

Disciples India

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A Meeting that Changed Everything

He was an upper-class man, educated in the best schools of his time, and rooted in his religious traditions. He found this new sect abhorrent – daring to follow or even worship a publicly executed young man. No wonder he went around to have them arrested before they could mislead others. That day, he was on his way to a city to catch those following this foolish abomination, as he saw it, and throw them into jail.

On the way, something totally unexpected happened. A bright light blinded him, and he fell to the ground. An unknown voice called him by name, and asked him, “Why are you persecuting me?”

“Who are you? he asked back, utterly taken aback. I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom you are persecuting.”

This changed Saul of Tarsus. This well-educated, confident bigot, now struck blind, was actually losing his hate-filled blindness. He began to see.

He would fall in love with this Jesus. He would write words that only lovers use: “For me, to live is Christ,” “I long to be dissolved and be with Christ,” and “Christ Jesus came to save sinners, of whom I am the greatest.”

We know what Saul, who became Paul did later. But we cannot know what he experienced on the way to Damascus. We cannot enter into his inner experience. **We can see its effects** – not the experience itself.

When someone wants to know our love for Jesus or our growth as a person the only measure they have is, that of our behaviors. It is the only thing that is visible to the naked eye. Behaviour is how someone acts. It is what a person does to make something happen, to make something change or to keep things the same. Behaviour is a response to things that are happening:

- **Internally** - thoughts and feelings
- **Externally** - the environment, including other people.

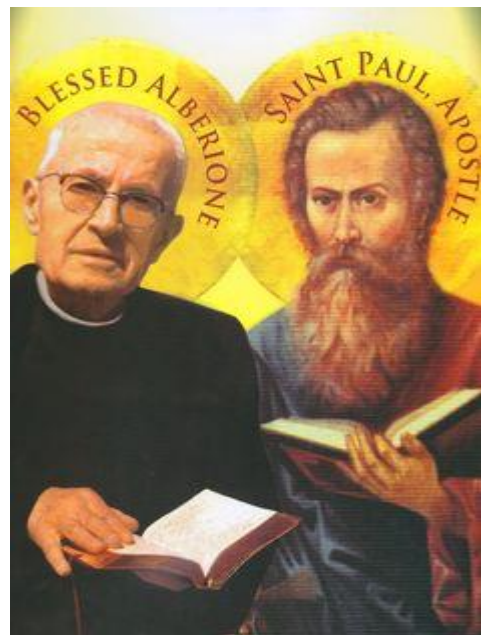
Observing behaviour is the easy part. It is understanding why someone does what they do that is much more complicated rather than what is easy.

“Actions speak louder than words,” goes the saying.

James Alberione our founder says: Change the main defects into the main virtue. What St Paul had of hatred towards Jesus Christ and towards Christians before conversion, he had the same love, indeed much more, for Jesus Christ and for souls after conversion. (Pauline Calendar -Thoughts of the Founder, Pr 1, 158)

St Paul gives us a great example of docility letting himself be led by the advice of others in the fulfillment of his mission and apostolate. When he fell on the way to Damascus and asked, “What do I do?” he was turning to Jesus Christ; Jesus Christ sent him instead to inquire from his ministers (Pauline Calendar -Thoughts of the Founder, Pr 2, 109)

May St Paul lead us in new ways of Thinking, Behaving & Living.



Sr M. Regina Sebastian

T.V Interview

Captivated by the YouTube upload on Psalm 96 “Sing a new song to the Lord, Sing to the Lord all the earth” the Italian Rai T.V channel, interviewed Sr. Mary Gracelet Mudiappan once again on the general situation of Christianity in India and her Music Ministry in particular. The interview was conducted by Sr. Myriam Castelli on 21 May, 2023.

Some of the questions that were posed during the interview are:

- How do you evangelize using the modern means in reference to the Psalm 96 in the YouTube
- What is Ascension mean to me personally
- Are there any initiatives for the Month of May on Mother Mary, for which she explained about the visit of Mother Mary of Fatima from Portugal to Guru Yesu Bhavan Chapel and the 100 Rosaries with 100 intentions which was live streamed



Sr Gracelet was complimented for her eloquence in Italian language and the Music

Ministry and was well appreciated by the entire crew. We are proud of you dear Sr Gracelet for initiating the Music Ministry in our Indian Province and continuously taking it to the greater heights.

Collaboration with the Pauline Family

Sr. Mary Gracelet Mudiappan was invited by Fr Prithviraj SSP, the Provincial Councilor for the Formation, to give a full day class on "Liturgy and Music" to the 20 Pre-Postulants at Bangalore on 15th May 2023.

The classes were well attended by them and it proved to be a fruitful day for the students.

We desire more of such initiatives in Pauline Family.



A SCHOOL OF PRAYER

Psalms are prayers of praise and thanksgiving. They are a school of prayer to impart knowledge, understanding wisdom, devotion, and love for the Word of God. As we prepare to commit ourselves to the religious call through these classes, we realize that God is our inner strength and light to guide our feet in his ways and awaken us to deepen our intimate relationship with our dear Lord.

The Novices from different Congregations total 14 of us like PDDM, SSC, SFS, and DSFS began our classes here in Orsola Bhavan, on 17 April. We indulged our time in learning the word of God.

The characteristic of the Psalms revealed to us a deep sense of God and deep faith and trust in God.

*The Psalms teaches us prayer is an unconditional openness to God and transparency.

*Prayer is the expression of our whole life.

We learned how to meditate and pray over the Psalms. The Psalms serve us as a mirror and we could very well see how our life is reflected in them, especially the Psalms 73 which expresses the most intimate sentiments of the human heart and pours out the depths of our heart. We felt very much enriched by these classes.

With gratitude we express our thanks to our Provincial superior Sr. Celine Cunha and her team, our Formators, and Sr. Paulcy for her timely initiative, untiring efforts & desire to share the word of God particularly the classes on Psalms. May our life of Prayer become more richer by our learnings.

Novices Rosita Gangmei, Sushita Kispotta



What is COURAGE?

As Chinese Philosopher says” “A man with outward courage dares to die;
a man with inner courage dares to live.”

Courage is about daring to live. Courage to make change, courage to
succeed, courage to keep going.

THE MAKER KNOWS WHAT I AM MADE OF!

Be perfect, therefore as your heavenly Father is perfect????????????

Looking at the question marks that are placed after the Biblical quotation one may wonder what it is all about? You are right, and you do not find such question marks after this quote in Mathew 5:48.

However, as I was reflecting over this, I had lots of questions in my mind. Have we ever thought about becoming as our heavenly Father is? Is it possible to become one? I am sure our very answer would be no.... but then can we try to be..... We are sinners... Today we are here, tomorrow we do not know.... We are human, we fail in our striving. Yes, there are many excuses that we can find for not striving to be perfect. However, have we ever thought what made Jesus to say, be perfect as your heavenly Father is!

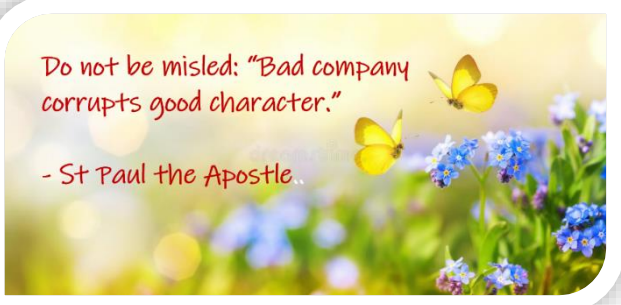
For example, if a man makes a robot, he is fully aware of what are the components he is using to make this Robot. The one who created it knows its abilities and capacities. If so, the one who created it, will he command the Robot to act beyond what he has not envisioned it to be? Of course, No. For the Maker knows his creation, its capacities, abilities, and strengths.

So also, it is with our Divine Maker. Will he ask us more than what we can? No, for our Master knows who we are and what we are made of. Therefore, He is asking us, **TO BE PERFECT AS OUR HEAVENLY FATHER IS!!!**

As the Pauline family honours St. Paul during this month of June, let us imitate him as he was the imitator of his Master Jesus.

“Like Apostle Paul, we allow ourselves to be formed by the Holy Spirit until our complete transformation in CHRIST!!!” (*Rule of Life - 24*)

**BE PERFECT AS YOUR HEAVENLY FATHER IS!!!
YES, IT IS POSSIBLE!!!**



Do not be misled: “Bad company corrupts good character.”

- St Paul the Apostle

For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant; later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

Paul the Apostle