



LOVE LIKE NO OTHER

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A NEW YEAR TO RENEW HEARTS



Lenten greetings to you in the precious Name of Jesus!

We have entered this blessed season of deeper dialogue and transformation with God through prayer, fasting, and penance. It is an invitation to “watch and pray” with Jesus as well as an opportunity to join the whole Catholic Church in her desire to return back to God.

As the pandemic and imposed lockdowns pass the one-year mark, we are certainly reminded of the unprecedented way in which we were advised to meaningfully participate in this season. It was a season where though we were unable to participate in the Sacraments, we were challenged to reach out to each other in our families. It is here that we began observing the needs of each other as we offered ourselves in service. The Lord opened up an abundance of opportunities where we were able to reach out using technology. Technology made the Gospel become more accessible than ever before and the fruit of this has been people coming to know and love Christ in very tangible way.

It seemed to be a paradoxical situation; where on one side people were attempting to preserve life at all costs and on the other, the basic dignity of the human person was and still is under grave threat. While on one side we were going all out to ensure we saved as many as we possibly could; we also saw people struggling to maintain healthy relationships with others and maintain the God given quality of our lives that we are to preserve. We saw people from all walks of life struggle to remain pure as they were expected to be in front of a screen that provided unfettered access to illicit material. The threat, we must acknowledge has been making inroads for a long time now, but has received an even greater thrust with the conditions people were placed under.

This is the situation of our world today, plaguing the larger society that has become more and more tolerant of liberal ideas. The media has gravely

distorted beliefs on sex, relationships, and purity. Thus, creating a consciousness that is, in many ways, void of true Christian value. The media has portrayed pre-marital sex as liberating, fulfilling, and downright pleasurable. Unknowingly, this mindset debases the true value of sex and promotes a sexually promiscuous lifestyle.

With all these things happening around us, we cannot just sit around and choose to be passive or silent. We cannot lose souls especially the young, to the false promises of the world. It is our mission to challenge this twisted mindset no matter how daunting the current realities are. We have to make known to everyone God's view and His true purpose for love and sexuality. Our work needs to increase as our passion and love for God grows.

The church in its very nature is missionary. This means every baptized Catholic has the responsibility to bring souls to Christ right where they are. Our mission is ongoing, the one where we never rest. One of the most valuable programs we offer is Live Pure (as part of the Live Christ Share Christ initiative). In essence, it is the gift of the Missionary Families of Christ to the Church.

There is nothing more exciting than seeing young people find and follow Jesus for themselves, and to help them understand the call God has upon their lives – to live pure and holy lives, as a counter culture to the world. We need to consider how many opportunities do we truly give for young people to hear and respond to the Gospel themselves. This is precisely the very commission of Jesus to his disciples. They are to go forth to the ends of the earth and to “declare among the nations: The Lord is king.” (Ps 96:10a).

We believe God is blessing us with an abundant harvest in 2021 and we truly believe that with the support of the clergy and parishes we will be able to continue the good work that God has set out to accomplish through the Missionary Families of Christ.

May this season bring us to a deeper appreciation for His mercy especially for people whose lives are being destroyed, because they have not experienced the joy of the Gospel as it pertains to our life and sexuality.

COUNTRY SERVANT - JIMMY XAVIER



LEADING YOUNG PEOPLE IN FINDING TRUE LOVE

The world is in need of love, true love. The world has been giving us confusing ideas and understanding of love and the unsuspecting victims of this are young people. The passion and idealistic energy of the young are put to waste as they get to embrace a morality that is very much relative. The search for meaning and authentic experience of love often leads young people to disillusion and depression. When one cannot find what he is looking for it leads to settling with whatever the culture presents as the contemporary norm. However, this reality cannot overturn the innate longing of a human person for true love. This is where the mission of the Live Pure Movement plays an integral part in leading young people back to Christ and his plans for our desires.

Live Pure seeks to lead the young to a basic understanding of human sexuality through a discussion of God's design for man and woman that leads to an appreciation for the real meaning and value of the gift of sex. Identity and an understanding of our design in God is one of the main focus of the movement for it directs how we are to live our lives with purpose. Through an understanding of who we are and the gift of sex, the young will be enabled to make a better choice that leads them to true love.

The Live Pure Movement fights for chastity. This is the movement's battle cry, for we believe that in our fight for chastity, we will be led to true love. The world preaches a hedonistic approach with our desires, but in the movement, we remind and empower the

young to choose self-mastery. What is self-mastery? It is acknowledging one's desire but choosing to continuously govern it. We constantly remind our audience that if we don't control our desires, our desires will control us. We preach that chastity is a choice we make everyday that we may be free from fleeting pleasures and to redirect us to a more fulfilling way of living our lives. At first, chastity may seem to be unappealing and restrictive but with a deeper understanding of God's plan, young people make a choice for what is best for them. The approach of the movement emphasizes on the beauty of God's design, why they need to choose chastity and the steps of choosing it comes as the final input we give them.

Chastity leads the young to true love. When chastity is a challenge to love truly, this is where it appeals the most to the young. When chastity is focused on the dignity and the preservation of the other's worth, it becomes a challenge that one desires to take. This challenge brings out the innate goodness we all have and idealistic energy of the young gets to be in its most purposeful occupation.

The Live Pure Movement is a gift that all young deserve to have, no matter how the world becomes relative, the movement will always lead everyone to the love we all desire to find.

SERVANT GENERAL - FRANK PADILLA



The virtue of chastity is 'very difficult' but it is a genuine and life-giving love 'that does not try to use the other person for one's own pleasure.

POPE FRANCIS

LIVE PURE MOVEMENT

Today's society, particularly the youth, are heavily influenced by liberal ideas. The Catholic understanding of love, sex, relationships, and purity have been gravely misshapen by the media, creating a consciousness that is, in one way or another, void of true Christian value. With the surge of Western ideas creeping into our youth pop culture (by way of the digital era), it suddenly became widely accepted among young people to rush into all sorts of intimacy with the opposite sex. The media has portrayed pornography, self-abuse and premarital sex as liberating, fulfilling and without negative consequences. This debases the true value of sex and promotes a sexually promiscuous lifestyle. It also leads to a misunderstanding of how youth should get along with the opposite sex.

These values are being corrupted in almost every institution (family, school, friends etc.) that we are a part of. The grounds of morality are becoming loose every single day. The idea that pornography, contraception, abortion and premarital sex are acceptable causes great confusion among the youth one way or another.

We, as a Catholic movement with two sections that cater to young people realize that being passive about this will not help lives that are confused and battered with the wrong message. It is a daunting task to challenge this twisted landscape no matter how menacing the current realities are. There is a need to bring forth to everyone God's view and intended purposes for love and sexuality.

It is a call to live pure. We realize that this is a calling that goes beyond membership to a community for it is intrinsic to Catholics across the country to be sons and daughters of God. That living a pure lifestyle is our way to holiness. The response of the MFC Community to this mission is found in the LIVE PURE MOVEMENT.



The mission statement of the movements states: "We are pro-life advocates striving for purity of mind, eyes, speech and body. We commit to share our conviction by giving young people opportunities to realize and live out the value of human dignity and fraternal relationships" and the following are the objectives of the movement:

- To promote a Live Pure lifestyle among the youth today.
- To bring the cause of Live Pure to Parishes, High Schools, Colleges and Universities through Live Pure formation sessions, workshops and events.
- To start a world-wide movement enjoining young men and women standing and living up for the cause of chastity and purity.

The programs within Live Pure are offered to parishes by the MFC community, working with the existing youth structures to implement them. These programs include

The Chastity Forum



The Chastity forum is the first stage of the Live Pure series. It discusses human sexuality first since that is crucial to cover before delving into the issues of today's youth. As one understands his/her uniqueness as a man/woman, he/she would gain deeper knowledge and wisdom on how our sexuality works perfectly with God's plan.

This forum equips participants with the right information about teen sexuality that focuses on being pure and chaste before God's eyes. This is the aim of the said forum – to promote saved sex rather than safe sex.

As statistics indicate, we are now living in a sex-crazed environment. Therefore, it is necessary that all young

people, in the form of teaching and formation, be educated on the real deal of human sexuality. It is important to promote the direction of chastity and purity, while training young minds altogether on pertinent sex issues of today.

Men's and Women's Forum



An important goal is to build among young people everywhere genuine brotherhood and sisterhood. As iron sharpens iron, brother to brother and sister to sister is

how youth build up their true selves attuned to the men and women that God wants us to become. The aim is to foster a system of deep friendships anchored on loyalty, accountability, and mutual respect. To achieve this, we have the "Real Men, Guard Your Heart" and "Redefining Beautiful" sessions. These aim at guiding the youth how to be men and women after God's own heart. It is in the theme of brotherhood and sisterhood that the call to get on the road to righteousness/holiness is instilled over and over again.

Love Forum

In this session, young men and women are informed of misconceptions about love as translated by the world and media today, and how genuine love should be based on Scripture. Also provided in this session are the practical tips young people can live by waiting for true love and as they decide to "become the one" rather than to "find the one."



Live Pure Retreat

This retreat is designed for youth and young adults focusing on the message of true love, chastity and purity, with the heart of its message stemming from our longings fulfilled in Christ in the Eucharist. To relay the message that chastity is about saying "YES" to the greater good, the pearl of great price, the TRUE Banquet! It is accepting a life of FREEDOM, a life of ABUNDANCE, a

life that is full. It is choosing Christ. And doing so, we are saying no to the counterfeits, no to the lies, no to empty promises that this world has to offer.



Each of these programs inculcates in the participants specific attitudes and leads them to make decisions in their life that is consistent with

the Church's teaching on pro-life, purity and chastity. Participants are encouraged to live out the Live Pure Covenant that states that as we are created in the image and likeness of God, we must live out greatness and holiness by striving to imitate Christ and his purity. The Covenant of Live Pure reads as follows:

I am created in God's image and likeness; hence, I will live out His greatness and holiness by striving to imitate Christ and his purity. I commit to practice the virtue of chastity and observe self-control over my passions and desires.

I WILL FREE MY MIND. I will keep my mind clean from impure and lustful thoughts. I will keep my eyes away from pornography, as it degrades me.

I WILL SPEAK WITH GRACE. My speech will be gracious at all times. I will not tell or laugh at green jokes, nor share and listen to stories which evoke sexual thoughts and behavior.

I WILL BE CHASTE. I will treat my body for what it truly is – the temple of the Holy Spirit. I will not engage in masturbation, fornication or homosexual acts.

I WILL LOVE TRULY. I will become a man/ woman after God's own heart, that I may learn to love purely. I will make a gift of myself in whichever vocation God will call me to. I will keep my relationships pure.

I am called to lead a chaste life -- whoever I am, whatever I do, whatever they say and wherever I may be.

We look forward to working with Parishes across the country to initiate the Live Pure Movement and build men and women for the future, hearts firmly focused on Christ, and filled with a love that is pure and holy.

LIVE PURE RETREAT- NEW DELHI

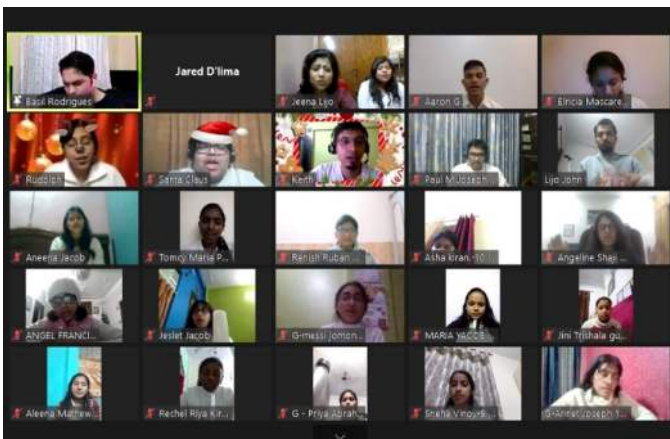
The MFC Singles - Gurgaon were invited to conduct the Live Pure Program as the 11th Annual Retreat of St.



Francis de Sales High School, Janakpuri, New Delhi from December 28-30, 2020 for the purpose of reconnecting the students of classes 9-12 with the essential truths of who we are as sons and daughters of God and what is God's plan for our sexuality in comparison to what the world influences us to believe.

Today's youth live in a world where the true value of sex and sexuality have been debased and distorted by media. Hence, many young people are lost, confused or misinformed when it comes to answering life's deepest questions. In order to become the men and women God designed us to be, it is important for every young person to discover their original design and their call to live a pure and chaste life.

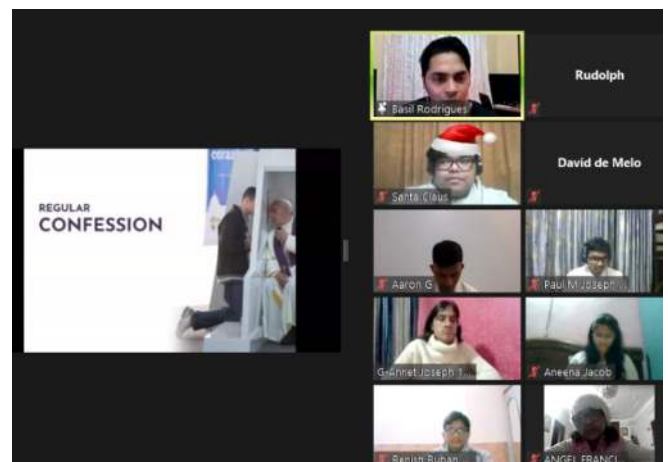
This is quite the challenge, along with the given the COVID restrictions, these topics were discussed on an online platform, as opposed to in person where deeper connections can be made with the youth. It was precisely why we were greatly impressed by over 130 students who voluntarily registered for this program even though they have the pressure of online classes, board exam preparations and online tuitions to fit into their tight schedule. You can easily see the great hunger for this subject among the youth, even if their attitude may just be sceptical towards the Godly perspective, their presence and attention is all you need for the Holy



Spirit to start work.

The program was designed around the Christmas theme with Santa Claus and Rudolf as the master of chancellors. Santa played by Rahul Gosh and Rudolf played by Anahita Ray, eased the flow of the day's events with fun games and activities that kept the gathering in knots with their witty banters. This was followed by a soulful time of praise and worship led by Clive Mario D'souza on the first day, then Basil Cardoza on the second, and David De Melo on the last day. This set the mood for prayer and contemplation where each of them prayed for the opening of hearts and minds for the grace of God to guide all through this program and onward.

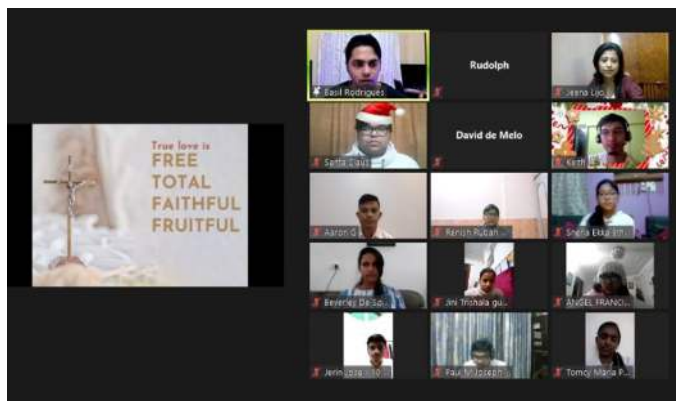
The first talk was a short introduction on Chastity. A word that is often associated with superficial ideas like wearing decent clothes and having acceptable behavioural conduct in social circles, but actually has so much more to offer us in our strive for holiness and in building strong sense of self-worth, as we look at ourselves through the eyes of God. Aaron Gomes from Goa discussed some interesting points that aided the participants to understand and appreciate God's original plan and design for human sexuality. The objective of his talk was to inspire and convict the young people to choose to live a life of chastity and purity. Drawing from his own experiences, Aaron was able to bring out the concept with clarity, giving hope to the young people, that through chastity, we can experience true freedom, total happiness and true love.



The second day we had separate talks in the men's and women's forum each conducted by Jared D'lima and

Elricia Mascarenhas respectively. It's important for the youth to understand the equally significant roles that both genders play in the society. The men are the ones who lead the family which is the most basic unit of the society. It is very important that every man lead a life worth emulating because they become role models and guide for the future generations. The women need to recognise that they are the crown of creation not an after-thought of God once he created Adam. Many times, women feel rejected and forgotten in society, because of which they also easily forget their true value in the eyes of God. Instead they adopt the beliefs and definitions of womanhood by the world rather than of God.

The world will lead us astray but God will reveal to us the truth of who we are, that we are His beloved sons and daughters. In these forums, Basil Cardoza, Anahita Ray and Joanne Santy shared their testimonies of brokenness and renewal, and how they continue to trust and obey God in times of temptations.



For the last session of the program, we invited Basil Rodrigues from Goa to give the talk on 'Love and Dating'. Any talk about love and the dating life is one that gets us all on the edge of our seats. Love indeed is a beautiful thing, but most of the time this may also cause hurt when we approach dating relationships at the wrong time and for the wrong purposes. It's important for the youth to understand the true purpose of dating i.e. to

find a spouse, and that we should not fall under the worldly pressures of entering a dating relationship when we are not ready for marriage. Beverly De Souza shared how she never settled in her standards and boundaries of purity while dating, which is how she eventually found and married a man who loves, honours and respects her as his bride.

All these experiences of repair, hope and restoration was opening the minds of the young people. Over the course of the retreat we encouraged them to send in any questions they may want us to discuss further via a Google Form. These questions were addressed in an Open Forum on the third day where all the speakers of the last four talks we invited to have a discussion on the topics addressed.

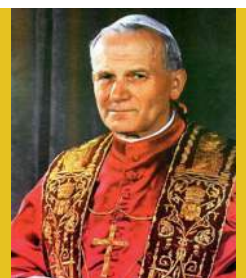
These conversations instilled great hope in the young students. We received many emails and messages from students, teachers and parents who expressed their desire to have more programs such as LIVE PURE in the near future and to build a stronger community for the students as they journey through life and learn to live a holy and chaste life.

It was a joyful experience to spend time with these highly energised youth, to share our lives with them and discuss critical questions that preoccupy their impressionable minds such as gender inequalities, homosexuality and acceptance at the Open Forum session. One true take away from this experience is that God loves us and he has a plan for us, and part of this beautiful plan is for us to have the best love life we can ever have, if we only surrender the pen of our love story to God, rest assured we have a future worth waiting for. We look forward to having more frequent meetings with the students of St. Francis De Sales High School, Janakpuri, New Delhi, so that they may grow in a deeper and more meaningful relationship with God.

**Anahita Celina Ray
Singles, Gurgaon**

"Chastity is a difficult, long term matter; one must wait patiently for it to bear fruit, for the happiness of loving kindness which it must bring. But at the same time, chastity is the sure way to happiness."

Pope John Paul II



GOD MY ROCK

Faced with difficulties and situations never seen before in his lifetime, which included heartbreak, the death of family due to Covid-19 and contracting the virus himself, Brendon Mascarenhas from the Singles Section shares how he was led to the rock that is our loving Father.

For as long as I can remember, I, like most people, built my life upon my career and relationships. And during my early twenties, the status quo for a great career was earning an MBA; so I followed the band wagon and focused on getting into a top B- school too. For months I studied extremely hard and kept scoring a 99 percentile in my CAT mocks, but when the exam came, my nerves got the best of me and I floundered big time. Just like that my dreams of getting into a top tier MBA program came crashing down, and that's when I turned all my attention to the other most important thing to me - my relationship with my then girlfriend. She meant the world to me, she wasn't just in my life to compensate for my lost professional dreams, but she was my dream. However, during year 6 of our relationship, she broke up with me, and that's when I hit rock bottom. During that time of utter loneliness and poor decision making, I told myself that I could only count on my family for love, for only their love would never cease. So I turned to my most loving family member - my dad. He was the kindest person I knew, with a 25 year track record of 100% unflinching love, so I built my life upon him. He was my rock.

In March 2020, the world went into lockdown. The first six months of the 2020 pandemic were a cakewalk for me. I had just gotten over my ex, my job was stable, my only brother got married, and I managed to crack a coveted finance exam. Unlike the rest of the world, I couldn't have been more grateful to God for all of my blessing. Until September, when my prayer of thanksgiving quickly turned into a desperate cry for help.

After I learned that my father and godfather contracted Covid, I took a flight back home to Goa. At first, it seemed like a regular trip- I met my folks, grabbed a fish thali, made plans to meet my friends, and all this while I just assumed that my dad and uncle would recover. And why wouldn't they? The virus was only detrimental to the old, the diseased and the frail, and papa and Uncle Oscar were far healthier than most men their age. They were going to beat this flu, so I thought. I lost my uncle on 28th

September, it was awfully quick and horrendously unimaginable. As I sat beside my dad comforting him through one failed treatment after the other, Sheldon told me that Uncle Oscar didn't make it. As I attended his funeral and watched his body forever descend to the ground, I began to weep. I realized then that the virus didn't just give the flu, but it took the lives of deeply beloved people. Through all the tears, as I grieved with uncle's wife and daughter, the dominant thought that resonated in my mind was that I couldn't let my dad meet the same fate. I just couldn't.

Back in the hospital, my dad's condition kept deteriorating, no treatment seemed to work, and the doctors couldn't give us any answers because they didn't have any themselves. As I sat beside my dad, praying for a miracle while never losing hope, I saw his oxygen levels drastically drop. The doctors told me that if it doesn't improve, he may have to be put on the ventilator. This was the most helpless moment of my life. Despite great efforts, nothing changed and the doctors surrounded the bed to begin incubating him. I asked them for more time and really pushed my dad to try to breathe. Finally, I told him, "Orlando Mascarenhas, I love you". He replied, but since he had the mask on, all I heard was "too". He meant to say "I love you too". He knew just how much I needed that reply, so he did what was right by his child even during his last breath. He never stopped being a great dad. I ran out of the ward sobbing and pinching my hand, hoping that this was just a nightmare from which I would wake up. When I came back, he was listless. Two days later he passed away.

Believe it or not, 2020 didn't stop kicking me there. I, along with the rest of my family also contracted the virus. Messages of shock and condolence poured in from friends, family, and members of my Catholic Charismatic Community- Missionary Families of Christ (MFC). When they checked in on me, I didn't know what to say. I couldn't process anything, primarily because the only person that could get me through such a loss, was unfortunately the person whom I lost. While

...and the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat upon that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock.

Matthew 7:25

growing up, every time I misbehaved- recklessly splurged money, lost expensive devices, had one drink too many and acted like a complete idiot, my dad never reacted with anger. Rather, he would sort everything out as ask me, "What did you learn from this?" From the nightmare that I've been living since mid-September, I've learned that God loves a good story. A couple of weeks before losing my dad, I went to church and sensed that something grave was to happen to him. Hence, I urged him to go for confession, and praise Jesus, he did. Since the moment my dad died, the only thing that comforted me was knowing that his soul after confession was pure and that he was in heaven.

Unfortunately, this comfort was short lived. The same severity with which the virus attacked my father and godfather, it attacked my brother and me. What hurt the most was that as I laid in my hospital bed, gasping for breath, unable to sleep because my temperature see-sawed from hot to cold, was knowing that I was too physically weak to take care of my family. But, my story didn't end there, God wouldn't allow it. He never gives us a cross that we can't carry, he always sends us His helpers. Prajwal and Preetam from MFC left their families back in Bangalore, risking their health to take care of me and my family. One of the biggest pains at that time was losing my role model, but God, through these men, reminded me that though nobody could love me as much as my dad, there were many others that loved me a whole lot. And therein my healing process began- by being grateful for what I had, rather than what I lost.

I was grateful for all the people that were praying for me. Everyday a Zoom link would go out to intercede for my condition, and those prayers eventually restored my health. Though that Zoom link was originally created to pray for the petitions of my family, today, that same link circulates every week to intercede for other petitions from within MFC and beyond. This just shows how God can create good from any situation, even the darkest. I'm also grateful for my mum and the faith that she instilled in me- the faith that encouraged me to

listen to the Holy Spirit and to urge my dad to make a confession. Most of all, I'm grateful for my dad's legacy, a legacy that I wish to continue. You see, legacies aren't about how much a person was loved, it's about how much that person loved. I doubt that I'll meet anyone who will ever love me as much as my dad did, but there's hope that I'll one day love someone as much as he did. But that isn't my greatest hope, my greatest hope lies in the lesson that I learned during the early days of the pandemic. Amidst that time of silence, when I was away from my friends, family and colleagues, I felt a deep call to grow my relationship with God, to build my life upon the strong foundation of His love. Looking back, this foundation prepared me for the great personal loss which was soon to come.

As much as my dad loved me, his love could never compare to the love that God the Father has for me. It's this love that gifts me the best of times, and rescues me from the worst of times. It's clear to me now, never again will I build my life upon my career goals or even my loved ones. Rather, I'll build my life upon Christ- my love, my saviour, my rock!



TRAINING & EVANGELIZATION



Engaged Couples Program

Five engaged couples attended the online program conducted from the 2nd to 4th of October 2020.



Blessed and Beautiful

20 single women from Bangalore attended the program conducted from 14th to 16th of November.



Chosen

MFC Bangalore conducted a retreat for minor Seminarians of the Bangalore Archdiocese on the 29th of November 2020.



Family Day

Our first ever virtual Family day was attended by community members and their families from all over the world on the 13th of December. It was a great time of fellowship with members from different cities and countries.



Live Christ Share Christ

100 participants, couples, youth and families were evangelized in Tamil at Our Lady of Vailankanni church, of Randham Parish on the 12th and 13th of December 2020.



No One In Need Ministry

MFC Chennai held a campaign to provide kindness kits to support families in need in December. A total of 1297 kits were distributed with 162 sponsors supporting the cause.

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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.

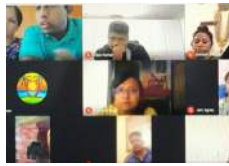
Your holy warriors stand before you, dear Mother Mary.

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.



Marriage Preparation Class

A session on "Christian Marriage" was given for the couples of Archdiocese of Bangalore on the 20th of December, 2020, and the "Role of Christian Husband and Wife" for the Archdiocese of Madras-Mylapore on the 17th January 2021.



Live Christ Share Christ

60 participants, couples, youth and families were evangelized in Tamil at Our Lady of Vailankanni church, of Randham Parish on the 6th of February 2021.



Christian Life Seminar

8 Couples, 15 Youth and Singles attended the CLS at Randham Substation Ladapady Parish Our Lady of Vailankanni church on the 7th of February 2021.



You are Mine

A Virtual Intake camp for MFC Youth Chennai was conducted for 30 participants on the 6th and 7th, 13th and 14th of February 2021.



Christian Life Seminar

Around 35 people, couples, singles and handmaids attended the program held on the 17th of February 2021 in Calungute, Goa.



No One In Need Ministry

Members in Bangalore worked along with Prison Ministry of India on the 20th of February to interact with prisoners due for release and shared God's word with them.

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www.facebook.com/mfckidsindia

www.instagram.com/mfcsinglesindia
www.instagram.com/mfcyouthindia

<http://www.youtube.com/c/MFCIndia>
www.cfi.org.in



We wish you a Blessed Lent 2021