboard his ship and return to Portugal.

En route home, a storm forced the ship to land off the cost of Sicily, where Anthony was housed by the Franciscans who lived there. He journeyed to Assisi, and served as chaplain to the hermits, performing the most menial of tasks, and practicing penance and mortification.

It was there, when forced via obedience to his superior to preach, that the Holy Spirit shone forth from Saint Anthony, and he earned a reputation for eloquence and ability. Saint Francis, who heard of the event, prescribed that Anthony preach throughout Italy, and later to teach theology to the brethren. Francis instructed that Anthony teach "in such a manner that the spirit of prayer be not extinguished either in yourself or in the other brethren." Anthony continued to preach despite his busy teaching schedule, striving constantly for the salvation of souls.

Saint Anthony's sermons attracted large numbers of people—so many, that no church would accommodate the crowds. He took to preaching outside, and even in the rain, his listeners would remain miraculously dry and protected from the elements. Following preaching, he would hear confessions throughout the night, sleeping little, but unable to turn from those in spiritual need.

Miracles followed Saint Anthony. Once, while lodging at the home of a faithful man, Anthony was observed to be holding the Infant Jesus in his arms, surrounded by heavenly light. Additional miracles of healing, preaching, and conversion have been recorded.

Saint Anthony was eventually elected Minister Provincial of the friars, and maintained his fasting and penance. Eventually, he felt his strength waning, and prepared himself for death. After receiving the last sacraments he kept looking upward with a smile. When he was asked what he saw there, he answered: "I see my Lord." Anthony died at the young age of 36, to the cries of children in the street: "The saint is dead, Antony is dead."

Anthony's body was buried in the Franciscan Church of Saint Mary in Padua (from which his name originates). Canonized within the year, a grand basilica was built only 30 years later, and his relics placed beneath the altar. Upon translation of his holy relics, it was found that his body had been reduced to dust and bone, but that his tongue was incorrupt—intact and life-like. This was taken as confirmation of his gifts of writing, preaching, and teaching from the Lord. St. Bonaventure, who was present as minister general of the Friars Minor, took the tongue reverently into his hands and exclaimed, Reliquery of Saint Anthony's Tongue

"O blessed tongue, which has always blessed God and caused others to bless Him, now it appears evident how great were your merits before God!"

Saint Anthony's tongue was placed in a reliquary, and is still venerated today. From his death until the present day, numerous miracles have been reported at his intercession.

Saint Anthony's teaching of the Catholic faith was simple and uncluttered, appealing to all, and understood by any who listened. He valiantly fought heresies by calling upon the Holy Name of Mary. When he found that he was preaching the true Gospel of the Catholic Church to heretics who would not listen to him, he went out and preached it to the fishes (in the process attracting a large crowd). This was for the glory of God, the delight of the angels, and the easing of his own heart. St. Anthony wanted to profess the Catholic Faith with his mind and his heart, at every moment.

-- Roy Sequiera



CORPUS CHRISTI – THE BODY AND BLOOD OF JESUS CHRIST

The Feast of Corpus Christi is also known as the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Jesus Christ the Lord. It is a liturgical solemnity celebrating the real presence of Christ in the Holy Eucharist.

Catholic Churches observe this feast specially because it emphasizes the joy of the Eucharist being the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ. The feast is celebrated after the Trinity Sunday either on Thursday or the Sunday immediately following this.

The significance of the Corpus Christi feast is found in the feast of Maundy Thursday during the Holy Week. Jesus Christ celebrates the Last Supper with His 12 Apostles and thereby institutes the Lord's Supper. It is called the Holy Eucharist or Communion *(Luke 22:19-20)*.

The Catholics believe that during the Holy Eucharistic celebration the bread and wine becomes the real body and blood of Jesus Christ through transubstantiation in the Liturgy. The bread and wine transforms into the sacred and holy self of Jesus Christ during the communion rite of the Eucharist or Mass.

The institution of the priesthood by Jesus Christ is to lead people of God to God the Father. Jesus is the self-offered Passover Victim, and every ordained priest to this day presents this same sacrifice. As the High Priest of the Catholic Church, Jesus becomes a humble servant in the service of people and sets the same example for His priests those who are in the humble service of humanity.

The washing of the feet of disciples on Holy Thursday is an act of humility and service which sets an example that we all should love and serve one another in humility *(John 13:3-17)*. It gives the message of compassion, mercy, love, service and humility.

The Holy Communion that we receive in the Holy Mass or Eucharist is the Most Holy Body and Blood of Jesus Christ that makes us one in Jesus our Lord. This sacrament strengthens the faith and unity of the people of God.

– Sumit Dhanraj | Trainer and Writer | Mhow



NATIVITY OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

In the Gospel of Luke (1:5-17). Zachariah a Jewish priest in-charge of managing the services of the temple and he would always remain steadfast in prayer to God. As he and his wife Elizabeth reached old age, he began to worry who would continue the legacy of preaching the message of god after his death. So he prayed to God for a son for himself and for the people.

The apparition of Archangel Gabriel revealed to Zachariah of a son who shall name him John, which means "The Lord has pardoned," and who shall be Precursor of the Messiah. The same archangel announced to Mary that Elizabeth her cousin would have a son. She went in haste to the hill country of Judea greeted Elizabeth, the child in her womb leaped for joy.

John born in (c.6 BC-C.AD 30) brought great joy and rejoicing at his nativity; he was filled with the Holy Spirit. When he was six months old, was taken into the mountain and raised on locusts and honey. John a relative of Jesus called himself a "voice" God chose to carry His thoughts to the world to tell the world that Jesus is coming.

John preached in the area of the Jordan River in the first century AD, and He urged people to give up their wicked ways and "Make the Lord's path straight" baptizing them with water. They questioned him, Are you the Messiah; John said, I am not the one who is to come he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. "I am not worthy to untie his sandals" as Jesus was coming toward him, he said, Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. This was what he lived for! "He must increase and I must decrease." He said in his heart.

John was sentenced to death and subsequently beheaded by Herod Antipas after he rebuked him for divorcing his wife and then unlawfully married Herodias, the wife of his brother Herod Philip I. He anticipated a messianic figure greater than himself, in the Gospels, he is portrayed as the precursor or forerunner of Jesus.

St John the Baptist's birthday is celebrated in the Holy Catholic Church on 24 June, and Commemoration of his death on 29 August.

St John the Baptist's message means the same for us as it did for the people standing on the banks of Jordan River. "Prepare the way," he says for us. We have been chosen by Jesus to be His voice today, to carry God's message to the people of the modern world. We must live our lives, by our words and actions try to bring to others this joy and trust in God, be a happy voice carrying God's Word to all whom we meet.

–Ms. Amalorpava Mary Emily



HONOURING THE SACRED VOCATION OF OUR PRIESTS

On the World Day of Prayer for the Sanctification of Priests, an annual Catholic Observance established by Pope John Paul II in 2002, let us all pray for the holiness, fidelity, and spiritual strengthening of our priests worldwide.

Our priests who have been chosen and called to be the shepherd, giving pastoral care and love to all, doing God's will, are encouraged to prayerfully reflect upon the gift of their vocation, which they have willingly accepted and continue to do so. All the lay faithful are invited to mark this celebration by praying to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, through the intercession of St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, and the Immaculate Heart of Mary, to bestow His grace upon all priests with his grace and renew them in their vocation to the image of Jesus Christ. We pray that our priests continue to be faithful stewards in their service to Christ and his Church through the Word of God.

– Dr Daisy Panna | Laity Commission | Archdiocese of Delhi

CHRIST: THE IDEA OF PRIESTS

Not many Catholics are aware of the World Day of Prayer for the Sanctification of Priests. It was established by Pope John Paul II in 2002 to encourage priests to reflect upon the importance and dignity of their vocation. On this day even lay Catholics can focus on supporting priests through prayer for their holiness, fidelity, and spiritual protection. Laypeople can express gratitude, offer encouragement, and pray for the renewal of vocations to the priesthood. Remember, priests too face temptations of various kinds and prayers are the shield which lay people can provide through their prayers.

Laypeople often view this day as a critical moment to support priests, who are seen as shepherds needing grace to remain holy amid the challenges of modern ministry and societal pressures. We lay Catholics can offer specific prayers, such as those invoking Jesus as the Eternal High Priest, asking that priests be kept within the shelter of His Sacred Heart.

– Mr. Joseph Anthony Gathia | Sr. Journalist

PRIESTS AFTER THE HEART OF JESUS

As we celebrate Word Day of Prayer for Sanctification of Priests marking Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus we are called upon not only to honour our priests but also to lift them up in prayer, asking God to renew their hearts, strengthen their mission and deepen their Holiness.

Priests are entrusted with extraordinary responsibilities of celebrating the Eucharist where heaven touches the earth, reconciling sinners through the Sacrament of Confession and accompanying the faithful in moments of joy, sorrow and uncertainty. As we turn our hearts to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, let us entrust every priest to His care. May they be shepherds after His own Heart - gentle yet courageous, humble yet strong, human yet filled with divine grace.

A priest must embody qualities such as deep faith, compassion, strong communication skills, and a commitment to service to effectively fulfill their spiritual and community roles. A priest's identity is rooted in Christ, and should strive to reflect His love and teachings in their actions and interactions with others. Leaving their families for leading a life of Holiness our Priests sacrifice their life for building up the Church. Some of our lay faithful are in the habit of pinpointing the shortcomings of our priests. It is at this juncture they need our prayers and let us pray for them to build a vibrant Holy church.

And may our prayers today be like incense rising before the throne of God, carrying with them the names, faces, and lives of those who have given theirs for the Gospel. Let us pray, not just today, but every day, for the sanctification of our priests-because when our priests are holy, the whole Church is renewed.

Remember: a holy priest inspires holy families, and holy families build a holy Church.

- M S Stanislaus

CHALLENGES OF PRIESTHOOD

Priesthood today faces many challenges in a fast-changing world. One major challenge is the influence of media. Media can help in evangelization, but it can also distract priests from prayer, silence, and their spiritual duties. Constant use of technology may weaken focus on God and ministry.

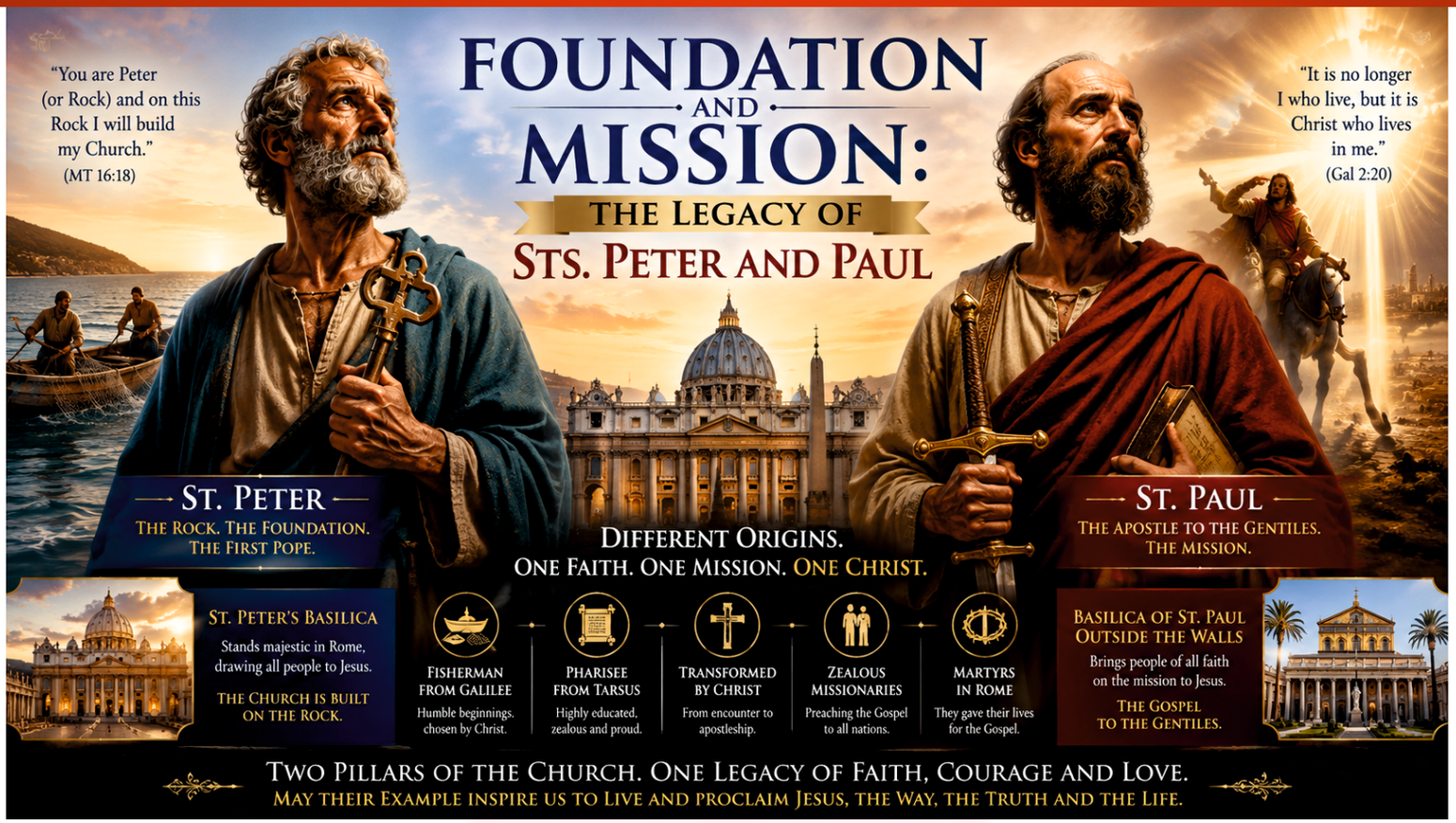
Another challenge is the lack of deep experience of God. When personal prayer and closeness to Jesus decrease, priestly ministry can become routine and without spiritual strength. A priest needs daily communion with God to guide people faithfully.

There is also a lack of openness among some priests. Fear, pride, or insecurity may prevent them from sharing struggles with superiors or fellow priests. This can lead to loneliness and inner problems.

Selfishness is another danger. Seeking comfort, power, or personal interests can weaken the spirit of sacrifice and service.

As Pope Francis says, priests must remain close to God and close to the people they serve.

– Fr. Denny George | Director | Ish Vatika



FOUNDATION AND MISSION
The Legacy of Sts. Peter and Paul

"It is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me."Gal 2:20. "You are Peter (or Rock) and on this Rock I will build my Church."(MT 16:18)

Sts Peter and Paul are the foundation pillars of the early Christian Church, and they have very different back grounds. Peter an uneducated fisherman from Galilee, and Paul, a highly educated young Pharisee from Tarsus. Both were zealous missionaries and gave their life as martyrs in Rome.

Peter – a humble fisherman, the leader of the Apostles, became the 1st Pope.

Paul (originally known as Saul) had a complete different origin, a zealous Roman citizen, a Pharisee by birth and initially a fierce persecutor of the early Church. On a journey to Damascus, to arrest and bring to prison, the followers of the WAY, Jesus himself met him and he got drastically changed. From that encounter with Jesus, Paul became a tireless Apostle of the Gentiles. Unity in diversity is illustrated by the lives of Sts Peter and Paul. The Church is built on the Rock that is Peter the Apostle. He stands for stability and Paul the Apostle for the mission to the Gentiles.

Both made their way to Rome in spite of the persecutions to lead and guide the early Church, in the footsteps of Jesus; the way, truth and life. Due to the persecution both of them are martyrs. Peter was crucified upside down and Paul being a Roman citizen was beheaded, by the sword. Today St Peter's Basilica stands majestic and continues to draw all people to Rome- to Jesus, while the Basilica of St Paul outside the Wall, brings people of all faith to Jesus.

The two great models and personalities of the Church, preach Jesus tirelessly to the whole world irrespective of cast, color and creed. Their main passion was to preach Jesus, the Risen Christ even at the cost of shedding their blood. Let us draw inspiration and motivate our lives after the example of Sts. Peter and Paul.

– Sr. Jiwanlata Ekka | Catholic Information Centre, Nagpur

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We sincerely thank all our benefactors, partners, and well-wishers whose prayers and generosity make this mission possible. Your support is not just a contribution—it is a shared commitment to building God's Kingdom.Your generous support enables us to continue faith formation, outreach, and evangelization across India.

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A Prayer for Our Benefactors

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