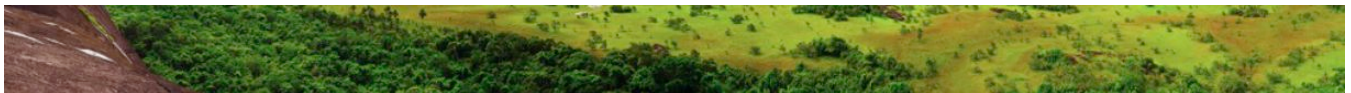




**08 APRIL 2011, GEORGETOWN, GUYANA.**



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Editor: Mr. Colin Smith.

## **Editorial: Pope's appeals for families**

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The wellbeing of families in the Caribbean and Latin America is under threat from “rapid cultural changes and social instability,” poverty and migration of people. This was the warning given by Pope Benedict to Bishops from Latin America and the Caribbean who were meeting in Colombia a few weeks ago.

Pope Benedict has spoken repeatedly and extensively on family life. In focusing on Latin America and the Caribbean he called on the church in these areas to protect families and children from “education programs which trivialize sexuality” and “false ideologies”.

Here in Guyana the Ministry of Human Services has taken the highly commendable lead in introducing a raft of legislation and other systems and other systems which could result in greatly enhancing family life in this country.

However as the Minister herself has said on a number of occasions passing legislation along with other initiatives such as the White Zones, the Family Court and others would not provide the solution to the problems we face.

In this issue we carry a statement from the Guyana Human Rights Association in which it points out that police prosecutors and magistrates are neglecting to apply the provisions of the Domestic Violence Act. “Despite having this armoury of devices at their disposal to protect women victims and to restrict the ability of perpetrators to harass, threaten, maim or kill them, prosecutors appear not to take any of this into account when bail is under consideration,” the GHRA said. That organization called for a more integrated approach to managing the prosecution of domestic and sexual domestic violence cases.

There are so many other examples of laws being passed only to be “ignored”.

Recently officials of the Ministry of Education were still picking up truants in disturbingly large numbers. Unfortunately this does not seem to be an ongoing, holistic exercise and many children parents and guardians remain unconvinced they have any future in the current system and cynical of a society which they feel has sold them short.

The Catholic church has traditionally held that the family is “the original cell of social life... It is the community in which one learns values and the good use of freedom.

Family units are one of the strongest - and probably among the last – remaining domains of strongly bonded groups which can be so powerful and influential if they remain this way.

Many institutions and individuals in the Church have already responded very generously and creatively to the problems facing families. The Pope call a few weeks ago was to go further and work to change structures and ideologies and to get to the root causes of problems. The Pope’s challenge is for the Church to rally more to the sides of those families which he says are “under threat”.

## **REASON:VIEWPOINT BY VIBERT PARVATAN**

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### **POPE LEO X111 ON THE SUBJECT OF “REASON” STATED:-**

*“It is mind, or reason,  
which is the predominant  
element in us who are Human  
Creatures, it is this which  
renders a human being human*

*and distinguishes him*  
*Essentially and generically*  
*from the brute.”*

On that premise you and I may conclude that there are many brutes in our society. You may certainly recognise such persons. They need help to lift themselves from being proclaimed hot-tempered persons, to that of mature individuals, where reason flourishes and flying into a rage is suppressed.

May crimes – including domestic violence and even murder emerge from situations where talking and discussing problems may not be entertained.

Some persons simply refuse to listen or hear and will only respond brutally.

**Persons can surely change and they need to strive to curb bad traits such as being hot-tempered which are certainly not cast in concrete. Those panting, hostile persons shouting and glaring are not suffering from a hereditary disease. They typify their own values.**

Religious values, home training, sympathy for others, respect and tolerance, are pillars on which we build that quality of self-control which is needed in our lives. So many times we hear persons in their quiet moments of reflections, admitting that there are certain situations which invoke their annoyance and outrage. In certain circumstances, their reactions are a manifestation of hostility and aggression. Reasons take flight, and there is no limit as to what depths they may go to satisfy the fury within.

The admission by some person that they are hot-tempered, and may easily fly into a passion given certain situations, seems more a request for others to tolerate and accommodate them. It is also a sort of passive warning that others must beware as their anger and frenzy are a natural outflow.

So beware! Stay clear! Accept the outburst, threats, abuse and assaults, even be forgiving.

Why? Why should this be? Because they seek to have their outrageous anger categorized as an inherent characteristic and weakness of themselves. They suggest that they are really good persons. They will wish to be seen and accepted as sociable individuals.

**To my mind when an adult talks about lack of self-control and/or demonstrates that – it is an admission of immaturity. Possibly related to impatience, lack of tolerance and lack of reason.**

Those passionate people are self-destructive and are their own enemies. They need to be censored, condemned and be held accountable at all times for their aggression and hostility.

JOHN LOCKE OBSERVED:-

*“The most precious of all possessions, is the power over ourselves; power withstand trial, to bear suffering, to front danger, power over pleasure and pain; power to follow our convictions, however resisted by menace and scorn; the power of calm reliance in scenes of darkness and storms. He that has not a mastery over his inclinations; he that knows not how to resist the importunity of present pleasure or pain, for the sake of what reasons tells him is fit to be done, wants the true principle of virtue and industry, and is in danger of never being good for anything.”*

Too often the uncontrolled temper surfaces in a variety of way and causes psychological and sometimes even physical injuries to the persons targeted.

Sadly, there are cases of parents who in dealing with typical parental problems, demonstrate a total lack of reason. Rather than examining and discussing the issues and seeking to counsel, they simply “HIT THE ROOF”.

Children may then be insulted, threatened and abused in a blaze of temper, devoid of reason!

There are similar cases of husbands who may violently assault their wives in a temper. Their explanation or excuse, may be that they lost their self-control and in that process, their reason rioted. After the outbursts and in moments of apparent repentance, they automatically expect forgiveness, acceptance and restoration of normal relations. Those who claim having that attitude to anger easily need to look at themselves critically.

**What claim can those persons make to being human beings – the highest level of animal life, if they are incapable of reasoning?**

If their best approach to deal with most issues which surface is to explode, assault and or abuse.

**The desire to reason and to deal objectively with the many issues which confront us is too often overshadowed by aggression, arrogance and a haughty spirit.**

## Fr Preston to be the new U.K Jesuit Provincial

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The Jesuit Superior General Father Adolfo Nicolas has appointed Father Dermot Preston SJ as the next Provincial of the British Province. Fr Preston, currently Jesuit Regional Superior in Guyana, will take over from Fr Michael Holman SJ whose six year term of office ends in July.

This appointment means Fr Preston is now head of just over 200 Jesuits in Britain, Guyana and South Africa.

The appointment which is for six years takes effect in July.

Fr Preston, who is 53, has worked in Guyana, for the past 5 years.

He also has experience in the Province's other Region, South Africa, where he was Chaplain at Cape Town University and national chaplain to the lay Ignatian organisation, the Christian Life Community. On his return from South Africa, he was Socius (Assistant) to the Provincial for four years. Fr Preston was ordained priest in 1990 and was for a number of years vocations director for the British Province. Of his appointment Fr Holman said: "I am delighted that Fr Preston will be the next provincial. He is a dedicated follower of Ignatius. He is well known as a generous pastor, an amiable companion, an imaginative teacher of the faith and a wise leader of our men and our works in Guyana".

Fr Preston is the second Jesuit who has served in Guyana prior to moving to the top job in the UK. In 1987 Fr Michael Campbell-Johnston who worked for several years in Guyana was also appointed Provincial of the British Province.

The Jesuits first came to Guyana in 1857. Since then, we have been serving the Catholic Church and people in all parts of this beautiful country.

It has not yet known who will replace Fr Preston as head of the Jesuits in Guyana.

*The Catholic Standard extends heartiest congratulations to him and assurances of our prayers.*

## Berbice parishes in Lenten Pilgrimage to Black Bush Polder

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*From Poolmattie Ganesh in Springlands and Leon Suseran, New Amsterdam*

Members of the East Berbice parishes namely St Francis Xavier in Port Mourant, Church of the Ascension in New Amsterdam and St Joachim's in Springlands took part in what was described as a very a prayerful and fulfilling Lenten pilgrimage to the Holy Name Catholic Church and community at Lesbeholden, Black Bush Polder last Sunday.

Although planned some time ago it was never certain whether the event would actually take place due to the recent heavy rainfall and flooding in the Berbice area. However with the encouragement of Fr Gilbert Camillus we went ahead with our plans and other arrangements.

After Mass on April 3, four buses filled with pilgrims departed the Church of the Ascension for the farming community.

Early the same morning two trucks full of members of the St Joachim's parish, Springlands also headed for Black Bush.



*Photo: Sherilyn Lalta and Aunty Rose dos Ramos lead the Church of the Ascension pilgrims last Sunday during the procession to the Black Bush Church*

The groups disembarked some distance from the church at Black Bush. This final part of the journey to the church was done on foot while praying the rosary and the stations of the cross, singing hymns and praising the Lord.

Priest in charge of Black Bush Polder and Springlands, Jesuit Father Gilbert Camillus said the 12:00 hrs Mass. The little church was packed to overflowing. Some of the congregation had to stand along the sides, the aisles and even outside.

Even though the heat was sweltering, all of the faithful participated fully in the Eucharistic celebration. There was a very warm and lively feeling of joy in the congregation which was comprised of the wide variety of people who make up the Catholic community.

The choir from New Amsterdam led the singing with guitar accompaniment by Brothers Leon Butchey and John Persaud. Sisters Sherilyn Lalta and Sharon Harris led the choir. Parish priest of New Amsterdam, Monsignor Terrence Montrose also made the pilgrimage.

After Mass, the pilgrims had lunch, by sharing whatever they had from the lunch baskets which they brought for the journey. Following this the pilgrims continued in praise and worship songs. The day's activities were brought to a successful end just after 16:00 hrs. We were all indeed filled with the Holy Spirit.

## Guyanese Sr Jackie Nedd takes makes vows to become Mercy Sister

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*Sister Jackie Nedd, RSM, takes her first profession as a member of the Sisters of Mercy Mid-Atlantic Community. At left is Sister Christine McCann, RSM, president of the Mid-Atlantic Community.*



Guyanese born Sister Jackie Nedd, RSM, who now resides in Richmond Hill, New York, USA made her first profession of vows as a Sister of Mercy in the Mid-Atlantic Community on Sunday, March 20 at Our Lady of Mercy Academy in Syosset, NY.

Approximately 200 sisters, associates, family and friends gathered for the Eucharistic liturgy in Mercy Chapel. Redemptorist Father John Collins presided over the liturgy. Sister Christine McCann, the president of the Mid-Atlantic Community of the Sisters of Mercy, the designated delegate for the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, presided at the profession ceremony and questioned Sister Jackie regarding her vocation and received her written vows.

During the ceremony, Sister Jackie professed temporary (for three years) vows of chastity, poverty, obedience, and service to people who are poor, sick, and uneducated. As part of the Rite of Profession, Sister Rose Martin, RSM, a member of the Mid-Atlantic Community, offered an *Instruction on the Vows* as a way to assist Sister Jackie in her understanding of the step she was taking and to invite those gathered to support Sister Jackie in her commitment.

Sisters Rosellen Li, RSM, and Margaret Taylor, RSM, of the Mid-Atlantic Community witnessed as Sister Jackie signed her vows.

Sister Rose spoke about the vows of poverty, chastity, obedience and service that Sisters of Mercy take when they join the community. “Mercy impels us to offer all that we are in service to God’s people,” Sister Rose said. “God’s loving tenderness living within us’ is at the heart of all that we do, all

that we are. Jackie stands before us today, called by God, rich in Mercy, offering her gifts of generosity and healing... open to the transforming power of the vowed life.”

Sister Jackie, a registered nurse who entered the Sisters of Mercy novitiate program in 2009, was born in Georgetown, Guyana. She graduated from St. Joseph Mercy Hospital School of Nursing where she worked for more than two years. She was a volunteer at two non-profit organizations in Guyana, the Red Cross Convalescent Home and St. John Bosco Orphanage, which is managed by the Sisters of Mercy.

“I wanted to become a Sister of Mercy because I feel called to follow in the footsteps of Jesus and Catherine McAuley, the foundress of the Sisters of Mercy,” said Sister Jackie, who is a nurse at McAuley Convent in Merion, PA. “My desire is to be an instrument of God’s love and mercy as I serve Him according to the needs of our time within the community of the Sisters of Mercy.

“I feel very much at home within the Mercy community, and I have experienced the prayerful support of the community throughout my journey,” says Sister Jackie. “I’m excited at the prospect of living out my commitment to this vowed life by practicing the spiritual and corporal works of mercy.”

Five years after making a temporary profession, Sisters of Mercy profess their life-long vows of poverty, chastity, obedience and service to the poor, sick and ignorant. This fourth vow of service of a Sister of Mercy motivates each sister to extend the mercy of God to others as she reaches out to those most in need in the world.

The Sisters of Mercy are an international religious community of Roman Catholic women who help people who are poor, sick, and in need of education, especially women and children. In the Mid-Atlantic Community, which encompasses the states of New York, New Jersey, and eastern Pennsylvania, more than 1,000 sisters and 900 associates continue the work of [Catherine McAuley](#), the foundress of the [Sisters of Mercy](#), by serving God by committing their lives and resources to helping people in need and changing unjust systems.

Sisters from the Mid-Atlantic Community serve in ministries in 20 states in the United States and in two countries in South America by helping people in need and serving them with Mercy and compassion.

## **Sacred Heart Reaches Out to Kuru Kururu**

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Sunday April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2011 was indeed a special day for the Catholic Communities of Kuru Kururu and Sacred Heart.

At the invitation of Jesuit Scholastic, Bro Wilson, over sixty enthusiastic and excited parishioners of the Sacred Heart Church journeyed up the East Bank Road to the Linden/Soesdyke Highway to Kuru Kururu to conduct and share a service with their counterparts there.



The budding Kuru Kururu Community is allowed the use of a classroom of the local Primary School for their Sunday Worship Services and on this particular day the room was soon filled to capacity and even though additional chairs and benches were brought in, many had to stand as the combined communities filled the room to overflowing.

Included among the visitors from Sacred Heart were sisters from the Ursuline and Missionaries of Charity Orders, members of the Committee for Pastoral Development, the choir, altar servers, readers and parishioners of all ages, even entire families.

The Choir members had taken along their musical instruments, including microphones and amplifier and the entire building soon resonated with the sound of guitars, drum and voices raised in singing. The readings were done by a member from each community and reflections on the proclaimed message of spiritual and physical blindness by the Sacred Heart Extra Ordinary Ministers.

After the service, a short history of the Kuru Kururu community was given and the gathering was told of the many areas in which help is needed to once again make this a vibrant community. A plot of land has been donated and God willing a new church will one day be erected. Following this, light refreshments were shared as the two communities mingled with each other.

Although the Sacred Heart Community is presently raising funds for their new church they donated hymn books to the Parishioners and offered their services in getting Catechism classes as well as other activities started as there is a lot of work to be done in this community. A survey to determine the number of Catholics living in the area is scheduled to take place shortly.

It was a wonderful experience for all involved and it is hoped that this visit will inspire the community to follow through with their plans for future development.

## **Letters to the editor:**

### **PROSECUTORS, MAGISTRATES NEGLECTING THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ACT**

Dear Editor,

According to press reports, Nigel Douglas, charged in absentia with stabbing his former partner, Vanessa Francis (ten times), was eventually apprehended. On March 30, 2011 at the Cove and John

Magistrates court when charged with two other unrelated offences he was then released on \$10,000 bail. During the bail application no mention was made of the nature of the previous charge against him.

While on the run he had threatened Ms. Francis' life continuously by telephone calls, leading to her to make some six reports to the police. After one visit to her home, cutlass in hand, he was reportedly detained by the police and subsequently released. Ms. Francis remains distraught and fears for her life once again.

Police incompetence in this matter is unfathomable, given the large number of women who have been brutalized and killed by vengeful partners since the beginning of this year alone. Outraged calls for more effective protection of battered women follow each gruesome death; international campaigns to stop violence against women are regularly featured in the news; commercial films on the theme are frequently shown on TV; law reforms facilitating swift action in sexual offences matters have been promoted vigorously. Everyone in Guyana, except the Guyana Police Force it seems, is beginning to appreciate the urgency of this problem. What will it take to permeate police consciousness sufficiently to trigger a better performance from police prosecutors and station personnel.

Predictably, the failure of police (and magistrates) to be pro-active in supporting rights of victims is justified by reference to the number of instances in which women refuse to press charges once the matter goes to court. The State, however, has an obligation to protect citizens threatened or attacked by other citizens which over-rides private relationships. The dilemma at times for the women in deciding not to prosecute is who will provide for the children if the perpetrator should be sent to prison. A second disincentive to prosecute is the fear of retaliation when the offender is released from police lock-up or prison or the immediate dangers that would accompany his being acquitted.

All of these disincentives to prosecute are provided for in the *Domestic Violence Act*. *Section 5* lists conditions that can be applied to *Protection Orders* to ensure that the perpetrator contribute to child maintenance; to stay away from children whether at home or at school: *Section 8* gives the victim the right to sole occupancy of the home, even if it belongs legally to the perpetrator. *Section 11* allows for the woman to become the tenant, even when the property is rented in the name of the perpetrator.

The safety and protection of the victim is the priority consideration in bail applications. Despite having this armoury of devices at their disposal to protect women victims and to restrict the ability of perpetrators to harass, threaten, maim or kill them, prosecutors appear not to take any of this into account when bail is under consideration. Victims have no status in court proceedings and are forced to rely on prosecutors to competently represent them. Prosecutors should elicit all the relevant information

they need from victims and explain to them the range of protections available to them. It is also vital that magistrates are vigilant in ensuring they do so.

A more integrated approach is required to managing the prosecution of domestic and sexual domestic violence cases. Former Commissioner Felix had created an *ad hoc* group of agencies and NGOs to assist the police precisely on this issue. Without continuous inter-action between the police, magistrates, Ministry of Human Services and relevant NGOs, implementation of the Domestic Violence and Sexual Offences Acts will remain vulnerable to bizarre, life-threatening incidents such as occurred in Cove and John court yesterday.

Guyana Human Rights Association

### **Worst terrorists in the white house**

Dear Editor,

Barak Obama in an interview said the Libyan situation is unique so he has the right to send his bombers to bomb Libya.

When Ronald Reagan sent his bombers to bomb Libya to kill one of Gadaffy's sons that was a unique situation as well.

When George Bush's son sent his forces to get Iraq out of Kuwait, in order to get the American people to support his action he arranged for a public relations organization to say that Iraqi soldiers were throwing Kuwaiti babies out of their cribs and killing them. That was also unique.

When the man Chavez said GB and his British counterpart invented a situation to destroy Iraq that was also unique.

What is also quite unique is that the worst terrorists have always occupied the White House

W.P. George

### **PALM SUNDAY CELEBRATION IN THE PASTORAL AREA**

From the Pastoral Area Secretariat

The 2011 Palm Sunday celebration will commence with the procession of the Parishes of the Pastoral Area located in Georgetown from their respective locations to Our Lady of Fatima, North Road, Bourda. There palms will be blessed on the steps of the Church by His Lordship Bishop Francis Alleyne, O.S.B. at 8:30 a.m.

Following the blessing of the palms, everyone will then proceed across the street to the Georgetown Cricket Club Ground for the main celebration at which Bishop Francis will officiate and which begins at 9:00 a.m. It is anticipated that, as happened in the past, ushers will guide parishioners to

their seats. Provision is also being made for the sick and shut-ins who will be accommodated in a special seating area. The vehicles transporting them to the site will be allowed to drive into the ground for easy access.

The celebrations in the past two years have been well attended and have been described as awesome and a true witness to our faith.

Meanwhile, the two Parishes on the West Demerara – Church of the Annunciation, Malgre Tout and Church of the Assumption, Hague – will gather at Hague for their Palm Sunday celebration at which Fr. Stephen Patterson, S.J. will be the celebrant. The celebration there begins at 8:00 a.m. This will be preceded by a procession from the Cornelia Ida Bush Shed at 7:30 a.m., arriving at Hague for the Mass.

For those who are unable to attend the morning observances, Mass will be celebrated at 5:00 p.m. at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Brickdam.

As we continue our preparations for Easter, there will be a Lenten Penance Service on Wednesday April 13<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Brickdam. Several priests will be available to hear Confessions. This will be the only Penance Service in the Pastoral Area for this season.



[www.guyanajesuits.org](http://www.guyanajesuits.org)