



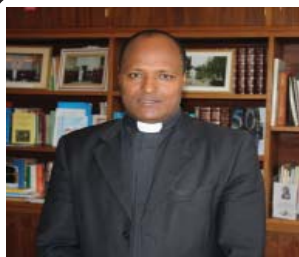
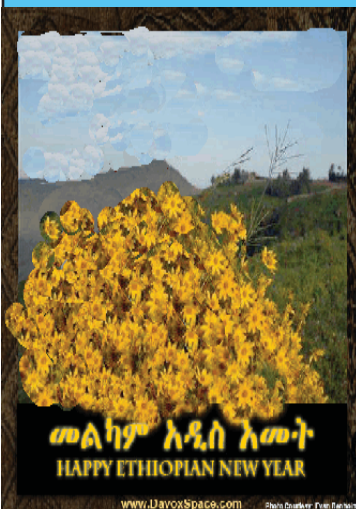
ETHIOPIAN CATHOLIC SECRETARIAT

Newsletter

Vol. IV - No. 7

September 2009

THE ETHIOPIAN CATHOLIC SECRETARIAT CELEBRATES THANKSGIVING MASS



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JUSTICE AND PEACE UNIT

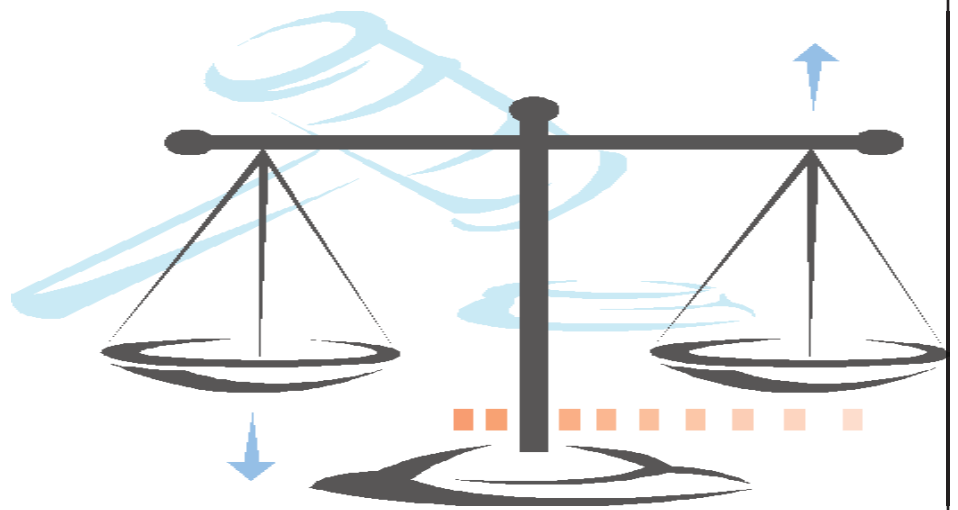
By Guelay W/Ghiorghis
Justice and Peace Assistant Unit Head

Religious Leaders Celebrated International Peace Day

Ethiopian Catholic Secretariat participated in the celebration of international peace day, organized and coordinated by interfaith peace building initiative, commemorated on 13/09/09.

The religious institutions that came together to proclaim the Day include the Ethiopian Orthodox Church, Ethiopian Islamic Affairs Supreme Council, Ethiopian Catholic Church, Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus, Evangelical Church Fellowship of Ethiopia and The National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahais of Ethiopia invited guests from diplomatic bodies, and peace lovers participated in the celebration.

The main aim of the celebration of peace day was to mobilize



religious institutions and international peace day with prayer. His Holiness said that, every human person has innate desire for peace. He underlined that peace is justice and integrity, transparency and accountability, forgiveness and love. Life does not have value without peace. Rev. Abba Hagos Hayish, the Secretary General of Ethiopian Catholic Secretariat said Peace is the Grace of God. Only those who exercise holistic fear of God

His Holiness, Abune Paulos, the Patriarchy of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church opened the

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WATER AND SANITATION

UNIT (WATSAN)

By Belema Gemechu



Introduction

One of the most fundamental conditions for the growth and development as well as well being of a nation like Ethiopia is certainly the progressive fulfillment of its most urgent water needs. Lack of safe and inadequate water and poor sanitation and hygienic practices causes high morbidity and mortality rates.

To lessen this problem and enhance the access to potable water of the community, Ethiopian

Catholic Church Social and Development Commission (ECC-SADCO) to the best of its contribution, ECC-SADCO WATSAN program is one of the units which currently involved in alleviating problems related to access to adequate water supply and sanitation services of the society.

The main objectives of Water and Sanitation are to improve the health, and hence the productivity of the population and to ensure long-term sustainability of water supply and sanitation operations. The coverage of improved water supply and sanitation facilities in the country is generally low. WATSAN is therefore, contributing its share to improve this situation through drilling boreholes at different parts of the country for the needy people.

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SPECIAL FEATURES

To celebrate growing older

“To celebrate growing older, I once wrote the 45 lessons life taught me. It is the most-requested column I’ve ever written. My odometer rolled over to 90 in August, so here is the column once more.”

Contributed by Sr. Senait Mengesha

Social Rehabilitation Unit

1. Life isn't fair, but it's still good.
2. When in doubt, just take the next small step.
3. Life is too short to waste time hating anyone.
4. Your job won't take care of you when you are sick. Your friends and parents will. Stay in touch.
5. Pay off your credit cards every month.
6. You don't have to win every argument. Agree to disagree.
7. Cry with someone. It's more healing than crying alone..
8. It's OK to get angry with God. He can take it.
9. Save for retirement starting with your first paycheck.
10. When it comes to chocolate, resistance is futile.
11. Make peace with your past so it won't screw up the present.
12. It's OK to let your children see you cry.
13. Don't compare your life to others. You have no idea what their journey is all about.
14. If a relationship has to be a secret, you shouldn't be in it.
15. Everything can change in the blink of an eye. But don't worry; God never blinks.
16. Take a deep breath. It calms the mind.
17. Get rid of anything that isn't useful, beautiful or joyful.
18. Whatever doesn't kill you really does make you stronger.
19. It's never too late to have a happy childhood. But the second one is up to you and no one else.
20. When it comes to going after what you love in life, don't take no for an answer.
21. Burn the candles, use the nice sheets, wear the fancy lingerie. Don't save it for a special occasion.
Today is special.
22. Over prepare, then go with the flow.
23. Be eccentric now. Don't wait for old age to wear purple.
24. The most important sex organ is the brain.
25. No one is in charge of your happiness but you.
26. Frame every so-called disaster with these words "In five years, will this matter?".
27. Always choose life.
28. Forgive everyone everything.
29. What other people think of you is none of your business.
30. Time heals almost everything. Give time, time.
31. However good or bad a situation is, it will change.
32. Don't take yourself so seriously. No one else does.
33. Believe in miracles.
34. God loves you because of who God is, not because of anything you did or didn't do.
35. Don't audit life. Show up and make the most of it now.
36. Growing old beats the alternative - dying young.
37. Your children get only one childhood.
38. All that truly matters in the end is that you loved.
39. Get outside every day. Miracles are waiting everywhere.
40. If we all threw our problems in a pile and saw everyone else's, we'd grab ours back.
41. Envy is a waste of time. You already have all you need.
42. The best is yet to come.
43. No matter how you feel, get up, dress up and show up.
44. Yield.
45. Life isn't tied with a bow, but it's still a gift. Friends are the family that we choose for ourselves.

WATSAN

Continued from page 3

Activities Accomplished (April to June)

Continued on page 9

S/No	Project Name	Location	Project Holder/ Financer	Accomplishment	Est. No of Beneficiaries	Est. No of livestock
1	Agona Kostet	South Gonder, Estie Woreda	CARE Ethiopia	Drilling of 63 M has been completed handed over to the client for community use	More than 2,200 females and men	2500
2	Gosh Beret			Drilling of 60 M has been completed handed over to the client for community use	More than 2,000 females and men	2100
3	Gegerra	Hadiya Zone	Latter Day Saint Charities	Drilling of 214 M has been completed and handed over to the client for community use	More than 10,000 females and men	4675
4	Kuyera (Shashemene) -Drilling	West Arsi Zone	Ethiopia Adventist College	Drilling of 151 M has been completed and handed over to the client	More than 6,000 college community	
5	Kuyera (Shashemene) -Rehabili.			Rehabilitation of one existing borehole has been completed and ready for reuse		
6	Argo Gedi Ilala	East Shoa Zone	Meki Catholic Secretariat	Drilling of 244 M has been completed and handed over to the client for community use	More than 700 house hold	2,300
7	Tute Kormitu			Drilling of 152.80 M has been completed and handed over to the client for community use	More than 600 house hold	2000
8	Gulele area, A.A.	Addis Ababa	Dire Industries	Drilling of 215 M has been completed and handed over to the client for use		

N EWS IN BRIEF

Training Held on Gender and Organizational Development



Gender and Development Unit of Ethiopian Catholic Secretariat has conducted Gender and Organizational Development training from June 1- 6, 2009 at ECS Hall. The focus of the training was on internal (organizational) and external (programmatic) gender mainstreaming. In this training concepts such as development, poverty,

cause of poverty, gender, gender and Development, gender mainstreaming, gender mainstreaming tools, and gender and organizational development were discussed thoroughly. Sharing of each Diocesan Secretariat experiences on gender mainstreaming was part of the training. A total of 34 (17 Male & 17 Female) participants had attended the training. The participants of the training were Development Coordinators, Pastoral Coordinators, Gender and Development Coordinators of Ethiopian Catholic Secretariat and Diocesan Catholic Secretariats. The nature of the training was very practical. All the group exercises focused on working document of Ethiopian Catholic Secretariat. And this enabled us as staff of Ethiopian Catholic Secretariat and Diocesan Catholic Secretariat, to look into ourselves in a way of understanding the position of our organization in relation to gender. At the end of the training as a way forward, action plan, specific to Diocesan Catholic Secretariats and Ethiopian Catholic Secretariat, was developed. The purpose of the action plan is to promote gender mainstreaming.

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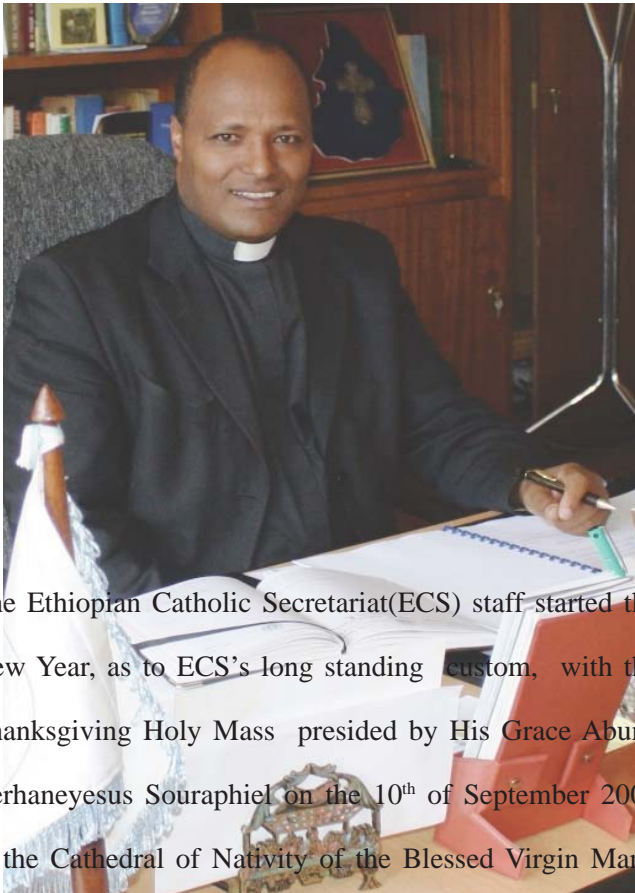
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"You shall be Holy, for I am Holy"

(1Pt. 1. 17)



The Ethiopian Catholic Secretariat(ECS) staff started the New Year, as to ECS's long standing custom, with the Thanksgiving Holy Mass presided by His Grace Abune Berhaneyesus Souraphiel on the 10th of September 2009 at the Cathedral of Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. During the Holy Eucharistic celebration we have celebrated the success stories of the year 2001 E.C. This is an ample opportunity to look at oneself on how we undertook the mandate of promoting the Gospel Values which has been given to us by God through the leadership of the Church. There have been various events, such as visits to some Diocesan Secretariat offices and Religious Congregations, various workshops, meeting with our Partners on different occasions, facilitating work permits and renewals of our expatriate missionaries etc. In all these events we believe that there was an act of Charity generously shared within the ECS staff and with all other Church personnel whom we met in the common mandate of proclaiming the Good

News. ECS is so grateful to all those who shared their wisdom, resources and passion for the common good cause of Integral Human Development. We believe that these are the moments of Grace where Christ reveals himself and call us to the life of Holiness 1Peter 1, 13.

We greeted and sent off year 2001 E.C. by presenting in the hands of God both the shortcoming and good deeds we performed during the last twelve months. We thank God for He gave us another year of mercy to do better in amending the gaps and enhance more the best practices of the year past.

The living word of God confirms that we are ransomed and called to be Holy through the precious blood of Jesus Christ. The road of holiness is, however, to be achieved through being obedient to the TRUTH of love of our brothers and sisters. Hence, we are once again urged to bring about the Love of Christ into the life of our people whom we serve.

The Ethiopian Catholic Church pays special attention to this New Year, in addition to the already set plan, the integration of Creation (Climate Justice) and migration issues. We are also encouraged to pray and insert Gospel Values into the preparation of forthcoming election of the Country. We are also encouraged to pray for the clergy in this year in which we celebrate the Year of Priests.

With this note, on behalf of ECS staff and on behalf of myself, I would like to wish you all that this year may be a year of Holiness. Happy New Year.

Family Life Promotion Unit

Sixth International Teen STAR Congress, Ars, August 20-24, 2009

Our French colleagues could not have extended themselves more to organize our Sixth International Teen STAR Congress in Ars, France. The venue chosen, La Providence was a center for welcoming pilgrims to the place where St. Jean Marie Vianney, the Cure of Ars lived out his mission as parish priest and discovered his special gift for leading souls in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. La Providence was founded by him as an orphanage. It is now administered by the Missionaries of Mary Immaculate, whose hospitality was most gracious. Local volunteers, organized by Angela de Malherbe, met all arrivals and conveyed departing participants to air-

ports and trains. Christian They, President of C.E.P.P. (Teen STAR France) found our venue and chaired the program, assisted by Helene Vivares, C.E.P.P. Secretary and Claudine Tannery, Secretary emerita. So many others helped with translations, copying, preparing booklets... it was a tremendous undertaking. Altogether, we were 98 Teen STAR teachers from Austria, Burma, Canada, Chile, Croatia, Ecuador, Ethiopia, France, Italy, Germany, Korea, Romania, Slovakia, Spain, Switzerland, Uganda and USA.



Teen STAR

Continued on page 12



(WATSAN)

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The main achievements in the reporting period are the drilling of boreholes and related activities in different parts of the country and tabulated as follows.

FINANCIAL ACCOMPLISHMENT OF PROJECTS

As WATSAN is mainly based on income from projects achievement or projects execution, payments have been prepared for the above executed projects. From the physical accomplishment of these projects a total of about 2 million Ethiopian Birr is expected to be earned. This money revolves in to materials cost, fuel cost, remuneration, insurance premium and other running cost of the projects.

Problems Encountered

The main constraints and problems encountered during reporting period were explained as follows:

- **Shortage of drilling materials and spare parts in the local market.**

Lack of adequate drilling materials like drilling foam, G. I. pipes, different casings, hammers cylinder with appropriate bits and spare parts disable the team to undertake the drilling projects timely and efficiently.

- **Lack of different or high capacity submersible pumps.**

When drilling of high capacity well is completed it needs to be tested using high capacity pump. This enables us to know the optimum amount of water to be excreted from the well without affecting regional groundwater table.

Our clients also claimed high capacity pumps to know the exact amount of water that they can obtain from the well.

- **Lack of important instruments**

Important instruments like geophysical equipment, field water chemical analysis kit, etc do not exist in the unit. The absences of these instruments suspend what we can do timely and efficiently as well as accurately. Lack of geophysical equipment unable us to participate in full and complete groundwater investigation and electrical logging in the completed wells.

- **Lack of easily flexible structure that cope with the nature of Water Works**

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The Ethiopian Catholic Secretariat Celebrated Thanksgiving Day

The Ethiopian Catholic Secretariat celebrated Thanksgiving Day on 10 September 2009 with commemorative Mass at the Cathedral with His Grace Abune Berhaneyesus as the main celebrant, concelebrated by Rev. Abba Hagos Hayish, Rev. Abba Estifanos Feliche, the parish priests from Addis and attended by all ECS staff.

The Mass was followed by a special get together where all the parish priests of Addis were invited and honoured by the attendance of His Grace Abune Berhaneyesus. All prepared and exchanged gifts to secret friends while enjoying coffee/tea and snacks after lunch.

The management of the Ethiopian Catholic Secretariat wish a happy and prosperous Ethiopian new year to all the staff and attendees.



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Justice and Peace

Continued from page 2

cherish value and the taste of peace.

Abba Hagos underlined that all those who fear and obey to the Will of God can experience inner peace.

Indeed the peacemakers are worth of the children of their Father in Heaven, for they manifest Divine qualities like, goodness, kindness, gentleness, generosity, patience, tolerance, forgiveness and love.

They are blessed and they become themselves a blessing to the world.

All the religious leaders who participated in the celebration of international peace day appeal for peace and delivered the message of peace. In addition to that,

all peace office of various faith-based organizations also shared their experience regarding peace building aspect and delivered the message of peace. They asserted that the quest for peace, justice, reconciliation, conflict resolution, and the need to overcome violence, binds religions, governments and

the United Nations together. Their partnership is appropriate since they are major stakeholders in the creation of a better world for all.

Ato Berhanu Tamene, the Ethiopian Catholic Secretariat Justice and Peace Unit Head, underlined in his peace message that Peace is the fruit of Justice and Solidarity.

Peace demands the rooting out of injustice wherever it exists: between individuals, between social classes, or between nations. It is the fruit of order; an order shaped by the values of justice, truth, freedom and love.

Dr. Azeb Tamirate, the vice Chair of the board of governance of Inter-faith Peace building Initiative and Sr. Leticia Borg, board member of Inter-faith Peace building Initiative read the message of Peace which was delivered by the UN Secretary General. ‘The Golden Rule’ “treat others the way you want to be treated” is a pathway to peace, said Ambassador Mussie Hailu, Board Chairman of Interfaith Peace-building Initiative and

Representative of United Religions Initiative to the United Nations Economic Commission of Africa.

This has been affirmed in many religions, traditions, indigenous cultures and secular philosophies as a fundamental principle of life and the foundation upon which the global ethic is founded. The message of the Golden Rule is

simple, universal and powerful and is the most prevalent moral principle in human history, the Ambassador said, and went

on to add, if humankind truly wants to see a culture of peace and justice prevail on earth, it is high time the Golden Rule was

promoted throughout the world as it is a fundamental principle that addresses critical issues such as democracy, human rights, respect for one another, gender equity, and equality in social development, interfaith harmony, constructive dialogue among nations, conflict prevention and amicable human relationships.

(WATSAN)

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General Remarks

To put an end to the above mentioned problems and constraints, we have given due attention and try to act in accordance with priorities. As many drilling activities are carried out currently, we are trying to buy and deposit some materials such as casings, foam, pumps with different capacities, pipes and others, in order to overcome shortage and avoid delay. But the materials that we can't get from the local market are still remaining a constraint on our performance.

On the other hand, ECS WATSAN currently possess the capacity to provide quality services in the areas of groundwater investigation, water wells drilling and related construction works, rehabilitations and maintenance of the deteriorate wells over the year and old bore holes to enhance efficiency.

Family life

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Reports

The formal program began with reports from each country. Nearly all reported steady growth of their Teen STAR Programs, training of additional teachers and opening of additional teaching sites.

Their results are summarized in Hanna Klaus' address to the group which can be seen on the Internal section of our web page.

Ethiopia

Currently Teen STAR in Ethiopia is funded by USAID under the PEPFAR program through NPI. Pathfinder International/Ethiopia supported the program from the year 2002 through 2009. This year 205 trained teachers in 225 schools have reached over 5000 students. The strengths of the program get acceptance by the Bishops

Conference, but so far there has been little advocacy. The parents love the program and are learning from their children.

Many program graduates continue in Teen STAR Clubs which not only provides continuing support but also serves as an outreach and recruitment tool. Teen STAR has various challenges for it is advocating only abstinence for unmarried and faithfulness for married people. But the students' and parents' enthusiasm are an indicator of the welcomed program.

Holistic sexuality programs have begun in two universities at their request. And more requests are reaching ECS for the program to be introduced in various universities. Currently establishing processes are in progress in one more university.



**Welcome
new ECS
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Fistum Mersha
Printing Assistant
Printing Unit



Ermias Tamiru
Asst. Food Security &
Emergency Unit Head



Andenet Moges
Asst. Driller
WATSAN

Just to live forever

Today, dear Lord, I'm 80 and there's much I haven't done.

I hope, dear Lord, you let me live until I'm 81.

But then, if I haven't finished all I want do do,

Would you please let me stay awhile, until I'm 82?

So many places I want to go, so very much to see,

Do you think that You could manage to make it 83?

The world is changing very fast, there is so much in store,

Just one more thing I'd like to say, dear Lord, I thank you kindly

But if it's okay with You, I'd love to live past 90.

Author Unknown - Shared by Dr. Gloria Jo Floyd

I may never see tomorrow

I may never see tomorrow; there's no written guarantee

And things that happened yesterday belong to history.

I cannot predict the future, I cannot change the past.

I have just the present moments. I must treat it as my last.

I must use this moment wisely for it soon will pass away,

and be lost forever, as part of yesterday.

I must exercise compassion, help the fallen to their feet

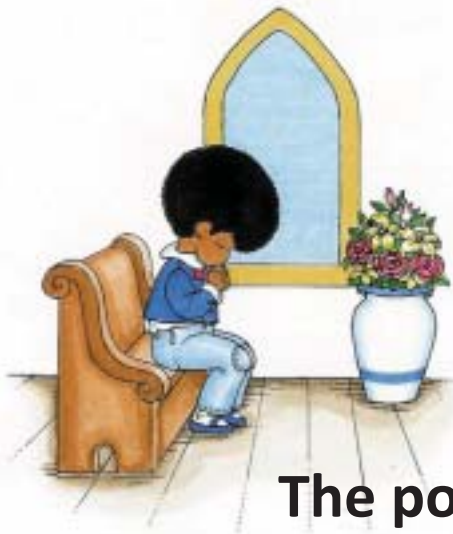
Be a friend unto the friendless, make an empty life complete.

The unkind things I do today may never be undone.

And friendships that I fail to win may nevermore be won.

I may not have another chance on bended knees to pray,
and I thank God with a humble heart for giving me this Day.

Author Unknown - Shared by Dr. Gloria Jo Floyd



The point about prayer

Adopted from *We Die Standing Up* by Hubert van Zeller

People are apt to make to mistakes about prayer: they either imagine it to be so easy that they can manage it at once, or else so difficult that it is not worth while going on with. The answer is that because it is open to all it can't be very difficult, and because it is part of the burden of religion it can't be very easy. Whether we find it very difficult or easy we have got to do it, so the more we get ourselves used to the practice and the less we worry about our reaction to it better. But taken all in all it is perhaps more satisfactory to think that prayer is going to be easy than to think it is going to be difficult, because it means that we shall at least start off. If we look only at difficulties we are handicapped by discouragement before we begin. And right the way through this business of prayer there is nothing that acts as a more formidable obstacle than discouragement. So it will be mainly about this that the following paragraphs are concerned.

St. Paul's "Pray without ceasing" should provide the answer to those who are weighed down by the sense their insufficiency. The saint is not exhorting to the almost impossible. He is telling everyone – even the people who feel they are no use at it and that for them it is a complete waste of time – that their whole life can become a prayer. "You must make a habit of prayer," St. Paul is telling us, 'and to make a habit anything you must repeat and extend the act.' First easy acts, then difficult ones. It is like learning languages: Easy to make one self understood, difficult to become really fluent. The way to become fluent is to practice often. Prayer is learned by repeated acts. There is no short cut to a habit. In other words there is no substitute for the work of cultivating the habit of prayer. You have to do the thing before you can live the thing. And in order to do the thing properly you not only have to be faithful to your purpose but you have to be ruthless in the treatment of your feelings. You must not allow yourself to judge of the success or failure of your devotion. What we feel, after all, is only the result of the effect of conditions on matter. The whole point about prayer is the effect it has on God. Our feelings will give us no true estimate of this.

Through there may be difficulty connected with forming the habit of prayer, there is no habit so easily drawn up on once it is there. So habitual can prayer become that the natural movement of the mind is towards God instead of towards creature. I say "natural" movement and not "automatic" movement, because for prayer to have any value it must be non - mechanical. There is all the difference in the world between an instinctive direction of the soul and purely routine action. St. Antony may have said that a man's prayer is still imperfect while he remembers that he prays, but he would never have said that the perfect man need not remember to pray. We don't begin our prayer, however brief and spontaneous, without some sort of desire to do so. Intention is necessary even if attention escapes us. Desire for God is the condition of prayer, and very often recollection is nothing else than that. Awareness of God's presence is not always prayer – the sinner can be aware of God's presence and rebel against – but the desire for God's glory always is. And to become a man of prayer it is necessary so to extend this desire that it becomes habitual.



“
Behold my servant,
whom I have chosen; my
beloved, in whom my
soul is well pleased: I will
put my spirit upon him,
and he shall proclaim
judgment to the Gentiles.

”

Matthew 12:18

***ECS congratulates H.E Abune Theo
on his ordination as Vicar Apostolic of
Nekemte***

Upcoming events

Pan African Refresher Programme

on

“Jornalism for Coexistence, Reconciliation and Welfare”

Form Nov. 16 to 19, 2009

At Addis Ababa Capuchin Institute of Philosophy & Theology