#### MAILBAG

The PVEA youth group in BRAZIL share their reflections. (Continuation) "What struck me was when Jesus said to the Jews: "Amen, amen, I say to you: unless you eat the flesh of the Son of man and drink his blood you cannot have life in you" And I felt in my heart that Jesus is the truth and the life and through the Eucharist we become his friends ... and also "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them" which reminds me of Peter Vigne's love for children and young people". Wladja Luine FEJ - Brejo Santo -CE BRAZIL



"Thank you for the books I received concerning your Founder, Blessed Pierre Vigne. Thank you because I have been attending the Eucharistic Association meetings every first Tuesday of the month for several years now. I also participated in the Tercentenary celebrations of the Congregation, but it is through these books that I've really discovered the face and character of Peter Vigne: a man persistent and resolute in whatever project he undertook..... and his great love of the Cross and the Blessed Sacrament. Thank you for welcoming us and for the opportunity to know his Charism." Marcello. Mater Ecclesiae. Rome ITALY

### PRAYER TO OUR LADY O Mary... Mother of the living, to you do we entrust the cause of life: Look down, O Mother, upon the vast numbers of babies not allowed to be born, of the poor whose lives are made difficult, of men and women who are victims of brutal violence, of the elderly and the sick killed by indifference or out of misguided mercy. Grant that all who believe in your Son may proclaim the Gospel of life with honesty and love to the people of our time. Obtain for them the grace to accept that Gospel as a gift ever new, the joy of celebrating it with gratitude throughout their lives and the courage to bear witness to it resolutely, in order to build, together with all people of good will, the civilization of truth and love, to the praise and glory of God, the Creator and lover of life. John Paul 11

We urge all of you to be courageous and take heart during these Covid 19 challenging times. **November:** we pray for the deceased members of our families and Communities. **We are called to believe and share in Christ's Resurrection.** 

**December:** we go forward with a firm hope in our hearts towards the great feast of CHRISTMAS, the Good News of LIFE.

"God, the Almighty, has no need to be defended by anyone and does not want his name to be used to terrorize people ". Pope Francis Fratelli tutti 285





As we look to these final months of the year we see little to celebrate! Life itself seems to be in "lockdown". Danger lurks at street corners and in gatherings. Violence, terrorism and even the pandemic too often the rule our societies, where individual freedom is prized above all. A certain fear can take hold of us and control us. BUT these two months will ask us to reaffirm our hope in LIFE, our faith in the One who gives us life every day.....That is the Good News that always springs up amidst so much other news, fake, hateful and sometimes downright evil! Yes, it is the Gospel of life that we must welcome, care for and defend, as John Paul 11 said in his encyclical 25 years ago.

THE GOSPEL OF LIFE is at the heart of Jesus' message. Lovingly received day after day by the Church, it is to be preached with dauntless fidelity as "good news" to the people of every age and culture.

The Creator has entrusted man's life to his responsible concern, not to make arbitrary use of it, but to preserve it with wisdom and to care for it with loving fidelity. The God of the Covenant has entrusted the life of every individual to his or her fellow human beings, brothers and sistens, according to the



N° 76 Evangelium vitae Johm Paul 11



# GOSPEL...

It is therefore a service of love which we are all committed to ensure to our neighbour, that his or her life may be always defended and promoted, especially when it is weak or threatened. It is not only a personal but a social concern which we must all foster: a concern to make unconditional respect for human life the foundation of a renewed society.

We are asked to love and honour the life of every man and woman and to work with perseverance and courage so that our time, marked by all too many signs of death, may at last witness the establishment of **a new culture of life**, the fruit of the culture of truth and of love.

N°77 Evangelium vitae

## during the pandemic...why not?

"Lord, grant us the grace to imitate your beloved Son's obedience to your holy will during our life time and in times of sickness be clothed in his virtues. Give us the grace to be:

Gentle with those who care for us,

meek when we have to receive medication,

*humble,* quietly accepting what is not to our liking, *remembering* the sufferings you endured when trials come our way,



aware of your presence especially when housebound or confined to bed, prudent and reserved in our conversation when someone comes to visit us passionate in serving you and contributing to the needs of the poor, both corporal and spiritual.

And when the time comes to dispose of our property before death, let us remember that we are but the administrators of all we possess. All that we are and have, our skills and talents and possessions are but the effects of your bountiful generosity and love. Everything comes from you Lord. You have given them to us for the same purpose for which we were created, which is to glorify you and to make you better known, loved and served throughout the world.

P.B.L. 2. 72-73

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### HEARTFELT COURAGE

During his lifetime, Peter Vigne was familiar the plague and its impact on the lives of individuals and families. When the "Great Plague" broke out in Rochepaule in 1722, he went there immediately to help the inhabitants and render service to the victims of the outbreak. In every household his presence and words of comfort to

the dying and bereaved were most welcome. Today, the prayer he suggests can also help us during this outbreak of Covid 19, which is proving to be particularly trying for those who are sick or at risk and a worrying time for their carers.

Don't you feel the need of those same virtues that Christ had during his Passion? -The need to be gentle, meek, humble, prudent and reserved. This pandemic has given us some unexpected benefits,

free time perhaps to be more attentive to the presence of God around us, and rediscover that we are definitely not "all-powerful" despite our advanced scientific knowledge and techniques. We are not the masters, "*we are only the administrators*" and poor ones at that sometimes, when through mismanagement we fail to "meet the needs" of so many people, often those close to us. During these two months the pandemic will continue to change the way we live! This November, more than most years, we will remember our dead and recall those who died during the pandemic. Come December and Advent, the glittering illuminations announcing Christmas may not be so bright and family celebrations will no doubt be more restricted. But NOTHING should stop you from sowing the Gospel of Life as you live this "Covid time" with the same mind set as Christ. NOTHING should prevent you from living your Faith with renewed TRUST in the One who always comes to you and says: "Get up!" or "It's me, do not be afraid!" B.R.

Pope Francis gives us guidelines for daily living

The world was relentlessly moving towards an economy that, thanks to technological progress, sought to reduce "human costs": there were those who would have had us believe that freedom of the market was sufficient to keep everything secure. Yet the brutal and unforeseen blow of this uncontrolled pandemic forced us to recover our concern for human beings. for everyone, rather than for the benefit of a few. Today we can recognize that "we fed ourselves on dreams of splendour and grandeur, and ended up consuming distraction, insularity and solitude. We gorged ourselves on networking, and lost the taste of fraternity. We looked for quick and safe results, only to find ourselves overwhelmed by impatience and anxiety. Prisoners of a virtual reality, we lost the taste and flavour of the truly real". The pain, uncertainty and fear, and the realization of our own limitations, brought on by the pandemic have only made it all the more urgent that we rethink our styles of life, our relationships, the organization of our societies and, above all, the meaning of our existence. 33 Fratelli Tutti Pope Francis

### Learning to live BETTER

Every now and then, miraculously, a kind person appears and is willing to set everything else aside in order to show interest, to give the gift of a smile, to speak a word of encouragement, to listen amid general indifference. If we make a daily effort to do exactly this, we can create a healthy social atmosphere in which misunderstandings can be overcome and conflict forestalled. Kindness ought to be cultivated; it is no superficial bourgeois virtue. Precisely because it entails esteem and respect for others, once kindness becomes a culture within society it transforms lifestyles, relationships and the ways ideas are discussed and compared. Kindness facilitates the quest for consensus; it opens new paths where hostility and conflict would burn all bridges. 224 Fratelli Tutti Pope Francis