

Assumption Link

Parish Vision: TO BUILD A VIBRANT UNITED CHRISTIAN PARISH SHARING AND CARING FOR EACH OTHER SELFLESSLY

FEW LINES.....

From the Parish Priest's Desk....

We need a mission to make life meaningful, it gives purpose to live more fully. This mission can be accomplished by good works we do. God always loves us as we are but he wants us to care for others. A mission in life will take us out of ourselves to others and will give us inner peace and joy. I have been the member of this Assumption family for the last five months and I have enjoyed each and every day here actualizing my mission in life.

How can we make this Assumption family into the Body of Christ? How and what can we do to reach out to the poorest of the poor? How can our children, our youth and all the young married couples feel united with this Assumption family?

On the 11th and 12th November we will have the Blessed Sacrament, the Lord Jesus himself, visiting our parish. Can we come together to meet Jesus as a family? The more we go closer to Jesus, the more we are united with our family members.

I call upon all the readers of Assumption Link to come forward with your written suggestions on how to make this Assumption family into the Body of Christ. Tell us about your mission, your vision, your goal for this parish. Remember you are important members of this Assumption family. Address your suggestions to me with your name, address and tel-no. and hand them to our office. Each letter will be acknowledged. Let us work to build God's kingdom here together.

*Fr. Elias D'Cunha
Parish Priest*

Dear Parishioners in order to defray our expenses, from this issue onwards we are accepting advertisements for the Assumption Link. You may send the Ads. on assumptionlink@gmail.com and payment to be made in advance by cheque only to our Parish Office in favor of "Our Lady of Assumption Church"

Advertisement rates for Assumption Link w.e.f.

November 2014

Ad. Rates

	<u>Color</u>	<u>B/W</u>
Full	2500	1500
Half	1500	1200
Quarter	1000	800

All community articles and reports of associations to be printed in our newsletter can be send to our new email id.: assumptionlink@gmail.com. Please note the last date to submit articles for printing is November 20, 2014.



Community Updates

Comm. 1 – Saints Peter & Paul | Co-ordinator – Selwyn Miranda

Here is a brief synopsis on the community activities over the quarter

Parents Day – First Teachers of Faith

The animators personally handed over ‘Parents Day Greeting Cards’ to all parents of the community on 26th July. The greeting card contained a prayer to Saints Joachim and Anne, asking them to guide the parents in raising their children in love and faithful teaching as provided by them to their daughter, Mary. All parents appreciated this gesture.

The Community is grateful to Genevieve D’Souza, who arranged for printing of the cards.

Presentation of the Lord’s Prayer

On 28th September, a special meeting was held to commemorate the ceremony of the Presentation of the Lord’s Prayer (Our Father) to Nathan D’Souza, the sole 1st Holy Communicant of our Community. All animators and community members graced this occasion.

Visit to Swagat Ashram – Home for the lonely and depressed

We visited Swagat Ashram, a home for the lonely and depressed on 06th October morning. It is situated in Malvani, behind St Anthony’s Church, and here all the people living in hopelessness are welcome. This home has been built on love, care, affection and most importantly respect for life, by a lay Catholic couple.

We presented the inmates with plenty of clothes and various skin care ointments. The inmates comprised of street and destitute children, homeless middle-aged and old aged people, the sick and the suffering. Free shelter, food, education and medical aid are provided to them. We were very impressed by the way the inmates are cared for—with love and compassion.

Daily praying of the Rosary during October 2014

Come October and the devotion to Our Lady of Fatima is diligently observed within our community. The statue is taken into procession daily to the homes of the member with lit candles and melodious singing of hymns dedicated to Mary. The community members pray the Rosary every day at the respective homes. The procession has attracted so many of our Non-Christian brethren in the locality; they too join us to pay their respects to Our Lady. With the daily recitation of the Rosary, we have strengthened our devotion to Our Lady.

Selwyn Miranda

Comm. 4 - Little Flower | Co-ordinator - Ivan D’silva

Annual get together

The annual get-together of the Little Flower community was celebrated on 4th October. The families gathered in prayer invoking the blessings of our patron, Saint Theresa of the Child Jesus during mass. Ruffino, Zita and Alistair did a good job of organizing and entertaining the crowd. It was so much fun to meet all the members and share quality time together as one big strong family. Many volunteered to be future animators. This was one big step in making a strong little Flower family. We heartily thank our community coordinator and animators for organising this splendid occasion. We ended with a thanksgiving prayer and dinner.

Sharon Pandey

Comm. 13 - Shield of Faith | Co-ordinator - Fausta Dsouza

Feast Day of Community 13 – Shield of Faith

On the feast of St. Michael, our community held a get together for all community members in the hall. It began with a warm encouraging speech by Fr. Elias followed by the introduction of the three confirmation students - Jovita, Jasmita and Nelson, one first ccommunicant Kevin and one RCIA candidate Sangeeta, to the rest of the community. This was followed by light refreshments and some games and music with the active participation of one and all. There was a presentation on the various stages in the life of St. Michael the Archangel, giving an insight into the interesting aspects in the life of our patron saint. This was followed by a vote of thanks by Bertha and a sumptuous dinner.

Fausta Dsouza

Comm. 15 - Imm. Heart of Mary | Co-ordinator - Leena Fernandes

Feast of “Immaculate Heart of Mary”

Our feast celebration began with a moment of silence to pray for the departed souls. Fr Elias and Br Rocky spoke about the importance of the peoples’ involvement in church activities. There was community participation of the young and the old in the skits presented on stage. Meaningful and faith re-enforcing skits, *Butcher Shop* and *Worth of the Eucharist*, were performed by the Confirmation students.

Marc entertained the crowd with his lovely guitar strumming. Music and dance were the highlights of the evening enjoyment. We thank Lydia and Leena for being the guiding force of our community.

William Vincent D’Mello



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Parish Events

ASSOCIATION DAY

Our Parish celebrated "Association Day" for the first time recently on October 5, 2014, as a part of Thanksgiving Day celebrations observed across the Archdiocese of Bombay. This was a milestone for our Parish given the overwhelming response that came in from the approximately 30 Associations, Groups, and Small Christian Community representatives, who numbered around 245 in attendance. Not only did we show up in terms of numbers, but with the determination to come together, succeed and the enthusiasm clearly showing - as if a new life has come into us!

The evening celebrations started off at 6 p.m. with Fr. Elias, personally welcoming the attendees with a handshake and his heartwarming smile. We proceeded with icebreakers on the Church Lawns - again a first time experience - where our very own parishioners Troy Monteiro, Ancilla Dsouza & Merint Thomas put their compering skills to an impressive display and ensured that all groups represented were introduced meaningfully. Fr. Elias introduced the guest speaker for the evening, Fr. Felix D'Souza who is well-known across the Archdiocese of Bombay for his valuable input, guidance and active involvement in Associations and their contributions to successful spiritually uplifted parish life. Fr. Felix proceeded to hold the formation experience, which was a very down-to-earth rendition of what we as chosen people in Associations are called to do. He dwelled on five aspects, namely, the paradigm shift in the perception of the Church - from a sacramental Church to living the sacraments; inculcating a love for what we do in ourselves; how we are chosen for what we are doing; looking at the larger picture; and, of how if we are not part of the solution, we become part of the problem. With active involvement from all present, a lot of fun-filled responses and meaningful sharing of experiences with our fellow association members, each and every one of us came out of the experience as winners. Winners in the knowledge of what our Associations mean, more united in an understanding of how all of us need to work together for the glory of our Parish and of Our Church, and probably with a humbling experience of what it is meant to be chosen as an

PARISH THANKSGIVING DAY

Thanksgiving Day was celebrated on October 5 in the Archdiocese of Bombay. In keeping with this theme, we had the blessing of sheaves of paddy by Fr. Elias near the Christ the King statue at 9 a.m., followed by high mass.

Parishioners attended in large numbers with the various Small Christian Communities coming together and making offerings of fruit, vegetables, grains and other food items. In

instrument of God; to understand our weaknesses, overcome them and do our part. All of us were moved to the core with this knowledge and it clearly showed on our faces and interactions thereafter - a mini paradigm shift already in the group that attended. One could literally feel the barriers go down and the fusion begin.

The formative session ended with a concluding appeal made by Fr. Elias to all Associations to set personal, functional, and geographical differences aside and come together to make Our Lady of Assumption a Parish that all of us are proud to belong to and one that can be an example of Christian Community to those around us in the true sense of the word "Community." Each attendee was gifted a rosary blessed by Fr. Elias himself as a memento of the evening and an encouragement to pray for the success of the Parish each day.

A note must be made of the efforts put in by Fr. Elias, Fr. Byron and Bro. Rocky to this end with their personal involvement in getting the communities to come alive by attending meetings, and ensuring that they are now available in the true sense of the word to all parishioners in need of counsel or help or simply a pat on the back for what has been achieved. Truly, with the fun, dance and dinner that followed after a prayerful Grace Before Meals by Fr. Byron, one could see the unity amongst the representatives from diverse cultures, the link that has already formed and the light of our Parish as it glowed bright through to the end of the evening. Many were found forming groups and just talking and getting to know each and literally no one was solitary. We toast this as an achievement by Our Parish Priest, Fr. Byron and Bro Rocky - *a new wave has definitely come in - Abhi Ache Din Zaroor Aa Rahe Hai!* We wish the various Associations, Groups and Small Christian Communities all the very best for a successful spiritual year ahead and thank everyone who attended for giving of themselves and their time to making this event a success. Our actions speak louder than words and the results of what we can achieve together as a Parish will prove that our hearts are in it for real this time and for keeps. ***Three cheers to the Parish team!***

Priya Silveira

addition, in a true spirit of gratitude, Fr. Elias took the time to thank everyone involved in the parish communities and the various Associations. Blessed sheaves of paddy were distributed after the mass.

A special formation experience was held for the members of all the Associations in the parish the same evening. A special thanks goes out to our parish team and ushers for organizing the event smoothly.

Neeta Kanchan



PPC Picnic

We all are living in the fast lanes where every moment we strive to meet deadlines that come our way or fulfil social commitments that we make. And there comes a time when we just need to take a break to unwind our mind and body from our busy hectic schedule. Similarly, the Parish Pastoral Council members also much-needed a break from their routine activities, and went for a picnic on 02nd October with the Priests, Religious and Brother of our Parish to unwind themselves.

The venue ‘Bobby’s Dream’, a Beach Resort at Culvem near Gorai. The clean lawns, shades of the palm trees and cool sea breeze all through the day was an ideal place to chill out in the hot month of October.

All members assembled in the church compound immediately after the 06:30 am mass to board the bus destined for the Picnic. Right from the onset, there was a feeling of oneness and enthusiasm among the members. The journey began with a prayer by Fr Elias, and later on it was fun filled with songs and jokes all the way.

After a tasty breakfast, which was followed by prayers at the Grotto of Mother Mary in the premises, it was fun and laughter all through the day. There was music of all varieties to entertain all. There was plenty of space in the Resort for games and dancing. Everyone took part in the singing, dancing, and games. It was heartening to see some, otherwise shy and silent, feel at home and take part in all the merriment.

During the day, there was a variety of snacks and drinks to cater to everyone’s taste. A special mention must be made of the sumptuous lunch that day, which kept everyone’s taste buds tingling. Besides a variety of home-prepared dishes by the caretakers of the Resort, there were fish delicacies prepared by the fishing community of St Andrews parish, Chowk, Utan, and presented to us by their Parish Priest Fr Joe Borges, who was also kind enough to transport the same to us at the Resort. Thanks to Fr Borges and the Fishing Community for their generosity.

Post lunch, the merriment continued with more games, singing and dancing. It was a pleasant sight to see our priests, brother and some members, take part in the dancing, dressed in the traditional fishing attire. The joyful mood of members that day did not end with our leaving the Resort at 6 pm, but continued with singing and jokes in the bus on our way home.

This picnic was a platform for all PPC members to interact and understand one another more personally. It was a wonderful day.

We, the PPC members are grateful to our Parish Priest for his constant support and encouragement in making the Picnic a grand success.

Selwyn Miranda

JYOTI DENTAL CLINIC – Our Parish Project

Good dental or oral care is very important to maintain healthy teeth, gums and tongue. Oral problems such as bad breath, dry mouth, canker or cold sores, TMD, tooth decay, or thrush are all treatable with proper diagnosis and care. Here at Jyoti Dental clinic, we are committed towards providing ORAL health to all.

Our focus is to have Optimum Oral health for all by 2020, which will sensitize people towards oral health and enable them to prevent a situation to happen. “Oral health is the Gateway to a healthy body” therefore give your family a chance to be Cavity FREE.

Our mission “Healthy smiles” focuses on the hidden threats to oral health such as gum diseases, root cavities, infections and oral cancer. It encourages people to inculcate good oral habits.

We wish to make people aware about the importance of oral health to prevent other medical problems such as cardiovascular problems, diabetes, pyorrhea etc. Our concern is about the growing numbers of oral cancer, tobacco intervention initiative is an important initiative of IDA aimed at stoppage of TOBACCO.

It is a common belief that only sugary foods and sweets leads to cavities, but it is interesting to know that fast food also causes decay and cavities.

Always remember the saying “Prevention is better than Cure”

So, do not delay, you are welcome – Jyoti Dental Clinic c/o Our Lady of Assumption Church

Douglas Murzello

Timings of the Clinic
Morning: 10 am – 12 noon
Afternoon: 3 pm – 5 pm
Evening: 6 pm – 8.30 pm

Formation Programme for our Children

The children of the parish from Stds. 5 - 9 were called for a formation session on the 6th of October by our parish team. Fr Gerald Rodrigues S.J. from Holy Family Church, Andheri, was the guest speaker. The session was mainly to give all of us a positive self image of ourself. He also told us some stories and jokes to explain and make it easier for us to understand. Snacks and cold-drinks were distributed to refresh the children. The playground and the church garden were open for all children to have fun and enjoy themselves. We want to say a big-thank you to our parish fathers and brother who always love and care for us.

Hazel Abreo



Comm No 17 – St Anthony | Co-ordinator Sagayaraj Kovilpillai

Spending quality time with the Elders

October 01st was a big day of surprise for my wife Stella and me, at 04:00 pm our doorbell rings and to our amaze we our greeted by our coordinator Sagayaraj Kovilpillai, Secretary Nirmala Sequeira, and animators Juliana, Vandana and Joyce.

They walk in carrying bags full of goodies, wishing Stella and me a happy Senior Citizen’s day. We were each offered with a piece of cake, and then gifted us with a micro-oven safe food serving plate set with fork and spoon.

Thereafter, we went along with this group to greet all the other Senior Citizens residing in our community, offering them a piece of cake and presenting them with serving plate set as gifts.

We were moved with joy to see the gleam in their eyes and the awesome smile on their faces. They felt loved and cared for, as we spent some more time talking to them and clicked some photographs with each one of them.

We visited 27 of our Senior Citizens and each one of us experienced great satisfaction in sharing these wonderful moments with our elders.

John Lucas

Answers to Quiz on St. Francis
1 – b, 2 – a, 3 – c, 4 – b, 5 – c, 6 – a, 7 – c, 8 - a

MILESTONES

Baptised In Christ

26-10-2014 Myra Child of Kristan and Sheryl Dillon - (Comm No: 15)

26-10-2014 Tyrell Child of Gareth and Maria Fernandes - (Comm. No:16)

Married In Christ

03-10-2014 Sylvester L. Almeida to Pearl Mendonca

Rested In Christ

11-10-2014 Clara Jackie Mascarenhas – 89 Yrs – Sector 3, - (Comm No: 16)

22-10-2014 Juliana Manuel D’souza – 35 Yrs - Ekta Nagar - (Comm No: 10)

Comm. 16 - Don Bosco | Co-ordinator - Iris D’souza

Teachers Day Celebration

On 5th of September we celebrated Teachers Day in our community. We gave a rose and a chocolate bar to all the teachers in our community. They were happy and thankful for being remembered and appreciated.

Jessica Dsouza

Rosary Special

Comm. 2- Assumption | Co-ordinator - Elvis Gomes

Community Rosary

The Assumption community got together once again at the community cross to begin the circulation of the statue of Our Lady of Fatima to various members’ homes. Hymns were sung as the procession began from the cross. Light refreshments were served after the Rosary.

Alisha D’souza

Comm. 3 - Infant Jesus | Co-ordinator - Amolraj Chettiar

Community Rosary

There was a good response to the community rosary recited in various members’ homes where the statue of Our Lady of Fatima was brought with great reverence.

Amolraj Chettiar

CIVIC & POLITICAL CELL

In a major step towards achieving the goals of the Civic & Political cell, the unit of Our Lady of Assumption Church with the help of Mr. Rakesh Singh & Mr Sanjay Singh, both very close confidants of the Hon. Minister, managed to get an appointment and met the Hon. Union Minister of State for Railways Shri Manoj Sinha on the 8th of October 2014 at the Westin Hotel Goregaon. Our team comprising of ten members presented a memorandum to the Hon. Minister and impressed on the urgent need for a DIRECT TRAIN on a DAILY or WEEKLY basis to Vailankanni from Mumbai. This effort is to reduce the hardships faced by the devotees on pilgrimage to the shrine. The Hon. Minister has assured our team that he will surely look into this matter and take appropriate and necessary steps. In regards to this we invite fellow Catholics who have been pursuing this issue, to contact any of the civic & political members, because we will be following up this work with the Hon. Minister till its logical end.

KUDOS to all our members of the C&P cell for going beyond the church boundaries in an attempt to integrate into the Civic & Political mainstream, once again an appeal to all like minded parishioners to join our TEAM.....WE NEED YOU..

Civic & Political Cell



KIDS CORNER...



From this issue onwards we are starting a regular page/column for our very young, young and not so young readers. This means that even though the matter presented here is targeted for a particular age section, we are sure all readers will find something informative or humorous. We hope that parents will encourage their children to make it a point to browse this section regularly..

- Editorial Team

St Francis Xavier

Francis Xavier, SJ, born Francisco De Jasso Y Azpilicueta (7 April 1506–3 December 1552), was a Roman Catholic missionary born in Xavier, Kingdom of Navarre (now part of Spain), and co-founder of the Society of Jesus. Well that was a complicated piece of information, right ? So lets make it fun by learning about this famous saint with a quiz.

1. St Francis' very close friend was ...

- a. St Paul
- b. St Ignatius
- c. St Gonsalo Garcia

2. St Francis arrived in Goa in the year ...

- a. 542
- b. 395
- c. 947

3. St Francis died in the year 1552 in ...

- a. Goa
- b. Spain
- c. China

4. Francis was the co-founder of ...

- a. The Missionaries of Charity
- b. The Society of Jesus
- c. United Nations Organisation

5. The body of St. Francis is kept in a silver casket in ...

- a. The Basilica of Mount Mary, Bandra
- b. Infant Jesus Shrine, Nashik
- c. The Basilica of Bom Jesus, Goa

6. Francis Xavier was canonized by Pope Gregory XV in the year ...

- a. 622
- b. 922
- c. 722

7. St Francis' feast day is on ...

- a. August 15
- b. December 25
- c. December 3

8. Pope Pius XI proclaimed St Francis the patron saint of ...

- a. Catholic Missions
- b. Poor and Needy
- c. Travellers

A Sunday School teacher decided to have her 2 nd grade class memorize Psalm 23, one of the most quoted passages in the Bible. She gave the children a month to learn the chapter.



One little boy was excited about the task, but he just couldn't memorize the Psalm. Although he practiced and practiced, he could hardly get past the first line. The day came for the children to recite Psalm 23 before the parishioners. The little boy was nervous. When his turn came, he stepped up to the microphone and proudly said, "The Lord is my Shepherd and that's all I need to know!"



A father wanted to read the paper, but was being bothered by his little daughter, Susie. Finally, he took a sheet out of his magazine, on which was printed the map of the world. Tearing it into small pieces, he gave it to Susie, and said, "Go into the other room and see if you can put this together."



After a few minutes, Susie returned and handed him the map correctly fitted together. The father was very surprised and asked how she had finished so quickly.

"Oh", she said, "on the other side of the paper is a picture of Jesus. When I got Jesus in His place, then the world came out all right."

One afternoon a little boy was playing outdoors. He used his mother's broom as a horse and had a wonderful time until it was getting dark. He left the broom on the back porch. His mother was cleaning up the kitchen when she realized that her broom was missing. She asked the little boy about the broom and he told her where it was. She then asked him to please go get it. The little boy informed his mom that he was afraid of the dark and didn't want to go out to get the broom. His mother smiled and said "The Lord is out there too, don't be afraid". The little boy opened the back door a little and said 'Lord if you're out there, hand me the broom!'



Community Rosary
Comm. 2. - Assumption



Community Rosary
Comm. 3. - Infant



PPC Picnic



Community Feast
Community No. 15



Civic and Political Cell



Senior Citizen Felicitation

Published by : Rev. Fr. Elias D’Cunha, Parish Priest - Our Lady of Assumption Church, (West), Mumbai 400067
Tel : 28056708/28060042 Email : assumptionlink@gmail.com

Media Team

Editor - Fr. Byron Mendonça | Sub Editors : Harold Mendes, Troy Monteiro & Delphine Estibeiro
Co-ordinator & Public Relations : Joe Kuriakose | Photography - Roy Michael Patrick & Crystal Fernandes
Designing - Royden L. Gomes, John D’Souza & Rupert Sequeira | Website Designing - Basil Martyres
www.assumptionchurch.in

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