



FISHERS OF MEN

THE NEW EVANGELIZATION

3 FROM THE HEART OF THE SERVANT
The Live Christ Share Christ Mission

4 FEATURE
The Call to Evangelization

6 EVENT REPORT
Stronger

8 TESTIMONIAL REPORT
Love Beyond Words

10 NEWSFEED
Training & Evangelization

LOOKING BACK WITH THANKS, LOOKING FORWARD WITH HOPE



Enough and more has been said about the year 2020 being a year like no other. It still holds true as we near the end of the year. None of us would have imagined the year panning out the way it did. For a lot of us, it might have shaken our faith, for others it might have been a wake-up call to not take things for granted – things as

precious as the Sacraments or family time. For many it would have meant reconnecting with God and realizing that ultimately, we are not in control.

When we as a community look back at this year, we see a year where the Lord was ever-present as always. We had set out with BIG (BIG| IMPOSSIBLE| GOALS) plans for evangelization. What was envisioned as a physical reach-out to as many dioceses & parishes as possible, resulted in reaching to Catholics across the country and across the world through video conferencing. As we praised God for the technology that helped us evangelize people across boundaries and borders, it also stirred in our hearts a desire to once again see each other and to see the Lord once again in the Eucharist.

Lockdowns gave many families the chance to reconnect, and especially reconnect with God as a family through the various programs that dioceses, parishes and communities like our own facilitated. While we reach out and find new ways of doing so, we are called to build up our own families in the faith - to

build up the domestic church. Up until now, for many families, it may have been just individuals serving God in their individual capacities. However as Missionary Families of Christ, our families need to be firmly rooted in Jesus so that we might bear much fruit, not just in ministry, but also in our personal lives.

We are also aware of the widespread healthcare and economic difficulties the pandemic has brought about. We all know at least one person in our immediate circle who has been affected and this has just increased the call and the desire in our hearts to Speak Life into this world that is hurting.

As we look forward to a muted Christmas and New Year, we still look ahead with hope. That is the message of Christmas – the almighty God humbling himself, entering a world that was broken and hurting but bringing with him the message of **hope, of good news to the poor, release to the captives, recovering of sight to the blind, setting at liberty those who are oppressed** (cf. Luke 4:18).

With this hope in our hearts we look to 2021 with renewed vigor, with the knowledge that as the Lord defeats this pandemic, there will still be people who need to hear the Good News, families that still need to be renewed and lives that still need to be changed to reflect the image and likeness of the Father.

As a community, we look forward to the next year to continuing the work of enriching parishes by living Christ and sharing Christ and bringing in an even greater harvest that the Lord promises us. May God continue to always be the center of our lives as we look to transform the face of the Earth. In all that we do, may God always be praised!

COUNTRY SERVANT - JIMMY XAVIER

“Nothing great is ever achieved without enduring much.”

ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA





THE LIVE CHRIST SHARE CHRIST MISSION

We today are facing unprecedented dark times in the world and in our Church, with the rampaging culture of DEATH, growing apostasy among Catholics, 99 of the 100 sheep lost (according to Pope Francis), many lapsed and nominal Catholics, and even the enemy within the sheepfold. And so the Holy Spirit, through our Church, has called for a New Evangelization. The basic goal is to reach lapsed Catholics and bring them back securely to the fold. But how is this to be achieved? There is a need for a new wineskin that will contain the ever-creative new wine of the Holy Spirit. This is the Live Christ Share Christ (LCSC) mission. The intent of LCSC is to mainstream Catholic lay evangelization.

There are four basic aspects. First, evangelization. This is the proclamation of the good news of salvation in Jesus. Our Church is a missionary Church, commissioned by Jesus to make disciples of all nations. But while our Church is very busy with its many ministries and programs, this aspect is being neglected. We need to return to the core work of our Church.

Second, lay. The lay people have been called the sleeping giant. It has to be awakened and empowered. There is a need for more workers for the harvest. Lay people need to realize their dignity and call as Christians, to participate in the ministry of Jesus as priest, prophet and king.

Third, Catholic. We look to the revival and renewal of our Catholic Church, which is the one true Church established by Jesus himself. One-third of the world's population is Christian, and half of that is Catholic. But most are lapsed or

nominal. They need to be brought back to authentic Christian faith and to be renewed in the Spirit.

Fourth, mainstream. The major focus needs to be evangelization. All the other programs, activities and ministries are important, but the thread that should hold everything together is evangelization. This work should be a conscious and deliberate effort of all parishes.

What needs to happen to every Catholic? Catholics need to meet Christ, to live Christ and to share Christ. To meet Christ is to enter into a deep personal relationship with Jesus as Savior and Lord. It is to encounter Jesus as friend and companion. It is to put one's faith, hope and trust in Him. It is to center one's life on Jesus.

To live Christ is not just to be a good person, but this is a call to holiness and discipleship. We are called to be holy as God is holy, and to strive for Christian perfection. We are to be authentic disciples, which necessitates self-denial, embrace of the cross, and following Jesus. To share Christ is to participate in the work of evangelization, by our personal witness and by our going off on mission. We are witnesses to Christ. We are those who are sent. Most lay Catholics would do this in their day-to-day environments, in the home, in the workplace, with relatives, with friends, with co-workers, and in every other situation we find ourselves in.

All the above can be accomplished in and through LCSC.

SERVANT GENERAL - FRANK PADILLA



“Evangelization is the mission of the Church, not just for few, but my, your, our mission.”

POPE FRANCIS

THE CALL TO EVANGELIZATION

The recently conducted 'Ignite' Conference which was focused on bringing the message of the Gospel through the New Evangelization was an eye-opener for the community and our work in the salvation of souls. This is because there are many Catholics who are drifting away from the Church as was highlighted by Frank Padilla, our Servant General, in his opening remarks at the conference.

Indeed, the current evangelization work being done does not do justice to the number of people who are being drawn away from the faith. Evangelization is the need of the hour. There is a need for a vibrant and evangelization method that reflects the fervour of Pentecost. We must look to the apostles to truly understand the power and anointing of the Holy Spirit and his pivotal role in the process of evangelization. The Church has in many ways been distracted from the mission that Christ himself entrusted us within Mt 28:19. This was His final instruction to us to go make disciples of all nations.



We must realize that the burden of evangelization does not lie solely on the shoulders of the priests and religious. The laity is called to participate and engage as many

people in this new evangelization. We (the laity) need to help the lost find their way back to God and subsequently become true disciples Christians. We need to help the ones who have strayed away to meet, live,

and share Christ. Those of us who are already part of a community are learning to know Christ intimately and live in His ways, striving to be perfect just as the heavenly Father is perfect. However, we cannot stop there. It is equally important for us to share Christ, it will be selfish of us to not share Him and His gospel with everyone around us. We can share Christ through all the cutting-edge methods available to us in our times.

Live Christ, Share Christ (LCSC) is one such method formulated by the Missionary Families of Christ in response to this call. LCSC contains within it programs and modules that



reach out to different segments within parishes and other communities. Through it, we can engage and nurture our young Catholics to defend and live out the mission of Christ by the programs like **'Live Pure'** and **'Live Life'**. We can use the pillars available to us like **'Live Word'** and **'Live Full'**. Live Word is a Liturgical Bible Study (LBS) program where we can evangelize through the word of God.

'No one in Need' is an initiative that is undertaken to reach out to the poor as part of the 'Live Full' Program. While this initiative primarily caters to the physical needs of the poor, the program also targets their spiritual needs as well.

The community has responded to this call to Live and Share Christ through the various outreach programs



FOUR PILLARS

LIVE PURE: Live Pure is a movement for chastity for the youth. Young people are helped to strive for purity of mind, eyes, speech and body, as they live out the values of human dignity, relationships, waiting and love.

LIVE THE WORD: Live the Word is a program that promotes the Liturgical Bible Study method of appreciating and studying the scriptures. It is a practical method of doing Bible study in small groups, as well as in the family setting.

LIVE LIFE: Live Life is advocacy for faith, family and life. It staunchly opposes reproductive health forces that promote a culture of death.

LIVE FULL: Live Full is about building the Church of the Poor. This work looks to building parish-based communities through holistic development, providing shelter, health, education, livelihood and values.

that have been conducted. We have reached out to parishes in urban as well as rural areas, particularly far-flung areas in the East and North-East of India, to assist them in renewing the lives of the parishioners and building up their family life. Campus outreach programs have been another way of us reaching out. The young ones are at a very critical juncture of their lives and while the yearly retreats provide only a couple of days on an intense spiritual focus, it oftentimes becomes the catalyst for a life-long dedication to the Lord and an entry point for service in the parishes and covenanted communities.

The poor are always with us as the Lord reminds us in Matthew 26:11. We, as a community, respond to the hardships that the poor face, by making it a point to share our resources with them. This is particularly done through our No One in Need initiative, where we as a community make arrangements to provide in times of

need especially as we have been doing during the pandemic.

As reinforced by the speakers of the Ignite Conference, the fact remains that we are at the forefront of the work to re-evangelize the ones who have forgotten that God is our loving Father and Heaven our ultimate destination. We as a community anchor the work of Live Christ, Share Christ on the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit empowers us to complete the mission Christ left us with. We must burn with passion and zeal for the New Evangelization. New evangelization is not new in its content. We are still preaching the same Gospel that the early Christians did. The New Evangelization is new only in method. We must embrace all the tools and methods available to us, to bring back to the fold all who were lost.

Beverly Noronha, Porvorim, Goa



STRONGER

For the first time ever, the annual MFC Singles National Conference this year, was conducted online! With the theme "Built on Rock"(Mathew 7:25).

The first session was about how our lives must be built on a firm foundation, on Jesus the Rock. When we build our lives on our careers, our families and on many other things they crumble so easily. But when our lives are built on Jesus, no winds, rains and floods will overwhelm us, because we are built strong. As the scripture says about the house build on rock, how the important decisions we make in our life also need to be centered around Jesus and how we can best serve him.

By explaining the vision of MFC the next session was to believe, live, share and bear FRUIT in the vision. FRUIT here being an acronym for **Fidelity, Repentance, Unity, Integrity and Transformation**. As he elaborated on FRUIT, the first one of Fidelity means being committed to all community meetings and making time to attend them. Repentance means to overcome our areas of sin and grow in holiness. Unity means being fully united with God which gives us the grace to love, understand and encourage each other. Integrity involves us being men and women of our word, be people who seek and live by truth alone and reflect Christ. The last aspect of Transformation is constantly transforming our lives to do what is good and continue to draw closer to Jesus as we improve in different areas of our lives.



SESSION BY CRISTABELLE

The third session was how not to be like one who hears the word of God and does not act upon it (life built on SAND), but to be like one who hears the word of God and acts upon it (life built on ROCK). The acronyms of SAND and ROCK were elaborated to explain the

parable. S in SAND stood for selfishness, where we may be choosing a life that is pleasing only to us. We need to be more conscious of the needs of others, and above all, have a mind of service. A was for Anger, a strong emotion that can break our ties with God as well as with others and in brings with it disunity. N was for Negative Speech which involves gossip, criticism or use of foul language. D is for disobedience where we choose to select certain teachings of the teaching and ignore the

others, not obeying the instructions from leaders in the community, disobedience to the commandments and not working on our area of sin. We have to follow ROCK where R stood for **Remain in Him**, which means we stand with Jesus no matter what we are going through in life. O was for **Obedience**, we are called to obey completely not partially, and obey out of love. C is for **Carrying your cross**, to carry our cross without complaining with the conviction that Jesus is with you as you bear it. The last point of K is for **Kindling Kindness**, which means being patient and love those whom we find difficult to love. It is a decision that we take as a disciple of God.

The last talk of the Conference stressed on how the mission of Christ is urgent and we must heed this call without delay. The speaker shared how our Christian values have been diluted or even dissolved in our current society. And we need to be Holy Warriors who stand up for our faith. Citing the example of Joshua from the scripture, he explained our qualifications don't matter because God does not call the qualified but he qualifies the called. Based on this he shared 5 Fs of being a Holy Warrior. The first one is to be **Founded on Christ**, to be rooted in Christ and be sanctified in him through our prayer time, rosary, time in adoration and imitating saints. Secondly, we need to be **Faithful** which means being faithful to living a life in Christ and use our talents to glorify God. The third F is to be **Fully Committed**, to show commitment to the time we spend with God. The next F is to be **Fearless**, to do what God wants you to do knowing that He's in control. It means leaning on God's strength even when we don't feel equipped to do the task.

The sessions left all of us enriched with knowledge and empowered in Spirit to grow as a Holy Warrior in Christ and build our lives on Jesus the Rock.

Diana Vincent, South Bangalore



WORSHIP TEAM

TESTIMONIES

This year, I was part of my first ever singles conference, and I had my inhibitions since it was virtual. However, the experience through it all was very real. I could feel the presence of the Holy Spirit through the talks, praise and worship sessions, even during the activities. The talk on obedience is what resonated with me the most, and I learnt a lot more about our faith that has only strengthened and deepened my relationship with our creator.



Jessica Sequeira, Bangalore



When I first moved to the UK, living life as a Catholic Single was easy. I was still on fire for God, managed to attend mass almost daily and had my personal prayer in place amongst other things. But as time passed, that fire started to

die down. I wasn't growing in any way in my faith and walk with God and I longed for the community and accountability I had back home. Being invited to the conference this August was an answer to that prayer. All throughout the conference I couldn't help but ponder on how squarely it was designed just for me. The talks and sharing spoke directly to my heart. I was gently nudged to evaluate where I have been building my foundation and to make efforts to change it. Thank you MFC India for inviting us to this uplifting Online Singles Conference and Praise God for his Love and Faithfulness.

Kim Araujo, London

Being in the community helps me practice and live out my catholic life by holding each other up. But there have been times where I have failed. I think this conference was a major reminder and wake up call. It was a good reality check, to actually



understand if my Faith that I claim to have is built on rock or sand! The conference has helped me build my faith and realise that my focus has to be set right and not on other things that I worry about.

Cean Alphonso, Mumbai



In the midst of being quarantined, masked, and living a "not-so-normal" life, the Conference, even though virtual, was a nice change. The theme "Built on Rock" was on point – what I really needed. Quite a few times, I've done things my way, acted impulsively and ended up falling which would shake my

foundation. I was also probably just doing the 'bare minimum' to be a follower of Christ. One of the few things that I grasped from the sessions, was the suggestion of maintaining a 'Goodness Diary' which helps to reflect daily on God's faithfulness, thus giving us hope in times of struggle. The sessions were not only a reminder that I need to set solidly on Rock but also an assurance that Jesus is my Rock even amidst uncertainty and virus.

Joanne Santy, Gudgaon

Two points during the conference that made me reflect. Am I building every area of my life on Christ?

I realised I do tell people that Christ is my strong foundation, but looking at my life, I realised there were a few areas which had not been built on Christ. I was not



ready to let go of those areas and really give it to God. This realisation was important to me as I could begin working on them. I am still work in progress, but thank God for making me realise what I need to work on.

What is my mission in this community?

During the conference I was struggling a little when it comes to serving in the community. I would be serving but not with joy. I would be complaining and do things half heartedly. The session given by Prajwal really inspired me to see things differently. To serve with joy and not with irritation. This is something that really made a big difference to me at that very moment.

Chris Crasta, Mangalore

LOVE BEYOND WORDS

MFC conducted this web-series during the lockdown. Couples from across the world and even from beyond the MFC community tuned into it. Here's what they have to say about the impact of the message of the series in the lives.

We absolutely loved the 'Love beyond words' series. Every topic was so thoughtfully curated and each sharing was so deep and personal. Some of the talks also seemed so providential as we would have been pondering the exact issue at the time. For example, the session on tithing and on relationship with in-laws were premiered precisely at the time we both needed it. Thank you MFC!



Silpa and Rohith R Nidhiry, Bangalore



The series was wonderful. Going through each session along with the couples made us introspect a lot into our own lives. The talks about Love Languages, the idea about 'One on One's' all reminded us how we need to slow down and savour each moment. Caring for a new born had us dedicate all our time to

her rather than to each other. We now try to make it a point to be more communicative and expressive towards each other. Raising a little girl has always made me a little anxious about the future but listening to the session about raising kids has made us a little bit more confident about this journey ourselves. There is so much to learn and so much still ahead but this was definitely a starting point. Looking forward for more such sessions. Thank you MFC for this beautiful gem of a series.

Reena and Alfred, London

'Love Beyond Words' was the best thing that happened during the initial days of the lockdown. While we watched all 7 episodes and while there were many takeaways from each episode, the one that touched us the most was "Digging for Diamonds". Having heart-to-



heart was a challenge for us, it often ended up in an argument, so we never looked forward to it. After watching this episode, Elsa and I realised what was wrong, it wasn't about bringing up each other's faults or about how to get things done, but a time where words of encouragement and motivation are exchanged. We now look forward to our heart-to-heart and can proudly say that at the end of it we are happy and contented and know how to grow in love and serve each other.

Jose and Elsa, Chennai



It has been a very inspiring series. It was nice to hear the life experiences of couples especially young couples, who are close to God. I am inspired by the simple guidelines on

bringing up children. The examples shared, made me think about my childhood and how my parents did a good job in my upbringing. It also makes me realise what I should take care of in my family with my children. Another topic that I had never learnt elsewhere was about tithing. It is so important to give God what we get from Him. I am going to strive to use these teachings in my daily life. I hope to learn more and more from you MFC couples. Thank you .

Barbara, Bangalore

Love Beyond Words, as the name rightly describes, is the most informative and applicable series of sharing/teachings for couples I have come across. The learnings that I have had are many! From a simple aspect that our love languages may be different, to actual application of finances in a household, the series of talks changed perspective in a lot of areas, one of them I would like to share here. One of the aspects that really stood out for me is Digging for Diamonds - the effort to know/spend



time with your spouse when life is working as a well oiled machine. While this was something that we used to do a lot earlier, once our child came along, all my attention went to the little one and anything that my husband wanted was secondary. Affirming him about the person he has been and the support he has been in the family was close to nothing as after a tired and exhausted day with the little one, I would only think of things in which he could have been more of a support to me. My words reflected the exact sentiment. After I listened to what was shared, and the teaching on love languages in the earlier episode (my husband's love language is words of affirmation) I was so sorry to have been judgmental and opinionated. It has been an eye-opener in making our relationship a more fruitful and meaningful one. We now know, even if it means "effort" and losing a little sleep to spend this time speaking and cherishing each other, it is definitely worth it!

Petula Dias, Mangalore

We were very glad to have come across the series. We could relate to the talks, and it made us to revisit some of the experiences we had in our life. And we understood it was God's love that kept us going in all good and hard times. It made us realize that He loves us beyond measures, with all our imperfections. So, we should be able to do the same in our lives, for the people around us. Thank you MFC couples for bringing such an inspiring and insightful series together. This certainly is a mission to bring families together with strong faith in Christ.

Jenny Joseph & Joseph Aexander, Chicago



We have been married for 6 years, and enjoyed the "honeymoon phase" of marriage initially, but later as we got busy with work and family commitments, we didn't spend much time with each other. Gone were those special date nights, the extra time we took for

each other. We listened to the 'Digging for Diamonds' talk and could relate to it completely, we realized we have indeed found the diamond for our relationship - importance of quality time. We began having heart-to-heart conversations even over just ice cream or a biryani, where we just took time off and actually connect with each other like the old times. We realized that sharing our simple joys and struggles at work really helps relieve stress and that there's no better friend than your spouse!

Be it the Five love languages, or raising up kids, or managing finances, 'Love Beyond Words' is definitely a must watch series for all families - a wholesome family package!

Edwin Irudayaraj and Angela, Chennai

We have been married for 3 years and before our marriage, we did attend the Marriage preparation course and Engaged encounter. In our married life, we have tried our best to put in practice what we had learned in those courses.



However, when we heard about "Love Beyond Words" we were very eager and excited and really looking forward to it. The teachings were being given by couples from the community who we really looked up to and from whom we felt we could learn a lot. Every Saturday, we would tune in to the YouTube channel- even if we missed it on Saturday night, we made sure to watch it on Sunday morning. After each session, we would spend some time in discussing what we had learned and tried our best to put it in practice in our family life. The teachings on Digging for Diamonds, Beautiful Sunsets and Managing your Piggy Bank were really special for us and we learned a lot from them. Thanks to the sessions, we reinforced what we had learned previously and were also reminded of some areas that we had neglected. They acted as a revision to what we already knew and challenged us to revisit and put in place all that we had forgotten.

Really thankful to the community for this initiative and for all the couples who spent time preparing and delivering these sessions!

Aaron and Sunanda, Madgaon

TRAINING & EVANGELIZATION



Catechism of the Catholic Church Sessions

Around 40 singles attended the sessions conducted by the community every week for over two months, June to August 2020.



Kids Camp

140 kids from various districts attended the virtual camp conducted from the 27th of July to 1st of August 2020.



Emotional Well Being

The session was conducted by a professional counsellor Ms. Athena Aranha for different areas across India. 90 participants from Goa attended on the 6th of September; 60 participants from Karnataka attended on the 13th of September; 35 participants from Maharashtra attended on the 29th of September.



National Intercession Conference

Around 360 people from the community attended the conference conducted virtually from the 18th to 20th of September.



Light

616 participants from all over the world attended the Christian Life Seminar every Sunday conducted from September 20th onwards.



Be Rooted- Middle East

40 people attended the Middle East CLS every Friday conducted from 25th of September onwards.

CONTACT US

JIMMY XAVIER

Country Servant, India

Southern India Mission Coordinator

Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu,

Telagana, Puducherry

+91 98459 66222

A.V. JOSE

Indian Diaspora and Indian Subcontinent Coordinator

Eastern India Mission Coordinator

West Bengal (Kolkata), Jharkand, Odisha, Chattisgarh, and Andaman & Nicobar

+91 97718 42971

ELVIS COUTINHO

North and Central India Mission Coordinator

Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab, Delhi, Haryana,

Himachal Pradesh, Chandigarh, Uttar Pradesh,

Madhya Pradesh,

Uttarakhand & Bihar

+91 99226 22904

FRANCIS MENEZES

Western India Mission Coordinator

Maharashtra, Goa, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Dadra and

Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu

+91 9923403514

PRAJWAL PINTO

North East Mission Coordinator

All India Campus Ministry Coordinator

Darjeeling, Meghalaya, Tripura, Mizoram,

Manipur, Sikkim, Nagaland, Kolkata, Assam,

& Arunachal Pradesh

+91 98450 99319

TRAINING & EVANGELIZATION

CONSECRATION TO OUR LADY OF VICTORY



O Blessed Virgin Mary, you with your Son Jesus crushed the head of the serpent.

In the spiritual war that continues to rage in the heavens and on earth, you have already won the victory.

Your holy warriors stand before you, dear Mother Mary.

We consecrate ourselves to the cause of your Son Jesus, the Redeemer of the world, and to you as his Co-Redemptrix. We dedicate ourselves to the task of winning souls for the Kingdom. We commit to do battle against all evil forces.

Cover us with your mantle of protection as you send us forth under your banner. Amen.

Mary, Star of the New Evangelization, pray for us.



Experience My Love

30 people attended the National Christian Life Seminar every Sunday from 6th of October onwards.



Theme Weekend

150 people from Chennai, Bangalore and Hyderabad attended the program conducted on the 10th and 11th of October.



Great Minds

A session was conducted on the 24th of October specially curated for parents of MFC Youth to help them nurture their child's mental health and cope with the affects of the pandemic. 40 parents attended the same.



He is Among Us

A virtual intake camp was conducted for the youth in Mangalore on the 24th, 25th, 30th and 31st of October attended by 68 participants.



Ignite-New Evangelization Conference

Around 450 people attended the program conducted from the 30th to 31st of October and 1st of November.



Men of Valor

22 Singles from MFC Bangalore attended the program conducted from the 14th of November to the 16th of November.

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<http://www.youtube.com/c/MFCIndia>
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*We wish you a Merry Christmas
and a Blessed New Year 2021!*