



LIFE IN ABUNDANCE

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THEME OF THE YEAR

Our theme this year is taken from Acts 13:47, "Light to the World". Over the last two years, we have come to realize that darkness seems to have gotten darker and while we have our usual ways of coping, perhaps in these times around there seems no one left untouched with its short-lived fulfilment. Looking at the bigger picture, we understand these are not just stray incidents of struggle but a larger plan the enemy of our souls is orchestrating, therefore our efforts alone only can go so far.

Spending time alone or at home with family probably brought other things to light - that working, serving, sharing and getting along wasn't as easy as we first anticipated. Our lives, the lives of those around us, are in desperate need of our Lord - the true light of the world. Our hearts have to be immersed in the Light of Christ - our thoughts, words and actions if we are really going to spread His light and allow the Holy Spirit to move and work in the most difficult and impossible situations.

As a missionary community, God has commanded us to bring healing to lives and situations as ambassadors of Christ - children who walk in the light. As we practice and grow in being able to walk in the light, we bring this light to those whom we help, serve and work with. Even though we are in a thick of the darkness, our lives are not very different from those we see in the Gospels, where the Lord transforms the broken, helpless who encountered Him. Being transformed, they went about sharing the light and bringing transformation into the lives of those they encountered.

As we reflect on this theme throughout the year, let us with confidence move forward, partnering

with parishes and the clergy, making the missionary call of the church more and more ours, thus allowing the light to shine to the ends of the earth.

For so the Lord has commanded us, saying, 'I have set you to be a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the uttermost parts of the earth.'

Acts 13:47



COUNTRY SERVANT - JIMMY XAVIER



THE NEED FOR LOVE TO THE POOR

When Jesus was in the synagogue in Nazareth, he read from the book of the prophet Isaiah: “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor” (Lk 4:18a). And in his public ministry, he reached out to the poor, those who were ill and those who were on the margins of society.

Later, he preached about the judgment of the nations at the end of time (Mt 25:31ff), when the Son of Man will come in glory and separate everyone one from another, the sheep from the goats. The one criterion would be what they did or did not do to the least of his brethren—the hungry, the thirsty, the stranger, the naked, the ill and those in prison. Jesus identified them as the least of his brothers. Those who helped them went off to eternal life, while those who did not went off to eternal punishment.

Thus, from the very start, the Church has had a preferential option for the poor. Helping and loving the poor is something that all Christians need to do. What does this loving help entail? People would normally think of material or physical help, and that certainly would be a big part of it. But it is not just about addressing material needs but also spiritual needs.

In fact, it is interesting that when John the Baptist sent his disciples to Jesus to ask if he was the Messiah, Jesus answered in this way: “Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are

raised, and the poor ...” (Mt 11:4-5a). The poor become rich? The poor are richly provided for? No! “... and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them.” (Mt 11:5b). Thus, there is a need for both material and spiritual help.

Further, Jesus preached about the Beatitudes, and we notice the differences between the two versions of the sermon on the plain and the sermon on the mount: “Blessed are you who are poor” (Lk 6:20) versus “Blessed are the poor in spirit” (Mt 5:3a). “Blessed are you who are now hungry” (Lk 6:21a) versus “Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness” (Mt 5:6a). The Beatitudes are about both the material and spiritual aspects of being blessed by God.

Indeed, what good would it be if one gains the whole world but loses his soul? What gain would there be if the poor's physical hunger is satisfied, while his spirit remains hungry for God? What good would it be if one experiences relief in this world but does not make it to his eternal reward?

The poor need to be helped. And God intends His people to be the ones to help. But such help, contrary to the wisdom of the world, entails not just addressing physical and material needs, but also, and even more importantly, the spiritual needs of all.

SERVANT GENERAL - FRANK PADILLA



“We are called to honour the poor and to give them precedence, out of the conviction that they are a true presence of Jesus in our midst.”

POPE FRANCIS

LIVE FULL

Live Full is the fourth pillar of the Live Christ Share Christ (LCSC) movement. It is a call to live a preferential option for the poor. It responds to a call to build not only social communities, but spiritual communities. It responds to be a blessing to the closest neighbor.

One way we manifest the Live Full pillar is through the No one in Need (NONE) initiative that we have in MFC India. NONE believes in, "less for self, more for others, enough for all".

Most people in the world are poor, and living beneath their dignity as children of God. But there are enough resources in the world to satisfy the needs of all. How can Christians share what they have so that there is no one in need, so that all may be fulfilled?

This will require a simplification of lifestyle by Christians, to make the humble purchase and be able to give generously of their money and abundance of material possessions. We see this especially in these difficult times when many are going through financial difficulties in an uncertain job market.



At the outbreak of the Covid pandemic, over 3000 families in difficult financial situations across the country were helped. Many workers in the unorganized sector

were left in tough situations. When the Bishop's gave the clarion call to live out our Christian duties, the community rallied together to provide necessary aid and support, partnering with the initiatives of the parishes and dioceses and other associations like St. Vincent de Paul etc.

Our members wholeheartedly contributed and went beyond just donating to actually reaching to people and areas that were affected. All this is possible only because of the example given to us

by our God and the grace that He gives to willing faithful who are ready to give generously. Many of the community members who could take part in alleviating the problems of others drew themselves closer to our Lord.



The work of Live Full also involves 'Kindness Kits' that are put together every year and distributed. These kits include

essentials like blankets, toiletries, a pair of slippers, non-perishable food packs and so on. In addition to this, the MFC community has also been actively coordinating with the Prison Ministry India to help support the mission of ministering to the material and spiritual needs of the prisoners. This includes the Kolbe Home Teaching program for 30 children to ensure the children at home get regular attention on their curriculum when schools were closed down because of the pandemic. We sought to help financially release 20 prisoners of deserving cases.

Live Full is about building the Church of the Poor which is the duty of every baptized Christian. This work looks to building parish-based



communities through holistic development, providing shelter, health, education, livelihood and values formation. In this regard, we seek opportunities to partner with any existing movements and associations within the parish with a mutual vision.

In the model of the first Christian community, the have share with the have-nots, thus also sharing in the blessing. "Those who give alms will enjoy a full life."(Tb 12:9b).

LIGHT TO THE WORLD

For the very first time, Missionary Families of Christ conducted the National Couples Conference online on June 20, 2021. The conference with the theme 'Light to the World' was live streamed on YouTube and couples from across the country took part in this fruitful event.



While the couples prepared for the conference, a talent contest was also held for the participants a few days before the event. Many couples actively participated in this contest to showcase their God given talent.



The emcees for the day Sheldon and Shaina led the couples wonderfully throughout the conference, always reminding us that though we are

physically apart from each other, we were connected in spirit and how all our focus is on one person-Jesus Christ. They helped the participants enthusiastically engage with each other through the live chat on Youtube, they also conducted various icebreakers to keep the entire conference lively.

During the first half, we had a talk by Francis Menezes from Margao. He spoke on placing our lives on the Rock and about how the Lord is calling each of us to be His light. He also shared on how the Lord wants to transform each of us, consume us and propel us to transfer his light to different people in darkness and He's calling us to do it from wherever we are placed. Francis also shared insights on the different aspects of darkness that we have within us - through our spousal relationship, darkness in our families, within our community and darkness in the society at large. He urged us to be children of Light and overcome the darkness in our lives by being the Light. He asked us to become ministers of reconciliation, by showing through our actions.



The conference began with the Eucharistic Celebration by Fr. George Fernandes, Director of the Diocesan Centre for the Lay Apostolate at the Archdiocese

of Goa. Fr. George in his homily spoke about why when we live in darkness, we cannot find a way, but we need the Light of Christ - Though all of us face different storms in life, we must continue to keep our focus on the Source of Light. He also encouraged us to not live in fear but to live with pride that we are God's creation. He also spoke about Jesus' work on the cross, which is not a symbol of fear but of love. He concluded by saying that we need to challenge ourselves in our darkest moments, focus on the Light and move on, for being able to continue to nurture not just our families but everyone around us.

Following the Mass, the welcome address was given by our country servant Jimmy Xavier along with his wife Kim. They started off on a high note by encouraging the participants to actively participate in the conference. They also thanked the backend team for their ceaseless work, before declaring the conference to be open.

Following the first session, it was time for a special lunch for all the participants at the conference.



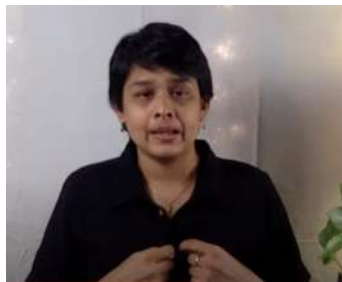
During this time, the couples had a heart-to-heart conversation with their spouses on different areas of darkness in each of other's lives and how to be a light to this world. This time was even more special by clicking pictures together and sharing them on social media.



We started the afternoon session by reciting the Divine Mercy chaplet. Then we had a lighter session

with many couples sharing their experience on the heart-to-heart conversations that they had during lunch. Following this interactive session, Glenlord and Jessica led us through a powerful time of praise and worship. During this time, Glenlord invited us to set our eyes on Jesus and on the work of the Cross.

The next session was by Kim Xavier, who reminded the participants that if we truly have the Light of Christ with us, we can't help but share it with each other. She spoke about the mission of the Church being evangelisation and we are living out this purpose to be missionaries. She also further in detail explained about four indicators of being a missionary.



- Vision- by seeing God's plan for all people and identifying the vision (1Tim-2:2-5)
- To gain clarity and conviction that Jesus is Lord (2 Cor 4:4-6)
- Boldness to proclaim the gospel with the help of the Holy spirit (Acts-4:29-31)
- Power from the Holy spirit to proclaim the gospel (Acts-1:8, Mk-16:20)

The couples also got another opportunity to talk to each other about different ways to evangelise during the tea break that followed the session.

Levin handled the next session, in which he took us through the different parts in the cycle of evangelisation:

- Witness - Through integrity, love and commitment.

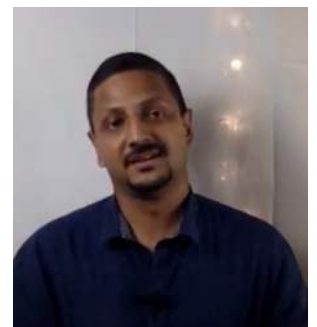
- Proclamation - The permanent priority of our mission (EN 21; cf.CCC 2044)
- Discipleship- It can be in small groups within our household or one to one with our spouse.
- Community- Is essential for every member to grow in the fruit of the Holy Spirit.
- Mission - Going on a mission should not become a one-time activity but an unquenchable thirst to sharing Christ with others.



During the session, Vijay and Joslyn also shared their testimony about how they came to Christ and how they are

experiencing his goodness in their family lives.

For the closing session, Jimmy spoke on the practical methods that we can apply in our daily lives to be better missionaries for Christ. He urged the couples to be available to serve for His Kingdom, to start first in our families and homes. He also encouraged us to use social media effectively to evangelise.



Before the day ended, Levin and Chriselle led us through a time of worship. During this time the participants placed hands on their spouses and surrendered themselves to be a sanctuary for the Lord.

Monisha Benny
South Bangalore

The Online Couple's Conference was inspiring and uplifting to our marriage. All the 3 sessions were informative and impactful to listen and a wonderful experience to gain wisdom from experienced speakers. We were like empty nesters with the storms of Lockdown and the pandemic, where there was a need to reconnect as a couple and understand our areas of darkness at home, society and community and indeed June 20th, 2021 was a blessing just to get away and listen to talks to enrich our marriage. Our meaningful intimate heart to heart sharing and the date night post the talk also helped us to gain perspective about our walk together as evangelizers and missionaries & understanding the deeper purpose of our calling.

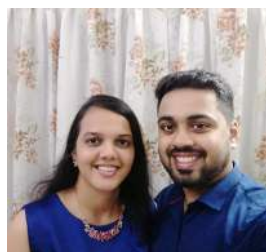


Donald and Sharel, North Bangalore

We always knew we have to keep God at the centre of our lives, but HOW do we do it, the conference taught us that! It's a busy life, work was the centre of our lives, we went overboard at ALL times for work. The conference taught us that God first, spouse next, family at the third place and EVERYTHING else next. Work was hectic for almost 5 months, there was very little time for prayer, family. Even if we prayed, it was a quick and short prayer. From the teachings, I got the the boldness and urge to push back work so that I can focus more on prayer and the family. We had our own 'addiction' to the phones, the conference reinforced that we'll have to set them aside. After the conference, we have spent more time as a family abiding with the Lord, praising him, thanking him for all his mighty deeds in our lives, how he beautifully leads us of our 'Red seas' and is always with us. Rather than living our life as normal Catholics, we have the motivation and inspiration to be examples for OUR KIDS and other families around us, to be the light of the World!

Edwin and Angela, Chennai

God has called us through marriage to reflect His love for us and through this be a light for all to see.



Through this conference I found that when we overcome sin with the grace of God we will move from darkness to the light of Christ and we are called to be ministers of reconciliation. I also understood the

importance of church teaching and sacred catholic tradition and how we are called to stand by Mother Church especially in difficult times and also our responsibility to evangelize to the nations.

Darrel and Melissa, South Bangalore

We are married for last 14 years and had been using contraception. The day when we attended the Them Talk of the Year, "Light to the World" conference, we realized that we were in darkness.



The usage of contraception was blocking the Grace of God flowing into our lives and family. Then we have decided to say no to contraception. The Blessings started coming into our lives and family. We thank our Loving God who never wants us to stay in darkness but become the Children of Light and a "Light to the World". We are grateful to our MFC family for organising such a wonderful Conference.

Joseph Bablu Das and Flora Sweety Das, Kolkata



The NCC was a great way to bring the light of Christ into our homes. It was a day that was well planned, we were well prepped and looking forward to a day of togetherness as a couple. Through the sessions we were able to identify the areas of darkness in our relationship. We

could see how sin continued to lurk in areas we kept hidden from each other. The session challenged us to share in Jesus's vision to be a light, together, to the gentiles. And we were invigorated to do the work of evangelization together. The icing on the cake, however, was our heart to heart post the conference.

Royden and Beverley, Goa

The calling to help the needy takes prayer, sacrifice and an open heart. Christopher D'Souza from Calangute, Goa, an active promoter of the Live Full pillar shares his experience of the challenges in mobilizing and how more people can be open to the calling and contribute to helping the materially and spiritually poor.



What does 'Live Full'(LCSC fourth pillar) mean to you?

Live Full is a personal response. The Kingdom of God belongs to the poor. Jesus has a preferential love for the poor. We are encouraged to do likewise so that we too experience the love of Jesus Christ. Through the collaborations of No One in Need (NONE) with other associations in the Church like St. Vincent de Paul etc, it reaches out to the physical needs as well as the spiritual needs of the members in community as well as in the geographical area of a Parish/Diocese.

How does your personal walk with God encourage you to help those in need?

Ever since we were touched by God and became members of the community, my life took a U-turn. All our activities were in a way related to helping or reaching out to the needy, bringing a smile to faces or joy in the hearts. In 2019, at the possibility of serving in this capacity, our MFC chapter made elaborate plans to reach out to two homes for the aged, which got hampered due the pandemic. The last three pastoral themes of the MFC community have definitely encouraged me to work hard toward this calling with the support of the sisters and brothers in the community.

What was your experience while serving during this Covid-19 pandemic?

In 2015, we were associated with the Hindi Speaking Migrant Community of the Calangute area in Goa through a CLS. Through this program, we met Sisters that take care of the Migrant Community through their cell. In April 2021, when Covid-19 struck, they invited us to help put together ration for 1000 members of the cell and distribute it all over Goa. It was indeed an enormous task. This prompted us to reach out within the parishes that members belong to, because by the month of May, there was a call to support the church as well. Our members got together and with whatever we had purchased food grains, packed it, and distributed it to 5 parishes.

What do you think are the challenges people face in reaching out to those in need?

Many times it is a lack of understanding of our calling to reach out to the poor and the underprivileged. People feel it is not for everyone to be generous or that only some people have a 'calling' to serve the needy, and those people alone will do the job. For some, their own situations are tough enough and they don't have the capacity or the resources to support. Yes, everyone has their set of difficulties and their own needs but we need to understand that God loves a generous giver and even giving a little can go a long way in alleviating the pain felt by many people who are suffering without material or spiritual support. Mother Teresa summed it up well when she said "If you can't feed a hundred people, then feed just one". We need to start with one and when many of us get together as we do in the MFC community, many are fed, many are helped, and many can experience the love of God.

What are the few ways people can offer themselves to works like this?

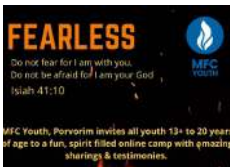
First, by building awareness and understanding of this work and how it fits in God's plan for His people. The parishes have always been a starting point for the Christian faithful to exercise the virtue of charity and this is where a member of MFC can begin – by reaching out to their individual parishes, engaging with the priests, understanding the quantum of work that needs to be done for the needy parishioners or outreach programs and contributing to it. Contribution can be done through time spent, mobilizing people from the community and parish apart from financial support. Members are encouraged to identify areas that need support and organize visits, gathering resources and reaching out. We place our time, talent, and treasure at the feet of the Lord so that He can guide us to those who are in most need of it. When we intercede, commit and act, then we do our bit in helping ease the suffering of many in the world and in our country.

TRAINING & EVANGELIZATION



Love Revolution

14 participants attended the camp for the youth of Cutorim, Siolim and Vasco, Goa on the 15th to 16th and 22nd to 23rd of May.



Fearless

30 participants attended the camp for the youth of Porvorim, Goa on the 15th to 16th and 22nd to 23rd of May.



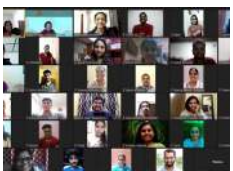
Marriage Enrichment Retreat, Dubai

20 people attended the retreat for couples in the UAE conducted on the 21st to 22nd May.



Renewed

A Christian Life Seminar for the Singles was conducted for 50 participants for Pune and Silvassa on the 13th of June.



Anchored In Hope

50 participants attended the Online Christian Life Seminar conducted by MFC Singles Porvorim on the 23rd of June.



Family Day

MFC Pune organised an online family day for all their members on the 27th of June.

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TRAINING & EVANGELIZATION

Prayer for Protection Against the Covid-19 Virus

“Merciful and compassionate Father, we come to you in our need to seek your protection against the COVID 19 virus that has disturbed and even claimed lives.

We ask you now to look upon us with love and by your healing hand, dispel the fear of sickness and death, restore our hope, and strengthen our faith.

We pray that you guide the people tasked to find cures for this disease and to stem its transmission.

We thank you for the vaccines developed made possible by your guiding hands.

Bless our efforts to use these vaccines to end the pandemic in our country.

We pray for our health workers that they may minister to the sick with competence and compassion.

Grant them health in mind and body, strength in their commitment, protection from the disease.

We pray for those afflicted. May they be restored to health. Protect those who care for them. Grant eternal rest to those who have died.

Give us the grace in these trying times to work for the good of all and to help those in need. May our concern and compassion for each other see us through this crisis and lead us to conversion and holiness.

Grant all these through our Lord Jesus Christ your Son who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God forever and ever. Amen.



Thank God It's Tuesday

75 youth participated in the India Bible Quiz with 4 weeks of preliminaries and the finals on 29th of June.



Let me Reel you In

50 participants attended the youth camp conducted by MFC Mumbai on the 3rd of July.



Come Be Built on Rock

65 participants attended the Christian Life Seminar for Handmaids conducted on the 10th of July.



Servant Leader's Workshop

An All India Servant Leadership Workshop conducted for 63 participants from the 8th to 11th of July.



Marriage Enrichment Retreat, India

More than 80 Couples from Gurgaon, Goa, Hyderabad, Bangalore, Pune, Kolkata, Chennai and Netherlands attended the retreat conducted on the 11th and 12th of July.



Live Pure 2021

Around 1200 students of St. Joseph's College, Bangalore attended the retreat conducted on the 24th and 25th of July.

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.



Ignite

15 participants attended the Christian Life Seminar conducted by MFC Couples, Pune on the 18th of July.



Truth Unveiled

A Live Pure Program was conducted for MFC Youth, Mumbai for 16 participants on the 25th of July.



Perfect Love

A Christian Life Seminar was conducted for 16 couples by MFC Madgaon Chapter, Goa on the 14th of August.



Rise and Shine

36 participants attended the youth camp in Bangalore on the 21st of August.



God My Rock

35 participants attended the Christian Life Seminar conducted by MFC Couples, Bangalore on the 22nd of August.



National Singles Conference

Around 440 Singles attended the online conference conducted on the 28th and 29th of August.

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MOTHER MARY, PRAY FOR US.

