

“NOTHING CAN BE ACHIEVED WITHOUT SACRIFICE; NO ONE CAN CONQUER WITHOUT VIRTUES”.

-MOTHER SERAPHINA

These days, all are busy pursuing their goal or dream. Everybody wants to be successful at the end of the day. But sadly sometimes, they fail to realize that “Hard work is the most important key to success”. When I say HARD WORK, it has a broad meaning as THE WILL TO TRY, try hard and try again until you succeed. In this practice of trying, you may come across various troubles or hurdles which can be physical, psychological or emotional. Most people remain unsuccessful in their task just because they give up long before they reach their destination.

If you want to build an empire, you need to invest enormous amounts of time reading, learning, and experimenting. You can't do it if you constantly oversleep. If you want to develop a rock-hard, toned body, you need to invest enormous amounts of sweat, energy, and time working out. You can't get it if you maintain an unhealthy, toxic diet of tempting junk food.

The individual who hates his job yet spends most of his free time on TV, partying, or sleeping has only him to blame. His level of sacrifice which is very low will always equate with his level of success. On the other hand, the individual who is willing to do whatever it takes is likely to experience massive growth and success, even if they start out in the midst of the most unfortunate circumstances.

It is as well true that virtues have a direct influence on the success of individuals at both personal and professional levels. Virtues have the potential of shaping one's character and identity in the long run. It has been always noted that, people are very keen to observe the lifestyle of successful people. They would amaze or feel jealous that why people want to meet them, or to have a selfie with them. I really don't know how many of them think of the busy schedule they are following right from the start of the day. That busy schedule is known as their struggle and now when they are successful, people says they are LUCKY!!

A successful person only remains successful if he is having the quality of knowing and understanding the merit of situations. One is capable of great things, but he

must never forget that there is a hand guiding his steps. We call it the hand of God, and He always guides according to His will. One should learn to bear certain pains and sorrows, because it will make him a better person. One should also know that correcting something he did - not necessarily a bad thing, would help keep him on the road to justice. At the same time, he should pay attention to what is happening within him. And at the last, you should know that everything you do in life will leave a mark on you and on others, so try to be conscious of that in your every action.

-Suraj Raghav

Education Philosophy that can never be outdated

“INTELLECTUAL DEVELOPMENT WITHOUT THE DEVELOPMENT OF CHARACTER WILL DEFEAT THE VERY END OF EDUCATION”

-MOTHER SERAPHINA

Education philosophy of Venerable Mother Seraphina is one of the most up-to-date philosophies of all time. It was most relevant in the past when education was just beginning to take deep root in the society at large and it is all the more required at present when education is being compromised with money and power. One can be rest assured that the education philosophy of Mother Seraphina will continue to be the guiding factors for the educators in the future too.

One of the several quotes of Mother Seraphina, “Intellectual development without the development of character will defeat the very end of education”, can be defined as an approach to imparting values, ethics, emotional maturity and sense of civics along with sharpening the intelligence, which is the source of all our knowledge.

Unfortunately modern education has widely moved away to a divergent direction, one that focuses entirely on students’ academic (intelligence) and to a lesser extent to character building. In a world that is becoming more and more materialistic, the education philosophy of Mother Seraphina appeals to the educators to reflect and act wisely so that character development as well as intellectual development of the students goes hand in hand. The educators need not be swayed by all the misleading winds but they should go against the negative impact and focus on building strong character of the students who can be assets to the society in the future.

The modern day gadgets whether they be I-Phones, Androids, Tabs, or online television programs like Netflix, Prime Amazon etc., are taking the children away to the virtual world where they are forced to succumb to counter values. The technological and digital revolutions have brought about great changes in the modern time. The world is becoming more and more consumerist, the earth is totally taken for granted, there is different kind of competition in the world to outsource someone at any cost, be it even murder; politics has reached another height where the welfare of the citizens is not the aim of politicians but to hold on to power and money by hook or crook, the evils in the society are at rampant.

The present crisis could be a big lesson for the world to rethink its way of approach towards life and education. It could be a break for everyone to reflect on the words of Mother Seraphina that along with intellectual development we need to develop strong character traits. Only if we had paid heed to her words, may be today we might not have faced such a disaster that we are undergoing. The total dependence on intelligence alone has ruined the world. If only we had given attention to both the aspects of life, then most probably we would not have found ourselves in the dire situation in which we are groping at present.

Nothing is lost yet. The world can still learn from Mother Seraphina's philosophy of education. As educators, we need to educate our students to face the challenges of life by holding firm to the right values that are taught in the school. We should make them strong in character so that they do not fall prey to their impulses in trying situations. The exemplary life of educators should be the guiding force for the students to look up and make right decisions in life.

-Ephraem Jacob

“THE TEMPEST WILL SUBSIDE BECAUSE JESUS IS WITH US IN THE BOAT. WE SHOULD NOT BE FRIGHTENED. LET US CONFIDE IN HIM”

-MOTHER SERAPHINA

These words of Mother Seraphina take me to my most troubled time of life when I was battling between life and death. All the doors seemed to be closing and hope dwindling. There was only one option to surrender to the will of God. Being firm believer in the Almighty, I surrendered myself to His will. My trust in Him proved to be the silver lining in the dark clouds. That ray of hope enkindled in me a new wave of strength and brought me back to my feet.

It is true that those who trust in God will never have fear of life. The Supreme Being is at every step of our life. He does not leave us alone even for a fraction of a second. He knows our every need. He provides us what is best for us. There is no injustice in his court. He is a just God whose judgment cannot be questioned. We need to surrender to his will in good times and in bad times. The present pandemic in the world seems to be a great tempest for everyone. The darkness of death looms everywhere. We find ourselves helpless. No light seems to be shining in the dark tunnel of life. We feel unsafe and walk in fear.

The agony and suffering in the world make us disheartened. We easily give up hope and become victims of anxiety and doubts. Our trust in God seems to be wavering. Doubt and disbelief start creeping into our very marrow. We try to find solace and comfort in earthly materials. We neglect our spiritual obligations and many times we falter.

However, there is good news for those who have faith in the Creator of the Universe. God in his goodness and kindness is our only shelter. In him only we can take refuge. He is our protector and guide. We find the shining light of God in the dark tunnel of our life. It will lead us from darkness to a new beginning. We need to confide in Him who is the only power on earth and heaven to conquer this sweeping pandemic. With full trust in Him, I surrender to his will.

- Kawal Rekhi

“INTELLECTUAL DEVELOPMENT WITHOUT THE DEVELOPMENT OF CHARACTER WILL DEFEAT THE VERY ENDS OF EDUCATION.”

-MOTHER SERAPHINA

Mother Seraphina, a true follower of Jesus and a loyal daughter of Church firmly believed that it is the main duty of the educator to study the character and capacity of each child and direct him/her to the path of truth and goodness.

The most effective character development is that which is shown and not told.

I am reminded of a story told by my grandfather. A priest in order to test his three disciples, asked them to kill a bird at a place where nobody can see them. After few days two of his disciples told that they have killed a bird in a dark jungle and in a closed room respectively, here nobody could see them. But the third disciple told that he could not kill any bird because there is no place where GOD is not there. He quoted, “GOD is watching us everywhere.”

The priest rewarded the third disciple. Bad deeds cannot be hidden, however hard you try.

Education is not mere learning of different subjects, comprehensive education addresses the emotions, personality and character as well. Development of character provides holistic approach to learning and individual growth.

Mother Seraphina vividly emphasized the role played by a teacher in shaping and moulding the personality of the pupils. According to her teaching dissociated from the inculcation of virtue and values will not help in developing right attitude in pupils towards self, others, society and different cultures. **“Character Is Higher Than Intellect”**

Children need to be imparted character education which actually incorporates values, ethics, emotional maturity and sense of civics. Educators play an important and immense role in the character building of a child. Educators who ignore character building are overlooking a crucial opportunity to help students grow into

responsible adults. Character education is a model that provides students with core values along with academic instruction. This type of education is necessary for raising the next generation.

- According to Mother Seraphina educators should strive to instill the values of integrity, respect, responsibility, fairness, honesty, caring and citizenship in their students and make them morally sound, psychologically whole, spiritually responsible and culturally harmonious with deep sense of noble values. Parents and teachers who exhibit the qualities of good character powerfully transmit their values to their children.

She inspired the teachers to use different tools that can be adopted by the educators to instill values and make the pupils realize the importance of character building. In short,

- Be a role model.
- Effective discipline strategies help build values.
- Teachers can use moral stories to teach moral lessons.
- When the child has an opportunity to make a decision, the teacher can help him/her choose ethical action and see positive result in their daily life.

Following the philosophy of Mother Seraphina we aim at helping our pupils to orient and motivate them towards attaining the ultimate goal for which GOD has created us.

**“THE END OF ALL KNOWLEDGE MUST BE THE BUILDING UP OF
CHARACTER”**

“THE TEMPEST WILL SUBSIDE BECAUSE JESUS IS WITH US IN THE BOAT. WE SHOULD NOT BE FRIGHTENED; LET US CONFIDE IN HIM”

-MOTHER SERAPHINA

Mother Seraphina's words not only enlighten me with her philosophy and views for teaching but also for a way for life as a whole.

See how these words are a source of solace and peace, especially in the present time when the whole world is impacted by COVID- 19. In this difficult time, her words are source of motivation to face this crisis.

“The tempest will subside as Jesus is there with us in the boat. We should not be frightened, let us confide in him.” Facing difficulties, encountering problems meeting challenges is part of life irrespective of age or time. Sometimes they are big, sometimes small; they can also be internal or external, personal or professional.

Trust is synonym for assurance, confidence a feeling of security etc. When I have deep trust in God, that is unwavering faith and unquestioning belief, how can fear and hopelessness exist?

So, Mother Seraphina exhorts: “Don’t be scared of tempest; it will subside; have trust in Jesus.”

How beautiful is the analogy she has given; if Jesus is with us in our boat we will cross the sea despite the storm and challenges provided we have trust in him.

If I carefully peruse this analogy, I can also understand another message Mother Seraphina has given us Some people misinterpret that having faith or trust in God means we need not think or do anything for God will take care of everything on our behalf. This boat analogy says you do your part; keep on rowing your boat. Keep on doing your actions in the face of difficulties, not that God will take the paddle in his hand and you keep idling away your time. He is there with you sitting in the boat, there in your life watching you and guiding you towards the shore. You

keep doing the acts you are supposed to do, having full faith in God, without getting scared.

You do your work and God will do his. When a student prepares for his entrance exam, he is not bothered about the payment of fee, for he trusts that his parents will pay. His duty is only study; the rest of the things will be taken care of by the parents. In the same way we must also do our tasks without fear, Rest of the things will be taken care of by God. Only our actions are in our hands; fear, uncertainty doubts etc. should not affect us. So, Mother Seraphina says we should not be frightened but should confide in him.

This type of faith and courage will make me stronger internally. This internal strength is required to encounter all problems or issues. So, trust in god makes me really strong.

Mother Seraphina's philosophy contained in this beautiful quote is relevant in the current situation too. It doesn't say that you leave everything to God and don't take precautions to fight the corona virus or adopt what is required to be safe.

It says have faith in God which will make you internally stronger to fight the situation and not panic. At the same time do whatever is required to be safe, like maintaining social distancing, using mask and maintaining hygiene, abide by the guidelines given by the government.

So, Mother Seraphina's message of having faith in Jesus who is always with us and doing our acts without fear, is guiding us today and will guide us in every aspect and phase of life. Let's adopt it.

I will reiterate

“The tempest will subside because Jesus is with us in the boat. We should not be frightened; let us confide in him.”

-Anupama Harit