

Luke Rodrigues sj

Family Background:

Born in Mumbai, India in 1965.

His father died in 1975 and his mother in 2000.

There are three boys in the family, all of whom are priests. His elder and younger brothers both belong to the archdiocese of Mumbai.

After completing University studies, He joined the Society of Jesus in 1986.

Ordination to the priesthood was in 1997.

For 7 years, He worked as a Lecturer of Education in the University.

In 2004 He was appointed as National EA for CLC India and then came to Rome in 2010.

His Inner Journey: Published in an article in Progressio, N 1, 2010.

Upon three scripture quotations he describes his inner life.

Isa 43, 4. You are Precious to me. I love you and honour you.

A single statement that can sum up my life is “The Father is very fond of me”. This is an expression of my deepest experience – the experience of God’s unconditional and overflowing love which has filled me completely.

It is impossible to recount the innumerable blessings I have received over the years. The awareness of, and gratitude for these blessings has grown stronger with each new experience. At the risk of sounding conceited or arrogant, I can boldly say that there is this deep awareness within me that God delights in doing good things for me. I am his precious child, and when I am happy, then He too is happy. Ah, what a wonderful thing it is to know that there are so many blessings laid up for me!

My closest friends describe me as being basically a happy and joyful person. And why not? There is so much good that has been showered upon me. All undeserved, all in great abundance – full measure, pressed down, shaken and overflowing. All I can do is be grateful, and it is this sense of gratitude that always keeps me happy. At this point in my life, I expect good things to happen naturally. Well, I am a Prince after all since my Father is the King of Kings!.



2 Cor 12, 9 My grace is sufficient for you

The overpowering experience of God's love has filled me with gratitude and with an eager desire to respond generously. Like Ignatius at the end of the First Week, the question keeps recurring "What should I do for Christ?". This fills me with great dreams of all that can be done for the Lord.

Alas, my efforts in this direction always fall short of the ideal. My personal limitations and weaknesses stare me in the face. And often, despite my best intentions, I find myself turning away from the Lord, doing the very things I do not want to do.

This brings me to the point of surrender. I realize that there is a Power far above my own strengths and my own limitations. It is necessary for me to try my best, but after these best efforts have failed, I need to allow that Power to take over. And that is when miracles begin to happen once again. There is a stubborn streak in me which insists that my opinion is the best one. Fortunately, there is also a wee bit of humility to admit that I have been wrong (well, maybe just once in a thousand times!!). And that tiny opening is enough for God's amazing grace to take over completely.

My desire is to surrender myself more and more completely to God's action in my life. And each failure has served as a stepping stone in that direction.

John 10, 10 I have come that you may have life

There were five of us ordained to the priesthood together in 1997. Spontaneously, we thought of the above verse for the backdrop of the altar.

Jesus describes his own mission as that of empowering us with life in its fullness. My own mission is to work with Jesus in carrying this out. I see my role as being that of promoting Life and enabling more and more persons to experience life in its fullness. The best way to do this is to create opportunities for people to deepen their contact with the Author of Life. In recent years, I have become more aware that this mission must extend to all of God's creation. Hence, my desire for the future is to get more involved in working for greater harmony between humans and creation (through Eco Spirituality).

Since 2004, many CLC members have played an important role in deepening my experiences in the above three areas. In CLC, I have encountered a group which is passionate about faith and committed to service. This dedication and loyalty has inspired me to try and become a better person and a better Jesuit, AMDG.

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