



ST THOMAS SYRO-MALABAR CHURCH BOSTON

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MY LORD,
MY GOD!

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF ELIJAH, CROSS & MOSES
SEPTEMBER 28, 2008

EXALTED
BY GOD!

God created teachers on the 8th day

Today's Gospel (Mt. 9:9-13)

....*"At that time the disciples approached Jesus and said, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" He called a child over, placed it in their midst, and said, "Amen, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whoever receives one child such as this in my name receives me. "Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone hung around his neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea. Woe to the world because of things that cause sin! Such things must come, but woe to the one through whom they come! If your hand or foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter into life maimed or crippled than with two hands or two feet to be thrown into eternal fire. And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter into life with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into fiery Gehenna."*

Within each one of us there is a voice that says, "I am something special... I can make a difference... I have something to give to others!" Listen to that voice. Honor it. Don't ever let anyone silence it. Our children need you—they need someone who will inspire them, someone who will hold high expectations for them, someone who will always tell them, "You can do it!"—and that someone could be you. Bear in mind that teachers do more than teach their academic subjects. They also model appropriate behaviors and teach by personal example. They teach children the value of taking responsibility for themselves and respecting others. They teach children that success is 1 percent inspiration and 99 percent perspiration. For many children, teachers are the most important authority figures outside of their homes.

Of course, teaching isn't for everyone. It certainly isn't for the faint of heart. Teaching is challenging work. In the movie "A Man for All Seasons," Thomas More is talking with a young man uncertain about his future. "Be a teacher," More advises. "And if I am a great teacher, who will know?" asks the young man. More replies: "You. Your pupils. God. Not a bad public"

Here is a story : "Her name was Mrs. Thompson. As she stood in front of her 5th grade class on the very first day of school, she told the children a lie. Like most teachers, she looked at her students and said that she loved them all the same. But that was impossible, because there in the front row, slumped in his seat, was a little boy named Teddy.

Mrs. Thompson had watched Teddy the year before and noticed that he didn't play well with the other children. His clothes were messy and that he constantly needed a bath. And Teddy could be unpleasant. It got to the point where Mrs. Thompson would actually take delight in marking his papers with a broad red pen, making bold X's and then putting a big "F" at the top of his papers.

At the school where Mrs. Thompson taught, she was required to review each child's past records and she put Teddy's off until last. However, when she reviewed his file, she was in for a surprise.

Teddy's first grade teacher wrote, "Teddy is a bright child with a ready laugh. He does his work neatly and has good manners...He is a joy to be around."

His second grade teacher wrote, "Teddy is an excellent student, well liked by his classmates, but he is troubled because his mother has a terminal illness and life at home is a struggle."

His third grade teacher wrote, "His mother's death had been hard on him. He tries to do his best, but his father doesn't show much interest and his home life will soon affect him if some steps aren't taken."

Teddy's fourth grade teacher wrote, "Teddy is withdrawn and doesn't show much interest in school. He doesn't have many friends and he sometimes sleeps in class."

By now, Mrs. Thompson realized the problem and she was ashamed of herself. She felt even worse when her students

brought her Christmas presents wrapped in beautiful ribbons and bright paper, except for Teddy's. His present was clumsily wrapped in the heavy, brown paper that he got from a grocery bag. Mrs. Thompson took pains to open it in the middle of the other presents. Some of the children started to laugh when she found a rhinestone bracelet with some of the stones missing, and a bottle that was one quarter-full of perfume. But she stifled the children's laughter when she exclaimed how pretty the bracelet was, putting it on, and dabbing some of the perfume on her wrist.

Teddy Stoddard stayed after school that day just long enough to say, "Mrs. Thompson, today you smelled just like my Mother used to."

After the children left she cried for at least an hour.

Mrs. Thompson paid particular attention to Teddy. As she worked with him, his mind seemed to come alive. The more she encouraged him, the faster he responded. By the end of the year, Teddy had become one of the smartest children in the class and, despite her lie that she would love all the children the same, Teddy became one of her "teacher's pets."

A year later, she found a note under her door, from Teddy, telling her that she was still the best teacher he ever had in his whole life. Six years went by before she got another note from Teddy. He then wrote that he had finished high school, third in his class, and she was still the best teacher he ever had in his whole life.

Four years after that, she got another letter, saying that while things had been tough at times, he'd stayed in school, had stuck with it, and would soon graduate from college with the highest of honors. He assured Mrs. Thompson that she was still the best and favorite teacher he ever had in his whole life.

Then four more years passed and yet another letter came. This time he explained that after he got his bachelor's degree, he decided to go a little further. The letter explained that she was still the best and favorite teacher he ever had. But now his name was a little longer the letter was signed, Theodore F. Stoddard, MD.

The story doesn't end there. You see, there was yet another letter that spring. Teddy said he'd met this girl and was going to be married. He explained that his father had died a couple of years ago and he was wondering if Mrs. Thompson might agree to sit in the place at the wedding that was usually reserved for the mother of the groom.

Of course, Mrs. Thompson did. And guess what? She wore that bracelet, the one with several rhinestones missing. And she made sure she was wearing the perfume that Teddy remembered his mother wearing on their last Christmas together.

They hugged each other, and Dr. Stoddard whispered in Mrs. Thompson's ear, "Thank you Mrs. Thompson for believing in me. Thank you so much for making me feel important and showing me that I could make a difference."

Mrs. Thompson, with tears in her eyes, whispered back. She said, "Teddy, you have it all wrong. You were the one who taught me that I could make a difference. I didn't know how to teach until I met you."

Remember - that wherever you go, and whatever you do, you will have the opportunity to touch and/or change a person's outlook. Please try to do it in a positive way.

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On the 6th day, God created men and women.

On the 7th day, he rested.

Not so much to recuperate, but rather to prepare himself for the work he was going to do on the next day. For it was on that day-the 8th day-that God created the FIRST TEACHER.

This TEACHER, though taken from among men and women, had several significant modifications. In general, God made the TEACHER more durable than other men and women.

The TEACHER was made to arise at a very early hour and to go to bed no earlier than 11:30 p.m.- with no rest in between. The TEACHER had to be able to withstand being locked up in an air-tight classroom for six hours with thirty-five "monsters" on a rainy Monday. And the TEACHER had to be fit to correct 103 term papers over Easter vacation.

Yes, God made the TEACHER tough...but gentle too.

The TEACHER was equipped with soft hands to wipe away the tears of the neglected and lonely students...

And into the TEACHER God poured a generous amount of patience. Patience when a student asks to repeat the directions the TEACHER has just repeated for someone else. Patience when the kids forget their lunch money for the fourth day in a row. Patience when one-third of the class fails the test. Patience when the text books haven't arrived yet, and the semester starts tomorrow.

And God gave the TEACHER a heart slightly bigger than the average human heart.

For the TEACHER's heart had to be big enough to love the kid who screams, "I hate this class-it's boring!" and to love the kid who runs out of the classroom at the end of the period without so much as a "goodbye", let alone a "thank you".

And lastly, God gave the TEACHER an abundant supply of HOPE. For God knew that the TEACHER would always be hoping. Hoping that the kids would someday learn how to spell... hoping not to have lunchroom duty... hoping that Friday would come... hoping for a free day.... hoping for deliverance.

When God finished creating the TEACHER, he stepped back and admired the work of his hands. And God saw that the TEACHER was good. Very Good! And God smiled, for when he looked at the TEACHER, he saw into the future.

He knew that the future is in the hands of the TEACHERS.

And because God loves Teachers so much, on the 9th day

God created "Snow Days."

Today...

10 am : CCD; 11 am : Holy Qurbana

Marching forward...

Sunday Celebration Assignments

Today : Faith Formation Team

Oct. 5: Little Flower Family Unit

Oct. 3, First Friday : Holy Qurbana at 7 pm; Holy Hour
 Oct. 4, Saturday : Holy Qurbana at 11 am, Novena (Thanksgiving Mass for the intentions of Joymon and Printa Kantamkulathy)
 Oct. 4, Saturday : Thirukkudumbam Family Unit prayer at the home of Jose & Sheela, Jenson and Jerlin Kaithamattam.
 Oct. 1 : Saint Little Flower
 Oct. 4 : Saint Francis Assisi

Readings - Sept. 28

Is. 33:1-14

1 Cor. 14:31-40

Mt.18:1-9

Readings - Oct. 5

Is. 40:1-17

2 Cor. 1:23-2:11

Mt 20:1-16

OCTOBER - ROSARY MONTH

PLEASE NOTE : WE WILL BEGIN OUR ROSARY OCTAVE ON OCT. 16 AND WILL END ON OCT. 25.

India's Newest Martyrs - Christians Die for Their Faith in Troubled Orissa

An armed Hindu mob landed at the doorstep of evangelists Samuel and Daniel Nayak on Aug. 25, with an ultimatum: Denounce the faith or die. "Do you want Christ or your life?" the mob leaders demanded of the Nayaks and five other members of the Nayak family. Unfazed, the brothers replied, "Christ is everything for us."

Enraged, the Hindu fundamentalists hit two children in the house with iron rods, breaking their skulls. After pouring gasoline on the adults, the fanatics gave them "one more chance." They stood firm and raised their hands in prayer. Within seconds, five adults were aflame. Foreseeing that they might try to escape, the mob had poured gasoline on the outside walls of the house. The house was set on fire, reducing all seven members of the family to ashes.

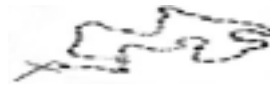
History is replete with accounts of how the early Christians were persecuted for their faith under the Roman Empire. Many Christians in the troubled Kandhamal district of eastern Orissa state are being subjected to similar persecution in the 21st century — in the largest democracy on earth.

Rakesh Digal, a young Catholic working outside of Orissa, was on a vacation in his native Pupuria, a village near Udaigiri. When one of the roaming Hindu mobs spotted him, he tried to run away but was chased and caught. He was beaten and buried alive for refusing to renounce his faith. When he asked why they were burying him alive, the Hindu assailants told him, "Jesus will save you."

According to numerous first-person accounts, these are not isolated horror stories from the jungles of the Kandhamal district, where Christians account for more than 100,000



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.



Rev. Fr. Vinod Madathiparambil leading the orientation course for the Faith Formation Team



Rev. Dr Roy Joseph Kaduppil, Chancellor of the St. Thomas Syro-Malabar Diocese of Chicago will lead the classes on Sunday.

Marriage Preparation Course The next one conducted by the Syro-Malabar Diocese of Chicago will be held at at Rosary Hill Retreat Center, Chicago on Oct 31 - Nov. 2.

Please call Thomas Purathur (708) 544-7250 or Thomas Moolayil (630) 910-0669 to register.

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.

HAPPY BIRTHDAYS IN OCTOBER

02nd-	James Joboy Manalel
02nd-	Claer Ann Jestin Anthiamkulath
02nd-	Jason Fernandez
03rd-	Alex Antony Naliath
03rd-	Jenson Kaithamattam
04th -	Alfred Samkutty
05th -	Justin Andrews Moolekariyil
05th -	Titus John Pathuvelil
06th -	Sebastian Alanoly
07th -	Mary Ellen
08th -	Justin Kutticherry
09th -	Joseph Kunnel
09th -	Nelly Jiffy Powathel
10th -	Seena Bobby Chempottickal
11th -	Priya Kurian Arupathil
11th -	Anitta Thomas Paduthuruthy
11th -	Shawn Francis Kunnumpurath
17th -	Ashwin Antony Satyadas
17th -	Ashley Joboy Manalel
17th -	Chinnamma Malanakarot
17th -	Varghese Yohannan
19th -	Lucy Varghese
20th -	Anu Bino Ozhukayil
21st -	Teena Pottetparamban
22nd -	Betty Jeffy
23th -	Alwin Jose Nelluvelil
23th -	Justin Joby Nakkarakunnel
26th -	Mary Satyadas
28th -	Grace Pullathu
28th -	Jestin Anthiamkulath
29th -	Beji Joseph Naduviledam
30th -	Gracy James

MARRIAGE ANNIVERSARIES IN OCTOBER

05th-	Saju & Shine Manimalakariyil
09th -	Benny & Laly Uppamthadathil
16th-	Varghese Yohannan & Lucy Varghese
17th -	Geo & Liny Paliakkara
25th-	Chacko & Omana Mannancherril
28th -	Biju & Ligimol Thoompil
31st -	Samkutty & Geena

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/ രൂപതാദ്ധ്യക്ഷനായ ബർത്ത്/ അങ്ങക്ക് അങ്ങൾ സ്തുതിച്ചു ചെയ്യുന്നു./ കാര്യബുദ്ധനായ കർത്താവേ./ അങ്ങയുടെ അഭിവന്ദ്യപിതാവിനെയും/ ഏറ്റവും വെളിച്ചമേറിയും/ സന്യസ്ഥിയേയും/ അമ്മരിയയേയും/ അങ്ങയുടെ വരദാനങ്ങളാൽ നിറച്ചിട്ട്/ അമ്മരിയ വിവിധ പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങളെ/ അങ്ങക്കിഷ്ടമേകുന്ന തീരയിൽ നടത്തണമേ./ ഈ രൂപതയിലെ ഏറ്റവും കൂട്ടുമെമ്പങ്ങളേയും/ അങ്ങയുടെ ഏറ്റവും ഉപകാരികളേയും/ മറ്റും വിശ്വാസത്തിലും/ ഭൃശമായ പ്രത്യാശയിലും/ തീവ്രമായ സ്നേഹത്തിലും/ ക്രിസ്തീയമായ കൂട്ടായ്മയിലും/ നിയന്ദ്രിതരായും വളർത്തുകയും ചെയ്യണമേ./ അങ്ങയുടെ സഭയിലെ ശുശ്രൂഷക്കായി/ അങ്ങയുടെ കൂട്ടുമെമ്പങ്ങളിൽനിന്നു തന്നെ/ യുവതീയുവാക്കളെ വിളിക്കണമേ.

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

നല്ലവനായ ദൈവമേ/ അങ്ങയുടെ തിരുഹിതം നിറവേറ്റുവാൻ/ പരിശുദ്ധ അമ്മയുടെയും / മാർത്തോമ്മാസ്റ്റീഹായുടെയും / വാക്യങ്ങളെപ്പറ്റിയും/ ചാപര കൃഷ്ണാക്ഷരസച്ചിഹ്നവും / അൽഫോൻസാമ്മയുടെയും/ മറിയം ഭദ്രസുന്ദരയുടെയും/ കുഞ്ഞുച്ചിഹ്നവും / ഏറ്റവും സുന്ദരയുടെയും/ മാതൃകയും മദ്ധ്യസ്ഥിയേയും/ സഹായകതകളെ./ അമ്മരിയ അങ്ങയുടെ മഹത്വത്തിൽ പങ്കുകൊടുക്കാൻ/ അങ്ങളെ യോഗ്യരാക്കുകയും ചെയ്യണമേ./ സകലത്തിന്റെയും നാഥാ, ഏനേക്കും, അർത്ഥമേൻ.

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."