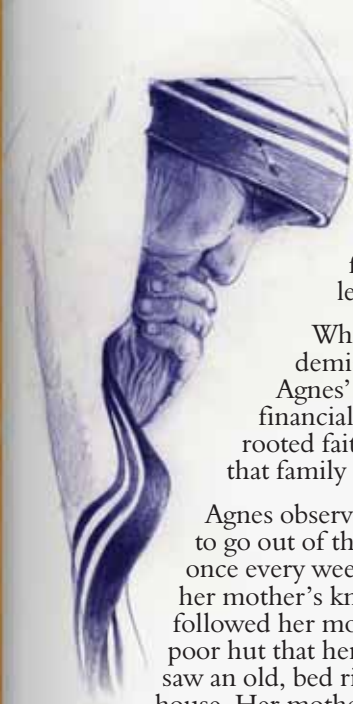


FOR PARENTS

Angels
ARMY



“Poor man’s tears are the droplets of holy blood shed by our Lord”

These words were the first lessons Agnes learned from her mother.

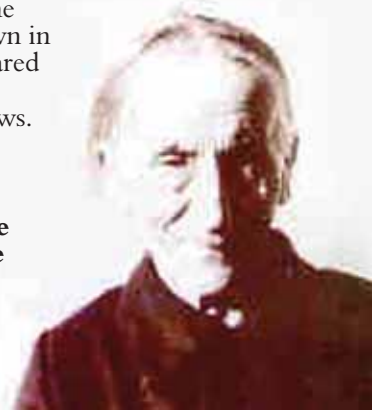
When the unexpected demise of her father took Agnes’ family into deep financial peril, her mother’s deep rooted faith and hard work helped that family to overcome the crisis.

Agnes observed that her mother used to go out of the house, unnoticed, once every week. Ever curious, without her mother’s knowledge, Agnes followed her mother one day. It was to a poor hut that her mother went. Agnes saw an old, bed ridden woman in that house. Her mother cleaned the house, bathed the old lady and changed her clothes and fed her with her own hands.

Seeing this Agnes was ecstatic. She ran to her mother and hugged her. Her mother held her close and said. ***“Dear, you too should do this. God is love for fellow human beings!”***

Later Agnes joined a convent, took the vow and became Sr Theresa. Down the lane, she left the safe confines of Loreto convent, with trust in God as the only investment; she went in search of the poor, sick and the downtrodden that were thrown in the gutters of Calcutta. She cared for them, and in her care she conveyed them the Good News.

Her mother’s words and deeds, was the model for Bl.Mother Theresa who became the beacon of hope and kindness for the whole world.





Angels

ARMY



Angels' Army is a Jesus youth initiative intended to guide small children to grow in loving relationship with God right from the early days. It also gives tips to the parents to bring them up in holiness right from the moment of conception. Pregnancy is a period when mothers should be in total prayer and God reliance. During this time, whatever the mother goes through, will be transferred to the child too. For this very reason it is essential that parents be in the fulness of God's love, during pregnancy period. Angels' Army provides precious help for this.

CHILDREN IN ANGELS' ARMY ARE DIVIDED INTO THREE GROUPS ACCORDING TO THEIR AGE

THE INFANTS ANGELS' ARMY

Pregnant mothers spiritually adopt a baby who is likely to be aborted and pray for him/her along with the prayers for the baby within their womb. Recite one 'Our Father', one 'Hail Mary' and one 'Glory be' for small babies who haven't started talking.

BABY ANGELS' ARMY

Babies of 2-5 years can recite 'Baby Rosary' saying 1 Our Father, 1 Hail Mary and 1 Glory be with each mystery.

LITTLE ANGELS' ARMY

(Children above 5 years should read the Bible, say ejaculations and rosary daily)

INTENTIONS

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| 1 st Mystery: | For the Holy Father, Bishops, Priests, Religious |
| 2 nd Mystery: | Parents and Teachers |
| 3 rd Mystery: | Members of Angels Army |
| 4 th Mystery: | Souls in Purgatory |
| 5 th Mystery: | Missionaries, Friends, aborted babies |

When they start learning God's word and His word becomes flesh in them, discernment would be easier for them. Driven by the love for the Holy Mother Church, in the fellowship of Mother Mary and angels and saints, a new generation could be formed. **This is the motto of Angels' Army. This goal is being achieved mainly through Angels Army Magazine**



As people having the primary responsibility for their children's education, parents have the right to choose a school for them that matches their convictions. This is a fundamental right. Parents have the responsibility to choose a school that will assist them the most in their role as Christian educators. ccc 2229

The divine providence

Angels Army magazine has been progressing for the last 10 years without any subscription fee, relying fully on the divine providence. Now the subscription is more than twenty thousand copies per month in two languages Malayalam and English which is being possible with the sacrificial sharing of a handful of people. We have to reach many more families that are in need of this magazine.

If the Holy Spirit inspires you to support the Angels Army ministry financially ...then contact us for more details.

**Tel : 8891585850, 9895923705. Angels Army,
A/c No. 67026275594, SBT, Kakkanad Branch,
IFSE Code : SBTR0000339.**



St. Aloysius Gonzaga

From the moment she conceived, Dona was praying for her baby. She wished to get a boy child and that boy would become a priest.

Even during her intense labour pain she kept praying. After trying her best for long hours the midwife who was attending to Dona was disappointed. She told Dona's husband Ferdinand, "I have no hope. I feel even God has abandoned us." Dona saw death face to face. Priest came and gave baptism to the child in her womb. At that time Dona heard somebody assuring in her mind, "**Take a**

vow to make a pilgrimage to the church of St Mary of Loreto. No danger would happen to the baby." She prayed and soon the situation got changed. The baby was born and the house resounded with his cries. This child who was baptised in mother's womb later became St Aloysius Gonzaga, who is the patron saint of youth.

Aloysius' father, Ferdinand was the Marquis of Castiglione, Mantua Province in Italy. They were a rich and noble family. His mother Dona was a pious and virtuous lady. She taught Aloysius prayers from a very

early age. During prayers he used to be deeply immersed in devotion. **He was influenced by his mother's kindness towards the poor.**

As the first-born son, he was in line to inherit his father's title of Marquis. So his father assumed that Aloysius would become a brave soldier. He took Aloysius to the military camp at the age of five. He began his training as a soldier. Soon he started using the filthy language used by the soldiers. His father was pained by this. He sent him back to his mother. When he reached home, his mother could make out the changes in his language. He tried his level best to obey his mother's advice not to use inappropriate language. During his first confession he fainted at the thought of these sins.

The desire to become a priest sprouted in Aloysius. Once standing in front of the statue of Mother Mary, he prayed, "Mother I consecrate my chastity to you. Kindly protect me from all trials and temptations." To keep his mind from idling, he spent his

time reading good books about the lives of missionaries and saints. He used to pray with fasting and take sacrifices. He was very good in studies as well.

When he was 15 years old, Aloysius informed his mother his desire to join the Society of Jesus. She was extremely happy to know that what she prayed for was becoming a reality. But his father became furious when he came to know about this from Dona. He accused her of favouring their younger son, Rudolf in becoming the Marquis by sending the elder one to seminary. Aloysius realised that the main obstacle for following God's will is his father's love for him. But the love of the Heavenly Father is beyond his father's love.

"Never come to me with this matter." Ferdinand went out of the room angrily. Wiping her tears, Dona tried smiling at Aloysius. He asked her forgiveness on behalf of his father. She answered, "It is all right son. I am willing to suffer further for you. **When we are denied what is rightfully ours, it shows that God is intending to give that**

to us. Delays do not mean that it is not going to happen.” These words consoled him.

When Aloysius said that he would not go back on his decision, his father sent him out of the house asking him to live with servants. At night when the parents came to the servants' room they saw Aloysius kneeling down and whipping himself. Ferdinand could not resist him anymore. Thus after four years of refusal, his father gave him permission to join the seminary by saying. **“If it is God's will, who am I to stand against that?”**

On November 8, 1585 he joined the Society of Jesus in Rome. He was so humble and obedient that he joyfully took up all the work assigned to him in the monastery. He begged on the streets of Rome to give money to the poor and ate very little food. In 1591 a great famine and plague broke out in Italy. The Jesuits went out in service of the needy. Due to his poor health, authorities did not allow Aloysius to join them. One day while he was begging, Aloysius found a sick

man lying on the road. Aloysius carried him on his shoulders. By the time he reached the monastery, Aloysius collapsed.

His health became worse day by day. The authorities decided to give him the anointing of the sick. Aloysius told that he would die on the 8th day of the feast of the Corpus Christi. Others did not take this seriously. After receiving the sacrament from the rector, he awaited death. To everyone's surprise, he recovered. He wrote letters expressing his gratitude towards everyone who loved and took care of him.

On the 8th day of the feast of the Corpus Christi, Aloysius expressed his desire to receive the Holy Communion. The Rector gave him the Holy Communion. He told the rector, “It is time for my sacrifice. I am going to heaven today.” He spent the entire day in prayer. At the end of the day he was called to the eternal glory. He was 23 years old then.

Doesn't God ask us too to accept His will for our children and prepare them accordingly?



FAITH AND STABILITY

There is hardly a parent who does not complain about children. "My children would listen to me and obey me without any hesitation whatsoever, but they have changed recently"; "Of late they are no longer under my control." "Wonder what happened to them?" "Why the sudden change?" God knows, does He?



Let's go down the lane and take a look backward. Let's make a critical analysis of our spiritual life. Many are the reasons for this sad state of affairs.

Faith is something which has to be practised. It has to be transferred from the pages of the Catechism book into the life of the reader. Faith-life is not a one-time matter, or a temporary episode. The Catechism imparted in the Sunday School has to translate into the life of child. It should manifest uniformly in every area and aspect, be it studying, eating, sleeping, praying, playing, etc.

We parents who inspire our children to attend Catechism classes and to live a life of faith, should also ensure that we ourselves live accordingly. **Children follow example better than advice.** We should not be setting bad examples to them, yet advise them to the contrary. We should not be parents who compel our kids to get up early to go to Church, while we ourselves curl up in the comfort of our beds to sleep a bit more. How can we expect our kids to respect and greet the anointed Priests of the Lord, when we go around constantly finding fault with the Religious and criticizing the Church?

The Kingdom of Heaven doesn't just fall into our laps, it has to be conquered. The Gates have been opened by Jesus, but we have to make the effort to enter. **As parents let's be vigilant and on the alert, so far as the faith life of our offspring is concerned, making certain that we are also on the right track, in order to lead by example.**



Bible Study

Gospel according to Mark Chapters 5, 6, 7, 8

In mark 5:13, the unclean spirits and the swine.?

Generally, those animals which were considered holy by the pagans and were their religious symbols, were considered unclean according to the Old Testament. In addition to that, since pigs had unclean food habits and were known to cause grave diseases to man, they were probably a great abomination to the Jews.

The unclean spirits entered the swine which then drowned in the sea. The Bible passages which mention God creating dry land by dividing the waters and Moses dividing the Red Sea, all portray the sea as God's opposing force. So the unclean spirits which had no desire to leave the land finally end up at the right place.

Herod & the 9th commandment?

Herod was a Jew. His ancestors were Idumaeans. John Hyrcanus, a Judean ruler had instituted forced conversions of Idumaeans into Judaism in 104 BC.

Pharisees and the Scribes?

The Hebrew word for Pharisee means "the pure". This could have arisen from the fact that they strictly observe the laws of purification, the laws concerning the temple offering and the Sabbath. St. Paul himself was a Pharisee. (Philippians 3:5 and Acts 23:6).

Scribes were those who could read and write and had distinguished knowledge in the fields of religion, law and finance. Anybody with education belonging to any sect was considered a scribe. In the New Testament, we see them with the Pharisees, appearing to be among the group that enjoyed authority.

Qorban or gift to God (Mark 7:10-13)

The Jewish law permitted individuals to declare their properties as an offering to God. But it was not required to offer them immediately to the temple. The owner could continue to use them as his own. The Pharisees misused this custom by declaring as Qorban, the wealth and properties that were rightfully to be used for supporting their parents. Thus they were conveniently excusing themselves from their responsibility and at the same time enjoying the assets.

The bread of children to the dogs (Mark 7:27-29).

The Syro-Phoenician woman was a Greek. She was not a Jew, which means that she was a Gentile. Even then, she believed in Jesus. The Jewish scriptures address the Gentiles as dogs and that could be because of their nature of eating all kinds of food, irrespective of whether it's clean or unclean.

Now, the above words of Jesus mean that it is not right to give to the Gentiles, what rightfully belongs to the Jews. Jesus would have said this to test the faith of the woman. Scholars suggest that the Greek word "kunario" means "puppy", referring to small domestic dogs. In that case, by taking her stand that the little dogs at home have a right to the breadcrumbs, she displays her firm faith. She proves that unwavering faith can overcome any obstacle.

Psalms 3

Trusting God in danger

The psalmist dependency on God is unshakable. His peaceful sleep and getting up early is a clear sign of his confidence in God. His consciousness of his safety in God's hand enables him to sleep and get up even in the midst of enemies.

This psalm invites me to trust in God. When crisis comes one after other and tells "there is no hope in God", I can nullify those by sitting in the hands of God. I have God with me to break the claws of crisis.

Psalms 4

Joy and safety in God

Many call material prosperity as a blessing and many assess material richness as a sign of God's light shining on them, nevertheless the great blessing is to receive broadness of soul in the midst of wearisome trials.



Papa, but spend the day with me, please..."

Here's the gist of a story which I happened to read on the Internet:-

Today is the child's birthday. Papa remembers this day, but he is very busy. There are umpteen matters to be handled in the office. Before leaving for office he went to his son's bedside to wish him "Happy Birthday". The child was still half asleep. Papa gave him a kiss while wishing him for his birthday. "Papa, how much money will you get for working today?" When he heard the amount, he immediately ran to get his piggy-bank, handed it over to Pop and said, "This contains the entire savings of my pocket-money, you take it **Papa, but spend the day with me, please...**"

Most of us parents love our children dearly. The decision to restrict the number of kids to one or two, stems from the desire to take extra care of the

existing child/children. Papa works most of the time. He doesn't miss any chance of overtime work in the office, and then also engages in some side-business after returning from the office, all this with the sole intention of bringing up the child comfortably well. The strenuous toil and the donkey-work are all motivated by an intense longing to give him a cozy life, to secure his future.

The child's time is also very precious. There is no minute to waste. His schedule is also full to the brim with studies, private tuitions, entrance exam coaching, short-term courses, extra curricular activities etc...

In the midst of the mad rush, Papa tries to convince the child of his love by buying him all that he demands. Every whim and fancy of his is attended to, in order to avoid any altercation or

quarrel. His obstinate fusses are catered to without a question. Even when he says and does things that are not in the right, a blind eye is turned.

Later, when the child starts behaving badly, when he displays chronic negative traits in his character, then the parents start running helter and skelter in search of a solution to the chaos. "What exactly is lacking? Is there anything we deprived him of? How much we loved him? How well we cared for him? Then why?" So many questions plague the minds of the parents.

What exactly is the root cause? Who went wrong and where? The only answer to these questions is....'Bad upbringing'. **Children need to grow in the presence and proximity of parents, which is why God set up a family for them to grow up in.**

Jesus gave the disciples a formation by being with them. He sat with them, listened to them, heard their complaints, cleared their doubts, taught them, prayed with them, explained to them the contents of whatever they saw and heard, thus spent time with them and for them.

If you wish your children to be mentally and spiritually strong, if you want them to wise and sensible, then you have to

necessarily spend quality time with them. Would you like to teach them and correct them as the situation warrants? Give them your time, voluntarily converse with them. Patiently listen to their narrations and stories. Make voluntary efforts to gather news about them. Get involved in their seemingly 'silly matters' and pay attention to their childish talks. Don't we accord prime importance to our eating, our sleeping, our bathing etc? Equal priority should be given to spending time with our kids.

The most important command of Father God for parents is aimed at attaining Eternal Life, the command is to bring up our children in Christian discipline and in accordance with His will and plan. Without knowing their minds, their anxieties, their attitude changes, their straying ways, how can we as parents comprehend God's will for them? Without being with them how are we to know?

Jesus would often chastise the Teachers of the Law and the Pharisees asking them to clean the inside of the cup first. **Whatever be the worldly conveniences we give them, unless we make ourselves available to them, their inner being will not bear good fruit.**

 *Renny Njarakkulam*


The Testimony of a father

While Bishop Bergoglio(now Pope Francis) was serving as Bishop of Buenos Aires, there was a poor man in his office who had been working there for the past 30 years. He had 8 children and he used to work very hard to support his large family. Every day when he used to walk in and out of the office, he used to say "Jesus" in a gentle voice.

One day, the Bishop asked him :*"Why do you say Jesus everytime?"*

This man replied softly, *"When I call upon the name of Jesus, he fills me with strength. I am reminded that I am not alone , the Lord is always with me. I am sure that He will take care of me."*

Hearing his reply, the Bishop understood that, if a man who had neither studied Theology nor attended a retreat should give such a beautiful testimony, **it was indeed through the grace that he had received in Baptism and through the working of the Holy Spirit alive in him.**

This led the Bishop to a new conviction: **"Only Jesus can lead me in this world, which promises many saviors, and only Jesus can save me from all the problems in my life."** 



Prayer Bank

(Self-sacrifice Bank)

Dr. Felix Leseur was a young Belgian doctor. He was a firm atheist and the editor of an atheistic newspaper. He used to say that the miraculous healings happening at the Marian shrine of Lourdes were treachery and superstition and had even written a book on the same.

His wife Elizabeth was a devout Catholic. She had been bedridden for 10 years, living each moment in great pain. On her death bed, she told her husband, "Felix, after my death, you will become a Catholic and eventually a Dominican priest." He replied: "I hate God and with that hatred will I live and die." But she repeated her words and died in 1914. After her death, he found a note written by her which said **"In 1904, I had prayed to Almighty God to give me as much suffering as is required to redeem your soul. On the day that I die, my sufferings will be precious enough to win your soul for God."**

By the powerful working of the Holy Spirit, Felix repented. He became a Catholic and later joined the Dominican order and was ordained a priest.



We are able to donate our prayers, sacrifices, and good works for one another, in the same way we save somebody's life through a blood donation.

We can also make our sufferings useful to others

- *Fulton J Sheen.*




Angel's Army Retreat

The learning from the angel's army retreat that was conducted in Bangalore in May has really guided me throughout the pregnancy and helped me to cope with the delivery.

We as a family, started praying and talking with the baby in the womb to form a bonding even before his birth. The leaflet (**Blessed is the fruit of the womb**) provided by angel's army for each month's bible wordings were also followed by me.

The retreat also helped to see the delivery time as an opportunity to be nearer to our lord. I submitted all the pain and troubles to our lord for the souls in need and my children. This made things more meaningful.

I was admitted in hospital on Dec 24, a few days before my due date as my pressure was high. Surprisingly, after I go admitted, my pressure became normal. The next day I was induced and just before the birth of the baby, when doctor examined, she said that the water had already leaked. But I had not known that. If I had continued without knowing the water leakage, it would have caused too many complications for the baby. So I believe God was in charge when my pressure became high so that I get admitted for delivery in time. Also it was his plan to give us a beautiful gift-a baby boy on the day of Christmas!

 Jasmine and Jobish
Bangalore



CHAAVARUL

Attend the novenas for important feasts - especially the prayers before Mother Mary's feasts. Prayers during the special months dedicated ('vanakkamaasam') to Mother Mary and St. Joseph, if it is not possible to attend these at church, at least do them at home.



For Families

As we know, the month of May is specially dedicated to Mother Mary. Hope we will all pay special attention in decorating Mother Mary's pictures in our homes, and saying special prayers seeking our Blessed Mother's protection and intercession.

The Chain Rosary

- To pray without ceasing
 - One Rosary-daily
- for ½ an hour, at your place, at a fixed time.
- Let us pray for our children round the clock. No doubt, this will become a fortress for our children.
- If you are interested to join in, give us your name and prayer timing.

Give us your name and prayer time.

Ph: 9846273731,
9995914040, 9895923705

Night Vigil

VENUE : EMMAUS, KALAMASSERY
2nd FRIDAY of every month
8 PM to 1 AM

All are cordially welcome !

Those who cannot reach EMMAUS can join in it, being in your own places. Please forward your prayer requests by letter / phone / email to us.

We will pray for you.

E.mail: prayer @angelsarmy.in
Tel: 9497583885.

Blessed is the fruit of the womb

A leaflet prepared by Angels' Army pregnancy wing for the pregnant women to prepare prayerfully throughout 9 months



For copies -
8891585850, 9895354201
0484-6444702,
info@angelsarmy.com

Pregnancy Wing

The pregnancy wing under the intercession team of Angels army prays for all the pregnant women and the baby in the womb, throughout the 9 months of pregnancy. When you call us for prayer support, both the parents and the baby enters this prayer chain. At the time of Delivery We offer special prayers if informed .
9061963071, 8891585850

