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Aquinas Bulletin

71
 YEARS
 of Excellence
 1954 - 2025

October 2025



7/2025

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POPE'S MONTHLY INTENTION FOR OCTOBER 2025

FOR COLLABORATION BETWEEN DIFFERENT RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS

Let us pray that believers in different religious traditions might work together to defend and promote peace, justice, and human fraternity.



PHOTO OF THE MONTH



THIS PHOTO BEAUTIFULLY CAPTURES THE SPIRIT OF UNITY, DIVERSITY, TEAMWORK, AND COURAGE.

The group of individuals—men and women from different backgrounds—are seen pulling together in a tug-of-war, symbolizing how strength emerges through collective effort. Each person contributes their energy and determination toward a common goal, reminding us that success in any community or institution depends on cooperation and shared purpose.

Their expressions of focus and perseverance illustrate courage and resilience, qualities needed not just in sports but in life's challenges. The diversity within the team highlights that differences in background, role, or appearance become strengths when united by a common mission.

In essence, this image stands as a vivid metaphor for unity in diversity—a community bound by mutual trust, teamwork, and the courage to strive together for victory.

RECTOR'S MESSAGE

October is a month rich in meaning—internationally, spiritually, and nationally. Across the world, it marks a time of reflection, thanksgiving, and renewal. Internationally, October is recognized as the **Month of the Children and Elderly, World Teachers' Day (October 5), and World Mental Health Day (October 10)**—reminding us of our shared responsibility to care for one another, to value education, and to promote well-being and compassion within our communities.



For Christians, October is especially sacred as the **Month of the Holy Rosary**, dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary. The Rosary is a prayer of peace, contemplation, and faith, drawing us closer to Christ through Mary's intercession. It invites families, communities, and institutions to pray together for harmony in our hearts, our homes, and the world.

In **Sri Lanka**, October carries cultural and social importance as well—it is often a time of preparation for final academic terms, examinations, and harvests in rural areas. It reminds us of diligence, gratitude, and the value of collective effort. The rains that bless the land this month symbolize renewal and hope for both nature and human life.

As we journey through October, let us embrace its spirit of reflection, gratitude, and unity—celebrating learning, faith, and the dignity of all who labor and serve. May this month inspire us to live with deeper compassion, responsibility, and peace.



"White Dendrobium" or "Angel Orchid"



This graceful white orchid blooming on a tree within Aquinas College is a beautiful symbol of the spirit that defines our community. Growing not in soil but on the strength of another, it reflects the values of faith, resilience, and harmony that Aquinas nurtures.

Just as the orchid draws life from its surroundings without harming them, the Aquinas family thrives through mutual support and shared growth—each member contributing to the beauty and vitality of the whole. The pure white petals represent peace, purity, and wisdom, qualities that mirror the college's mission to cultivate minds and hearts guided by truth and integrity.

Amidst the busyness of college life, this delicate bloom reminds us that true growth often happens quietly, rooted in faith, discipline, and grace—values at the heart of Aquinas College.

NEW SAINTS CANONIZED BY POPE LEO XIV



Saint Carlo Acutis
God's Influencer



Saint Pier Giorgio Frassati
Man of the Beatitudes

Key Highlights

Carlo Acutis:

- Created a multilingual website cataloging Eucharistic miracles.
- Born on 3rd May 1991, he died at age 15 from leukemia in 2006; beatified in 2020 and canonized on 7th September 2025.
- Known for deep Eucharistic devotion, techno-savvy evangelization, traveled exhibitions of relics.



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Pier Giorgio Frassati:

- Born in 1901, died at age 24 in 1925 from polio; known for his extreme generosity-once gave his shoes to a barefoot child.
- Active in the St. Vincent de Paul Society, opposed fascism, and practiced joyful charity during mountain hikes and prayer.
- Beatified in 1990; canonized together with Carlo on 7th September 2025.

Together canonized on 7th September 2025 by Pope Leo XIV, these two young lay saints embody holiness for modern times. **Carlo Acutis** - “God’s Influencer” - shared his faith online with authenticity and a love for the Eucharist. **Pier Giorgio Frassati** - “Man of the Beatitudes” - lived joyful charity in service of the poor. Their lives continue to inspire youth to live their faith fully today.

Canonization: Pope Leo XIV, 7th September 2025, St. Peter’s Square, Vatican City.

Rev. Fr. Warnakulasuriya Arachchige Don Benedict Joseph

With deep faith in the Resurrection, we commend to the Lord the soul of **Rev. Fr. Warnakulasuriya Arachchige Don Benedict Joseph** who was called to eternal rest on 12th September 2025 after 54 years of faithful priestly service.

Date of Birth: 16th December 1942 (Age 82)

Date of Ordination: 19th December 1970 (54 years of Priestly Service)

Home Parish: Tarala

Fr. Benedict Joseph served generously in many ministries within the Archdiocese of Colombo:



1971 - Hospital Chaplain, Colombo

1971 - St. Aloysius’ Minor Seminary, Borella

1977 - Manager, Colombo Catholic Press

1982 - Diocesan Director, Social Communication Centre

1992 - Editor, Gnanartha Pradeepaya

1995 - Assistant Parish Priest, All Saints’ Church, Borella

1997 - Parish Priest, All Saints’ Church, Borella

2004 - Parish Priest, St. Mary’s Church, Dehiwala

2008 - National Director, Social Communication Centre

2014 - Parish Priest, Holy Mother of Expectation Church, Eldeniya

2016 - Staff, Aquinas College, Borella

2020 - Evening Star Priests’ Retired Home, Colombo 05

*We give thanks to God for the gift of his life and ministry,
and we pray that the Lord may grant him Eternal Rest.*

**“Well done, good and faithful servant... Enter into the joy of your master.”
(Matthew 25:23)**



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Congratulations to Ms. Sanduni Mahesha Samarasinghe



Ms. Sanduni Mahesha Samarasinghe, a permanent cadre lecturer in Christian Culture attached to the Department of Humanities at Aquinas College of Higher Studies, Colombo 08, was selected to participate in the 12th International Conference on Social Sciences 2025 (ICSS 2025), held from 1st to 2nd September in Bangkok, Thailand.

The conference brought together 70+ researchers from over 20 countries, and Ms. Sanduni Samarasinghe proudly represented both Aquinas College of Higher Studies and Sri Lanka by successfully presenting her research paper titled:

“Laudato Si’ and the Muthurajawela Wetland: Promoting Ecological Spirituality Related Pastoral Work in Sri Lanka.”

In addition, she was recognized with a Token of Appreciation as a Social Media Ambassador for the 12th International Conference on Social Sciences 2025 (ICSS 2025), highlighting her contributions in proudly showcasing Sri Lanka on the global stage.



Ms. Sanduni Samarasinghe was also honored with the prestigious title of **Best Social Media Ambassador** at the 12th International Conference on Social Sciences 2025

We extend our warmest congratulations and best wishes for her continued academic success!





The article titled "Digital Parenting: Missing Link in Sri Lanka's Education Future"

by Milinda Mayadunna, published in The Island, on 26th September 2025

Key Points of the Article:

1. Digital Divide Between Parents and Children

- a) Today's children, dubbed "digital natives," are fluent in using technology like smartphones, online classes, and apps.
- b) Many parents are
- c) "digital immigrants," unfamiliar with this world, and struggle to guide their children online.
- d) This generational gap often leaves children unsupervised, making them vulnerable.

2. Why Digital Parenting Matters

Digital literacy among parents is crucial to:

- a) Support online learning(e.g., helping with Zoom, Google Classroom, Khan Academy).
- b) Encourage productive technology use(e.g., educational apps instead of just games).
- c) Protect from online risks(cyberbullying, scams, misinformation).
- d) Model responsible behavior (healthy screen time habits).

3. Sri Lanka's Challenge

- a) A study by ICTA shows significant gaps in digital skills among Sri Lankan families.
- b) Children, especially in rural areas, often lack basic tech skills like using email.
- c) Parents also struggle with tech use, leading to missed opportunities or dangers.

4. Consequences of Weak Digital Parenting

- a) Educational disadvantages: Poor tech skills hurt children's learning.
- b) Cyber risks: Increase in harassment, scams, and online predators.
- c) Family conflicts: Misunderstandings about screen time.
- d) Social inequality: Less digitally literate families fall behind.

5. Real-Life Examples

- a) A mother used YouTube to enhance her child's science learning, leading to academic success.
- b) A teen was caught gaming excessively because parents didn't understand the platform.
- c) A girl faced cyber blackmail due to a lack of parental digital awareness.

6. Solutions to Bridge the Gap

- a) Parental education programs (workshops, short courses on cyber safety and digital tools).
- b) Community-based training(offered by NGOs, ICTA, religious institutions).
- c) Government support (making digital parenting part of PTA discussions).
- d) Private sector campaigns(telecoms promoting safe digital use).
- e) Family collaboration

The Way Forward:

The article argues that digital parenting is not just about controlling screen time or banning tech use. Instead, it's about guiding children to use technology wisely. If parents improve their digital literacy, they can act as a "compass" for their children in the digital world.

Conclusion:

Sri Lanka's educational future depends not only on schools but also on whether parents are digitally literate. With the right support, parents can help children learn safely and effectively in the modern digital landscape. We extend our warmest congratulations and best wishes for his future endeavours.



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Saints of October 2025

October	Saints of October 2025
October 1	-St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus (Virgin & Doctor Patroness of Mission Lands of Sri Lanka), Solemnity Children's Day & International Day of Older Persons
October 2	-The Holy Guardian Angels, Memorial, St. Leodegarius of Autun (Bishop & Martyr)
October 3	-St. Theodore Guerin (Foundress)
October 4	-St. Francis of Assisi (Stigmatist & Founder), Memorial
October 5	-Twenty-Seventh Sunday of Ordinary Time, St. Maria Faustina Kowalska (Apostle of Divine Mercy), Memorial, World Teachers' Day
October 6	-Vap Full Moon Poya Day, St. Bruno of Cologne (Priest), OM
October 7	-Our Lady of the Rosary, Memorial, St. Libaire the Great
October 8	-SS Sergius & Bacchus (Martyrs), St. Simeon Senex
October 9	-St. John Leonardi (Priest), OM, St. Denis (Bishop) & Companions (Martyrs) St. John Henry Newman
October 10	-St. Francis Borgia (Priest), St. Daniele Comboni
October 11	-St. John XXIII (Pope), Memorial, St. Maria Soledad Torres Y. Acosta S.M.
October 12	-Twenty-Eighth Sunday of Ordinary Time, National Laity Sunday, St. Wilfrid (Bishop)
October 13	-St. Edward (Martyr)
October 14	-St. Callistus I (Pope & Martyr), Optional Memorial
October 15	-St. Teresa of Avila (Virgin & Doctor), Memorial
October 16	-St. Margaret Mary Alacoque (Apostle of the Sacred Heart of Jesus), OM St. Gerard Majella, Memorial, St. Hedwig of Silesia (Religious), Memorial, St. Marguerite d'Youville, World Food Day
October 17	-St. Ignatius of Antioch (Bishop & Martyr), Memorial
October 18	-St. Luke (Evangelist), Feast
October 19	-Twenty-Ninth Sunday of Ordinary Time, World Mission Sunday, St. Paul of the Cross (Founder), Memorial
October 20	-Deepavali Festival Day, St. Maria Bertilla Boscardin (Religious)
October 21	-St. Hilarion the Great (Abbot)
October 22	-St. John Paul II (Pope), Optional Memorial
October 23	-St. John of Capistrano (Priest & Confessor), Optional Memorial
October 24	-St. Anthony Mary Claret (Archbishop & Founder), OM, St. Luigi Guanella
October 25	-Forty Martyrs of England & Wales, SS Crispin & Crispian
October 26	-Thirtieth Sunday of Ordinary Time, St. Evaritus (Pope)
October 27	-St. Teresa Eustochio Verzeri (Foundress)
October 28	-SS Simon & Jude (Apostles), Feast
October 29	-St. Narcissus of Jerusalem (Bishop), St. Gaetano Errico
October 30	-St. Saturninus of Cagliari (Martyr)
October 31	-St. Alphonsus Rodriguez (Religious Brother), St. Foillan





EVENTS FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER 2025

DATE	EVENT
01.10.2025	- Debate Competition for the Diploma in English students at PPH
02.10.2025	- Workshop organized by the department of English – PPH
02.10.2025	- A stage drama performed by the students of B.Ed (Hons) in English on a theatrical presentation of the character “Ophelia” in the drama Hamlet by William Shakespeare at 1.30 p.m. at DPA
03 rd to 14 th	- School of Agriculture examination – PPH1/2/3
03.10.2025	- Workshop organized for staff members by the IT operations unit on the 0365-access process and how to access OneDrive using your 0365 email account at 3.30 – 4.30 p.m. at CCH
03.10.2025	- A discussion organized by the Ministry of Higher Education-Non State Division on Government Policy for the Non-State Higher Education sector and a workshop on SERC Preparation & Quality Assurance from 8.30 to 3.30 p.m. at Pitakotte.
03.10.2025	- Free Webinar organized by the Dept of Psychology on raising Community awareness about mental health at 6.45 p.m. – 8.00 p.m.
05.10.2025	- Orientation programme for Spoken English 2025 Intake at 8.45 a.m. at PPA
07.10.2025	- Free Webinar organized by the Dept. of Psychology on raising Community awareness about mental health at 7.00 p.m. – 8.00 p.m.
07 th to 11 th	- B.Sc Agriculture examination at the DPA
07 th & 08 th	- Department of ICT examination, Peter Pillai Hall I
08.10.2025	- Aquinas College Teachers’ Day Celebrations at 3.00 p.m. at CCA
11.10.2025	- Certificate awarding ceremony – Spoken English (Faculty of Education and English at 10.00 a.m. at CCA
11.10.2025	- Farewell to Rev. Fr. Chinthaka Perera – Priest in Charge of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities at 12.10p.m. ceremony at CCA at 3.00 p.m.
14 th to 18 th	- B.Sc. Agriculture examination at the DPA
15.10.2025	- Reading Month Celebration “Discover new worlds through Reading” Organized by the Library staff at 10.00 a.m.
17.10.2025	- ‘Lingua Franca’ Debating Competition organized by the dept. of English at 10.00 a.m. at PPA
18.10.2025	- ‘Founder’s Day’ Holy Mass at 12.10 p.m.
21 st to 25 th	- B.Sc Agriculture examination at the DPA
23.10.2025	- Workshop on SAR writing organized by the CQA unit (3 hours) Conducted by Prof. Renuka Silva
25.10.2025	- Thanksgiving Birthday Mass for Rev. Fr. Prasanka Rodrigo – The Priest in Charge of the Faculty of Science & Technology at 12.10 p.m.
29.10.2025	- Staff Birthdays for October - Thanksgiving Holy Mass at 12.10 p.m.



EVENTS IN SEPTEMBER 2025

1st & 2nd September - Ms. Sanduni Mahesha Samarasinghe Honored at ICSS 2025 for Representing Sri Lanka on the Global Stage

Ms. Sanduni Mahesha Samarasinghe, a permanent lecturer in Christian Culture at the Department of Humanities, was selected to participate in the 12th International Conference on Social Sciences 2025 (ICSS 2025), held from September 1 to 2 in Bangkok, Thailand.

She was recognized with a Token of Appreciation as a Social Media Ambassador for the 12th International Conference on Social Sciences 2025 (ICSS 2025), highlighting her contributions in proudly showcasing Sri Lanka on the global stage.

10th & 11th September - Orientation programme – Dept. of English at DPA

12th September - Rev. Fr. Benedict Joseph called to eternal rest

Former Priest in Charge of the Dept of IT and Media Unit of ACHS, Rev. Fr. Benedict Joseph, called to eternal rest. The funeral took place on 13th Saturday at 3.00 p.m. at General Cemetery Borella

11th & 12th September - "Sisu Nena Pahana" Programme Equips Agro Industries Management Students with Practical Skills in Farm Machinery and Drone Technology

M/s. Brown and Co.Plc in collaboration with the Faculty of Agriculture, successfully conducted the "Sisu Nena Pahana" programme for B.Sc (Hons) in Agro Industries Management students. This innovation programme provided students with valuable hands-on exposure to farm machinery and drone technology, bridging the gap between academia and industry.

13th September - "Sahithya Day"

A special occasion was graced by Very Rev. Fr. Rector, along with Mr. Malin Wickremasinghe of Martin Wickremasinghe Trust. The event featured a service of insightful lectures focused on the life and literary contributions of Martin Wickremasinghe, by Snr. Prof. Sandagomi Coperahewa, Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, Lecturers: Ms. Dilum Ratnamala, Mr. Milinda Mayadunne, and Ms. Methzika Kariyawasam.

A book exhibition showcased the work of Martin Wickremasinghe and a special screening of the iconic Sinhala movie "Gamperaliya" based on Martin Wickremasinghe's renowned novel.

20th September - Certificate Awarding Ceremony

The Certificate Awarding Ceremony for the Certificate in Professional English and Hotel Operations, Certificate in Logistics Services, Freight Forwarding and Multimodal Transport, and Certificate in Pastry and Bakery was held at 9.00 a.m. at the Cardinal Cooray Hall, in the esteemed presence of the Very Rev. Fr. Rector.

20th September

A Thanksgiving Holy Mass was offered in celebration of the birthday of the Very Rev. Fr. Rector. At the college chapel at 12.10 p.m.

27th September - Aquinas Sports Fiesta 2025

The Annual Sports Fiesta was held at the Colombo Campus grounds from morning onwards. A variety of events saw enthusiastic participation from both students and staff members. The day concluded with an award ceremony in the evening, graced by Sri Lankan cricketer Mr. Chamindu Wickramasinghe.



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PHOTO ALBUM SEPTEMBER 2025

**Ms. Sanduni Mahesha Samarasinghe Honored at
ICOSS 2025 for Representing**



Rev. Fr. Benedict Joseph called to eternal rest



**"Sisu Nena Pahana" Programme Equips Agro Industries
Management Students with Practical Skills in Farm
Machinery and Drone Technology**



"Sahithya Day"



Certificate Awarding Ceremony



Aquinas Sports Fiesta 2025





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