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THE SECULAR CITIZEN

Career Enhancing Seminar:
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Leaders in the Making & Reaching to the Top



CCCI conducted Seminar on New Company Law



Mumbai, Jan.10: Mr. Suresh Viswanathan, Company Secretary, a Fellow Member of the Institute of Company Secretaries of India, Member of Chartered Institute for Securities and Investment (UK) and a Certified Associate of the Indian Institute of Banking and Finance will address a Seminar on Company Law Matters held on 9th January 2015 at Hotel Suba International.

The focus were on the Recent Amendments to the Companies Act 2013/ 2014 - Provisions applicable / exemptions given to Private Limited Companies.

Following are some of the questions addressed during the Seminar.:

1. Can General body meeting held outside India?
2. What is the implication, If one of the Directors, residing abroad, has not attended any of the Board Meetings (which have been done by a circular) during the year ?
3. Loans given to the Director/ Company under same management/Firm in which the Director or his relative is interested prior to the provisions of Companies Act, 2013 came into force, in such case how to deal with the outstanding amount? What is the time limit within which the same has to be repaid?
4. What is the time limit for filing Form INC - 21 and what are the consequences if the said Form is not filed within the limit. (A company having a share capital shall not commence any business or exercise any borrowing powers unless a prescribed declaration filed with the said Form with the ROC)
5. Can a Company give a loan to LLP in which Director or his relative are Partners/ interested?
6. Please highlight on the relaxation proposed for Private Limited Companies in the recent Companies (amendment) bill 2014?
7. So far, before declaration of dividends, 10% of the current years profit had to be transferred to General Reserves. As per the amended provisions transfer to General Reserves is not required to be done but whether dividends can be declared out of General Reserves ?
8. Whether it is compulsory to have a Local Director on the board ?

Mr. Henry Lovo, Chairman of CCCI welcomed the speaker and Mr. Valerian Mthias proposed a vote of Thanks

THANKSGIVINGS



Thanks to Lord Jesus, Mother Mary, St. Xavier and St. Anthony for favours granted

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Thought for the week

It is not so much what you believe in that matters, as the way in which you believe it and proceed to translate that belief into action.

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Cover : Leaders in the Making and Reaching to the top

(Report on pg.8)

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Can Pope Francis bring a message of peace to a violent land?

by Ruki Fernando, Colombo

A little more than a month ago, I made an appeal to Pope Francis not to visit Sri Lanka on a planned Apostolic visit that will begin on January 13 — principally on the grounds that a presidential election was not a suitable moment for such a trip.

Election-related violence has intensified since I made that written appeal. On Wednesday, I heard that a person who was shot while erecting a stage for an opposition party rally succumbed to his injuries. Also that day, three colleagues received death threats over the phone.

Earlier this week, someone deposited the severed heads of dogs in front of two of these colleagues' homes. The wife of disappeared journalist Prageeth Ekneligoda received threats of violence if she did not cancel a vigil to remember his disappearance.

These are just the most recent acts and threats of violence.

Let's go back three decades. Wednesday marked the 30-year anniversary of the killing of Fr Mary Bastian inside the Vankalei Church premises in front of witnesses. Like many other such victims, his body was never found and nobody has been held accountable for his death.

It is in this present and past context that Cardinal Malcolm Ranjith, the archbishop of Colombo, has asked Catholics to have faith in the promises of the two main presidential candidates in Thursday's election that their supporters will not engage in any violence before or after the elections.

These assurances of a peaceful poll sound hollow to friends and colleagues who are even now suffering intimidation and violence. Indeed, they fear the incumbent, President Mahinda Rajapaksa, will refuse to step down in the event that he loses the election, leading to reprisals against the supporters of his rivals.

Cardinal Ranjith has not condemned this week's violence and threats, nor has he reached out to any of the victims. And yet, he has been quoted in the local media as saying, "If there is a possible threat of violence or if the existing circumstances at the time point to a violent environment for the papal visit, then we will have to take the necessary steps".

With all due respect, Cardinal Ranjith, the threats are more than possible. They are real. The environment is already violent.

It is my hope that even at this late hour Pope Francis will forego his visit to Sri Lanka, regardless of who wins the election. Furthermore, it is the hope of many that

(Contd.. on p. 4)

(Contd.. from p. 3)

the dignity and sanctity of life of the Sri Lankan people — central to any post-democratization agenda — will be given at least some consideration alongside the financial and logistical arrangements of those who take credit for inviting the pope to visit Sri Lanka.

Let us assume that the pope will not cancel his visit. How will it be meaningful to Sri Lanka?

Its main focus appears to be the canonization of Blessed Joseph Vaz. I must say that more than 300 years after his death and 20 years after his beatification, I see no reason why we can't wait a few more months or years.

But if we cannot wait, then it would be worth noting the deeper significance of Vaz's canonization. First, he was courageous in the face of adversity. Second, he used creativity to overcome the many obstacles put in front of him. Finally, he was profoundly humble.

Sri Lankan Catholics would do well to emulate these three attributes in the midst of violence that has occurred and violence that is imminent. They are essential for bearing Christian witness in the country and particularly in working towards justice and human rights.

Last year, Pope Francis gave us a fresh perspective on canonizations. He was reported to have said that he wanted theologians to study whether those who were killed because of their actions doing God's work could also be considered martyrs.

"What I would like is that they clarify when there's a martyrdom for doing the work for the other that Jesus commands". This was said in the context of Pope Francis "unblocking" and expediting the process for beatification and eventual canonization of Archbishop Oscar Romero of El Salvador, who had been killed for his outspoken condemnation of the dictatorship and its supporters.

"For me Romero is a man of God. There are no doctrinal problems and it is very important that [the beatification] is done quickly," Pope Francis is reported to have said.

These Papal words are relevant to Sri Lanka, a country where a Catholic priest disappeared in May 2009 for writing an appeal to the then Pope Benedict XVI to save innocent civilians from being massacred. Fr Francis, an elderly Tamil priest who had opted to remain in the war zone with his people, wrote that

letter amidst falling shells and bombs, and told Pope Benedict that the government could kill him for writing such a letter.

Sadly, his fear seems to have been fulfilled. Fr Francis was seen by hundreds of people surrendering to the army but was never seen afterwards. Submissions in courts and to commissions of inquiries have yielded nothing. Will Pope Francis remember Fr Francis during his visit to Sri Lanka?

I hope the canonization will be an opportunity to reflect on modern-day Catholic martyrs in Sri Lanka. Another Tamil priest, Fr Jim Brown, disappeared after having been threatened by a naval officer. This was days after he had taken the lead to save many lives and get medical treatment for civilians injured during the fighting in 2006.

Two other Tamil Catholic priests involved in human rights and humanitarian work, Fr Karunaratnam (Fr Killi) and Fr Pakiaranjith, were also killed in 2008 and 2007, respectively. From the 1980s, Sinhalese and Tamil priests who have been at the forefront of raising their voices on behalf of the oppressed and supporting struggles for justice have been killed or disappeared in Sri Lanka.

Government officials have discredited and intimidated Bishop Rayappu Joseph of Mannar for speaking out on human rights violations, and there have been calls for his arrest. He has been subjected to interrogations on at least two occasions. Along with other Catholic clergy and lay persons, many independent journalists and human rights activists have been killed, disappeared, attacked, threatened, intimidated, harassed, restricted and discredited with false allegations.

I have experienced this type of repression personally on many occasions. Last year, a Tamil Catholic priest and I were arrested and detained under terrorism charges when we tried to meet families of those detained, which we consider our Christian duty. We are still subjected to investigations, travel and speaking restrictions, and our phones and bank accounts are being scrutinized.

Christians and Muslims have been under severe attack by those claiming to be Buddhist groups. A Buddhist monk who has publicly stood for freedom of religious minorities and inter-religious harmony has been attacked several

times, jailed and forced into hiding. Private and state land has been acquired, often illegally, for military and touristic purposes. A traditional Tamil Catholic village, where the Church also owns land, is now a naval camp.

The military continues to stop or interfere in religious and civil events in the North. Militarization is spreading all over the country, including in education, sports, tourist resorts, airlines, boat services, shops, restaurants and farms.

A major challenge for Pope Francis will be to overcome bureaucratic and ceremonial niceties to reach out to the oppressed, such as families of those disappeared or killed, and to visit political prisoners, those who have been evicted from their lands, tortured and subjected to sexual abuse.

But reaching out to the oppressed does not seem to be the focus for the Colombo Catholic hierarchy organizing the papal visit. Perhaps such matters are considered "political" and not matters that are central to Catholic teachings? Or perhaps what Jesus did during his ministry, and what Pope Francis seeks to emulate — namely, serving the poor and downtrodden — has been forgotten?

The preparation for the visit appears to be spirituality disconnected from socio-political-economic realities and concerns of the poor and the oppressed. The newly opened Catholic Bookshop in Colombo is selling Pope Francis souvenirs, but when I asked to purchase some booklets containing what Pope Francis has been doing and saying, including his encyclicals, I was told that none were available.

On a more hopeful note, during a recent visit to the North I heard about special efforts to ensure the pope has at least some time to interact with people affected by the civil war when he visits the Madhu shrine. However, he will have only one hour in the 48 hours he will spend in the country to see them.

If Pope Francis does arrive as expected on January 13, I wonder what he will say and do. What will he pray for and what will he say to our government officials? How will he show his solidarity with the poor and oppressed? How will he instill hope in a more democratic, just and loving Sri Lanka?

Ruki Fernando as an adviser with the Inform Human Rights Documentation Center.

Fr Samir: There is a war within Islam and Western politicians do not defend European culture

Immediately after the attack in Paris against Charlie Hebdo, France's Muslim communities issued a very balanced and reasonable statement. Yet, their words betray a certain embarrassment, indicating that it is not enough to say, "This has nothing to do with Islam". Because facts contradict them. At least 80 per cent of all terrorist attacks in the world are carried out in the name of Islam, to defend the faith, or the prophet. And this is growing more and more, even in the West.

I spoke yesterday with a Paris-based imam who told me that a school for imams just opened in the French capital. More than a thousand people have signed up. The school plans to help imams integrate and teach them about Western culture.

This is important news because in Islam, everything begins with the imams. In Europe, imams and mosque preachers are paid by their country of origin. Now they want to create a French Islam that can assimilate the country's Western values (see Document).

However, this goes against what most Muslim activists believe, namely that the West is the enemy, and that Islam is a system that must spread, by violence if need be. Indeed, in the Middle East and Europe, they are at loggerheads over how to view Islam.

If we look at the Middle East and beyond, we realise how much opposition and violence there is between Sunnis and Shias.

I met an imam from Mosul. He is Shia and Sunni fundamentalists killed his family. He moved to Najaf, where the

Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani built a village to accommodate Shias and Christians who fled Mosul.

The hatred between Sunnis and Shias is growing, especially by Sunnis against Shias who they deem to be apostates. Minorities like the Christians, Yazidis, Kurds, etc. are caught in between. This is a struggle by Sunnis to regain what they lost: Shia-ruled Iraq; Alawi-ruled Syria; Hizbollah-dominated Lebanon where the Shia group is more powerful than the country's regular army. Sunnis, who claim to embody the true form of Islam, want to win back lost territory.

Thus, this is first and foremost a struggle within Islam, with collateral damages inflicted on minorities and the West. The latter has sponsored Israel, become secularised, etc.; yet, this enemy is far away. The most burning issue is the internal struggle over who is propagating the truest Islam.

Even in Lebanon, tensions are running high. For this reason, both Muslim communities are asking Christians to remain to serve as a buffer. Without Christians, Lebanon would already be plunged in a war between Sunnis and Shias.

Islam should address in depth the issue of modernity - through an exhaustive interpretation of the Qur'an, non-violence, freedom of conscience - yet nobody dares to do so.

Non-violence

The first thing that everybody should accept is the principle of non-violence. All Muslims claim that "Islam is peace", that it is not violent, etc.

Charlie Hebdo's cartoons, for example, are an old thing, going back a few months. I agree that they are ironic, sarcastic, even outrageous, but why should you Muslims react to them with violence? Why not fight the pen with a

pen?

In the past (in 2006), Charlie Hebdo printed a cartoon depicting Muhammad with a bomb instead of a turban. My question to my Muslim friends is: How do you depict Muhammad? With a sword. An Istanbul museum has even two swords thought to have belonged to the Prophet. What does Saudi Arabia, the country that guards the holy places of Islam, have on its flag? Two swords! So I tell you: all the people at Charlie Hebdo did was simply update Muhammad's image. Once there were swords; today, there are bombs!

As long as Islam fights against others - apostates, Christians, the West, atheists - and does not engage in self-criticism and recognises that its problem is within, we all lose. Without it, Islamic countries will be increasingly involved in wars among themselves.

Even the fighting taking place in Africa, in Arab countries bordering the Mediterranean, and in the Sahara Desert are conflicts within Islam.

Let me tell my Muslim friends: Engage in self-criticism, imagine another Islam for today's world, reinterpret the words of the prophet. Even in the Bible, there are verses that glorify war. But we all understand the need to reinterpret them and not take them literally.

Everyone has to take into account the fact that we are already living in the 21st century. Ordinary, defenceless people, minorities, pay the price for these wars.

Saudi Arabia

The Sunni-Shia divide is reflected in the fight between Saudi Arabia and Iran. Here, religion is part of a broader economic, strategic, and geopolitical power struggle.

Saudi Arabia must be told that this is

(Contd.. on p. 6)

(Contd.. from p. 5)

the 21st century. How is it possible, for example, to deny women the right to drive a car on their own? Or that women do not yet have the right to vote at the national level?

Now, those who responsible for these things - Saudi Arabia - do so as true interpreters of Islam, in the name of Islam. And that disgusts everyone, Muslims included.

If you do these things in the name of religion, then you cannot complain if I attack your religion, which makes you humiliate so much other human beings.

If you speak with Muslims, they will say: Yes, of course, Saudi Arabia is a reactionary, backward country . . . but since the Saudis offer billion to various countries, in the end all of them say, "God bless Saudi Arabia."

The West does not know what to do

What about the West? The relationship with Muslims is a problem because a lot of them do not want to integrate, because Islam is a system, not just a religion. Many, a majority, try to fit in, but they do so slowly. In France, Algerians were better integrated 50 years ago than immigrants today.

Now, in France, almost all supermarkets across the country sell halal products. Now schools and supermarkets often sell only halal products, which even non-Muslims can buy.

This leads some to see Muslims as a threat, one that could undermine Western values ??(including the right to eat pork). Seeing Muslims organised in activist groups, Westerners organise into anti-Islamic groups.

At the same time, European politicians have never really dealt with the problem. They ought to tell migrants: You are welcome. We welcome you as brothers and sisters because that is part of our Christian tradition. If you want, you can stay here, but you need to integrate. You can practice the religion of your choice, or you can be an atheist, but you must become part of the existing system, integrate at the economic, political, and social levels.

Unfortunately, politicians prefer not to stick their nose in; they choose instead to preach some vague notion of acceptance, pushing European culture into the private sphere.

In general, what I see is that in many parts of Europe, migrants are met with great openness. Muslims, too, do the same. However, there is a core group of Muslims who reject integration and fight it instead.

In order to monitor this situation, mosques need to be controlled. At first glance, this is contrary to our European spirit, whereby state and religion are distinct. However, in Islam mosques are not just a place of worship. They are also places of indoctrination and political guidance, sometimes in ways that are even harmful to the community. This is why European states should monitor them, as is done in all Muslim countries. In the Islamic world, mosques are the first entities that are controlled.

Unfortunately, this example shows that the certainties claimed by organised Islamic groups are confronted by the Western world's many uncertainties.

(AsiaNews)

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT



"Holy Spirit, thou who makes me see everything and shows me the way to reach the ideal. You who gives me the divine gift to forgive and forget the wrong that is done to me and are in all instances in my life with me. I, in this short dialogue want to thank you and confirm from you once more that never want to be separated from you, no matter how great the material desire may be. I want to be with you and my loved ones in your perpetual glory. Amen".

— R. Rodrigues

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— Lily Unni, Mumbai

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Prop. B. D'Souza

Freedom of expression not absolute

No one in his/her proper frame of mind will condone or justify the barbarous butchery unleashed by militants, killing 10 journalists and 2 policemen in the 'Charlie Hebdo' shootout last week in Paris. While several prominent world leaders from around 40 countries marched along with a million others through the streets of Paris in a show of solidarity with the slain journalists, and condemning the dastardly act of vengeance and intolerance, the question whether freedom of expression is an absolute right, even to the extent of inciting religious hatred and causing insult to those of other faiths and even their founders, will continue to remain debated and politicised.. Fortunately, we in India have drawn the line, limiting the free use of expression with punishable laws for those who overstep their brief. This is not the case in many European countries as well as the U.S. where there is no curtailment of the right to express oneself freely. Unless there is a re-think on the subject and the laws amended, and the people of other faiths learn to respect one another and their religious sentiments, we may never be able to live in peace and harmony.

—A. F. Nazareth,
Alto porvorim

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Marriage Bann

This has reference to the Views on News in the Secular citizen dated 5th January 2015. My feeling is that reading of the bann cannot be treated as something not useful. As reading is the age old custom, at least some will listen. Also reading the bann does not involve any expense or difficulty.. The original intention might have been a kind of warning to the contacting parties also to ensure their genuineness. However the insertion of the bann in the Parish Bulletin and display in the notice board are good suggestions.

—K C Thomas
Navi Mumbai-400614

Indian NGOs for Women Empowerment

Now a day, matrimonial disputes are on rise and many young women are filing court cases against their husband and in laws. These court cases subsequently cannot be proved and turn out to be false. But the matrimonial love, affection and cordiality vanish and the families break up permanently. One of the reasons for rise in court cases is over zealous activists of NGOs claiming to be working for women empowerment. Whenever a woman approaches these NGOs with a grievance, the activists of the NGOs, without verifying or cross checking the details of the grievance by hearing the other side from the

husband or the in laws, simply rush to courts to file cases under provisions of various Acts, provided for protection and betterment of women. These activists also ask the woman to take revenge on the in laws by implicating them in these false cases. After filing such false cases, the harassed husband and in laws are asked to shell out a hefty sum as compensation or alimony to the woman. This settlement amount then is shared by the woman and the activists of the NGOs.

These NGOs also collect donations from all over the world by depicting the plight of Indian women in a very negative and pathetic way. These NGOs also spoil India's image abroad, just for donations' sake.

It is therefore suggested that the State/Central Government should make it mandatory for all the NGOs claiming to be working for women empowerment to always follow the principle of natural justice and hear the other side of the story from husband and in laws before taking side of any woman. And, if the cases filed by any woman with the active assistance from the activists of an NGO as Advocates turn out to be false, then the NGO should be suitably warned for creating family discords and burdening the courts with false cases.

— Vincent Bagul,
Mumbai

Unfailing Prayer to St. Anthony



O holy St. Anthony, gentlest of Saints, your love for God and Charity for his creatures, made you worthy, when on earth, to possess miraculous powers.

Miracles waited on your word, which you were ever ready to speak for those in trouble or anxiety. Encouraged by this thought, I implore of you to obtain for me (request). The answer to my prayer may require a miracle, even so, you are the Saint of Miracles. O gentle and loving St. Anthony, whose heart was ever full of human sympathy, whisper my petition into the ears of the Sweet Infant Jesus, who loved to be folded in your arms; and the gratitude of my heart will ever be yours.

—Mrs S. T. Sequeira,
Mangalore

Leaders in the Making and Reaching to the Top

The career enhancing Youth seminar which is conducted annually by DIVO Konkani Weekly was organized at St. John School Hall at Pangla-Shankarpura, Udupi in association with YCS Shankarpura.

Creating future leaders in the community through the project: 'Leaders in the Making and Reaching to the Top' Youth are the pillars upon which a nation's future is built. It is true that in this challenging era of globalisation, our youth must be nurtured, educated and guided towards the right path. There is a need for the youth of our community to strengthen their faith by adopting the right mindset and acquiring a wealth of knowledge.

With this objectives in mind we have been conducting special youth seminars entitled 'Leaders in the Making and Reaching to the Top' since 10 years. So far over 8000 youth have participated and benefited in the 12 seminars which have been guided by expert resource persons. Guiding our youth as effective future leaders and shine in top positions within and outside the country is our dream which we want to turn it into reality, The Entire project is conducted absolutely Free for the participants.

The seminar was inaugurated by Very Rev Dr Jerald Isac Lobo, the Bishop of Udupi Diocese by lighting the lamp and the programme was conducted under his presidentship. The Urban Development minister of Karnataka and Udupi District Incharge Minister Vinay Kumar Sorake and Member of Legislative Council Ivan D'souza were present

Photographs: on Cover and pg. 12 & 13.

as Chief Guests in the seminar.

Bishop Jerald Lobo delivered the presidential address and said, "Youth are the future generation of the world. So, consider your student life as a golden life, become educated to lead a prosperous life. You should shed off lethargy and strengthen the society. Do not forget your parents and teachers and always strive hard for the betterment of the society".

The minister Sorake and Ivan Dsouza wished everyone saying, "the youth is the foundation to build a powerful country. The future of our country is in the hands of our youth and let you all have a bright future".

Stage actor Francis Fernandis Cassia, Cyprian Albuquerque, John G Mendonca, Mark Vaz, Simi D'Souza, Juliet D'Souza, Sr. Mariolla and other dignitaries were present as guests. Albert W Dsouza the executive president of Model Bank Mumbai and the executive president of St John Engineering Group Of College conducted the work shop in the first half of the seminar and inspired the youth by giving information about Engineering, Pharmacy, Technology, Management and Trade, Commercial field, employment etc. Prof Dr. Jerald Pinto the head of Kallianpur Milagres College told how to use the opportunity to get high postings. Fr. Dr. Ronald Cutinho the director of Samanwaya Mangalore said about how to give a shape to the talents we are blessed with.

Dr. Thomas J. Quadros, the principal of Glowinstaar Integrated School

gave information about right career and personality development and Retd. Professor Hilda Rodrigues Kallianpur talked about the importance of family values. In the closing ceremony Very Rev Fr. Baptist Menezes, the Vical General of Udupi Diocese wished a bright future to the youth. Rev Fr. Edwin D'souza, the chief of ICYM Udupi region offered thanks giving mass in the middle of the seminar and blessed everyone.

Susanna Coelho-of DIVO Konkani Weekly, the organizers of the seminar Dr. Edward Lobo, Joseph Noronha, John Lobo and other dignitaries were present at the seminar which commenced with the welcome dance of Sankarpura members. Lawrence Coelho the editor of Divo weekly welcomed all. The Parish Priest of St John the Evangelist Church Pangla Rev Fr. (Dr.) Lesley C. D'Souza gave introductory guidance to the participants. Oliver D'Sa and Joyce Martis Compered the programme. Rev Fr Vincent Coelho the principal of St John Pre University College proposed the vote of thanks.

The Resource persons in the Seminar were:

1. Mr. Albert W. D'Souza, Businessman, Banker and Educationist
2. Dr. Thomas J. Quadros, Educationist, Principal
3. Rev. Fr. (Dr.) Ronald Cutinha, Director - Smanvaya, Mangalore
4. Dr. Gerald Pinto, Head of the Department, Milagres College, Kalyanpur
5. Prof. (Rtd.) Mrs. Hilda Rodrigues

President: Most Rev. Dr. Gerald Isaac Lobo, Bishop of Udupi Diocese
Chief Guest: Mr. Viyaya Kumar Sorake, Minister of Urban Development, Govt. of Karnataka

Chief Guest: Mr. Ivan D'Souza, Youth Leader, MLC, Govt. of Karnataka.
Concluding Session: Rt. Rev. Msgr. Baptist Menezes, Vicar General, Udupi Diocese

Organising Committee: Director, Rev. Fr. Dr. Leslie C. D'Souza,
Chairman: Dr. Edward Lobo
Advisor: Rev. Fr. Edwin D'Souza

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Je Suis Charlie - No One Deserves Death For An Expression

by Devang Pathak

You woke up today the same way you have in recent weeks- after the Sydney attack, the Peshawar school massacre and the months of ISIS atrocities. You felt disheartened and hopeless about the world, thanked your God that you and your loved ones are safe, and prayed for those who died. I hope this is how most of us reacted but I know I might be wrong. I know many must have reacted with prejudice and quick judgements which might not sound politically correct. The latter behaviour is what I am concerned with.

Charlie Hebdo is a satirical French magazine which has been operational since 1969. The magazine changed its name from Hara-Kiri Hebdo to Charlie Hebdo after a government ban, taking its name from the Peanuts character Charlie Brown. The magazine is infamous for its scathing cartoons and humour which had drawn brunt of the government in its early years, including several bans. It ceased publication in 1981 but was restarted in 1992. The magazine never attained huge circulation until its most famous decision in February 2006.

Charlie Hebdo decided to republish the Danish cartoons which were receiving flak for the depiction of the Prophet Mohammed, along with some of their own cartoons. There was a boost in circulation from 100,000 to 160,000 with more being ordered for next day print. This was followed up by an edition in 2011 where the Prophet was the 'guest editor'. The cover went viral and Charlie Hebdo had its first brush with violence in the form of fire-bombing of its office in November 2011. Their website was also hacked. All this culminated this week into the deadliest attack in France since 1961.

On January 7th, the suspects, Said Kouachi, Cherif Kouachi and Hamyd Mourad attacked the offices of Charlie Hebdo in Paris killing 12 people. Those



who were killed included Stephane Charbonnier, the editor of the magazine, France's famous cartoonists- Jean Cabut, George Wolinski, Bernard Verlhac, aka Tignous, Economist and writer- Bernard Maris along with two policemen who were there to protect the magazine and the editor after numerous past threats. Mr Mourad has surrendered to the police while the search for the other two suspects is still on.

The only two issues which are being overwhelmingly discussed right now are these- the threat to freedom of press and the intolerance of one religion. One fact which is not being discussed is how Charlie Hebdo mocked many mainstream cultural issues. They made fun of Christianity but only the Islam cartoons drew attention. They made fun of France's politics, carrying forward a legacy of irreverence and satire since the French Revolution.

Cartoons and satire are always controversial. It ranges from making fun of the way the world behaves- our hypocrisies and behaviour towards certain things in the world to hyperbole and crude insults. Can it go wrong or excessive? Of course it can. Charlie Hebdo had its share of controversies beside the said cartoons. There was also room for criticism of the publication which was done by various Muslim groups in France. The magazine was even taken to court over the 2006 cartoons. Charlie Hebdo tried to look at the world in a way which differs from

you and me- away from the glasses of religion and censorship. Did you not agree with them? Don't subscribe to them.

Can we then start with taking the merits of the issue? Can we start blaming the magazine? Can we blame the terrorists? We can maybe do something else: self-reflection.

In a fashion similar to the Sydney attack, a Twitter hashtag has become famous- Je Suis Charlie (I am Charlie). I agree with this. You are Charlie Hebdo. Yes, you my reader- the voracious commenter and Tweeter. The Internet is your magazine which you use to write your opinions and views. I do the same with my blogs and articles. Now let's imagine that as we are ready to mock or state something which might not be agreeable to someone somewhere, a gun pops out of our phone or computer screen. Imagine being shot for a Tweet. That is what is quickly approaching.

The world is a generally decent place. The hateful and the bigoted are often weeded out of the mainstream and reside on the fringes. The same could have been the case for Charlie Hebdo if it pursued a stringently bigoted path of anti-Islam. The truth is that it didn't and more than anything, it was never meant to be taken seriously. The greater universal truth is that no one deserves death for an opinion or expression- not a cartoonist questioning society or a Facebook user expressing his frustration, be it any religion, colour or gender. The terrorists who played a role here and everywhere in threatening journalists, educators and thinkers and even killing them- gave more credence to an age old statement than any book or essay. The pen is mightier than the sword.

I repeat my unsuccessful attempt to appeal to these extremists who function under different cloaks and beliefs, and always fail to understand one simple flaw in their fear mongering to convert, propagate or enforce- what love can conquer, a bullet never will.

Modi's silence creates apprehension: Syro-Malabar Church

Kochi – The Prime Minister's silence on religious reconversion creates apprehension, said the Syro Malabar Church in a press release issued in connection with the Synod of the Church which began at Mount St Thomas, Kakkanad, on Monday.

The Syro Malabar Church does not support forced conversion or tempting the poor and needy people for conversion by offering certain benefits, reported newindianexpress.com.

"It is unfortunate that those in power using loopholes facilitate religious reconversion," Church authorities said.

"It is the humanitarian activities carried out by the Church that often attract people to Christian faith. By making India a secular country, the visionaries behind Constitution dreamed of an India built on good values of each religion," they said.

Forty two bishops and administrators of Satna and Mandya dioceses are attending the five-day synod at Mount St Thomas, Kakkanad.

Buddhists and Muslims learn from Francis to be a united people

Some Sri Lankan Buddhists and Muslims hope that Pope Francis's visit to their country will help its people overcome ethnic and religious differences, and make them feel as they belong to one country.

In what was once called Ceylon, Buddhists are the majority religion (76.7 per cent), followed by Muslims (8.5 per cent), Hindus (7.9 per cent) and Catholics (6.1 per cent). AsiaNews spoke to some non-Christians to see what the pontiff's visit, which began this morning, means to them.

Pope Francis' trip to Sri Lanka "is a blessing," said Dr Pushpa Ramlani, a Buddhist and professor of social sciences in Colombo.

"I attended high school at St Ursula's Convent in Badulla and I was raised to respect all religions, cultures and ethnic groups. Even my parents, who are Buddhist like me, taught me the same. If we wish to live in peace and harmony in our country, then we have to work together - we members of different religions and ethnic groups. Jesus taught us to love our neighbour like ourselves."

To do this, the social scientist told AsiaNews that "we Sri Lankans have to think as a single nationality, regardless of ethnicity, faith or caste. Our first priority must be to [create] a pluralistic society. And I truly believe that even the pope wishes the same for us."

"As a Buddhist," said Dinasena Rathugamage, a journalist from

Vavuniya, "I have great respect for Pope Francis, because he is the spiritual leader of millions of Catholics in the world. He is an example to follow, not only for what he says, but for how he acts in life."

For him, Sri Lankan political leaders "should follow what the pope said today, when the Holy Father noted that the 'process of healing also needs to include the pursuit of truth, not for the sake of opening old wounds, but rather as a necessary means of promoting justice, healing and unity'."

"We love this pope too, because he was able to be critical and take the necessary steps to solve some scandals," said Abdul Rasak, a Muslim human rights activist originally from Kurunegala.

"In doing so, he showed that even the Church can undergo social transformation. This is a good lesson for all of us - our political and religious leaders should follow his example."

The world is supported by four things

1. The learning of the wise,
2. The justice of the great,
3. The prayers of the righteous, and
4. The valour of the brave.

But all these are as nothing without a ruler who knows the art of ruling.

—Jubel D'Cruz, Dombivili

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'Ghar Wapsi'

All this business of 'ghar wapsi' is getting murkier by the day. It is not clear whom they want to get home. Normally, this term is associated with those who have gone astray like the biblical 'Prodigal Son'. This misguided chap realized his folly and took a conscious decision to return home. This was real home coming. There was no allurements – no promise of Aadhar card either [specific or implied] involved in this home coming.

The hot-heads belonging to the Sangh Parivar and their country cousins like the Hindu Mahasabha and a host of others, decided that those who have left their homes [religion] should be 'brought home'. When you say they left their homes, you agree that they were not 'taken away' or converted after kidnapping. Did these Muslims and Christians come to these self appointed guardians of the Hinduism [Religion?] to be emancipated? Did they complain that they were coerced or lured with promises of some sort of bounty? And if they were actually misled, how come they realized it after decades if not centuries?

These fringe elements actually have nothing to showcase for their achievements when you make religion your business. The more the people get swayed with developmental hopes, religion takes a back stage and that makes these so called guardians redundant. There is a sense of desperation amongst them. The Parivar, though saying they had no role to play, has been endorsing the programmes to re-convert. Here there is proof that people were promised Aadhar cards, ration cards etc. If this is not allurements, what is!

The Parivar Sarsanchalak, Mohan Bhagwat, was vociferous in his contention that there is nothing wrong in the 'home coming'. The Parivar leadership has been speaking in different tongues but there is arrogance in their voices and that includes the BJP. They have in-built aversion towards the minority communities barring Sikhs Subramanian Swamy says if the migrant Bangladeshis want to stay in India they must become Hindus. Is the BJP Government selling citizenships? A BJP leader from South says Ghar Wapsi has tacit support of the PM. He needs to comment on both these is-

VIEWS on NEWS

sues. No ducking!

The entire programme of re-conversion has been put on hold not abandoned mind you. Just sending one functionary on medical leave, does not alter things. They are even contemplating monitoring the growth of missionary schools. A lot of BJP members [including those in government] send their children to Christian schools. If they have any aversion to such schools, why not give a call to the majority community to withdraw ALL their wards from all such schools [they are generally referred to as convent schools]. Just see what response these hot-heads get. It will be akin to what the separatists in J & K got when they gave a call for poll boycott. They hate western culture but continue to don shorts, shirts and even hats – all legacies of the British. They find this attire more comfortable and well ventilated may be. This is hypocrisy!

By the way, everybody says, including Narendra Modi that Hindutva is a way of life and NOT a religion. If it is not a religion why are you depriving those Hindus of a religion, if they choose to? Where is the question of re-conversion? For a change why not embark on 'ghar wapsi' of all those [NRIs] who have abandoned their Hindutva and migrated to Christian dominated countries like the USA, Canada & UK for better education for their children and better lives [financially] for themselves. Is their Hindutva diluted by being surrounded by Christians? How many have been converted there? Why not call all of them back? Exactly 100 years back [1915] Gandhiji made a beginning on ghar wapsi from South Africa. Incidentally, quite a few leaders from different political parties including the BJP belonged to the Congress once upon a time. They shifted their loyalties from time to time for different reasons. Should there be 'ghar wapsi' for them too?

Yashodaben's Dilemma

Yashodaben, who claims to be the legal wife of the PM Narendra Modi is leading a pathetic life. There is no reason to believe that she is not his wife since he has never said that the marriage was dissolved through divorce or otherwise.



by Marshall Sequeira

All that is said is that it was a case of child marriage and that it was never consummated. Reports suggest that it was her poor education that was the cause of estrangement. The fact remains though that she is his wife. If not, why on earth she is being trailed by policemen wherever she goes?

Whether anybody likes it or not, she is entitled to privileges being the PM's spouse which among other things include security under Special Protection Group [SPG] Act 1988. She is entitled to rent-free accommodation, free air travel, 1st class Railway pass. Even health care and pension form part of her entitlement. She sought information, under RTI Act, from the Gujarat police as to why she was being followed everywhere and the rules under which this was being done. Instead of giving her the information, she was told that such information cannot be disclosed under some Notification of 2005. Come on, she is simply asking why she is being trailed and the information relates to herself and not about somebody else. This is a clear case of evasive approach. Is she shadowed for being the PM's wife or is she a criminal or a terrorist whose movements warrant such surveillance.

It appears that the lady, who has kept her dignity by not being too vocal, seems to be barking at the wrong tree. Actually, this information should have been sought from the Prime Minister's Office or from the PM himself since whatever is being done obviously has the approval of the powers in Delhi. If tomorrow some government agency sends security guards to follow me for my safety, do I not have the right to know why it is being done? You cannot say – 'we will protect you but do not ask us why'. This is the most ridiculous reply one can accept. It appears Yashodaben will follow up this issue to its logical end and why not. It is in the interest of the PM and his image to come clean on her queries once and for all.

Mr. Albert W. D'Souza



Dr. Gerald Pinto



Fr. (Dr.) R. Cutinha



Leaders in the Making



Pope Francis lands in Sri Lanka for 'mission of mercy'



Colombo: Pope Francis arrived in Sri Lanka Tuesday at the start of a six-day Asian visit which is expected to draw huge crowds.

The pontiff, who will later travel to the Philippines, plans to celebrate open-air Masses during his trip.

It is the first papal visit to Sri Lanka since the end of a four-decade civil war in 2009.

It is a time of significant change in Sri Lanka, where Maithripala Sirisena took office as president on Friday.

He ended the decade-long rule of former President Mahinda Rajapaksa, a period which critics said had been marred by increasing corruption and authoritarianism.

The country's new president, elected last week, has promised an end to growing repression of religious minorities.

The Pope's trip, which comes five months after a tour of South Korea, is being seen as an attempt to shore up support for the region's millions of Catholics.

Before departing on Monday, he said the visit reflected his "pastoral concern" for the people of the region, according to the Reuters news agency.

Large crowds of people lined the streets of the Sri Lankan capital, Colombo, on Tuesday to greet his motorcade, reported bbc.com.

The Pope is keen to bring a message of reconciliation to Sri Lanka, and help heal the wounds of a long and bitter civil war.

He arrives to meet the new Sri Lankan president, who unexpectedly

won the snap election after the island's unpopular President Rajapaksa conceded defeat.

Just under 10 percent of the population are Catholic – but they include both the majority Sinhalese and the minority Tamils, offering Pope Francis the chance to travel to the "Our Lady of Madhu" shrine, which is revered by both, to bring his words of peace.

Around 70 percent of Sri Lankans are Buddhist, with 13 percent Hindus and 10 percent Muslims.

During the last papal visit 20 years ago, Pope John Paul II was boycotted by Buddhist leaders.

But on this visit, the Pope is expected to hold a multi-faith prayer meeting which should include moderate Buddhist representatives.

However, Buddhist fundamentalism has grown as a force in Sri Lanka since the last papal visit, with some waging a violent campaign against Muslims on the island.

Pope Francis wants to encourage the local church in Sri Lanka to seek partners in peace, so that all religions can stand united against any further violence or intimidation by religious extremists.

In the Philippines organisers are expecting one of the biggest crowds ever for a papal visit when Pope Francis conducts an open-air mass in the capital Manila.

Church officials say his visit to the archipelago nation will focus on "mercy and compassion" following a deadly 2013 typhoon, reports the AFP news agency.

Thanksgiving



Thanks to Divine Mercy,
Our Lady of Vailankani,
Our Lady of perpetual
Succor and St. Anthony
for the favours. Praying
for more favours.

—Lily Unni,
Mumbai

Thanksgiving



May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be adored, loved, glorified & praised throughout the world now and forever. Sacred Heart of Jesus, have mercy on us. Sacred Heart of Jesus, Thy kingdom come. St. Jude worker of miracles pray for us. St. Jude helper of the hopeless pray for us. Amen.

Say this prayer nine times a day for nine days. By the eighth day your prayer will be answered. It has never known to fail. Promise to publish this or distribute this as soon as your favour has been granted.

—**Flavia D'Sylva, Bandra**

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The Making of Mumbai

A history of the Metropolis and its Catholic Past

by Fr. Benny Aguiar

Synopsis

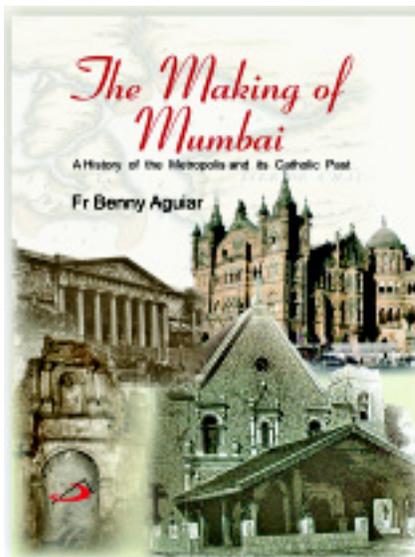
“The Making of Mumbai” is a concise and succinctly well-written book by Msgr. Benny Aguiar. It encompasses Pre-Portuguese, Portuguese, the Maratha and the British period.

For six decades the Marathas whose capital was first Raigad, then Poona, ruled over the neighbouring islands of Salsette and Bassein till the

British took them over from Raghoba by the treaty of Surat in Nov, 1775. Aurangzeb ruled from Delhi roughly over all of India, i.e., north of the Godavari, and Afghanistan, while Shivaji the Maratha ruler was building a kingdom for the Marathas in Maharashtra.

For over a thousand years Bombay was an insignificant island off the Western coast of India when places like Kalyan, Sopara and Thane were flourishing centres with their own kingdoms.

This book also brings out the Catholic past of Bombay. In the 1700's a conflict within the Portuguese rulers of Bombay caused a deep division in the Catholic community. This arose between Padroadists and Propagandists. The book delves into the evolution of the Catholic community in Bombay. It explains when and where the first Churches were built or renovated, and how the transition from one period to another, Portuguese to En-



glish to Maratha, led to a decline and then to a revival and formation of a vibrant Catholic Community.

“The Making of Mumbai” makes an excellent coffee-table book enriching one with invaluable information about the past Mumbai when fashionable Colaba Causeway was only a sandy

ridge, surfacing at low tide to enable access from Old Woman's Island to the neighbouring island of Colio or Colaba. Pydhonie was a tidal creek where a weary traveller washed his feet and refreshed his animal before entering the main island.

Reay Road and Parel were stretches of low-lying salt water marshes dotted with toddy trees. There was such an abundance of game and food, that the crew of a ship landing in Bombay in 1529 called it the “Island of the Good Life”.

Since the book talks about Bombay, its history and growth, the Portuguese and British rule that has left behind religious, social, cultural and linguistic impact on the people one would say this is a must-read book for the citizen of Mumbai and for the students of History — a collector's book for posterity.

According to Msgr. Benny Aguiar “The making of this book is the result of long research on a number of sources, and many have contributed to it”.

Fiat, Stabat and Magnificat of the Final Profession

Sr. Benigna Menezes

Four MSI sisters committed themselves in final profession to Christ and to the MSI Congregation on December 30, Wednesday at St. Paul's Cathedral Vijayawada.

Sisters Kamala Ransom, Janet D'Souza, Sunitha Pulavarthy and Aruna Verghese said their final vows before the Provincial, Sr. Amala Rani, and other sisters, their parents, relatives and friends gathered at the Cathedral for the solemn vows ceremony.

The Apostolic Administrator of the dioceses Bishop Govindu Joji officiated the solemn Eucharistic celebration and exhorted the sisters to keep saying the Fiat and accept the Stabat and sing their magnificat in imitation of Mary who said her Fiat, Stabat and Magnificat with all her heart in loving devotion to the Lord.

The ceremony of the final vows carries a great significance and inspiration to the congregation gathered for the service, as this falls right at the early starting of the Year of the Consecrated Life, the bishop said. Drawing comparison with the Biblical icon of Mary the Bishop explained that Mary filled with faith and love of God said her Fiat and brought forth a new dawn to the fallen humanity. She stood at the cross in great fidelity to the savior who lay dead on the humiliating cross before the entire world. She expressed great interior joy being knowledgeable of the predilection God had for her as she sang her Magnificat. The Bishop invited the four missionary sisters of the Immaculate to follow the footsteps of Mary in their life of commitment by constantly saying fiat to God's demands and always standing faithfully beneath the cross of the redeemer and singing their magnificat in exuberant joy as the Lord will not fail to show his personal love to his bride always and at every time.

The bishop also appreciated the missionary nature of the congregation and invited everyone to be evangelizers in the modern world. Several priests and sisters of the other congregations beside our sisters too were present for the mass. The Church was well decorated and the Cathedral was bedecked with flowers and festoons. The choir sang delightful hymns in various languages and invoked also the saints in chanting the Litany of the saints as according to the tradition of the Church during the final vows ceremony while the foursome lay themselves down on the floor invoking the Holy Spirit to fill them with grace and power..

A short felicitation ceremony was conducted and the cake was cut to sweeten the mouths while the candidates sang the felicitation song to their hearts content. Bishop Govindu Joji said the Grace before the meals and the guests enjoyed the well set table of the agape fraternal meal at the Nirmala Convent campus.

Pope considers adding cardinal-electors



Vatican City: Pope Francis is considering the feasibility of expanding the number of cardinal electors who will choose the next pontiff to 140 from the current 120.

The proposal is contained in a document recently presented to Francis by Cardinal Antonio Canizares Llovera.

The issue is to be discussed in the consistory, or meeting of college of cardinals, next month, reported ansa.it.

During the March 2013 conclave that elected Pope Francis, only cardinals who were under the age of 80 at the time of the resignation of the previous Pope Benedict XVI were eligible to vote.

Since then, Francis has been expanding the regional representation of senior Church officials, including the appointment last week of 15 new cardinals from 14 countries.

India's Freedom Struggle

This Republic Day, we at 'The Secular Citizen' recommend readers to read the book 'India's Freedom Struggle'. The book is priced at Rs 40/- per copy and has been published by Vasan Publications, Bengaluru under the 'Mastermind Book Series'. It has been authored by none other than our 'The Secular Citizen' writer, Jubel D'Cruz.

Jubel D'Cruz is a parishioner of 'Infant Jesus Church', Dombivili-Thakurli, which is close to Mumbai.

Look what Jubel D'Cruz has to say regarding his book 'India's Freedom Struggle': "I always thought that the British were very good people when they ruled India because my grandparents and great grandparents worked for them. I knew nothing about them because I was not born during that period until the publisher asked me to write a book for them on the freedom struggle.

Gathering information for the book was not an easy job. But once I started writing, my pen wouldn't stop. The Indian struggle for freedom was long and tiring. But through this struggle, emerged the philosophy and example of non-violence that the Father of the Nation believed in so strongly. It became an example for the world and helped India to achieve her independence from the oppression of the British rule."

Former priests and nuns to pitch for their 'dues'

Thiruvananthapuram: Catholic priests and nuns who have hung up their robes following differences with the Church will meet in Kochi in late February demanding social acceptance and protection, in what is possibly a first.

A Syro-Malabar Catholic Church spokesperson welcomed the move but said there was no provision to pay maintenance to former priests or former nuns.

"Hundreds of priests and nuns have left priesthood and nunhood as they feel stifled in their pursuit of truth. But sad to say, they are left to Nature's mercy without their families or the society for support. And with no monetary backing either, they lead a miserable existence," said Reji Njallani, the convener of the February 28 event.

The "national seminar" is being conducted under the auspices of the Kerala Catholic Church Refor-

mation Movement (KCRM), an organisation of faithful based out of Pala in Kottayam district. KCRM state secretary-general K.K. Jose Kandathil told The Telegraph a 101-member reception committee had been drawn up with ex-priest K.P. Shibu Kalamparambil as the vice-chairman.

"In many cases, boys and girls are put into seminaries even before they have the mental maturity to decide for themselves. Some stick to it for the rest of their lives while others quit," said Shibu.

"By then, their families would already have shunned them and their kin would have divided their properties. Monthly earnings, if any, during the life in Church have to be contributed to the Church. As such, they are left with nothing to fall back on to take their lives forward once they drop out. Over and above, they face social boycott as leaving nunneries and priesthood is portrayed as something sinful," he added.

"Canon law requires the Church to pay such people who decide to quit so that they can take care of the rest of their lives. But this does not happen and instead they are treated as sinners," he said, adding the point of the convention was to find a solution to such problems.

Shibu continued: "The Church must discuss the problems of ex-nuns and ex-priests, find ways to support them, allow the priests to marry as this



will check sexual indiscipline to a large extent and fix a five-year term for the nuns so that they can decide whether to continue in service or choose their own path."

The convention will also draw up plans for a retirement home where nuns and priest who bow out of their order "can rest for six months or so till they can find an alternate vocation to carry on with their lives", he added.

Shibu left the Vincentian congregation in 2010 after 24 years – 13 years as seminarian and 11 years as priest – alleging sexual anarchy and corruption among the clergy.

His "experiences" were published as a book, *Here is the Heart of a Priest*, which came to be widely discussed in the media among the congregation of nuns under the Catholic Church, of whom "60 had already confirmed attendance".

The requisite permissions had already been obtained, he said.

Reacting to the event, Syro-Malabar Church spokesperson Paul Thelakat emailed this newspaper: "Priests who have left priesthood and nuns who have left the convents are faithful to the Church. The Church considers them dear to the Church. It is always good that they flock together and think together their own issues as well as the matters of the Church as responsible members of the Church and help the Church in whatever way they still can."

On the demand for giving them maintenance, he said: "As I understand, when a priest is in the period of suspension on enquiry, they must be maintained by the diocese or congregation concerned. But when they are laicised, there is no such provision."



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The Holy Bible Is God's Word

The Bible is a beacon of spiritual light. It is the only open book in the world for all people to read and discover, to delve into documented evidence in its writings – and to feel free to talk about minor or major topics. The Bible wraps in its quilt of many colors: visions, hopes, peace and comfort.

Mobilizing the faithful behind the Bible has never been an issue. It is a popular devotion with Christians to read the Holy Book and meditate on its many lessons for life, prayer and courage. To spread the Word of God is a solemn commission and a right.

In many corners of the world the Bible is banned, her followers persecuted and denounced – yet, nothing anyone does can challenge the sheer grit of Christians to uphold the values and the mission to preach the Gospels and 'gift' the Good News.

I had known a Roman Catholic priest who would read the Bible, not only in the solitude of his room, or in the quiet of the Chapel, but anywhere and everywhere he found the time to. It was part of his routine life. His devotion to the Holy Bible became a part of my family's collective legacy.

The Bible has all the answers if we look for them. One of the highlights in Roman Catholic devotion to Bible values is to discover the nature of being human.

In Genesis 1:26 the Good Book tells us about the nature of being human: "Then God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness, and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth." So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. As personal beings we can have fellowship with God. We have his permission to procreate and populate the earth, and to have care for nature. Read Genesis 1:28; 2:15.



BY MELVYN BROWN

We have been told that humankind cannot understand the enigma of our existence. Although we are mortal, yet we want to live. In the Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews we find an answer to the enigma: "Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same nature, that through death he might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil." (Heb.2:14,15). "And deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong bondage."

In the Bible we are taught that Satan is the symbol of evil. We must depend on God's power to defeat the evil one, "For we are not contending against the flesh and blood, but against the principalities, against the powers, against the world rulers of this present darkness, against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places." (Ephesians 6:12).

The word Satan in the dictionary means, the Devil, and in Hebrew, 'adversary'. The Holy Bible informs us that when God created the world, it was good. Genesis 1:25. Roman Catholics and Christians still believe that the world is very good.

The Bible is the Word of God and plays a dynamic role in Catholic devotions: to read a chapter or passage daily; to meditate on the life and passion of Our Lord to gain in insight on hope; to win over odds; to strengthen the faith and to nourish the soul with confidence in the words of holy scripture.

What does the Bible think of itself? Read Timothy 3:15, 16. Also refer to Psalm 19:7. We use the Bible for baptism, for marriage, sermons, blessings, anniversaries, for times of sorrow, happiness, praise, gratitude, courage, peace and death.

The Holy Bible is the Book Divine, the Word of God, the Armour of the Lord, the companion and comfort for all humankind.

THANKGIVING

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be adored, loved, glorified & praised throughout the world now and forever. Sacred Heart of Jesus, have mercy on us. Sacred Heart of Jesus, Thy kingdom come. St. Jude worker of miracles pray for us. St. Jude helper of the hopeless pray for us. Amen.

PRAYER TO HOLY SPIRIT

Holy Spirit, Thou who makes me see everything and show me the way to reach the ideal. You who gives me the divine gift to forgive and forget the wrong thing that is done to me and who are in all instances of my life with me. I, in this short dialogue want to thank You for everything and confirm once more that I never want to be separated from You whatever great the material desires may be. I want to be with You and my loved ones in Your perpetual glory. Amen.

Say this prayer nine times a day for nine days. By the eighth day your prayer will be answered. It has never known to fail. Promise to publish this or distribute this as soon as your favour has been granted.

—**John Wilfred Martis**
Mumbai

Inspiration!

Increase Your Wisdom

If there's one thing that you should aspire to have more of, it's wisdom. Wisdom actually has a lot of different meanings. It will depend on who you ask, and in what context you are referring to. But as a whole, wisdom is often referred to as a uniquely human trait that is formed using advanced cognitive and emotional development. It can be learned, and it can be measured, but unfortunately, it is also quite rare. People often don't exercise wisdom in everyday situations.

Wisdom is also often connected with intelligence and in a way, it's true. Wisdom is shown when a person is able to create good decisions, sound decisions, smart decisions. And in order for you to use your wisdom in making choices, there has to be some intelligence present. You have to learn and know facts, before you can properly discern which course to take.

Wisdom is a step higher than knowledge. It involves self-awareness, understanding, and a sense of morality.

Okay, now that we have an idea of what it is, we can focus on the ways to increase wisdom.

Meditate and Know Yourself First

In order to create sound decisions about your life, it is of the utmost importance to first know yourself. Who are you? What motivates you? What things will benefit or harm you? What matters to you the most? These are some of the things that you should know by heart before you can make wise decisions. To achieve this, you need to reflect and take time to know yourself. Find a quiet spot (at home, work, or outdoors) and clear your thoughts. Only in peace and quiet can you meditate and ponder on your self and your life. Make sure to stay away from noise and distractions

so you can focus your thoughts on what you want to know. Take deep breaths and steady the pace. Meditation and some "quiet time" is one of the best ways to know yourself and become wiser than before.



Seek Novelty and Learn New Things

Einstein, Da Vinci and all of the legendary geniuses in our history all have one thing in common, they excel in more than just one area of intelligence. One great way to increase wisdom is to do the same- learn new things. Even if it's just a quirky hobby like pottery, or a funny expertise like magic tricks, these activities will help your mind to diversify and in a way get "sharpened". Learning something new will stretch your mental muscles and enable you to create better decisions every day.

Challenge the Way You Think

Just like when you're studying something new, you can also do certain activities that will challenge the way you think. Brain games like Sudoku, puzzles, and Word Hunts are a great way to increase wisdom because they

also force your brain to do some exercise. However, it's important to note that once you've mastered one type of activity, you need to move on to something new. If you're already a genius at number puzzles, try visual ones next time. These will increase your logic and speed up the way your brain processes things. Aside from games, you can also apply this to everyday situations like, new ways to cook certain foods, or finding alternate routes to work. The key is to challenge what is normal in how you think.

Do it the Hard Way

One of the most effective ways to increase wisdom is to do things the hard way. For example, while driving to work, turn off that GPS system. Use your God-given brain cells to figure out where you are. When you're trying to research something, don't google it on the internet. Make it harder for yourself so your mind will be forced to think creatively. Technology is one of the biggest culprits to decreased cognitive function because they make certain tasks so much easier. If you want to become wiser, try old-school methods. Do it the hard way.

Make Mistakes

Experience makes us wiser. Our mistakes make us better people in a lot of different ways. So don't be afraid to take risks and commit errors. When we make mistakes, we learn faster and more permanently. And eventually, when you encounter the same situation again in the future, you'll know better.



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MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, aged 30 years, Ht. 5' 6", Wt. 56 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. MBA, PGDM., working as a Deputy Manager Finance. Contact email : m.fernandes@transasia.co.in OR 9867918038 (Regd. No. 6265)

MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, aged 31 years, Ht. 5' 11", Wt. 78 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. SSC, working on Cruz Ship. in Europe. Contact email : francis.dsouza@gmail.com OR 9769259694 / 9892873474 (Regd. No. 6264)

MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, aged 31 years, Ht. 6' 2", Wt. 95 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. 12th English Medium, working as a Foreman in Qatar. Contact email : fmalcolm15@gmail.com OR henryfernandes@mannai.com.qa OR 9820743446 (Regd. No. 6237)

MUMBAI : Tamilian Roman Catholic Bachelor, aged 41 years, Ht. 5' 10", Wt. 70 kgs, Tan Complexion, Edn. B.Com., working as an Executive in Abroad. Currently in Mumbai contact immediately. Contact email : margaretdass26@yahoo.com OR 9167001399 (Regd. No. 6254)

MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor aged 30 years, Ht. 5' 8", Wt. 70 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Tech., Well settled. Contact email : bridesearch14@gmail.com OR 9820324761 (Regd. No. 6188)

MUMBAI : Christian Bachelor aged 36 years, Ht. 5' 8", Wt. 85 kgs, Fair Complexion, handsome, Edn. B.Tech, Director in Software based MNC. Seeks a beautiful, cultured, well qualified girl. Contact email : adelsib2@yahoo.com OR 9324511174 (Regd. No. 6187)

MUMBAI : East Indian Roman Catholic Bachelor aged 29 years, Ht. 5' 6", Wt. 78 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. BMM, MBA, working as a Man-

ager. Seeks a simple, intelligent, qualified, family oriented girl. Contact email : bombayite84@gmail.com OR 9224444833 (Regd. No. 6186)

MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, aged 41 years, Ht. 5'7", Wt. 75 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com. NIIT, working as a Asso. Consul. Contact email : ps11823kqv@gmail.com OR 9819883383 (Regd. No. 6069)

MUMBAI : Anglo Indian Roman Catholic Bachelor, aged 33 years, Ht. 5' 11", Wt. 67 kgs, Brownish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., working as a Sr. Executive. Contact email : saviohenry@gmail.com OR 9820267423 (Regd. No. 6076)

MUMBAI : East Indian Roman Catholic Widower, aged 57 years, looks much younger to his age. Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 70 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Handsome, Edn. SSC, Well settled, having own accommodation. Seeks a good looking girl below 50 years, working or non working. Contact : 7506014145 (Regd. No. 6075)

Pune : Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor aged 28 years, Ht. 5' 6", Wt. 65 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Com., MBA Finance, Pursing LLB., working as a Purchase Accountant. Sober, understanding, Seeks a homely, loving girl. Contact email : v_dsouza00777@yahoo.com OR 9049912489 (Regd. No. 6183)

MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, aged 43 years, Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 74 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. HSC, Dip. in Hotel Management, Occupation : Seaman. Seeks a simple, fun loving, sense of humour and down to earth girl. Contact email : hermen_gild@hotmail.com OR 9820221964. (Regd. No. 6095)

Members are requested to inform us when they are settled, so that publication of their details can be discontinued.

MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic 1st marriage annulled by the church, aged 37 years, Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 80 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. HSC., Diploma in Hotel and Restaurants Management, Working in Front office Department, well settled. Seeks a simple, humble, godfearing girl. Contact email : menezes_kenneth@rediffmail.com OR 9619089645 (Regd. No. 6154)

MUMBAI : Telugu Protestant Bachelor, aged 26 years, Ht. 5' 10", Wt. 86 kgs, Fair Complexion, Handsome, Well qualified and good family background. Seeks a suitable match (Regd. No. 6153)

MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, aged 36 years, Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 55 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. 6th Std., honest, understanding, having a shop. Seeks a simple, homily Mangalorean Konkani speaking girl. Contact email : cyrildsouza87@gmail.com OR 07738976166 (Regd. No. 6152)

MUMBAI : Goan RC Divorcee, aged 33 years, Ht. 5' 6", Wt. 62 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Undergraduate, working as a Admin. job in U.K. Seeks a graduate, simple, fair, understanding willing to work and live in U.K. below 33 years. Contact email : mariaferns5553@gmail.com (Regd. No. 5123)

MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, aged 34 years, Ht. 5' 4", Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., working as a Bank Officer. Contact email : savioanthony.dias@sc.com OR 9820379835 (Regd. No. 6231)

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GOA: Goan RC Spinster, aged 27 years, Ht. 4' 10", Wt. 42 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn., MBBS, Diploma Anesthesia, working as a Anaesthetist. Seeks a well settled bachelor below 32 years, Doctor or Engineer. Contact email : judjff1960@yahoo.in OR 8600306139 (Regd. No. 6000)

MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 36 years, Ht. 5' 2", slim, Wheatish Complexion, Education Associate Degree in Business Administration from USA. Presently in Mumbai. Seeks a educated well-placed Bachelor upto 42 years from India/Abroad. Contact email : perpetual4u2012@yahoo.in OR 28933931 (Regd. No. 6031)

MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 46 years, Ht. 5' 2", Wt. 73 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., working as a Audit Assistant. Contact s_gons@rediffmail.com / stephy_gons@yahoo.co.in OR 9819884257 (Regd No. 6027)

MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 24 years, Ht. 5' 6", Wt. 58 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.A., working for a Multinational Company. Contact email : denverr89@gmail.com (Regd. No. 6025)

MUMBAI : Roman Catholic Divorcee, aged 49 years. Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 65 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Sc., working as a Sr. Govt. Officer. Contact Email : reenaahuja2012@gmail.com (Regd. No. 6023)

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MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 40 years, Ht. 4' 11", Wt. 50 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.A., working as a Secretary. Contact email : theresaalvares@gmail.com OR 9892173250 (Regd. No. 6227)

MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 25 years, Ht. 5' 2", Wt. 45 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., working as a Supervisor in Bank. Contact email : mistressajames001@gmail.com OR 099796887644 (Regd. No. 6226)

PUNE : TAMILIAN Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 42 years, Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 65 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. M.Com., HRD, MPN, working for WNS. Contact email : harryanthany.7@gmail.com OR 020-25816332 (Regd. No. 6225)

MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 26 years, Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 50 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. Graduate, D.Ed., Teacher by profession. Contact email : kitoo_angel@rediffmail.com OR 9821389985 (Regd. 6224)

MUMBAI : Goan (Bardez) Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 32 years, Ht. 5' 4", Fair Complexion., Edn. B.A., Dip. in Financial Management, Banking Exams, Working as Senior Manager for a reputed Private Sector Bank Seeks educated and well settled Roman Catholic Goan (Bardez) Bachelor between 34-36 years. Ht. 5' 7" and above. Contact email : andy.franky@hotmail.com OR 9833710833 (Regd. No. 6185)

MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 35 years, Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 65 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., working as a Sr. Customer Service Associate. Contact email : dsouza.arati@gmail.com OR 9869612479 (Regd. No. 6184)

MUMBAI : East Indian Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 44 years, Ht. 5' 1", Wt. 62 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., Giving Tuition. Contact : 9221758206 (Regd. NO. 6181)

MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 32 years, Ht. 5' 91/2", Wt. 70 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. BMS + Executive Course, working as a Office Assistant. Contact email :

mellita_dmello_82@yahoo.co.in OR 022-2416 2210 (Regd. No. 6180)

MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 28 years, Ht. 5', Wt. 49 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., working as a Sr. Research Associates. Contact email : verita.dsouza@gmail.com OR 9167719433 / 8879287910 (Regd. No. 6094)

MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, 32 years, Ht. 5' 1", Wt. 55 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., MBA (Finance) working as an Asst. Manager. Seeks a suitable match. Contact Email : florineb81@gmail.com OR 9820233988 (Regd. No. 6098)

MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, 31 years, Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 56 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. MBA (Finance) working as a Payroll Administrator. Seeks a suitable match. Contact Email : audzzehotmail.com / maggie_magguehotmail.com OR 9869771255 (Regd. No. 6097)

MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, 29 years, Ht. 5' 1", Wt. 56 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., MBA (Finance) working as an Asst. Manager in Bank. Seeks a suitable match. Contact Email : oldgoa2012@gmail.com OR 9869765169 (Regd. No. 6096)

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MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 25 years, Ht. 5' 2", Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Com., Dip. in Mktg., working as a Sales Coordinator. Contact email : mflavy@yahoo.com OR 9769226745 / 9819736100 **(Regd. No. 6263)**

MUMBAI: Goan RC Spinster, PG, aged 27 years. Ht. 5' 3", heavy built, wheatish complexion, employed with Pharma Co having good family values seek alliance from well settled Bachelors with good family background. Kindly reply with complete details with a recent photograph on email: buddies_22@yahoo.in **(Regd. No. 6174)**

MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 27 years, Ht. 5', Wt. 48 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. BE (IT), working as a Sr. Software Engr., Seeks a suitable well qualified match. Contact email : western2462@rediffmail.com OR 8652024267 **(Regd. No. 6173)**

MUMBAI : Matrimonial alliance is invited for a Catholic Spinster, aged 25 years, M.A., B.Ed., High School Teacher, Wheatish Complexion, from Catholic bachelors below 30 years of age, well qualified, financially stable, sober, preferably working in Mumbai, East Indians, Mangaloreans or Goans may mail their details to dsilva.agnes57@gmail.com **(Regd. No. 6195)**

MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 25 years, Ht. 5' 3", Wheatish Complexion, Edn. M.A. (English Literature), Working as a Journalist (Asst. Editor) Contact email : sarita.rebello310@gmail.com OR 9833157737 **(Regd. No. 6194)**

MUMBAI : Mangalorean RC Spinster, aged 25 years, Ht. 5' 6", Wt. 65 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn., MBA Finance, working as an Executive. Con-

tact email : monthi.n65@gmail.com OR 9421162148 / 7738131584 **(Regd. No. 6193)**

MUMBAI : Goan RC Spinster, aged 27 years, Ht. 5' 6", Wt. 65 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B. Pharma & MBA, working as an Asst. Manager. Seeks a Enginer or well settled and educated. Contact email : nisha.ferns@yahoo.com OR 9870399755 **(Regd. No. 6192)**

MUMBAI : Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 27 years, Ht. 5' 2", Wheatish Complexion, Edn. C.A., Manager Accounts in Private Limited Company, well settled. Contact email : mabelplobo@gmail.com OR 9869017398 **(Regd. No. 6190)**

MUMBAI : Mangalorean RC Spinster, aged 26 years, Ht. 5' 3", Wt. 44 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., Working as a Sr. Officer in Bank. Contact email : rima.dsouza@hotmail.com OR 9920627802 / 9819602045 **(Regd. No. 6217)**

UDUPI : Mangalorean RC Parents of spinster daughter 26 years, 5' 4", Height, Wheatish, B.E. in Electronics and Communications. Working as Software Professional in BANGALORE, God fearing adn family oriented. Seek alliance from Mangalorean RC Bachelors, well educated and settled, age below 32 years. Please send detailed Profile and recent photograph to email : saldanhaej@yahoo.co.in OR 0984 588 8703 and 0820 258 3452 **(Regd. No. 6216)**

MUMBAI : Goan RC Spinster, aged 38 years, Ht. 5' 2", Wt. 44 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.A., working as a Manager in Bank. Seeks a suitablematch. Contact email : musikin@yahoo.com OR 9820023114 **(Regd. No. 6165)**

MUMBAI : Roman Catholic Divocree, 1st marriage is annuled by the church, having one grownup son, well settled, Ht. 5' 3", Wt. 60 kgs, fair complexion, pretty, aged 53 years, looks much younger to her age, Edn. SSC., Hair Styling and BeautyCare by profession. Seeks a suitable match having a good

personality and good health. Contact email : psvaz23@hotmail.com OR 9821970719 **(Regd. No. 6162)**

PUNJAB : North Indian RC Spinster, aged 28 years, Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 65 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Post Graduate in Nursing, **Position** : Nurising Tutor (Clinical Instructor), Calm, quiet, intelligent, Seeks a suitable match from respectable family, and well settled. Contact email : shephalitigga04@gmail.com OR 0164-2272549. **(Regd. No.6161)**

MUMBAI : CSI Protestant Spinster, aged 39 years, Ht. 5' 3", Wt. 60 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., Computer Teacher. Seeks a suitable match. Contact email : george_bhagya@yahoo.com OR 9819206366 / 9545978761 **(Regd. No. 6160)**

BOISAR : CNI Protestant Spinster, aged 33 years, Ht. 5', Wt. 58 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. BE Com, PGD in Textile Designing, working as a Textile Designer. Contact email : jackson.reena@gmail.com OR 02525-284872 **(Regd. No. 6159)**

MUMBAI : Goan RC Spinster, aged 31 years, Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 55 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., working as a Team Leader. Well settled. Contact email : goldielocks.2183@gmail.com OR 9820861212 / 66995774 **(Regd. No. 6157)**

MUMBAI : Mangalorean RC Spinster, aged 25 years, Ht. 5', Wt. 46 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, smart, Edn. LLB., Lawyer by profession. Seeks a educated, well settled bachelor from decent family background. Contact email : asm2983@gmail.com / vid_suaris@yahoo.co.in OR 9820838128 **(Regd. No. 6156)**

6155. MUMBAI : Maharashtra Portestant Spinster, aged 29 years, Ht. 5' 2", Wt. 56 kgs, Fair Complexion, Good looking, Edn. B.A., LLB., CS, Legal Advisor by profession. Seeks a suitable match. Contact email : dilipphansalkar@gmail.com OR 9820434141 / 9930056602. **(Regd. No. 6155)**

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