



ST THOMAS SYRO-MALABAR CHURCH BOSTON

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MY LORD,
MY GOD!

FIFTH SUNDAY OF ELIJAH, CROSS & MOSES
SEPTEMBER 14, 2008

EXALTED
BY GOD!

Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Today's Gospel (Lk 24:13-35)

....*"The things that happened to Jesus the Nazarene, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, how our chief priests and rulers both handed him over to a sentence of death and crucified him. But we were hoping that he would be the one to redeem Israel; and besides all this, it is now the third day since this took place. Some women from our group, however, have astounded us: they were at the tomb early in the morning and did not find his body; they came back and reported that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who announced that he was alive. Then some of those with us went to the tomb and found things just as the women had described, but him they did not see." And he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are! How slow of heart to believe all that the prophets spoke! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and enter into his glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them what referred to him in all the scriptures....*

✠"For the message of the Cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God ... But we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greek foolishness, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God." (1 Cor 1:18-24)

The Cross is our pride, by which we accept the death of the Master as the way to Resurrection for deliverance from all sin. The baptism which we undertook was described by Paul as the participation with the Lord in His burial and in the Resurrection: "Knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin." (Rom 6:6) This is the center of our faith. This is our vitality. If we wear a Cross around our neck since baptism, we confirm our Christian faith and that we are attached to Jesus. When we Cross ourselves over the face, chest and shoulders, let us feel the connection with the Crucified. We do this every time the name of the Trinity is mentioned or glorified in prayers because the Trinity decided to allow the death of the Son in our days from all eternity. The true Glory descends upon us through the death of the Savior and through our faith in Him.

This is our pride and power. This is what the martyrs have delivered to us.

✠The violence in Orissa has forced some 60,000 Christians to take refuge in forests. Despite government assurances of protection, added, the Hindu fundamentalists move about with weapons threatening Christians.

✠Archbishop Raphael Cheenath of Cuttack-Bhubaneswar, told UCA News on Aug. 28: "Christians hiding in the forest don't have anything to eat. Yesterday evening one priest called me and said they were hiding in the jungle for the past three days. The attackers are sparing no one."

✠Mrs. Kamalini Naik's husband was asked to become a Hindu for which the fanatics threatened to kill his mother. Seeing his mother under their grip Mr. Naik denounced his faith.

✠Then they called his wife Kamalini Naik who was 7 months pregnant. She strongly stood for her faith in Christ and immediately the fanatics cut her into pieces and her one and half year son in front of her husband and other Christians.

✠"They had poured kerosene on my head, and one held a matchbox in his hands to light the fire. But thanks to divine providence, in the end, they did not do that. Otherwise, I would not have been there to tell this horror," the 55-year-old priest, director of the pastoral center at Konjamendi in the Indian state of Orissa, told Catholic News Service in a telephone interview from his hospital bed. "They began our crucifixion parade," said Father Chellen. The gang of about 50 armed Hindus "beat us up and led us like culprits along the road" to the burned pastoral center.



"There they tore my shirt and started pulling off the clothes of the nun. When I protested, they beat me hard with iron rods... while they went on kicking and teasing me, forcing (me) to say vulgar words," said the priest who has cuts, bruises and swollen tissue all over his body and stitches on his face. "Later both of us, half-naked, were taken to the street, ... they went on beating me and dragged us to the nearby government office. Sadly, a dozen policemen were watching all this," he said. Angry at his plea to the police for help, the mob beat the bleeding priest again. Later, a government official and members of the mob took the priest and the nun to the police station, where Father Chellen said he was kicked in the face.

✠For more heroic stories of persecution in Orissa, visit : <http://orissaburning.blogspot.com/>

Today...

11 am : Holy Qurbana

Marching forward...**Sunday Celebration Assignments****Today : Divine Mercy Family Unit****Sept 21: Infant Jesus Family Unit; Apostle Mathew****Sept. 20, Saturday : Holy Qurbana at 11 am, Novena, Office of the Dead [First death anniversary of Mathew Mulakunnam (Michael's father) and Annamma Mathai Chathanattu (Molly's mther)]****Sept. 20 : Little Flower Family Unit Prayer at the home of Joe & Lilly Fernandez****Sept. 20 : Infant Jesus Family Unit Prayer at the home of Paul Ignatius and Shibi Karukappilly****Sept. 27 : Saint Vincent De Paul****Sept. 29 : Archangels Michael, Gabriel & Raphael****Readings - Sept. 14****Acts 2:22-36****Phili. 3:1-11****Lk 24:13-35****Readings - Sept. 21****Is. 26:1-19****Phili. Heb. 11:23-26****Mt 9:9-13****Persecution in Orissa**

Many of us are aware of the persecutions going on in Orissa. Orissa has one of the worst records for violence against Christians, due in part to the activities of a religious fundamentalist group. Many churches have been destroyed and Christian workers continue to be attacked. There is a law prohibiting conversion and, since 2000, baptism requires the permission of the government. Despite all of this, the Body of Christ in Orissa continues to flourish.

In the 1990s, persecution against Christians began to increase, drawing world attention in 1999 with the martyrdom of missionary Graham Staines and his two sons, burnt alive in a van. Orissa has a dark history of intolerance. Last Christmas 95 churches were razed and at least five Christians murdered. At the time, the unrest — far surpassed in the past two weeks — was branded the worst anti-Christian violence in India since Independence.

The motives behind the ongoing waves of violence against Christians — conversion to Christianity, education and emancipation allow Tribals and Dalits to escape slave-like conditions.

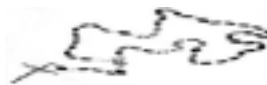
Let's pray for the suffering church in Orissa. They need strength to persevere in faith. Let's observe a day of fasting and prayer for them, any day convenient to each one. If any one in your family cannot observe fasting, any other member in the family may do it for him/her.

Along with prayer support, they need material support also. They have lost all their belongings, roaming in the forest, without protection, nothing to eat, nothing to wear, ...

We will take special collections on the Sundays of Sept.



Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to your protection, implored your help or sought your intercession was left unaided. Inspired by this confidence, I fly unto you, O Virgin of virgins, my Mother. To you do I come; before you I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in your mercy, hear and answer me. Amen!



Please pray the Rosary every day in your families.

FAITH FORMATION CLASSES

Classes begin on Sept. 21st, on the Feast of Apostle Mathew, the Evangelist. Please register your children beforehand.

Let our children learn and grow together.

The proposed timing for the classes will be from 10-11 am; Mass at 11 am.

RESPECT FOR THE CHURCH, PREMISES AND OTHERS

Please make sure that everything is in order, neat in the Church and the hall. Admonish the children to respect order and discipline.

ORIENTATION FOR FAITH FORMATION TEAM

Rev. Dr. Roy Kaduppil, Diocesan Director of Religious Education and Rev. Fr. Vinod Madathiparambil will lead the classes on Sept. 27 (afternoon) and Sept. 28.

All members of the Faith Formation Team must attend. Youth and parents are welcome to attend.

Please arrange your duty so that you will be able to attend the classes both the days.

Diocesan Address (Chancery)

St. Thomas Syro-Malabar Diocese of Chicago

372 Prairie Ave, Elmhurst, IL 60126-4020

Phone : 630-279-1383

HEARTY WELCOME**NEW COMERS!!!**

Sunday Mass Schedule : 11 am

Saturdays : 11 am Mass followed by Novena to Our Mother of Perpetual Help.

Memorial services will not be conducted on Sundays.

They may be conducted on any of the week days.

First Fridays : Mass at 7 pm followed by Holy Hour and Benediction.

TO ALL

PLEASE recite the PRAYER FOR OUR DIOCESE AND OUR PARISH every day in your families.

HAPPY BIRTHDAYS IN SEPTEMBER

01st -	Jamie Fernandez
02nd-	Rhea Marie Kunnel
02nd-	Reena Thopurathu
02nd-	Chelsa Maria Jijo Potteparambil
03rd-	Reena Naduviledom
04th -	Sarah Johnson Poovathummoottil
05th -	Jose Thomas Kutticherry
07th -	Sophia John Mundackal
09th -	Christina Ellen
10th -	Christy Anthiamkulathu
10th -	Rev. Fr. Cyriac Mattathilanickal
10th -	Jewel Thomas Thekkevalavumkal
10th -	Joseph Kunnel
14th -	Samuel John Mundackal
16th -	Joshua Sebastian Puthanpurackal
16th -	Maria Benny Uppamthadathil
19th -	Rev. Fr. Raju Muringayil
20th -	Joshua Kutticherry
22nd -	Diya Ayyanimoottil
25th -	Maria Paul Mechery
25th -	Laly Uppamthadathil
25th -	Ancy Vithayathil
28th -	Andrea Malanakarot
28th -	Angel Mary Pachikara
28th -	Pradeep james Mannathamcheril
29th -	Ann Mary Kurian Arupathil
29th -	Shreya Stanley

MARRIAGE ANNIVERSARIES IN SEPTEMBER

07th-	John & Jancy Kuzhikannil
07th-	Dinny & Shanty Pathupally
16th-	JAnish & Jasmine Malayil
24th-	Julaiton & Regina Koola
29th -	Thomas & Rekha Kodenkandath
29th-	Sino & Rani Ottalankal
30th -	Saji & Manju Parampukattil

May God bless them and keep them in His love and protection.

സെൻറ് തോമസ് സിറോമലബാർ രൂപതക്കും ഇടവകക്കും വേണ്ടിയുള്ള പ്രാർത്ഥന

പിതാവു, പുത്രനും, പരിശുദ്ധാത്മാവുമായ ത്രിത്വൈക ദൈവമേ/ അങ്ങയെ അങ്ങൾ അർത്ഥപ്പെടുകയും, / സ്തുതിക്കുകയും പുഷ്പാർച്ചനകളും ചെയ്യുന്നു./ അവിടുന്ന് അങ്ങൾക്ക് നമിക്കുന്നു/ നിരന്തരപരിപാലനത്തിനായി/ അങ്ങൾ നന്ദി പറയുന്നു./ അങ്ങയുടെ സന്നിധിയിൽ/ അങ്ങൾ ചെയ്തുപോയ തെറ്റുകൾ/ അങ്ങളോട് ക്ഷമിക്കണമേ./ അങ്ങയുടെ കൃപാവരങ്ങൾ നിറച്ചിട്ട്/ അങ്ങയുടെ പരിശുദ്ധാത്മാവിനാൽ/ അങ്ങളെ നമിക്കണമേ.

നല്ല ഇടയനായ ഈശോമേ/നിത്യപുരാഹിതനായ അവിടുന്ന്/ അങ്ങൾക്ക് നമിക്കിയ/ അമ്മരിയയിലെ സെൻറ് തോമസ് സിറോമലബാർ രൂപതയേയും/ രൂപതാദ്ധ്യക്ഷനായും മേൽത്ത്/ അങ്ങക്ക് അങ്ങൾ സ്തുതിച്ചും ചെയ്യുന്നു./ കാര്യബുദ്ധനായ കർത്താവേ./ അങ്ങയുടെ അഭിവന്ദ്യപിതാവിനെയും/ ഹൃദയം വെട്ടിക്കരയുന്നതും/ സന്യസ്ഥരെയും/ അദ്ധ്യക്ഷരെയും/ അങ്ങയുടെ വരദാനങ്ങളാൽ നിറച്ചിട്ട്/ അങ്ങയുടെ വിവിധ പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങളെ/ അങ്ങക്കിഷ്ടമെന്ന തീർപ്പിൽ നടത്തണമേ./ ഈ രൂപതയിലെ ഹൃദയം കട്ടുവെങ്ങങ്ങളെയും/ അങ്ങയുടെ ഹൃദയം ഉപകരിക്കുന്നതും/ മറ്റു വിശ്വാസത്തിലും/ ദൃഢമായ പ്രത്യാശയിലും/ തീവ്രമായ സ്നേഹത്തിലും/ ക്രിസ്തീയമായ കൃപയ്ക്കുമായിലും/ നിയന്ദ്രിയങ്ങളും വളർത്തുകയും ചെയ്യണമേ./ അങ്ങയുടെ സഭയിലെ ശുശ്രൂഷക്കായി/ അങ്ങയുടെ കട്ടുവെങ്ങങ്ങളിൽനിന്നും തന്നെ/ യുവതീയുവാക്കളെ വിളിക്കണമേ.

“എന്റെ കർത്താവേ എന്റെ ദൈവമേ” എന്നു പറഞ്ഞ്/ വിശ്വാസപ്രഖ്യാപനം നടത്തിയ/ അങ്ങയുടെ പിതാവായ മാർത്തോമ്മാസ്റ്റീഹായുടെ നാമത്തിലുള്ള ദൈവങ്ങളുടെ ദൈവലയത്തിന്റെ ക്രമീകരണത്തിനുള്ള പരിശ്രമങ്ങളെ / അവിടുന്ന് അനുഗ്രഹിച്ചാശീർവ്വദിക്കണമേ./ ഇതിനു നേതൃത്വം നൽകുന്നവരെയും/ ഇതിന്റെ വിജയത്തിനായി/ പ്രാർത്ഥനയും പണവും പരിശ്രമവും വഴി/ സഹായിക്കുന്ന എല്ലാവരെയും/ സമൃദ്ധമായി അനുഗ്രഹിക്കണമേ./ അങ്ങൾതന്നെയും/ ജീവിക്കുന്ന ദൈവലയങ്ങളായി തീരൻ ഇടയാക്കട്ടെ./

നല്ലവനായ ദൈവമേ/ അങ്ങയുടെ തിരുഹിതം നിറവേറ്റുവാൻ/ പരിശുദ്ധ അമ്മയുടെയും / മാർത്തോമ്മാസ്റ്റീഹായുടെയും / വാക്യങ്ങളെപ്പറ്റിയും/ ചാപന കൃത്യങ്ങളോടനുചൂഷണവും / അൽഫോൻസാമ്മയുടെയും/ മറിയം ഭക്തയുടെയും/ കുഞ്ഞു ചൂഷണവും / ഹൃദയപ്രാർത്ഥനയുടെയും/ മാതൃകയും മദ്ധ്യസ്ഥതയും/ സഹായകതകളെ./ അങ്ങനേ അങ്ങയുടെ മഹത്വത്തിൽ പങ്കുകൊരുകൂടെ/ അങ്ങയെ യോഗ്യരാക്കുകയും ചെയ്യണമേ./ സകലത്തിന്റെയും നാഥാ, ഹൃദയം, അർത്ഥം, അർത്ഥം.

Injured Priest Tells of Hindu-Extremist Attack Assailants Attempted to Burn Him Alive

NEW DELHI, India, SEPT. 8, 2008 - A priest who has survived the wave of attacks on Christians by Hindu extremists in India considers himself safe "in the hands of God."

The account of Father Edward Sequeira was made available by one of his seminary classmates, Father Edwin Vas of the Society of the Divine Word.

Father Sequeira was the victim of an attack Aug. 25; a young laywoman who worked at the orphanage where he worked did not survive.

The Indian state of Orissa has been the scene of a spate of anti-Christian violence that intensified at the end of August after a Hindu leader, Swami Laxmananada Saraswati, was killed. Extremists placed the blame for his death on Christians. In fact, the eastern Indian state has long been plagued by Christian-Hindu violence, as Christian missionaries work with poor tribal peoples of the region and Hindus accuse them of forcing or bribing conversions.

Benedict XVI appealed for an end to the violence after the general audience of Aug. 27, and last Sunday was declared a day of prayer and fasting for peace in India.

Father Vas reported Father Sequeira's account of the day he was attacked.

He recounted: "[Father Edward] came back to his residence to have lunch. [...] Some people came to see him, and asked him, 'Who is the priest here?' Father Edward thought they must have come for some help like, somebody is sick and needs to be taken to the hospital. So he said, 'I am the one.' When he looked outside he saw there were about 20 people with sticks, iron bars, shovels and spades. He realized what was going to happen. So he tried to close the door. [...]

"Anyhow they managed to pull Father Edward out and then started beating him all over. [...] So he has fractures now on both shoulders, on his right hand and his skull is broken at the back of his head. [...] This [beating] went on for 45 minutes and then Father Edward collapsed. Meanwhile some others had gone inside the house [...] they set fire and came out."

The priest explained that the assailants proceeded to lock Father Sequeira in the house.

Not alone

"Remember Father Edward has lost his strength and had collapsed," Father Vas went on. "But at this moment, when he was alone inside the burning house, he realized he was not alone. There was Jesus with him. He experienced tremendous strength at this moment. He experienced Jesus not as a separate entity from him, but, 'He in me and I in him.' He experienced Jesus suffering in him. [...]"

"He collected half a bucket of water and went and threw it in his bed room and the fire went off. Miracle?"

"He filled another half bucket of water and threw it in the office and the same result. Fire in the office was put off. He had a deep sense that God was with him. He went back to the bathroom and locked himself inside."

Father Vas went on to report that as the assailants tried to find Father Sequeira and confirm his death, despite the smoke filling the house, young Rajani Majhi arrived. The 19-year-old student was a helper at the orphanage.

Before Father Sequeira lost consciousness he heard the young woman scream, "Father they are going to burn me." Majhi, though a Hindu, was killed. Father Sequeira learned of her death only two days later, from the hospital.

The priest said the efforts of two doctors, including a Baptist missionary,

were the key to saving his life. They heard of the attack and managed to get an ambulance and fire fighters to the scene -- some four and a half hours after the arrival of the assailants.

Father Sequeira is now recovering in a hospital in Mumbai.

"When people come and tell him, 'We are praying for you,'" Father Vas reported, "he says, 'Do not pray for me, I am in the safe hands of God, you go and work for the rights of the minorities.' Father Edward believes that God has saved him miraculously and he has a purpose for him."