

Pope Expresses "Trepidation" Over Libya Events

(Zenit.org). - Benedict XVI is expressing concern over the escalating violence in Libya as several foreign countries attempt to enforce a ceasefire in that region. Meanwhile the Vatican envoy to Tripoli has called for a truce in the conflict.

"In recent days the troubling news that has come from Libya has also stirred trepidation and fear in me," the Pontiff said. He added, "I follow the latest events

E.C Churches intact after heavy rains

Heavy rains last weekend left the Roman Catholic Church at Unity in several feet of water according to Parish Priest Gregory Giméyi. He said while the churches at Mahaica, Danzig and Mahaica remained intact most of the crops in the Mahaica compound were lost.

Heavy down pours last weekend along with the deliberate release of water from the Lama conservancy into the Mahaica River caused extensive flooding and some loss of crops and pastures for livestock along the East Coast especially in the Mahaica / Mahaicony area.

The Alliance For Change estimated the damages to be more than \$500,000,000.

Mass in Portuguese

Every Sunday afternoon at 5:00 sharp at Our Lady of Fatima Church on Robb Street and New Garden Street Holy Mass is celebrated in Portuguese.

Brazilian Jesuit, Fr. Chris Primo, is the celebrant. Brazilians, Portuguese students, Spanish speakers, those interested in celebrating mass in another language are all very welcome.

3rd WEEK OF LENT

Bishop's Engagements

Sun 27th March: 08:30 hrs AGM of St. Vincent de Paul Society in New Amsterdam

15:00 hrs Bible Quiz at Marian Academy

Tue 29th March: 17:00 hrs Meet with Diocesan Financial Council

Thurs 31st March: 17:30 hrs Family and Life Commission meeting

Fri 1st April: 17:00 hrs Stations of the Cross and Mass at Holy Spirit

Sat 2nd April: 15:00 hrs Youth Retreat at St. Paul's Pastoral Centre

Sun 3rd April: 15:00 hrs Legion of Mary meeting at Holy Spirit

with great apprehension"

Last month, protestors in Libya began calling for the ousting of Muammar Gaddafi, the country's leader for 42 years. The protest soon escalated into armed conflict, with Gaddafi controlling Tripoli and the rebel leaders making their headquarters in Benghazi.

Faced to reports of "massacres" of the protestors and bombings of the rebel forces by Gaddafi, on Thursday the U.N. Security Council passed Resolution 1973. This resolution authorized the international community to establish a no-fly zone, and to allow for the use of "all means necessary" for the protection of Libyan civilians.

On Saturday, French military jets began to act on this resolution, destroying five tanks belonging to the Gaddafi regime. The United States and the United Kingdom also launched attacks on the Libyan military systems.

The Holy Father affirmed, "I prayed especially for this to the Lord during the week of retreat" of the Roman Curia, which ended Saturday.

He continued, "I pray for those who are involved in the dramatic situation in that

country and I address a pressing call to the political and military leaders that they take the security of the citizens to heart and guarantee access to humanitarian aid." Benedict XVI concluded, "I wish to assure the people of my affectionate nearness, as I ask God that peace and concord dawn for Libya and the whole region of North Africa as soon as possible."

Meanwhile Bishop Giovanni Innocenzo Martinelli, the apostolic vicar of Tripoli, has called for a truce in the Libyan conflict following continued military intervention by a coalition of 14 nations. "The bombing continues," Bishop Martinelli told the Fides news agency on March 23. "The explosions haven't stopped from last night to early this morning. It has been awful."

"I am not afraid of the bombs as much as I am the inability of everyone to find a peaceful solution," he added. "This evening [Libyan leader Muammar] Gaddafi reappeared on television and said that he will never surrender. We need to reach a truce to end the violence and deaths, and then create dialogue between the parties."

B'dam cub scouts in New Amsterdam



The Briekdam Cathedral Cub Scouts group last weekend held a patrol leaders training camp at Church of the Ascension, New Amsterdam. Group scout leader Dominique Van Sluytman told the Catholic Standard that Parish priest Father Terrence Monrose and the NA community were host to the twenty-seven cub scouts who spent three enjoyable days at the Church.

Sunday and after this some of the group posed with their host for this photo.

The aim of scouting is to promote the development of young people in achieving their full physical, intellectual, social and spiritual potential, as individuals, as responsible citizens and members of their local, national and international communities.

Growing Church

It is becoming fairly common to open a Christian magazine or newspaper and read about the closing of a church or convent in some part of the Christian world. Very often it is not just the result of demographics or itinerant populations. It is a fact that the face of Christian belief, culture and society is rapidly changing in many parts of the world. More religious buildings are closing than are opening in a number of countries.

This is one of the reasons why Monday, March 14, was such heartening day, without precedent, as the first ever convent in the Pakaraimas was blessed and opened. There are many things only the church can do and teach in society. The Jesuit priests first brought the faith to the Pararaimas area over 100 years ago and the church has undoubtedly made an impact which cannot be ignored. Indeed it is proud history of its involvement in that region. The opening of this convent has now sent a very positive message to Catholics throughout the country. It will certainly

contribute to making God's power and presence more visible and vivid in the area. It is also without doubt a very encouraging sign of the vitality of the Catholic faith in that part of the country. The Ursuline sisters have been travelling regularly to Karasabai for some time

CATHOLIC STANDARD
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now from their convent at Aishalon. The idea for this convent at Karasabai was born years ago and became a reality thanks to tireless efforts of several individuals and groups.

Many have commented on the months of hard, selfless, enthusiastic work of the villagers themselves in making this structure a reality. Their active participation in this venture is perhaps the best guarantee and insurance that

they will continue to engage people in evangelism, stay awake and alive. This is vital for the faith to endure and expand. As we mentioned earlier it would be fairly easy to walk the streets of some cities of the world which were once very proud of their Christian heritage and now conclude that Christianity is dying out, watered-down, or marginalised at best. Last week's events in the Pakaraimas proves that this is certainly not a world wide trend. In fact reports from several large areas in Central and Eastern Asia, and some of the most unlikely places, bear witness to a huge growth of the Christian Church, some actually thriving under hostile persecution. This is in sharp contrast to what is happening elsewhere. We congratulate and take heart from those responsible for this small but very significant step which will contribute considerably to spirit-filled worship, faith and fellowship. This enables us all to take comfort that the words of Jesus "I will build my church" are still being fulfilled today.

EDUCATING YOUR MIND

"Education does not commence with the alphabet; it begins with a mother's look, with a father's nod of approbation, or a sign of reproof; with a sister's gentle pressure of the hand, or a brother's noble act of forbearance; with handfuls of flowers in green dells, on hills, and daisy meadows; with bird' nests admired, but not touched; with creeping ants, and almost imperceptible emmets; with humming-bees and glass beehives; with pleasant walks in shady lanes, and with thoughts directed in sweet and kindly tones and words to nature, to beauty, to acts of benevolence, to deeds of virtue, and to the source of all good
— to God Himself!"

Anon

The learning process continues throughout our lives and a lot depends on our willingness, our inner desire to accept the principle that we need to constantly learn to be a useful and productive person for the benefit of ourselves and society as a whole.

In our changing world, one needs to keep abreast with the happenings of the day and developmental trends. The learning process may take the form of the classroom as well as in day-to-day interactions. We receive intellectual, moral and social instructions, which combined with understanding, and the various influences in our behavioural pattern, our experiences are enriched. The knowledge base which is absolutely necessary, is not enough. The educated person has the capacity to use that knowledge based on various considerations and with confidence to make decisions and act purposefully.

Persons of mature age are certainly aware of the significant changes

in the information flow to young people who have the benefit of teaching aids. The flow of general and specific information which when accumulated, strengthens their data base and gives them greater potential to contribute to discussions, to development projects and to assist others in understanding rational behaviour.

Many acts and experiences have a formative effect on the mind. One should never stop learning, especially at these times, when science and technology are advancing rapidly and influencing our lives, especially evidenced in new products we use. Our full potential needs to be attained.

Writing on Educating your mind, Robert H. Schuller stated

"When wisdom enters your heart, / And knowledge is pleasant to your soul, / Discretion will preserve you; / Understanding will keep you."

— PROVERBS 2:10-11

"There is only one now — I'm going to make the most of today.

There is only one me — I'll make the most of myself.

People who have a lot of faith believe in themselves and their potential enough to invest everything to make the most of the one life they have.

How?

If you believe in yourself, you'll educate yourself.

You'll pay the price to become informed. Perhaps you need to go back to school, or aim for another degree.

Do you need to be brought up to date on new technology?

VIEWPOINT BY VIBERT PARVATAN

Today more than ever before, a neglected intelligence is folly.

"A mind is a terrible thing to waste" is the slogan of the United Negro College Fund.

Faith means being good stewards of the treasures God has put at our disposal, the opportunities He puts before us, the gifts He has given us, and the resources He has entrusted to our care.

Is any treasure more valuable than your ability to think?

Remember, faith and intellect are not opponents. The smarter you become, the stronger your faith can grow. Be wise. Seek the counsel of the smartest people. Go to the person you would like to work for and ask what you need to do to qualify for the job you would like.

Keep this formula in mind today.

Inspiration + preparation + self-motivation = successful faith
Prepare yourself to become a leader.
You can do it — you are a possibility thinker."

It is my view the mind should be fertile, receptive to learning and reflect positively on our decision making, which ultimately is influenced by what we have learnt, and understood in essence our experiences of life.

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Religious Authorities AD 30 and Today

Dear Editor,

How is it that our pastors and teachers in the Catholic Church can neither abolish the Church fair as Jesus emphatically did nor refute my 18-year stand against it? Jesus did not bother to reason with the buyers and the sellers. He simply drove them out. His real grouse was with the Jewish religious authorities. So let me compare our religious authorities of today with those in Jerusalem of ~AD 30.

Jesus respected the authority and the knowledge of the Scribes and Pharisees [Matt 23:2]. It was their practices and

contrivances to make God's Law in the Old Testament of no effect that He condemned [Mark 7:13]. Now that He did not even attempt to

reason with them about entertaining a market in the Temple courtyards. Why? The answer is that both He and they knew full well that there was nothing in the Law expressly forbidding such a market!

Would Jesus have the same respect for the learning possessed by our Church authorities of today? I think not, as I demonstrated last time with the Church leaders' interpretation of Isaiah 9:3 (and to which you, Editor, chose an inappropriate title). Jesus knew full well He instituted a New Testament, an important part of which is the Gospel the Spirit of God inspired St. John to write. This Gospel plainly and unambiguously records the Second Person of the Most Holy Trinity while He was on Earth throwing out a market from the premises of the House of the One God. Can there be a more express forbidding of such a market in New Testament times?

Not even the most deluded translator could pervert the fact that the Head of the New Testament Church does not want commerce in its land. So how do our church leaders get around this? They brainwash the laity into believing that ordinary people cannot understand the Bible unless they are properly trained in the modern theological seminaries, which mix human 'wisdom' with the scriptures

to make it more amenable to easy planned living (instead of having to depend on the God's Providence [Matt 6:24-34]). The resulting ignorance of the scriptures keeps them dependent on the theologians for interpretations. 2 Peter 1:20 is usually misapplied to support this.

We are supposed to support our Church. This was the way of our spiritual ancestors, at least since Abraham. The secular planners in the guise of church leaders, however, invented the Church Fair so that we can support the Fair, which supports the Church. They will even tell you that you are doing it for Jesus! In so doing they have fabricated a device to

Letters to the Editor

get around the forcibly expressed will of the same Jesus for the sake of their own providence [cf. Mark 7:6-9].

The laity's happy ignorance of the scriptures and their prevalent perversions are the real foundations of what some are now calling "clericalism". The savvy Guyanese man-in-the-street, however, has long had a name for the organisers and officers of any such self-perpetuating setup, whether with clergy, cricket officials, government contractors, cartel, or other exclusive club: "Ahh, is ah pries'hood", he would conclude, and shelve it as one of those things in life that you can do nothing about.

ALFRED BHULAI

IS IT WRONG TO GET A TATTOO?

Dear Editor,

I was questioned about whether it was a sin to get a tattoo. I think the answer can be useful.

A tattoo is a permanent mark or drawing on the body which is made by introducing pigment into openings in the skin. It has been a practice in many parts of the world, although it is less common among populations with dark skin and has been absent in many parts of China (at least in the last few centuries).

On some occasions tattoos are used for magic protection against illness or disgrace. They are also used to identify one's rank or state, or to show that one belongs to a certain group.

The Dictionary of Symbols of Chevalier-Cheerbrant (Herder, Barcelona 1991, p.980) says: tattoos primarily represent symbols of identification and are also associated with magic and mystical powers. Identification always has a double meaning: it tends to attribute to the subject the virtues and the strengths of the object which the tattoo represents; but it also tends to protect the subject against the evils of that which is represented. Sometimes even the consecration to the being symbolically represented by the tattoo. Therefore, it is a sign of a covenant. Tattoos have also been found on Egyptian

Weather forecasts must improve

Dear Editor,

The weather reporting mechanisms and body in Guyana are laughable indeed. When Guyana did not have the multi-million dollar Doppler radar, they said that they had poor weather reporting instruments. Now that they have acquired the radar - one of only two in the Caribbean region (the other one is in Trinidad) - they are debunking its capabilities and blaming their inefficient and inaccurate weather reports on the changing dynamics of weather systems

that build up in the atmosphere. We know the changing dynamics of weather, but the Doppler radar is a powerful machine that can

forecast precipitation, especially that which is heavy in concentrated areas. Do they even have properly-trained personnel to operate that station they have at Hyde Park, Timehri?

These people specialize in pointless weather forecasting. They're always wrong. Look how they got it all wrong on Mash Day in Georgetown.

Are these people for real? Why don't they report weather that has already happened? You know, like, the weather in such area was sunny yesterday, and such like. They would do better in reporting weather in the past tense than trying to predict what the weather would be like tomorrow.

LEON JAMESON SUSERAN

mummies dating from the year 2000 B.C. Their use is mentioned by classic authors in relation to Thracians, Greeks, Galls, ancient Germans and Bretons. The Romans would tattoo criminals and slaves. With the arrival of Christianity, tattoos were prohibited in Europe, but they continued in the Middle East and in other parts of the world.

In the Americas, many indigenous tribes were accustomed to tattooing. The most common technique consisted solely in punctures in the skin, but some tribes from California introduced color into the openings in the skin.

Tattoos using various techniques have been found throughout the world. The tattoo was rediscovered by Europeans when they came into contact with the American Indians and the Polynesians in the time of the great explorations. Tattooed Indians and Polynesians, and later on Europeans, attracted a lot of interest in exhibitions, fairs, and circuses in Europe and the United States in the 18th and 19th centuries.

Tattoo parlors, where specialized "professors" tattooed European and American mariners, started to appear in all the cities throughout the world. The United States became the influential

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Guyana photo in international competition

A photograph of a rural scene in Guyana, taken by British photographer James Broscombe, is currently in 9th position in an international photography competition.

The competition sponsored by Macallan Whisky of Scotland is showcasing images of great journeys. The photograph was taken by James when he was working as a volunteer in the South Rupununi. It shows an Aishalton resident setting out on a long journey by ox cart, travelling through one of the many creeks in the region. Members of the public are able to place votes on the submitted photographs by visiting the Macallan website

at www.themastersofphotography.com. A direct link to James' Guyana photograph is at <http://www.themastersofphotography.com/the-masterclass-gallery/s17/?cmd=SubmissionDetail&id=410> other photographs from Guyana can be seen by using the 'view on world map' option.

Votes will be accepted until the end of June 2011.



Is it wrong to get a tattoo?

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center for tattoos, especially with the spread of tattoos with American themes or images.

During the last part of the 19th Century, tattoos were in style among the men and women of the upper class in England. Apart

from Euro-Americans and Japanese and certain medical applications, tattoos are dying out or extinct in many parts of the world.

Sometimes religious objections are made against the practice of tattoos ("You shall not make any cuttings in your flesh on account of the dead or tattoo any marks upon you: I am the LORD" Lev 19:28).

Tattoos have been said to cause risks of certain disorders such as skin cancer. In 1961 the use of tattoos was severely restricted by the government of the city of New York because of the role that contaminated tattoo equipment played in the spread of hepatitis.

From the moral point of view, one must have in mind what images are being depicted, with what intention, and with what implications it may have for one's health, etc. (From "The Theologian answers"-Fr. Miguel A. Fuentes, IVE)

Fr. Javier Correa Llano, IVE

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