



Happy Easter!

“Alleluia” resounds throughout the Church this holy and blessed when the Lord who once was dead, is now risen from tomb, never to die again. All Catholics shared in his glory by virtue of their baptism.

The Risen Christ greeted ‘Peace be with you!’ to his apostles being locked in the room. It is of Jesus’ greeting to remove their fears and confusions and of presenting himself as peace. This has touched so much their hearts. By this, they come to know that their Lord has truly risen. Amen, He is truly risen. Afterward, their lives were moved much closer to the Lord that they had nothing to do but to share the Easter joy with one another.

Indeed we are people of Easter, living after the resurrection of the Lord and witnessing it in the world. As we would hear ‘Peace’ often during this Easter season, what will it mean to us? Is it to bring peace to ourselves and to our brothers and sisters? Or is the Lord just telling us not to be afraid in our struggles? But we ought to remember that for -ever joy comes after sufferings and death of Christ. Peace from our Risen Christ is different from that of anyone else but is true peace. It conveys true joy, after the victory of good over evil, life over death. Christ has shared this joy freely to the people of the world through the first disciples. Will it not be for us to be the living signs like stars in the night to shine to the world?

May our Risen Lord bring peace and joy to you and your communities! Just like the apostles who encountered the Risen Lord, it is so graceful to share our joy with you all in the spirit of Easter. May you always encounter ‘peace and joy’ of the Risen Lord in your services and communities!

Chrism Mass...By Bp. Felix



The Archdiocese of Mandalay had on the Holy Tuesday the Chrism Mass and the renewal of the priestly promises, instead of on the Holy Thursday. During that time, His Grace Bishop Paul Grwang was under medical treatment. For the reason the Auxiliary Bishop of Hakha, Bp. Felix Lian Khen Thang, was invited to officiate the Chrism Mass with the clergy of Mandalay while the whole diocese of Archdiocese of Mandalay prayed for the speedy recovery of Bishop Paul from his heart operation in Singapore.

The Mass was at 6:00 AM, and was also well attended by Mandalay clergy, la salette fathers, the religious and the faithful as well. In the morning after the breakfast, the Bishop gave a short talk to the clergy and ended the recollection with an hour adoration.

MS Study Days... April 05-08

Myanmar District has come to the 5th year of its presence and mission in Myanmar. This is the second phase in history after the American La Salette Missionaries had left completely since 1978. While last year focusing on the direction of the community as Myanmar La Salette, this year study days mostly tried to see and draw the directions and possibilities of MS formation in the context of Myanmar. Despite many things talked about and discussed as a community, the district has come to the point of agreeing on certain aspects of formation.

Fr. Jerome, MS facilitated the whole process under the leadership of Fr. Bernie, MS. As different opinions and sharing flowed throughout the study days, the direction become clearer. The aspirancy formation has to begin right away since there are 4 of them after discerning and agreeing.



Study Days

Catechism to Children...

Sinbyu is one of isolated parishes in the diocese. It is now lucky to have special catechism and trainings in different aspects of life during this summer. Fr. Robert, MS has organized it so that the parishioners will grow in their faith life since their childhood and grow in their love for God. The two sisters (a salesian and a good shepherd sister) came to help in the faith formation for five days. The roads to Sinbyu are so bad that the good shepherd sister had motorcycle accident along the way to Sinbyu while travelling with motorcycle taxi. Thank God for nothing bad happened to her.



Sinbyu Bridge under construction

150th Great Jubilee of the Church

Fr. Jerome Saw Eiphan, MS, a native from the Diocese of Pathein represented the MS Community on the occasion of the 150th Great Jubilee of Our Lady of the Assumption parish located in Kanazogone village, diocese of Pathein. The parish priest, Fr. Carolous Su Naing, was the former parish priest of Fr. Jerome before entering to Minor Seminary of Pathein diocese.

Likewise, Fr. Carolous left for France in 1992 for further Studies while staying with MEP missionaries, situated in Rue du Bac, Paris, France. Wonderfully, Fr. Carolous came to know La Salette and La Salette Missionaries who were living on the mountain of la Salette, France. With great interest in Our Lady of La Salette, he wrote his Thesis on la Salette Event relevant to Myanmar culture and mission. Precisely, Fr. Michel Mory, one of La Salette Missionaries on the Mountain, was chosen as his Thesis advisor on La Salette. He had stayed in Paris for eight (8) years for his studies and then he came to La Salette as chaplain for every season of pilgrimage on the mountain. With all his interests and great devotion to Mary, Our Lady of La Salette, he had good relationship with La Salettes in France. Even until this time he is longing to return to La Salette.

At present, based on the chronological events he is the 7th parish priest of this said Assumption Parish from the establishment of mission in 1860 to 2010. He is with another two assistant priests. His parish has pure ethnic Karens, about 3000 to 4000 villagers. The most wonderful thing in this parish is that it has 80% Catholics, about 5% Protestants and about 15% Buddhists. But, in the beginning the first MEP missionary established the parish with the 700 Pow Karen refugees who suffered during the Anglo-Burmese War in the lower part of Burma. Thus, this pioneer MEP priest established the parish and talked the Pow Karen language. He came to this place, Kanazogone situated in Ayeyawaddy Division, far from Yangon about 300 miles. During the Nagis storm hit lower part of Myanmar on May 2, 2008, the parish priest accepted the Nagis people about 3000 in his parish that they had no place to stay; and with the help of the generous people he fed them for about 3 months.



Chanthagone Paleik PO
Mandalay Division Myanmar 05132
Visit: <http://msmym.com>
<http://msmandalay.multiply.com>

House (Shrine) Phone: (95) 66-42452
Village Phone: 02-54244
Email: bernie@myanmar.com.mm or
bernie@msmym.com

Continuation from the previous page...

The great feast was celebrated on the eve of 23 March until 25 March. There were about 6000 to 7000 people who mostly came from the diocese of Pathein and other different parishes or diocese in Myanmar. The first day evening, after supper, was began with the prayers, Rosary and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. It was also the "Opening Ceremony" of the Jubilee, highlighted by reading the history of the church, the establishment of the mission in 1860 by MEP groups especially Fr. Moriald from France. Hence, the mission territory in those days in Ayeyawaddy Division, Yangon Division, Mandalay and other parts of Myanmar was established by MEP missionaries.

On this occasion, there was Fr. Olivier MEP priest from Paris, represented MEP missionary. And he is presently working in Thailand as missionary. Fr. Jerome met him and shared a lot of mission activities of both MEP and MS in the past. Fr. Jerome introduced him about La Salette missionaries who were in Prome (Pyay) diocese and eventually Fr. Newman, one of the MS was elected as first bishop of Prome diocese.

Remarkably, it was the time of Anglo-Burmese wars during those days; however, the MEP missionaries were able to sow the seed of Christian Faith and proclamation the Gospel successfully among the Karens (Kayins). In brief, the Christian faith is strong and the numbers are growing much in this parish. Fr. Carolous was so happy to see Fr. Jerome who once was his student in the past and as La Salette Missionary now.

