



Congregazione Clericale

# MISSIONARI DELLA FEDE

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## M.F. News Bulletin

No 20 September

### *In side.....*

- ♦ From the Editorial Desk
- ♦ Message from Sup. General
- ♦ Ongoing Formation Corner

### News from Major Organisms

#### **Province of St. Paul (IND)**

- ♦ Annual feast of our Lady of Good Health Church, Sempatti, TamilNadu
- ♦ Perpetual Profession of Bro. Arun Kumar Lawrence
- ♦ Re-opening of St. Mary's High School, Longo, Arunachal Pradesh.
- ♦ Celebration of Independence Day and Assumption of our Lady at Kattakulam

#### **Province of St. Peter (IND)**

- ♦ Diaconate Ordinations at Holy Trinity Major Seminary, Nadipalli
- ♦ Parish of Paleru
- ♦ Parish of Kalwakole (KK Basti)
- ♦ Parish of Allipalli
- ♦ Parish of Yarraguntapalli
- ♦ Holy Trinity English Medium School, Dharmajigudem

#### **Province of Vietnam**

- ♦ New mission at Hon Tre, diocese of Long Xuyen
- ♦ New Aspirants
- ♦ Pastoral ministry in support of priests in difficult situations
- ♦ Opening Mass for the New Academic Year 2020 – 2021 and Installations of Lectors and Acolytes
- ♦ Admission to Novitiate
- ♦ First and Perpetual Profession
- ♦ Sacred Ordinations to Priesthood and Diaconate

#### **Vice-province of Myanmar**

- ♦ Tri-Monthly Recollection
- ♦ Feast of the Patroness of the Congregation
- ♦ Health condition of Fr. Roberto
- ♦ Health Situation of Fr. John La Sam

### From the Editorial Desk ...

With joy we bring out the 20<sup>th</sup> issue of our *News Letter* aimed at keeping all the members informed of the various activities, undertakings and events that are happening in the various parts of the Congregation. May we kindly remind everyone, especially the Provincial, Vice Provincial and Delegation Governance, to send us on time the news items to be published. Let us, as one family, share among ourselves all our achievements and our endeavours. We always welcome the corrections and suggestions for the betterment. We regret also for the errors and omissions if any. May the God grant us the grace to be courageous and joyful messengers of the Good News and a shining stars that lead others to the feet of the Lord.

### MESSAGE FROM SUPERIOR GENERAL

#### **The Virtue of Fortitude**

Dear Confreres,

In art. 35 of the document on our Charism: *«Fortitude is an essential characteristic of the Missionaries of Faith, relevant for the fidelity to the apostolic mission.*

*For us it is a virtue that sustains us in all the apostolic difficulties up to martyrdom. Fortitude means universal love, a large heart without resentments and rich of God. The Missionary of Faith is strong, because he is gentle, meek, smiling and loyal».*

We need Fortitude to live in truth, to speak the truth, to live and witness our faith and other virtues heroically.

Without the virtue of fortitude, it would be very difficult for us to accept, endure and confront consistently the trials and difficulties of life of faith and mission with steadfastness and courage. We really need this virtue especially in today's world.

I would like to invite you to undertake a renewed missionary commitment by living the virtue of fortitude, to offer fresh enthusiasm to others. We should always be ready to proclaim the joy of the Gospel, with faithfulness and dedication in our apostolate.

May our Patroness, Mary Queen of the Confessors of Christ, and our  
may be always strong and courageous Missionaries of Christ.



Rw. Fr. Jesus Dajac, mf  
Fr. Jesus Dajac, mf  
Superior General

## ON-GOING FORMATION CORNER

### MEANS AND INSTRUMENTS OF ONGOING FORMATION

**-Fr. Jaison Kalathiparambil mf**

Ongoing formation is the privileged vehicle of transmitting charismatic elements and consolidating the personal identity of a missionary of faith. Exactly one year ago, began the detailed discussion of ongoing formation in this column. During this period, we have seen different elements such as, *project and its content, general principles and methods* of ongoing formation. In the present issue I would like to present the concept of *means and instruments* of it, thus concluding with its formal aspects.

Means and instruments are *the content carriers to the formee*, to put it concisely. They are the material and immaterial elements selected to communicate the content of the project of ongoing formation to the persons in question. It requires careful selection, attentive planning and passionate execution to be efficient and productive. Failure to do so has seen many well-prepared projects remaining only on paper or merely at theoretic level. It can be said that the end result depends largely upon the efficiency of means. However, the organic nature of the project is not to be overlooked by giving precedence to only one aspect. Let us now get to the concept of means and instruments of formation.

#### Concept of means and instruments of formation

The Oxford dictionary gives the meaning of the word as "an action or system by which a result is achieved".<sup>1</sup> It is used in a wide variety of contexts to denote the activity of attaining a desired result. Applied this to the formative activity it can well mean *an action or a system by which the projected formative result is achieved*. "Dizionario di Scienze dell'educazione" proposes that "means" could refer to the *teaching aids, the didactic materials* as well as the *class room materials or didactic equipments*. In pedagogy, special attention is paid in the selection of right means and instruments, taking into account various elements - discussed in the previous issues - and making the formative process interesting and innovative.<sup>2</sup> A book as well as a computer, the blackboard as well as the video projector, could be considered as means or instruments, because they help in communicating the formative or educative content to the formee. If so, then the action of the body and the spoken word could also be considered as

means, because formees tend to imitate the formators. Hence, sometimes a means could also be a method. The word “means” could very well refer to wide spectrum of elements. Any medium that communicates the formative contents to formees, is considered “means or instruments” of formation.

### Types of means or instruments

There are a wide variety of things and resources that could be considered as means and instruments. It can be confusing sometimes whether something is a method or a means. The fact is, sometimes a means could also be a method, as is passingly mentioned earlier. There are many types of means. They are often classified differently by different authors. I would like to make three classifications, because I intend to clarify the point than to give an exhaustive list of them. Each Major Organism of our congregation, having its own specific nature, can surely adopt the appropriate means so as to achieve the projected goal of the project.

1. *Body as a means*: It can be said to be the first means of instruction. The primitive societies, before the invention of writing and script, used body as a means of instruction. The gestures or the voice could very well communicate to the student what the master wanted to teach. Thus, survival tactics and traditions were taught to the next generation. The formees, on their part, observe the gestures or listen to the voice of the master. Imitating them was an effective means of formation.<sup>3</sup> Even today, despite the modern inventions, the gestures and voice of the formator is an important means of instruction. It is enough to see the resistance of the parents to the e-learning practices during this pandemic, to understand the influence of direct instruction even today. In the ongoing formation of the priests too it can be a very valid element. It is for this reason that there are a lot of retreat houses, centers for ongoing formation etc. They confirm that physical presentation and direct contact have a better impact.

The magisterial teaching<sup>4</sup> as well as our General Order of Formation<sup>5</sup> proposes *personal accompaniment* as a means of formation. In proximity or at distance, the presence of a person is presumed. So, a formator should remember to present oneself decently and formatively at all times. He should not neglect to give appropriate care to his body, of course, without exaggerations. Just like a well-prepared dish is served out on a decorated plate, a well-prepared formator should dish out his knowledge with decorum and elegance. Presentation matters! Being exemplary is pedagogically and spiritually valid as it is the visual means for the formees to imitate.

2. *Materials as means*: Books, visual aids, writing materials, technical instruments etc., used for formational practices can come under this category. Books could be given a preferential slot in this hierarchy because they eternalise ideas and ideals. They also last longer. Discoveries of papyrus, clay tablets etc. by historians have revealed valuable knowledge about the past civilizations. Graphical and pictorial instruments are continuously evolving.<sup>6</sup> Today we have computers and internet as portals of knowledge at-fingertips! The correct use of them is formative, while the incorrect, excessive use of them may lead to pathological or unethical behavior.<sup>7</sup> A formator should try to acquire the appropriate knowledge and mastery of them. This would maximise its formative utility and efficiency.
3. *Scientific means*: Invention of various instruments like lens, telescope, microscope etc. changed the school system forever. The postmodern society can boast of gadgets and technologies that are much more sophisticated and advanced. They are used in different ambits of research for deepening the understanding. In this sense, for an astronomer a telescope is not just an instrument, but a means of learning; for a physician microscope is not just an instrument, but a means of learning; for a psychologist, observation is a means of learning; an evaluation questionnaire that a

formator uses, is not just an instrument, but a precious learning tool. Instruction is not anymore solely learning to read, write or calculate. It is much more sophisticated and profound. Research methods (remember that a method could also be a means) like experiments, observation etc. are inevitable today. Today we use a wide variety of scientific means for instruction and evaluation in formation. It is also a reminder to the formator that he is not completely autonomous or unanswerable. Means of evaluation need to be simple so as to avoid unnecessary fear and confusion.<sup>9</sup>

### Rapport between objectives and means

A systematic reflection of means<sup>10</sup> makes it clear that objectives, methods and means must go hand-in-hand.<sup>11</sup> The selection of a means is to correspond with the projected objective. One cannot choose the book of mathematics to teach religion or a manual of initial formation for the ongoing formation of a confrere with alcohol addiction; a discourse on charity is not the appropriate instrument for a priest with the problem of sexual abuse. It may be said that the integral nature and efficiency of a formative project could be verified by analysing the quality of rapport between objective and goal.

A formator should be capable of distinguishing the categories of means in a systematic and organic way. Whatever is helpful in attaining the objective is a means or an instrument. There could be natural (ambience) or artificial (equipment like instruments, library, computers, blackboard).<sup>12</sup> The application of the natural instrument of *ambience*, for example, could be found in *Vita Consecrata* in the recommendation of having formation in a formative community.<sup>13</sup> The clarity of the objective or goal is vital in selecting the correct means and instruments of formation. A formator should constantly bear in mind that means are all those elements that have to do with communicating the formative content to the formees at the operational level. But the efficiency of these depends also upon the response of the formees to them. Even the best means and instruments could result useless if they are not appealing or understandable to the formees.<sup>14</sup> Hence, due consideration must be given to the rapport between the objective and means.

### Conclusion

The term *means* denotes *an action or a system* put into use for achieving a projected objective or goal. *Means* in a project of formation are, those elements chosen to communicate its content to the formees. They are the *content carriers*. There are different types of means like material or scientific means. Body, gestures or the spoken word of the formator could be means. Equally considerable are the didactic instruments and materials or even the ambience of the formation house. Then there are also the scientific means of research and evaluation. Care must be taken in selecting the means and instruments, keeping in mind the need of rapport between objectives and means. Such carefully chosen means and instruments will surely render the programming and execution of a projected itinerary of formation efficient and productive.

### End Notes:

1. *Means* | Definition of Means by Oxford Dictionary on Lexico.com, Lexico Dictionaries | English, in «<https://www.lexico.com/definition/means>», (Accessed: 22 September, 2020).
2. Cfr. N. ZANNI, *Mezzi didattici*, in G. MALIZIA – C. NANNI – J. M. PRELLEZO GARCÍA (Eds.), *Dizionario di scienze dell'educazione*, ROMA, LAS, 2. ed. revised and updated 2008, p. 746.
3. Cfr. C. AMPLATZ, *Mezzi didattici*, in G. FLORES D'ARCAIS (Ed.), *Nuovo dizionario di pedagogia*, Cinisello Balsamo (MI), Edizioni Paoline, New ed. (3.), 1992, pp. 816–818.
4. Cfr. CONGREGATION FOR THE CLERGY, *The Gift of the Priestly Vocation*, nn. 44-49., in «<http://www.clerus.va/content/dam/clerus/Ratio%20Fundamentalis/The%20Gift%20of%20the%20Priestly%20Vocation.pdf>», (Accessed: 28 September 2020). In a fully dedicated section for 'accompaniment' as a means of formation, the document describes personal and communitarian accompaniment in detail.
5. Cfr. CLERICAL CONGREGATION OF MISSIONARIES OF FAITH, *General order of Formation of Missionaries of Faith*, Rome, General Curia of the Missionaries of Faith, 2017, nn. 217-226. These numbers of our OGF consider personal accompaniment as something which guides and sustains a MF in vocation. N. 219 emphasizes that it should extend to the whole life span, in different forms in different ages, and it is something not to be neglected.
6. Cfr. C. AMPLATZ, *Mezzi didattici*, 818–822.



7. Cfr. G. RUGGERI, *Consacrati & social. 10 dipendenze patologie digital*, in 'Vita consacrata' 55 (2019) 3, 268–279.
8. Cfr. C. AMPLATZ, *Mezzi didattici*, 822–825.
9. Cfr. M. GAHUNGU, *Programmare e valutare nella formazione presbiteriale e religiosa*, Roma, LAS, 2013, 193.
10. Cfr. C. AMPLATZ, *Mezzi didattici*, 825–828.
11. Cfr. M. GAHUNGU, *Programmare e valutare nella formazione presbiteriale e religiosa*, 168–169.
12. C. AMPLATZ, *Mezzi didattici*, 825.
13. Cfr. GIOVANNI PAOLO II, *Vita consecrata. Esortazione apostolica post-sinodale circa la vita consacrata e la sua missione nella Chiesa e nel mondo*, Città del Vaticano, Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 1996, n. 67.
14. Cfr. M. GAHUNGU, *Programmare e valutare nella formazione presbiteriale e religiosa*, 163.

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## NEWS FROM MAJOR ORGANISMS

### Province of St. Paul - India

#### Annual feast of our Lady of Good Health Church, Sempatti, TamilNadu

As the world is facing covid - 19 pandemic, the 11th annual feast of Our Lady Good Health Church was held on 8 September. The feast was begun on the 29<sup>th</sup> of August with the flag hosting by Fr. Bosco Aruldas, Parish Priest, followed by 9 days of novena. On 8 September the annual Feast was celebrated with procession and solemn Holy Eucharist. Parishioners and devotees from far and wide participated and sought the blessing of Blessed Mother.







### Perpetual Profession of Bro. Arun Kumar Lawrence

01 August 2020 is a memorable day in the history of St. Paul's Province. After the bifurcation of Indian Province into two, St. Paul's province celebrated the first perpetual profession on 01 August at Our Lady of Good Health Church, Sempatti, Tamilnadu. Due



to Covid - 19 the programme was held without the presence of the Provincial superior. Fr. Bosco Aruldas was delegated to receive the vows of Bro. Arun Kumar Lawrence. He made the perpetual profession in the presence of Fr Maria Louis, ofm HOD (MSW) and Fr. Solomon, parish priest of St. Michael's church, Vannampatti. The parishioners and other Religious nuns also participated in the Holy Eucharist.



## Re-opening of St. Mary's High School, Longo, Arunachal Pradesh.

After the lockdown due to covid – 19, St. Mary's high School and boarding was re-opened with a solemn Eucharistic celebration presided over by Fr. Jose TA, the local Superior and Correspondent. Fr. Shijo, the Administrator broke the Word of God and exhorted the students to have hope in the midst of the present pandemic.





### Celebration of Independence Day and Assumption of our Lady at Kattakulam



The Independence Day of the Republic of India and the Assumption of our Lady was celebrated at St. Joseph's Church, Kattakulam, on 15 August 2020. The senior most citizen from the parish, Mr. Albert, hoisted the national flag. Later on the solemn Holy Eucharist was celebrated by the parish priest and after the Holy Mass there was a candle procession in honour of our Blessed Mother. The parishioners, especially all the mothers, thronged to the parish church to receive the blessings of the Heavenly Mother.



## Province of St. Peter - India

### Diaconate Ordinations at Holy Trinity Major Seminary, Nadipalli

On 22 August 2020, the Feast of Mary Queen of Confessors of Faith, our principal Patroness, four of our Perpetually professed confreres were ordained Deacons by His Excellency Most. Rev. Jaya Rao Polimera, Bishop of the Diocese of Eluru, in the presence of Rev. Fr. Maria Joji Rai, mf, Provincial Superior and some other confreres of the Province. It was a very solemn and pleasant celebration





which was well organized by Rev. Fr. Paul Palipe, Rector and Rev. Fr. Suvisesharao Nitta, Parish Priest. The Province of St. Peter is grateful and thankful to all the confreres of the Missionaries of Faith who prayed for the success of the event.



### **Parish of Paleru**

At the request of Most Rev. Maipan Paul, Bishop of the Diocese of Khammam, in Telangana State, the Province has temporarily taken up a new Mission. Rev. Fr. Bala Raju Karre is installed as the Parish Priest on 9 August 2020, in the presence of the Diocesan Procurator and Vicar and councillors from the Province.



### Parish of Kalwakole (KK Basti)

On 30 August 2020 Rev. Fr. Raju Kolli was appointed as Parish Priest of Kalwakole, Archdiocese of Hyderabad in Telanagana State. The ceremony had taken place in the presence of the Dean, Rev. Fr. Julian, the Parish Priest of Shamshabad and in the presence of two of the councillors of the Province.



### Parish of Allipalli

The feast of the Nativity of Mary, our Blessed Mother, was celebrated very grandly on 8 September 2020, in the shrine. Many faithful were present for the celebration. The Provincial superior, Rev. Fr. Maria Joji Rai, mf, was the main celebrant and he delivered a heart touching homily highlighting that the birth of our dear mother Mary had brought great joy and happiness to the whole of humanity. The Parish priest, Rev. Fr. Santhosh Kumar Pandika and the community Superior, Rev. Fr. Rajendra Prasad and Fr. Yesubabu Pureti thanked all those who had participated in the birthday celebrations of our Blessed Mother.





### Parish of Yarraguntapalli

The feast of the Nativity of Mary, our Blessed Mother, was celebrated very solemnly on 8 September 2020. On this occasion a huge gathering was seen in the parish church and even some of the Hindu brethren also showed great reverence and devotion towards our Blessed Mother and requested for her maternal protection.



### Holy Trinity English Medium School, Dharmajigudem

On 5 September 2020 the Teachers' day was celebrated in commemoration of Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan who was a great teacher, philosopher and role model of all the teachers in India. He said that the teachers are the backbone of the education system. Because of Covid-19 restrictions imposed by the Government only a few selected students were present, and they felicitated the teachers in the presence of Fr. Ramesh Eachu and Sr. Joseph Mary. All the teachers expressed their gratitude to the management





## Province of Vietnam

### **New mission at Hon Tre, diocese of Long Xuyen**

For the spiritual interests of the catholics in Hon Tre, Most Rev. Joseph Tran Van Toan, Bishop of the diocese of Long Xuyen, invited the Missionaries of Faith to cooperate with him in the pastoral ministry.

The priests of the Province has agreed to cooperate with the bishop in serving this new mission. Hon Tre mission belongs to Rach Gia Parish. In the Holy Mass held on 29 August 2020, Very Rev. Thomas Dinh Ngoc Loc, the Provincial Superior, handed the new pastoral assignments to Fr. Anthony Nguyen Vu Truong, mf, as the parish rector, and to Fr. Joseph Mary Le Xuan Dinh, mf, as the assistant parish priest and they are first Missionaries of Faith present there.





## New Aspirants



The Vocation Camp for four days was held from 25 August at the Office of the Pastoral Care of Vocation. This was organized for discerning the call of God in the young men and thus find out candidates who are really worthy to enter the Congregation of the Missionaries of Faith, Province of Vietnam. Fifteen candidates participated in this Vocation

Camp, but finally 13 were selected as new aspirants and will start their formative period on 02 September 2020, at the Institute of God's Word, M.F. Provincial House.



## Pastoral ministry in support of priests in difficult situations

As it is a community for missionary formation and community for the formation of collaborators in parishes, the Province of Vietnam is preparing the members to be qualified for missionary activity for priests and faithful who are in need of physical and spiritual support. There are four brothers in the year of pastoral practice who are entrusted to specialized apostolic service, that is the service of health care of the priests with physical difficulty at Retirement House and hospitals in the Diocese of Phu Cuong and other Dioceses as well.



## Opening Mass for the New Academic Year 2020 – 2021 and Installations of Lectors and Acolytes

On 31 August 2020 all community members gathered in the Main Chapel of the Institute of God's Word - the Provincial House - to officially commence the academic year 2020/2021, with Holy Mass of the Holy Spirit. On this day, Rev. Thomas Dinh Ngoc Loc, mf, the Provincial Superior also installed 06 brothers as Acolytes and 19 brothers as Lectors.



## Admission to Novitiate

Fourteen candidates were admitted to Novitiate on 14 July 2020, at the chapel of the Provincial House. The celebration included the rites, blessing and giving of cassock, and professing their promise as novices. After the celebration, the whole community had a photo session and a simple dinner before the novices moved to the novitiate house in Phu Giao district, Binh Duong Province.





### First and Perpetual Profession

The Vietnam MF Province is very glad to inform that on 14 July 2020, nine novices made their first profession and eight temporarily professed brothers made their perpetual religious profession at the chapel of the Provincial House.

The Holy Mass was presided over by Most Rev. Joseph Nguyen Tan Tuoc, Bishop of the diocese of Phu Cuong. May the maternal heart of *Maria, Regina*

*Confessorum Fidei*, spur them onto weave within the inner most of their spirit the same Christ whom she had formed in her womb.



### Sacred Ordinations to Priesthood and Diaconate

The Vietnam MF Province is glad to give the good news that on 11 June 2020 three of the Perpetually Professed confreres, *Dominic Nguyen Thai Binh, Laurence Vu Van Trinh, and Joseph Nguyen Duc Tien*, were ordained as deacons by Most Rev. Peter Tran Dinh Tu, the former Bishop of the Phu Cuong diocese.

On 17 July 2020 nine deacons, *Joseph Trinh Van Cung, Joseph Mary Le Xuan Dinh, Joseph Tran Van Lam, F.X. Nguyen Trong Oanh, John Baptist Tran Minh Phuong, Joseph Nguyen Van Thang, Joseph Nguyen Van Thuc, Joseph Mary Dang Huu Ton and John*





*Baptist Nguyen Trong Van* were ordained priests at the Phu Cuong cathedral, by His Excellency, Most Rev. Joseph Nguyen Tan Tuoc, the Ordinary of the diocese of Phu Cuong.

As on now, with these new priests and new ordained deacons, there are 62 priests and 6 deacons in the Province of Vietnam. As part of the pastoral exposure programme the new deacons and priests are assigned in Parishes, Missions and MF Communities in the various dioceses in Vietnam.



Please pray for their holiness and perseverance as they live the call to be totally conformed to and only for Christ, “*Sequela Christi evangelizer*”, for the salvation of many souls. May the Holy Trinity, through the intercession of Our Mother, *Maria Regina Confessorum Fidei*, bless us!





## Vice—province of Myanmar

### Tri-Monthly Recollection of MF and Diocesan Priests of Loikaw Diocese

Rev. Fr. Martino Lo, the parish priest of Nanmekhon was the resource person for this retreat. The theme of the retreat was **PRIESTLY FRATENITY**. It envisioned to strengthen the relationship among priests in the ministry that they may be able to journey together in facing the challenges confronting the priestly vocation and the Church. The retreat activities included common prayers, Eucharistic celebrations, personal reflections and Holy Hours.



### Feast of the Patroness of the Congregation

We celebrated the feast day of *Maria Regina Confessorum Fidei* with solemnity on 22 August, the liturgical memorial of the Queenship of Mary, at Domus Mater Fidei, in the Vice-province house of Myanmar.







### **THE VICE-PROVINCIAL HOUSE OF MYANMAR**

#### **Health condition of Fr. Roberto**

The health and physical wellbeing of Fr. Roberto has improved by the grace of God and relentless prayers of the people for his recovery. Please continue to ask our friends and members of the Congregation pray for his speedy recovery and complete healing. The Vice-province thanks everyone for the prayers offered for this intention.



#### **Health Situation of Fr. John La Sam**

Fr. John La Sam, mf, went to India for his kidney transplantation in the month of March 2020. The treatment was completed successfully. Now he is resting in his parish of Shadau. We would like to ask you to continue to pray for him that God may grant him a better opportunity to serve the Church and our MF community of Myanmar as soon as possible. Thanks to all of you, especially for the prayers.



# POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER FOR PROTECTION DURING THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC



O Mary,  
 you always shine on our path  
 as a sign of salvation and of hope.  
 We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick,  
 who at the cross took part in Jesus' pain,  
 keeping your faith firm.  
 You, Salvation of the Roman People,  
 know what we need,  
 and we are sure you will provide  
 so that, as in Cana of Galilee,  
 we may return to joy and to feasting  
 after this time of trial.  
 Help us, Mother of Divine Love,  
 to conform to the will of the Father  
 and to do as we are told by Jesus,  
 who has taken upon himself our sufferings  
 and carried our sorrows  
 to lead us, through the cross,  
 to the joy of the resurrection. Amen.



Under your protection, we seek refuge,

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