

# FAMILIES on MISSION

Quarterly Newsletter of Missionary Families of Christ India  
Formerly called as Couples For Christ India

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Mumbai  
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## THE STORY OF MFC MUMBAI





RENEW THE LIFE AND FAITH OF  
YOUR FAMILIES

# INVITE MFC TO YOUR DIOCESE



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# From the Country

## Servant's Desk

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It is with great joy and gratitude that I present this special edition dedicated to the story of Missionary Families of Christ (MFC) in Mumbai. Mumbai's journey as the birthplace of MFC mission in India is truly remarkable. What began as a small flame has now become a beacon of light, a guiding force that has set the course for MFC's mission across India.

Over the years, the city has not only embraced our vision but has led the charge, sending missionaries throughout the country to share Christ's love with families. This edition captures the heartbeat of that mission, sharing testimonies and stories that demonstrate how our brothers and sisters in Mumbai have taken MFC's calling to "renew the face of the earth" to heart.

The support of our clergy—Bishop Barthol Barretto of Nashik diocese (Former Auxiliary bishop of Mumbai), Fr. Norbert D'souza, our Spiritual Director in Mumbai, and priests from various states — have enabled us to witness, firsthand, the impact our outreach has had on families. Their encouragement reflect the value they see in our work and their trust in us in defending the faith, family and life.

It brings me immense joy to shine a spotlight on the extraordinary journey of Mr. George Kadam from Mumbai.

For over two decades, he has boldly embraced the call to serve as a MFC full-time pastoral worker, dedicating his life to spreading the Gospel with zeal and humility. Through his enduring service, he has not only strengthened the Church's mission but also inspired others to embrace their own call to discipleship. His story, like those of many missionaries, is a powerful reminder of the incredible impact one devoted servant can have in building God's Kingdom. Within these pages, you'll also find the voices of MFC members from Mumbai whose lives have been changed by the mission. Their stories echo a simple but profound truth: when one encounters Christ, their entire family is transformed.

Over the past three months, we have witnessed God's hand in all the programs conducted across various states in India, touching countless lives and strengthening families in Christ. Yet, the work ahead of us remains immense, as we look forward to continuing this mission with faith, hope, and determination. Together, let us embrace the call to build families for Christ, trusting that His grace will sustain us as we journey forward, one family at a time, toward the fulfillment of His plan. Wishing you all a blessed Christmas & New Year.

In Christ,  
Jimmy Xavier



Many individuals from Mumbai became full-time missionaries

# Mumbai- Its Beginnings and Mission Outreach

**By Savio Braganza, Former Full-time Missionary, MFC Mumbai**

The story of Missionary Families of Christ (MFC) in Mumbai is one of steadfast faith, tireless service, and transformative growth. Since its humble beginnings in 1985, the mission has expanded across Mumbai and beyond, impacting thousands of lives and continuing its journey of evangelization with the grace of the Lord.

MFC Mumbai began its journey in 1985. It emerged from the Shield of Faith Community and the Community of Jesus, Light of the World (CJLOW). Led by pioneers like Tony D'Souza, the movement expanded to various regions, including Vasai, South Mumbai and Goa.

In 1989, Tony D'Souza became the first Executive Director. The first All India gathering and their mother communities saw about 600 people gather at St. Andrew's Hall, Bandra, Mumbai, to listen to Frank Padilla (founder of MFC) and Vic Gutierrez (Ligaya) encourage them to become missionaries and build their families for God.

In 1996, MFC separated from its mother communities, with leadership guiding the transition, and in 1997, MFC introduced ministries like Youth for Christ, Singles for Christ, and Kids for Christ.

The movement continued to expand to areas like Mira Road,



Daman, Gujarat, Mangalore, and the Konkani parishes of Andheri and Navi Mumbai. In 2002, MFC embarked on a mission to the Hindi belt, reaching Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Assam, Manipur, and Bhutan. Mumbai's couples, youth, and singles played a crucial role in this mission. In 2003-04, MFC was taken to the Marathi-speaking communities of Uttan and Manori

Over the years, many dedicated individuals from Mumbai have stepped forward to serve as full-time pastoral workers and missionaries, some for a short time and others for many years. Their commitment and sacrifice have been instrumental in spreading the MFC vision and building the community.

In response to the call to the New Evangelization, after 38 years of faithful service and evolving mission worldwide, the community officially changed its

name to Missionary Families of Christ (MFC), formerly known as Couples For Christ (CFC). This decision came as a response to the changing times and the pressing need for renewal within the Church. The new name signified both a continuation and a fresh start as MFC stepped into its next phase of service and evangelization.

In 2022, MFC significantly expanded its evangelization efforts within parishes and Catholic schools, particularly through the Live Christ, Share Christ (LCSC) mission. This initiative aims to equip and empower the laity in the power of the Holy Spirit to live out the gospel and actively share Christ's love with others. In 2024 and beyond, MFC Mumbai is committed to continuing its mission to spread the gospel in today's challenging environment.

### Mumbai's mission outreach in the northern belt of India



# A Full-Time Missionary in God's Vineyard

**Br. Gregory Kadam has been serving the Hindi and Marathi belt, for over two decades.**

**Interview Excerpts by Maria Laveena,  
MFC Mumbai**

## **1. How has MFC made a difference in your family life?**

We joined the Konkani Christian Life Seminar (CLS) in Sacred Heart Church, Mahakali in 2005. Through Missionary Families of Christ (MFC), my entire family has grown much closer to God.

My children, who were in 7th and 5th grades at the time, began to grow in their knowledge of Christ. It also opened the door for me to share His Good News with others—a blessing I never imagined I was worthy of, but God, in His grace, made me so.

## **2. What inspired you to become a full-time missionary?**

As a young boy, I always wanted to become a priest. I joined the Patrician Lay Brothers in Pune to serve God, but after a few years, I left because my dream of priesthood remained strong. My spiritual director tried many ways to help me join a congregation, but every door seemed to close due to several rules. Finally, he told me that I could still serve God even as a married person.

Taking his advice, I got married and served God through my work as a teacher. When my wife and I joined MFC, we experienced wonderful things. Unlike other ministries that asked me to serve alone, MFC gave us the chance to serve God as a family. This touched my heart and inspired me deeply.

I am thankful to Fr. John Belser, a foreign Jesuit missionary to India, who guided me at every step of my life. Today, I can confidently say that God had the perfect plan to lead me to this mission, and I'm blessed beyond measure.





### 3. What are some of the places God has taken you to as a full-time missionary?

God has graciously led me to serve across various regions, including the dioceses of Bombay, Nashik, Aurangabad, Nagpur, Pune, and Gujarat. I have been blessed with the opportunity to minister in over 30 parishes, with a particular focus on Hindi and Marathi-speaking communities over the past two decades.

### 4. Can you share about the fruits of your work as a full-time missionary?

Many Christians who had drifted to other faiths returned to the Catholic Church. MFC has also inspired several young women to become religious sisters and helped many individuals overcome harmful habits like drinking, often through counselling and support. Some of my fellow members even followed the call to become full-time missionaries themselves. Among the Marathi-speaking communities in some dioceses, I encountered many who were baptized but not practicing their faith. The Lord used me to bring them back to Him, and through MFC, I have seen their faith rekindled.

### 5. What has been your source of dedication as a full-time missionary that has sustained you in your service for over two decades?

The intense full-timer's training I received from Bro. Tony Corriea in Goa was a turning point for me. It was during that time that I made the decision to dedicate my life entirely to God. From then on, my motto has been simple: to serve the Lord. God has taken care of every need along the way. He provided for my children's education and blessed them with the right jobs, especially my son with an opportunity to go to Ireland. God has always shown His faithfulness, allowing me to serve Him with joy and dedication.

I've also been blessed with strong support from priests, bishops, and fellow missionaries like Fatima and Peter, who stood by me whenever I needed help. If my fellow full-timers hadn't helped me or accompanied me whenever I asked, my journey would have been difficult. But they stood by me like a rock, and their support made all the difference. With my family's support and knowing that God was always with me, I never had to look back.

Gregory with the MFC Marathi community in Manori





MFC Theme Day Program held at St. Pius Seminary, Mumbai.

# Family as an Altar

## MFC an invitation to modern families

**By Fr. Norbert D'Souza,  
Spiritual Director, MFC Mumbai**

Indian families are evolving rapidly. Traditional practices like arranged marriages are declining, giving way to new ways of building relationships. As couples prioritize careers, studies, and leisure, family time is shrinking, affecting the quality of relationships. This shift raises important questions: What role does the Church play in strengthening families? How does modern life impact parenting?

The Bible presents a broader view of family. The Hebrew term *mishpachah* refers to large, extended families,

a stark contrast to today's nuclear families. In Genesis 12:3, God promises Abraham, "In you, all families will be blessed." Abraham becomes the father of Israel, a model of a connected, vibrant family life. In the New Testament, Mary ushers in a new spiritual family centered on Christ. Her fiat creates the Church, the new *mishpachah*.

### **Building Sacred Altars in Modern Life**

The Church is the new family, which we often fail to recognize as signifying our connectedness and shared 'bloodline' through the Eucharistic table.



St. John Chrysostom spoke of the one common Eucharistic table and the many 'altars' we create and return to after Mass. Let us explore some of these altars where we are called to bring Christ into our lives.

### 1. The Altar of Our Bodies

Our bodies, like Mary's, are temples of the Holy Spirit. St. John Paul II's Theology of the Body highlights the sacredness of human emotions, relationships, and sexuality. Families must nurture a healthy, Christ-centered view of the body.

### 2. The Altar of Our Work

Workplaces are mission fields. Careers, often shaped by secular values, need a Christian perspective. Viewing work as a mission rather than a mere task transforms it into an act of service and evangelization.

The Missionary Families of Christ (MFC) embody the lived and shared experience of families who want to make these two realities of our human lives into sacred spaces.

The way we see our bodies and how we build our careers both require certain Christian formation and sound Biblical advice. Mary exemplifies this through her visit to Elizabeth, showing how body and vocation can glorify God. Her life offers a model for embracing change and finding God's purpose in our work and family roles.

### The Role of the Church and MFC

Today, family, sexuality, and work can be powerful ways to bring the gospel to a world struggling with belonging and achievement. MFC plays a key role in fostering Christ-centered family life, offering guidance on overcoming challenges like shrinking family time, disconnection, and work-life imbalance. It also creates a sense of belonging through its extended spiritual family, mirroring the warmth of the mishpachah. Through the MFC, the church invites us to build the new family in every home and neighborhood.

**The writer is a diocesan priest, currently serving as the principal of St. Pius X High School and International School, as well as an assistant parish priest at St. Pius X Church, Mulund.**

Fr. Norbert with the MFC Couples in Mumbai



# Testimonials – MFC Mumbai

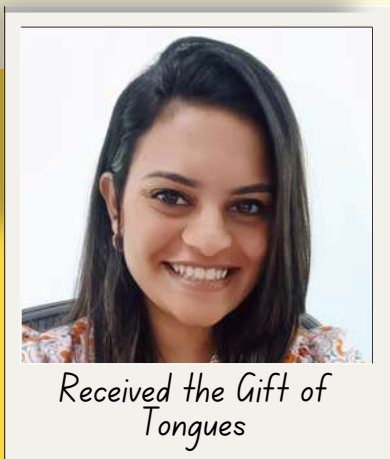
## Jeanette – MFC Couples

### Holy Family, Andheri East

Before MFC, my life was chaotic, and peace was lacking at home and in my relationship with my husband and we weren't experiencing God's love. A couple interceded for us and invited us to the Christian Life Seminar (CLS). Through the talks, I learned to center my life on God, which strengthened my faith, family bonds, and prayer life. This brought peace, deeper love, and unity to our home. Through MFC, I found Jesus and shared Him with my children. Today, we are a joyful family, and I thank God for carrying us through every challenge.



*Renewed Marriage*



*Received the Gift of Tongues*

## Kimberlie – MFC Singles

### Our Lady of Salvation, Dadar

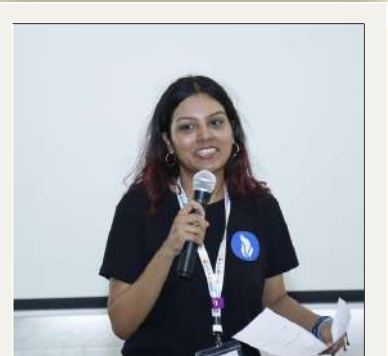
After 12 years in MFC, I was finally blessed with the gift of tongues—a gift I had longed for since joining as a youth in Goa. Despite struggles in prayer and Scripture reading, and feeling unworthy compared to others, the spiritual guidance and friendships in MFC kept me on God's path. Last September, the MFC National Singles Conference in Goa helped me recommit to prayer and Bible reading. In October, during an inner

healing session at the MFC School of Discipleship in Bangalore, God revealed deep wounds from my relationship with my parents. Through confession, I surrendered these burdens and opened my heart to His grace. Soon after, while praying in tongues, I let go of fear and felt a profound freedom. In that moment, I began speaking in a language I didn't understand but knew was from God. In His perfect timing, He fulfilled my long-awaited desire.

## Lizelle Veigas – Mission Volunteer

### St. John the Evangelist, Marol

Last year, I longed to serve in mission areas but found no opportunities. Though disheartened, I trusted God's timing. Months later, my area servant invited me to serve as a mission volunteer in the kids' ministry for a year. Excited yet uncertain due to my lack of experience with kids and post-graduation plans, I turned to Mass, adoration, and prayer. God spoke to me through Proverbs 3:5–6, calling me to trust Him. That same day, my spiritual director reached out, affirming my decision to say "yes." Despite challenges, I've learned that trusting God's plans brings peace and purpose. I'm grateful to share His love with children and look forward to continuing this journey.



*Saying yes to God's call*



# Testimonials – MFC Mumbai

## Ezekiel – MFC Kids

### Our Lady of Visitation, Nerul

I love going to my MFC Kids Meeting in my church. Aunty, who teaches, makes me understand the Bible in an easy manner. We color Bible stories and sing action hymns. I get to meet my friends, and we have so much fun learning about God. I also initiate prayers at home and make sure we have family prayer every day. My sister, Elijah and I wait eagerly for Saturdays. because we don't want to miss it.



*Loves MFC Kids Meeting*



*Healing of Bipolar Disorder*

## Denielle – MFC Youth

### Our Lady of Egypt, Kalina

At just four days old, my birth parents left me in the care of a woman, promising to return after three months, but they never did. This woman, now my mom, was a 42-year-old single mother with two grown daughters, yet she took me in and never made me feel like an outsider. But as I grew, a voice inside me whispered that I was a burden—a lie that only grew louder with time. Desperate for belonging, I entered a

relationship that quickly turned abusive, leading me into a cycle of self-harm. At 13, I saw a psychiatrist who diagnosed me with bipolar disorder. Life for four long years was an endless cycle of medications and therapy with my identity lost in the pain. Then, last year, someone introduced me to MFC Youth. Nervous but hopeful, I joined a meeting and found family, hope, and God's healing love. Today, I've been episode-free for over a year. I am living proof of God's love. Now, I no longer worry about who loves me because I know that my God loved me first!

## Faye – MFC Handmaids

### St. Vincent Pallotti, Andheri

During COVID, my husband and I faced financial and personal challenges. Eventually, I lost my home and found myself in deep crisis with my spouse. Feeling devastated, I experienced panic attacks, but through MFC, my faith grew, and I learned to trust God deeply. At my first MFC conference in 2022, testimonies from other sisters gave me hope and perspective. Encouraged by my leader, I stepped out in faith to go on missions, despite my fears.

Saying "yes" to His calling changed my life, filling my days with the joy I was yearning for. I've surrendered my family to the Lord and pray daily for their conversion. Today, I trust that in His time, my family will come to know Christ and be restored.



*Faith Renewed*

# LIVE PURE<sup>®</sup>

M O V E M E N T

## The 'Live Pure' Mission reached out to 3480 students across India

By Sr. Soni Francis, Vice Provincial.  
The Sisters of St. Charles Borromeo

The one-day retreat, organized for students across Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, and Kerala, was a resounding success. The event, facilitated by the missionary families of Christ, had a profound impact on the students, helping them deepen their understanding of God's love, develop essential life skills, and experience healing and liberation.

The retreat provided a unique opportunity for the students to connect with God on a more personal level. Through inspiring talks, prayers, and reflections, the students gained a deeper understanding of God's unconditional love and mercy. One of the significant takeaways from the retreat was the emphasis on building healthy relationships, particularly with the opposite sex. The students learned

valuable lessons on how to relate with each other in a mature and respectful manner, paving the way for stronger, more meaningful friendships and relationships.

The retreat also featured powerful healing sessions, where students received freedom from bondages that had held them back. These sessions provided a safe and supportive environment for the students to confront their struggles and receive healing and restoration.

We are grateful to the Missionary Families of Christ for their tireless efforts in organizing this event. We believe that the lessons learned and the values instilled during the retreat will continue to inspire and guide the students in their spiritual journey.



The students of St Charles during the retreat





# LIVE LIFE



The **Live Life programs** were conducted in Thrissur, Hyderabad, Mumbai, Bangalore, Goa, and Chennai, reaching out to **406 couples**. The team also actively took part in the annual **March for Life** event held in Kerala.

## PUNE, MUMBAI & GOA



Leaders from **Live Life (MFC), Eva Pro Life, Jesus Youth, HLI, and Yu4C** united in Goa to strengthen a collective pro-life mission, to build a united front to counter the culture of death and uphold the dignity of life in our society today.

## CHENNAI, KERALA & HYDERABAD





# BISHOP BARTHOL BARRETTO

As the Auxiliary Bishop of Bombay, I was given charge of overseeing various Cells, Associations, and Movements, the Missionary Families of Christ (MFC) being one of the ecclesial movement.

Witnessing the positive transformation in many families through their involvement with the MFC has been truly inspiring. These families began to pray more fervently, attend Mass and meetings regularly, and their overall quality of family life improved significantly. It's evident that the MFC is doing good work.

My deepest aspiration is for this positive change to extend to even more families.

As the Chairman Bishop of the CCBI Commission for Family, I desire for every family within our (Arch) dioceses to come closer to the Lord through prayer and to foster healthy interpersonal relationships among family members by being holy, healthy and happy.

I am confident that through the unwavering efforts of MFC, my dream of nurturing spiritually enriched, harmonious families will come true. May God bless you all abundantly,

With warm regards and heartfelt prayers,  
**Barthol**



Area Servants of Mumbai meet Bishop Barthol Barretto, the former Auxiliary Bishop of Bombay, at his new office in Nashik.



# CLERGY SPEAKS

## **Fr. George Manimala** **Director, Family Apostolate & Secretary** **of Regional Family Commission, Delhi**

The commission for the family of the archdiocese encourages the ministry of MFC in our parishes to provide spiritual support and missionary perspective to our families. I recommend MFC in your parish, and you are welcome to take the help of MFC mission coordinators for the same.



*Recommends MFC*



*MFC Builds the Church*

## **Fr. Sanjay Kujur, C.Ss.R.** **NSK Retreat Centre, Bangalore**

The retreats, recollections, workshops, seminars, and other events that you organize for the families, singles, and kids enrich the participants. By nurturing faith in family, you create a haven of love, support, and understanding. This is a precious contribution towards the building of the church. Your dedication to fostering strong family values and creating a loving community is truly inspiring.

Your ministry has been a source of comfort, encouragement, and spiritual growth for a number of families. The Church is so blessed to have a community like yours. I appreciate and express sincere gratitude for the incredible work the Missionary Families for Christ does for the families. Congratulations and best wishes for future endeavors.

## **Fr. Alfred Miranda** **Director, Family Apostolate, Poona**

One heart, two beats program was conducted by the Poona Diocese in collaboration with MFC. The main aim was to rekindle the love between the married couples. The 'Live Life' program was designed to deepen the emotional connection between couples and enhance their relational skills. The couples were able to explore the foundations of a healthy partnership, communication techniques, and conflict resolution strategies. The couples at the end of the day had a deeper understanding of themselves and renewed enthusiasm for their shared journey. Thanks to all those who came together to make this event a memorable one for the couples.



*Thanks to MFC*

# CLERGY SPEAKS

## Fr. Anil D'souza

### Former Regional Director of Family Commission Karnataka Region

After serving as the spiritual director of MFC Mangalore for more than five years, I have gained a beautiful experience that I can cherish for the rest of my life. MFC is a wonderful family movement where every member of the family finds a place to be nourished and strengthened. This movement focuses on the holistic development of each family member. I have witnessed transformative changes in the lives of youth, singles, and couples through MFC programs. This movement needs to grow in the Church so that all families, especially troubled families, are able to experience the beauty of family life through constant support and guidance. May you continue to flourish.



*MFC programs are inspiring*

## Fr. Joseph Biswas

### Secretary, Regional Family Commission West Bengal-Sikkim

The MFC "Live Life" training held from June 11-12, 2024, at the Chetna Pastoral Centre in Burdwan, Diocese of Asansol, was very effective and useful. Participants included clergy, religious, and lay leaders—totaling 11 priests, 3 nuns, 2 bishops, 1 Vicar General, and 29 lay leaders from six

dioceses across the Bengal and Sikkim regions. The program was rich in workshops and discussions, providing us with a solid understanding and inspiration needed to become advocates in proclaiming the Gospel of LIFE.

## Fr. Arnaldo Pinho

### Assistant Parish Priest, Mercedes Parish, Goa

The 'Live Life' program conducted by MFC was indeed an eventful one. The program, organized by young couples, provided newly married couples with a glimpse into married life and infused in them a new sense of understanding one another.

The program will surely have a great impact on their families in a very positive way. My heartfelt gratitude goes out to all the young and dynamic couples who made this event possible with great enthusiasm and dedication. God bless all.





# Life & Mission of MFC

Over the past three months, **341 couples, 32 handmaids, 43 singles, and 22 servants** participated in Christian Life Seminars held in various places, including Goa, Mumbai, Delhi, Hyderabad, Bangalore, Chennai, Patna, Gujarat, Chandigarh, Raigarh, Bettiah, Udupi and Andaman.



## BANGALORE, UDUPI & DELHI



MFC also organized the **Marriage Preparation Course for 223 participants** in collaboration with the Dioceses of Chennai and Baroda. **147 youth and 200 Kids** participated in age-specific camps held in Masat, Goa, Bangalore, and Mangalore, respectively.

## GOA, BANGALORE & BARODA





# Life & Mission of MFC

MFC India hosted its annual **theme conference nationwide** for the couples while Goa held the national conference of youth, singles, and handmaids, drawing around **1050 people** in total.



## MFC YOUTH, HANDMAIDS & SINGLES



In gratitude for the year gone by, **hundreds of MFC members** came together to celebrate the annual **Family Day**, a vibrant event filled with dances, skits, a saints parade, and lively Catholic stalls.

## PUNE, KOLKATA & CHENNAI





# Life & Mission of MFC



As part of the leadership training, **Servant Leader Workshops** were organized for singles, couples, and handmaids across India.

## BANGALORE, MUMBAI & GURGAON



Programs such as **Marriage Enrichment Retreats, Bonding of Soul Sisters, Bond of Brothers, Young Couple Care talks, and Vow Factor for engaged couples** tailored for newly covenanted members were conducted across India.

## GOA, MUMBAI & MANGALORE





MERRY  
*Christmas*  
AND A BLESSED

*New Year*  
2025



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