“To Love and to Serve the Lord”

REV. FR. MATHEW ELAYADATHAMADAM’S

SACERDOTAL SILVER JUBILEE YEAR

Begins on May 08, 2020
Archbishop Jose H. Gomez of Los Angeles, president of the US Conference of Catholic Bishops, has announced the US bishops will join the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops on May 1st in consecrating the two nations to the care of the Blessed Mother under the title ‘Mary, Mother of the Church’.

‘This will give the Church the occasion to pray for Our Lady’s continued protection of the vulnerable, healing of the unwell and wisdom for those who work to cure this terrible virus,’ said Archbishop Gomez in a letter to the US bishops. Each year, the Church seeks the special intercession of the Mother of God during the month of May.

‘This year, we seek the assistance of Our Lady all the more earnestly as we face together the effects of the global pandemic,’ he said.

This consecration reaffirms the bishops’ previous consecrations of the United States to Mary. In 1792, the first bishop of the United States, Bishop John Carroll, consecrated the nation to Mary under the title Immaculate Conception, and in 1846, the bishops unanimously chose Mary under that title as the patroness of the nation.

In 1959, Cardinal Patrick O’Boyle of Washington again consecrated the United States to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. This was the year when construction of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington was completed. The national shrine was elevated to minor basilica status by St John Paul II on 12th October 1990. This was renewed by the US bishops on 11th November 2006.

Archbishop Gomez will lead the prayer of reconsecration on 1st May at 3pm EDT and has invited the bishops to join in from their respective dioceses and asked them to extend the invitation to the faithful in their dioceses for their participation. Please tune into EWTN and Shalom World Television stations for the live coverage of this extraordinary and holy event.
My Dear Brothers, Sisters and Children,

MAY THE GRACE AND PEACE OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST BE WITH YOU ALL.

I am very glad to know that all of you celebrated Easter in different ways this year with your family. You attended Holy Mass celebrated at your ‘home church’ even in the midst of Covid - 19 pandemic, because the resurrection of Jesus is the core of our faith. Our faith has become stronger to help us overcome the fear, the anxiety, the confusion and the grief over our departed brothers and sisters. Let us be filled with hope and courage that we will have a better day ahead of us. I assure you my continued prayers and support to all of you.
The month of May is dedicated to Mother Mary. Let us ask her intercession on the world in this time of crisis. History has proven that her powerful intercession has helped the world to find solutions for crises in the past. The extraordinary power of the Rosary has resulted in many miracles. In 1945, during WWII, four Jesuit priests were living in a parish house less than one mile from where the atomic bomb was dropped on the town of Hiroshima in Japan. While the church next to the parish house was completely destroyed and thousands of people were killed and thousands of others suffered tremendously from exposure to radiation, the house remained standing and the eight missionary priests miraculously survived. It was also miraculous and inexplicable that none of the eight Jesuits suffered from exposure to radiation. In the years following the blast, they were tested many times. They lived many more years doing their missionary work. When the priests were interviewed, they repeatedly said that they believed that they survived the attack unscathed and with no exposure to radiation because they were living the message of Fatima. They said that they had prayed the Rosary faithfully in that house everyday.

After World War II, for ten years, a part of Catholic Austria went under the tyrannical rule of communist Russia. A Franciscan priest named Father Petrus remembered the story of how Christians in the sixteenth century had defeated the Turks at the Battle of Lepanto through the power of the Rosary, despite being greatly outnumbered. Father Petrus launched a rosary crusade and 70,000 people pledged to say the rosary daily for the intention of Austria becoming free from Russian rule. Although Austria was valuable to the Soviets because of its strategic location and rich resources, on May 13, 1955, the anniversary of the first apparition of Our Lady at Fatima, the atheistic Russian regime, in a completely unprecedented move, signed the agreement to leave Austria. Not one person was killed, and not even one shot was fired. Today, historians and Military strategists still cannot explain how or why the Russians pulled out of Austria.

In “Rosarium Virginis Mariae,” Saint John Paul II eloquently shared his thoughts and feelings about the beautiful holy devotion known as the Rosary. “The Rosary, though clearly Marian in character, is at heart a Christocentric prayer”. He added “With the Rosary, the Christian people sits at the school of Mary and is led to contemplate the beauty on the face of Christ and to experience the depths of his love. Through the Rosary the faithful receive abundant grace, as though from the very hands of the Mother of the Redeemer”. The graces that we receive can bring us closer to Jesus. Whether it’s the strength and peace to get through a difficult situation, an increase in patience, they are all blessings that can change our lives.

On March 11, 2020 Pope Francis entrusted to Jesus’ mother the suffering and anguish of millions of people affected by the coronavirus pandemic. Pope prayed before a portrait of Our Lady of Divine Love, beseeching her to “not disdain the entreaties of we who are in trial” but to “deliver us from every danger.” The image of Our Lady of Divine Love is of particular significance for Catholics in the city of Rome, especially during troubling times. It was before the original image of Mary and the child Jesus at the shrine where Pope Pius XII prayed in 1944, imploring the Mother of God to protect the Roman people during the final battle for the city’s liberation from Nazi occupation.
I heartily recommend and earnestly request every family to take to heart the message of many miracles and Pope Francis and entrust each family and the world to the powerful protection of our Mother Mary by faithfully praying the Rosary everyday to save the world from the Covid-19 pandemic.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Mathew Elayadathamadam MSFS

Pope Francis’s prayer asking Mary to protect the world during of 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, Holy Mother of God. Do not disdain the entreaties of we who are in trial, but deliver us from every danger,

O glorious and blessed Virgin.
Our beloved Mathew Achan’s sacerdotal Silver Jubilee year begins on May 8, 2020. His epic journey to the altar of the Lord began when he entered the MSFS Minor Seminary at Ettumanoor in 1984. The journey to priesthood is an epic one because the long road is beset with many pitfalls and temptations. Only the champion survives. Once set his eyes on the prize, like the man in the Gospel who found the treasure hidden in the field (Mt. 13: 44-46), he followed the route with unflinching determination, dedication and devotion to its end. And he was ordained a priest on May 8, 1996.

As St. Pope John Paul II said, “Priesthood is a gift and a mystery”. It is a gift because only God can call you to priesthood. It is a mystery because “the priest is inserted into Christ’s work of salvation”. A weak creature is given the power to stand between God and man as a mediator offering our prayers to God, forgiving our sins and bringing God’s blessings and mercy upon us. Thank you, Mathew Acha, for being all that and an example of a praying priest and pastor who is at the beck and call of all in their time of need. Be assured that you will be specially remembered in our prayers everyday of your Jubilee Year.
Message

On the occasion of the Silver Jubilee of the priestly ordination of Rev. Fr. Mathew Elayadathamadam, MSFS, I congratulate him and thank him for his excellent service to the Church and the Congregation of the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales.

When we honor a priest, we honor priesthood. St. Paul writes to the Christians in Corinth: “What is Apollos, after all, and what is Paul? Minister through whom you became believers, just as the Lord assigned each one” (1 Cor. 3: 5).

Fr. Mathew is a messenger of God chosen, anointed, and assigned to proclaim the Word of God, to celebrate the Sacraments, to invite God’s people to follow Christ and to have a deeper and more personal relationship with God.

Fr. Mathew, known as Mathew Achan, is loved by all as he embodies a compassionate pastor, a preacher of grace, a spiritual father, a hard-working priest, an able administrator, a servant leader, and a good shepherd.

As a priest anointed for His people, Fr. Mathew chose to be close to the people whom God has entrusted to his care. No one is excluded from his heart, prayer, and smile.

The Almighty has done great things for him. I join the parishioners of St. Alphonsa Syro-Malabar Parish in Atlanta to celebrate the gift of Fr. Mathew’s priesthood.

May this silver turn into gold! Congratulations and prayerful wishes to dear Father Mathew,

Live JESUS!

Father Abraham VETTUVELIL, MSFS
Superior General
Priestly Ordination Of
FR. MATHEW ELAYADATHAMADAM MSFS
“The world looks to the priest, because it looks to Jesus! No one can see Christ; but everyone sees the priest, and through him they wish to catch a glimpse of the Lord! Immense is the grandeur of the Lord! Immense is the grandeur and dignity of the priest”

(St. Pope John Paul II)
Pray for Mathew Achan as Achan begins the Sacerdotal Silver Jubilee Year
On May 08, 2020

Mathew Achan, Achan’s dedicated service over the past 25 years has been a source of comfort, inspiration and strength for the people of God.

With prayers of gratitude and joy for all Achan’s work.

Parish Family of St. Alphonsa Forane Catholic Church.
ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

MY JESUS,
I BELIEVE THAT YOU ARE PRESENT IN THE MOST HOLY SACRAMENT.
I LOVE YOU ABOVE ALL THINGS, AND I DESIRE TO RECEIVE YOU INTO MY SOUL.
SINCE I CANNOT AT THIS MOMENT RECEIVE YOU SACRAMENTALLY, COME AT LEAST SPIRITUALLY INTO MY HEART.
I EMBRACE YOU AS IF YOU WERE ALREADY THERE AND UNITE MYSELF WHOLLY TO YOU.
NEVER PERMIT ME TO BE SEPARATED FROM YOU.
AMEN.
Many of you have inquired about the possibilities of remote giving opportunities. Online giving is an alternative option and is safe and convenient in today’s world. Listed below are some of the online giving options for parishioners/well-wishers in supporting our church.

**A. ONLINE GIVING USING THE CHURCH WEBSITE**

For your convenience we have set up a PayPal account for our church members to make contributions at your choice. Please visit our church website [www.stalphonsacatholicchurch.org](http://www.stalphonsacatholicchurch.org), click on donate now and follow the screen to complete the transaction. You have the option either to use the PayPal account or credit card account for the online giving. If you already have a PayPal account sign on with your credentials and proceed with the giving. For those who do not have an active PayPal account there is an option to set up one or simply proceed with the credit card payment option. Follow the screen directions, enter the dollar amount, fill in the required information and submit the payment. This is a service offered by the church at no additional cost to the donor.

**B. SET UP BILL PAY FROM YOUR BANK ACCOUNT**

You can set up a one time or recurring bill pay from your bank account at no additional cost. All banks are offering free bill pay service to its customers. Sign on to your bank account and set up the payment.

**C. INITIATE ONLINE FUNDS TRANSFER FROM BANK TO BANK**

There are apps allowing free transfers at no additional cost. If you have access to these apps you can initiate a free transfer to the church account, otherwise transfers may incur additional cost. If you prefer this option please contact the church office for account and routing details. Fund transfers may incur additional cost.

**INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW TO USE ONLINE GIVING USING THE CHURCH WEBSITE**

Please visit our church website [www.stalphonsacatholicchurch.org](http://www.stalphonsacatholicchurch.org), select one of the above options and follow the screen to complete the transaction. This is a service offered by the church at no additional cost to the donor.
1. Go to the St. Alphonsa Catholic Church website [www.stalphonsacatholicchurch.org](http://www.stalphonsacatholicchurch.org), and click on the SUNDAY COLLECTION tab on the right side of the webpage.

2. Please type the amount and select the method of payment (Paypal / or Credit card). Log into either your PAYPAL account or use the Debit/Credit Card option.

3a. PAYPAL

3b. DEBIT / CREDIT CARD

4. Click on the “Write a note” line and insert the parish number (optional).

5. Fill out all the necessary information and click on DONATE NOW.
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