

# THE SECULAR CITIZEN

(Total pages 24)

A NATIONAL FAMILY WEEKLY

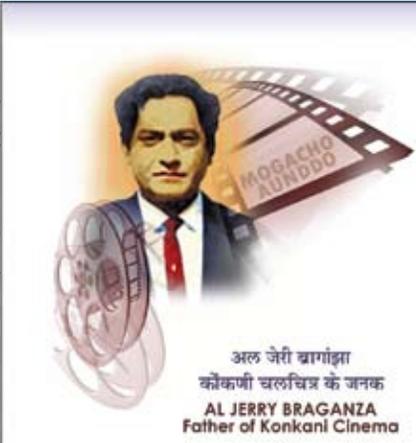
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The entire Christian community is rising on this occasion to express its deepest sympathy to those affected by the earthquake and join to mourn with the people of Nepal and India in the aftermath of this terrible natural disaster and offer help and prayers

## Konkani Cinema Day Marks Release Of 'Special Cover' On Al Jerry Braganza To Honour 'Father Of Konkani Cinema'

Dlagado Konkni Akademi (DKA) celebrates Konkani Cinema Day in a grand way at Hanuman Theatre, Mapusa on 24th April 2015 at 4.30 p.m. by releasing a special Cover on Al Jerry Braganza and premering 'Home Sweet Home' cinema for Konkani lovers.



The Postmaster General of Goa Region, Shri Charles Lobo will present an album containing the 'Special Cover' to the Chief Guest, Adv. Francis D'Souza, Hon'ble Dy. Chief Minister of Goa in the presence of Guest of Honour, Shri Dharmanand Vernekar, noted film director and other dignitaries. On this occasion, DKA's house magazine 'Gôycho Pormoll' edited by DKA Secretary Vincy Quadros will also be released. Containing informative and indispensable articles, this issue will be of immense help to new and upcoming Konkani writers.

This brief function will be followed by the screening of Swapnil Shetkar's much talked-about and appreciated Konkani film 'Home Sweet Home'.

A counter for sale of special covers, commemorative postage stamps as well as a book exhibition will be held at the venue where attractive discounts will be available on Konkani books. DKA has also planned a exhibition of photos and pictures of first Konkani movie 'Mogacho Aunddo'.



Fr Joseph Punchakunnel celebrated his 79th birthday in the company of his students and superiors at the Salesian provincial house Kolkata, 11th April 2015. Kolkata Pro-

vincial Fr Nirmal Gomes while thanking Fr Joseph for his dedicated life and continued service as a religious hailed him as "the best rector" he ever had.



All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC) held protest demonstration before the Office of the Labour Commissioner, Panaji, demanding immediate revision of minimum wages for all schedules of Employment including daily wage workers employed in various Govt. Departs. in Goa with linkage to Dearness Allowance.

## 13 Deacons Ordained by the Cardinal

Cardinal Oswald Gracias ordained 13 new deacons on 18th April 2015 at Holy Name Cathedral, Colaba

Everest Mascarenhas of St. Lawrence Church, Wagle Estate is one of them.

Bombay Diocese is having 14 Deacons so far and the figure now reached to 27 with 13 new additions.



Rev. Everest Mascarenhas



**'Thought for the week'**

*Work for a cause, not for applause. Live life to express, not to impress. Don't strive to make your presence noticed, just make your absence felt.*

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**Facts About The Nepal Earthquake**

**T**he death toll climbed above 4,000 and still rising after a magnitude-7.8 earthquake struck central Nepal and surrounding regions on 25th April 2015 afternoon.

How much higher the death toll would rise depends on the state of remote Himalayan villages that rescue workers were still trying to reach. Many of the roads are believed to be cut off by landslides, making it likely that some of these communities can only be reached by helicopter.

Over 100 aftershocks, including a magnitude-6.7 temblor, have hindered rescue efforts and terrorized residents sleeping in open squares and parks.

Kathmandu is full of small, poorly constructed brick apartment buildings, and the quake destroyed swaths of the oldest neighbourhoods, even as more modern structures stood firm. Most areas were without power and water.

The quake was the worst to hit Nepal in at least 80 years.

The first aid flights began delivering supplies Sunday after Kathmandu's airport reopened. Tents and water were being handed out Monday at 10 locations in Kathmandu, district chief administrator Ek Narayan Aryal said.

Most shops in the capital were closed after the government declared a week-long period of recovery. Only fruit vendors and pharmacies seemed to be doing business.

The first nations to respond were Nepal's neighbours – India, China and Pakistan. The United States, Canada, the United Arab Emirates, Britain, Germany, France, Poland, Italy, Israel and Singapore also sent aid.

The quake unleashed a devastating avalanche on Mount Everest. The avalanche struck near one of the famed mountain's most dangerous spots. It swept down between the Khumbu Icefall and the base camp used by international climbing expeditions.

U.S. Geological Survey seismologist Paul Earle said the quake happened on what is known as a "thrust fault." That describes the situation when one piece of the Earth's crust is moving beneath another piece.

In this case, it's the Indian plate that is moving north at 45 millimeters a year under the Eurasian plate to the north, Earle said.

Nepal is a relatively poor country without extensive resources despite its rich cultural heritage and spectacular mountain scenery.

It has been plagued by instability in recent years, and general strikes have recently brought chaotic scenes to Kathmandu.

Nepal's constitution was supposed to have been written by the Constituent Assembly that was elected in 2008, following the end of a 10-year Maoist insurgency and the overthrow of the centuries-old monarchy, but the assembly was hampered by infighting and never finished its work.

## New York's first Indian-American woman judge appointed

Chennai-born Raja Rajeswari has been sworn-in as a criminal court judge in New York by Mayor Bill de Blasio, becoming the first India-born woman to be appointed a judge in New York City.



Rajeswari, 43, who had migrated to the U.S. from Chennai as a teenager, previously worked with the Richmond County District Attorney's Office for her entire career in several bureaus including Criminal Court, Narcotics, Supreme Court, and the Sex Crimes Special Victims Bureau, where she last served as Deputy Chief.

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# Judicial Reforms

by Francis Lobo

The responses I got to my article “Judicial System and Society” have made me write this piece. The responses show that the working of the judicial system is on the top of the agenda for the Nation. It is the last resort for obtaining Justice and Equity in a Society steeped in Corruption and Self Interest. I received a lot of Information on what is happening and Ideas on what can be done.

## SOCIOLOGICAL ISSUES

Top of the list is CORRUPTION. This is not so much about the corruption in the judiciary as the fact that the Nation looks to the judiciary for the Truth, whether it is the Radia tapes, the 2G, irrigation and mining scams, IPL match fixing. Black Money, the leakages of information to corporate houses, etc. Here investigative journalism over the past decade has played a vital role, shaken up the conscience of and united the people, exposed the corrupt and brought about changes in Government. However, it is Work-in-progress and the hopes of the people have again been shaken by the in-fighting within AAP. With the revival of the other political forces there is hope for a new surge in the days ahead.

To tackle Corruption requires a Knowledge Based, Rational, Scientific, Logical Approach, an Application of the Mind. Society plays a key role in making the media accountable on what and how they report --- not perceptions, not gossip, no matter how juicy and interesting, but facts. Similarly, lawyers are to be accountable for presenting their cases honestly and correctly, after in-depth study, hard work and due diligence, e-skewing irrelevant information and extraneous facts. The judicial system requires 95 % activity to get at the Truth, thereafter it is just 5 % a matter of law. There has to be a Code of Conduct and Strict Discipline observed.

The judicial system must be Time Conscious. Sometimes it is decades before a ruling is given. This can be corrected by restricting the number of postponements permissible to just two. There are also multiple layers through which an appeal can move. This is where reorganizing the hierarchical structure can play a role by reducing the number of levels. Further, the lower levels should be held accountable for their decisions. Today a bureaucrat can give an order, possibly the day before he is transferred, and the only way to understand and reverse the order is to go in appeal

Swift Justice is not possible in the present circumstances as the weaker sections find it difficult to even file an F.I.R. or complaint. Here Society needs to come in to set up organized systems so that the concerns of the common man are taken care of and they are not victims of social, political, caste and class pressures. Many cases can be settled out of court. As one judge told me “ The members of your society are more knowledgeable and trained in problem solving in matters such as finance and technology than I am. Can they not resolve these issues themselves?”

All this requires Courage and a commitment to Service. These qualities must emerge from the DNA of the Society. We cannot expect the judiciary to have it if it did not exist in the society in the first place. The judiciary must be fair and impartial and society must resist the government’s moves to appoint a Committed Judiciary biased and based on a political ideology.

## LAW

The Judicial Reforms the Government is talking about is to reduce the number of Laws to make life easy for some sections of society. It is not the number of laws that have evolved over the decades but the way they are



integrated and implemented. It is like any other profession like engineering or medicine, where the body of knowledge keeps growing from day to day. The various rules, codes, practices are tied together in a unified system. For example in constructing a building there are innumerable codes and voluminous handbooks to ensure stability, safety, long life, maintainability, weather and attack resistance. The Law must take a total view considering all segments, sectors, long and short term concerns, ecology, livelihoods, impact assessment, consent to change, etc.

The Universe is very rich in resources and has the ability to meet everyone’s needs. The role of Law is to ensure that these are fairly distributed to all and not cornered by a few for their pleasure, and to demonstrate their power and authority over others.

“Humankind has not woven the web of Life. We are but one thread within it. Whatever we do to the web we do to ourselves. All things are bound together. All things connect.”

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# Briefly Speaking

by Bernie Tellis

Brevity is the soul of wit. It's a great boredom buster. You've probably heard it said : If you don't strike oil in 5 minutes, stop boring ; and the more contemporaneous : less is more; smses have done wonders for brevity , though blunders for language.

We Indians, are a garrulous lot. We love the sound of our own voice , even if it isn't particularly mellifluous. Indian politicians are prime examples of this. They put the gathering to sleep with their long – winded , unprepared speeches and some of them are half- asleep while delivering theirs ! The print and electronic media have often shown them snoozing on stage ,in parliament, during speeches and discussions.

Many women ,too, tend to go on and on , round and round the subject ,never coming to the point.( Do we even know what it is ? ) Is it because our men-folk are driving us around in circles or perhaps, up the wall ?

Sunday homilies also suffer from the same infirmity of inordinate length , not to mention vacuity of thought. Sometimes one wonders if the preacher himself knows what he is talking about ,more so when he reads from a prepared script. If he can't remember what he's saying , how can he reasonably expect us to ? We all need to say what we mean and mean what we say and do it briefly, to make sense .

The Sunday sermon is a truly God- given opportunity to impact the

spiritual life of the flock. The shepherd should seize it with heart and mind, and strike – but only till the iron is hot. The story is told of a novice preacher in Dean Inge's time, who excitedly informed the Dean that he had been chosen to preach at the service of the Lord's Supper. " And what will be the theme of your discourse ? " queried the Dean. "I shall be speaking on the milk of human kindness " , answered the junior pastor, pompously. "Condensed , I trust " , said the Dean, dryly. That, of-course, is the ideal because few members of any congregation have been saved after the first 10 minutes of a sermon, but alas ,many have been lost – in more senses than one.

The best sermon of all time-a classic- is the Sermon on the Mount: a synthesis of substance and style, depth of meaning wedded to choice words ,which leaves no room for doubt or confusion; and not long at all. Indeed, one could well say that the Sermon on the Mount , is the Bible in brief.

I once heard an excellent sermon at a nuptial service. The celebrant ,very wisely, did not let himself or the bridal couple become the focus of attention, as he made just 2 general points. ( Every good speaker does that ). He said that Matrimony is last in the list of Sacraments, and does not come after Baptism, because it isn't administered to the immature, in order to have a greater chance of success. Next, he said that to practice a profession- which has a retirement age – one has to go through years of education, training and preparation. This should apply much more to marriage which is a vocation for life and a life-long commitment. He made these 2 points in about 2 minutes flat. His sermon was easy for him to remember and difficult for the congregation to forget. That's what brevity does – it hits the nail on the head without splitting the wood !

Be brief or be damned. No one today has the time/energy/interest / inclination to listen to long stories, to sit – much less stand- through long

sermons and speeches. So be it homilies, speeches, toasts, thankyou or introductions, make them short, sweet and memorable. Let your effort be greeted with a smile not a snore or a yawn, because a yawn is a silent scream at you to shut up .

Those who have much to say, use the fewest words and expend less time. Dynamite comes in small packages. So too, the best oratory is clothed in a few ,simple words which must reveal rather than conceal. Some speakers raising the toast at weddings, tend to trace family history to the Garden of Eden and others, even farther ! Perhaps that's one reason why wrist-watches show the time and the date.

The shortest sentence in the Bible is found in John 11 : 35 which says : Jesus wept. This was at the death of Lazarus. Saying so little, it says so much. One of the best recorded speeches in history is Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg address delivered on November 19,1863 ,at the height of the American Civil War. The polished aristocrat Edward Everett spoke for 2 hours and the homespun President for 2 minutes and the latter speech became immortal not the least for its classic definition of Democracy as government "of the people, for the people, by the people " The most apt and touching epitaph I ever read was taken from the tombstone of a babe : " Came in ; looked around ; didn't like it ; went out.

Brevity is, indeed, the soul of wit. There's MUCH that can be said in praise of it. Guess , I've said enough !

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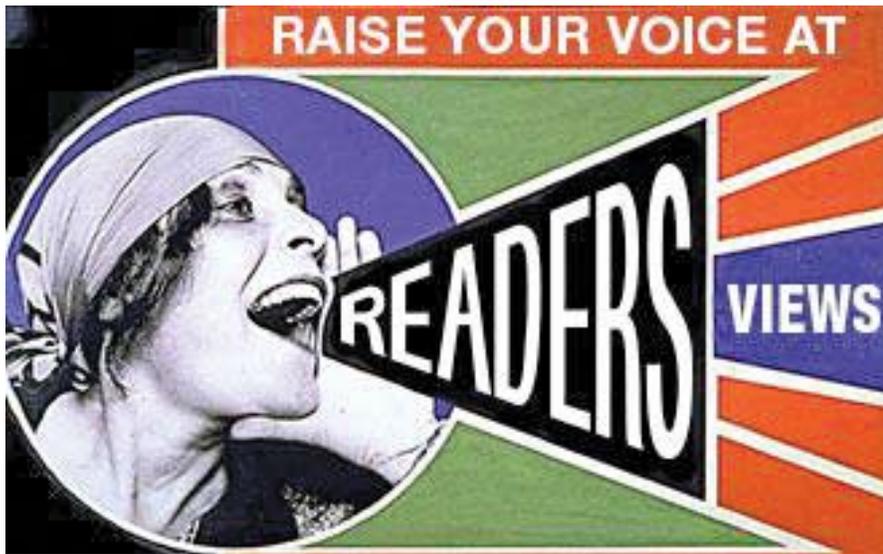
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## Earth Day – 22nd April

Speaking at the end of his weekly General Audience, Pope Francis entreated: As we celebrate 'Earth Day' on April 22nd, I exhort everyone to see the world through the eyes of God the Creator – The 'earth' is an environment to be safeguarded, a garden to be cultivated. This relationship of mankind with nature must not be conducted with greed, manipulation and exploitation, but it must conserve the divine harmony that exists between creatures and Creation with the logic of respect and care, so that it can be put to the service of our brothers, and also for future generations.

Devendra Fadnavis, Chief Minister of Maharashtra also commented: "In our endeavor to preserve the planet, let's consider that every day is 'Earth's Day'. Let everyone among us take some efforts to make this planet green. Together we can and shall make it better."

In the Psalm: Thanksgiving for Earth's Bounty, King David sings: "You show Your care for the 'earth' by sending rain; You make it rich and fertile. You fill the streams with water; You provide the 'earth' with crops. This is how You do it" (Psalm, 65:9).

—Dr Trevor Colaso

## Voluntary Salary Cut – any takers ?

Does the 'Achhe Din' dream seem to have worn off and everybody now beginning to come down to reality ? Both the BJP government and the people who voted them to power with a massive mandate ?

The Prime Minister of our country, Mr. Narendra Modi some time back, appealed to the "well off" to give up their LPG Gas subsidies in order to benefit the poor and needy in society. How does he define "well off" ? It could be the 'Middle Class', the 'Upper Middle Class'. Whatever, but very noble thoughts Mr. Modi. Now, may we appeal to the Members of Parliament (MPs) & Members of Legislative Assemblies (MLAs), who we feel come under the category of "well off", to give up the benefits that they enjoy

? Need we name some of the benefits our MPs enjoy ? Among others, Travelling Expenses, Daily Allowance during Parliament meets, Free 1st class/ AC Travel in trains, Free Flights in Business Class, Free Accommodation, Free Electricity, Free Telephone. Yes, can they give up these subsidies so that the poor and the struggling Middle class already burdened by Taxes, can breathe a little easy ?

And, do I also hear, the highly qualified (and successful performing) CEOs also being expected to take a cut in their salaries ? How about the CEOs of public sector undertakings and our Honourable MPs & MLAs also taking a cut in salaries, for their 'non-performance' ?

Very recently, the newspapers reported that the CEO of a private company in U.S.A., Dan Price, the founder of Gravity Payments, has voluntarily taken a 90% cut in his salary, after he read an article that claimed, income directly affected one's emotional health. Not stopping at that, he used that money to raise the minimum salaries of the employees by a big margin. Apparently, he has the welfare of his employees at heart. Can we see our MPs & MLAs and CEOs of public sector undertakings, feeling the pulse of the citizens of this country, take a 'voluntary' cut in their salaries, and pass on the benefits to the general public ? Ah ! can they ? But the question we need to ask, do they have the interests of their countrymen, at heart ?

—Melville X. D'Souza  
Orlem, Malad (West)

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# Matheran and the Holy Cross Feast

by Don Aguiar

In our younger days when we travelled to Matheran for the HOLY CROSS FEAST, which falls either on the first or second Sunday in May, we always looked forward to the "toy" train and the vendors shouting – "Aaay, col'drrinks, fofcorn, chiffsss..." Some times a vendor flashes a grin at us through the window bars of our "toy" train as it pants resolutely over the winding narrow-gauge track. Snack tray slung over his neck, he is swinging adroitly from one carriage to the next along the foot-boards. We level out, travelling through a glade of spreading trees. The soil is now rust colored and pathways meander through the forest. As groups of holiday-makers pause to wave and shout greetings, the train, in a burst of confidence, puts on a terrific show of speed. We steam into Matheran station with aplomb. As youngsters we suck on popsicles or play hand-made paper-windmills against the breeze,

Later during our teenage years we boys & girls used to start from Neral after a customary breakfast at the hotel opposite the station with Rava Idlis and Misal Pau and trek our way up on the hill opposite the great Matheran Mountain. Surprisingly the girls used to take the lead throughout which they later explained: they feared the idea of being left far behind. First half hour is always ok. Not many fellow trekkers on this route as most tourists zoomed past in the cars, private taxis and Mobikes. We used to stop three times once on a bend once at Ganesh mandir where we have cold drink and one in a wayside restaurant to relieve and have lemon juice. The road I recollect was never a tar road, not even one that goes to Karjat. Even 20 years back this was a pretty dangerous road with steep curves where marutis would fail in summer due to intense heat and there were instances when cars have fallen in the ravines.

Matheran, means "forest on the forehead" (of the mountains), is an eco-sensitive region, declared by the Ministry of Environment and Forest, Government of India. It is Asia's only automobile-free hill station. It is the smallest hill station in the world. It is also the cleanest hill station. No vehicles are allowed inside

the town including bicycles. You have to walk the whole place or get a horse. Wildlife includes monkeys (lots of them) and horses trotting along the path as the local means of transport. Jokes apart, Matheran is known as being an abode for various exotic birds. I would probably attribute that to the pollution free air and lack of vehicle sound.

You can ramble through the woods to various lookout points, or maybe go horseback riding or Browse through the market. Or just laze around!

So as one can imagine, Matheran, a tiny hill station in Maharashtra was known for scenic beauty and wilderness alone. Yet, time has taken its toll and those who have not been to Matheran for many years will be pleasantly surprised.

Much indeed has changed. Several multi-storied hotels have sprung up, and with their garishly painted "modern" architecture, they are hideously incongruous among the gently forested glades. They offer the same amenities you have in a Mumbai hotel and play loud music disturbing the calm, quite and scenic surroundings. Unlike our younger days where the population of the monkeys was more than that of humans and the Victorian styled cottages and hotels gave you the feeling of being in the wilderness and entwined in the calm, quite and scenic beauty this beautiful place offers.

It also had a small, but affluent, resident population. Retirees, mainly, who lived in sprawling bungalows with winding pathways and curlicued, iron-wrought gates, reminiscent of the days of the Raj. Most of these homes are hidden within forest glades, but some flank the pathways. Not any more as most of these bungalows have given way to multi-storied hotels accommodating tourists who are more glued to their mobiles and TV's and only move in and around their hotel or nearby restaurants rather than rambling through the woods to various lookout points in order to appreciate the calm, quite and scenic beauty this beautiful place offers.

As usual my dad, mom, brother and I use to go for a morning stroll. The pathways are deserted at this hour, but the morning is alive with movement and sound. A couple of hens pecking busily in the dust, flutter agitatedly at

our approach, and a defiant cockerel stretches his neck into a long "koo-koo-roo-kooooo" before strutting off. Parrots, dawn-flashed into emerald bursts of colour, screech in counterpoint to the raucous bickering of crows. In a small clearing, a group of tethered horses snuffle and neigh as they feed from jute bags.

Beyond the market, we follow a short, winding pathway and the hillside drops away into a sheer gorge. It faces east, and the sun, an enormous orange ball, rises above the surrounding peaks, swings out of the mauve mist and seems to roll towards my dad and mom. There wasn't a greater site to see. The branches of the trees were positioned just to let a few rays pass through as if they were to escape from a prison inside of the sun. The rays illuminated everything they touched with beauty, color, and life. The earth began to glow in the golden light as the sun rose higher and higher in the sky.

We always couldn't bring ourselves to leave this beautiful surrounding. We sometimes spent the remainder of the morning and most of the afternoon just taking in the beauty of the horizon watching the day unfold. When we finally managed to extricate ourselves from our relaxing position we decide to wander around in search of another point. As we stroll over the side of the mountain we come upon a fairly small lake. But what it lacked in size it made up for in vibrant color and clarity. But this time the sun was just past the top of the sky and it cast its golden rays across the lake just as the wind rippled the clear blue water. The rippling water shinned and shimmered in the sunlight as the subtle little creatures came out to bask in the beauty of the sky. The whole scene is just so captivating that we could not help but long to be a part of it. The yearning didn't last long because we normally are unable to resist and we slowly submerged ourselves in the peaceful lagoon thanking God for a new beautiful day. Behind us, women gather at a communal tap, thwacking garments against a concrete platform, scrubbing their shivering kids, and exchanging gossip.

"That one's haunted," My dad suddenly tells us on one such morning  
(Contd.. on p. 10)

# It's Our Turn To Lead!

(Reflections by a Jesuit on April 22nd 2015)

It is Earth Day once again and on this 45th anniversary when the focus of every citizen is on what are we doing to Mother Earth, the theme that is suggested is "it's our turn to lead". The publicity material speaks about "the most exciting year in environmental history. The year in which economic growth and sustainability join hands. The year in which world leaders finally pass a binding climate change treaty. The year in which citizens and organisations divest from fossil fuels and put their money into renewable energy solutions. These are tough issues but we know what's at stake is the future of our planet and the survival of life on earth. On Earth Day we need you to take a stand so that together, we can show the world a new direction. It's our turn to lead. So our world leaders can follow by example."



BY FR. CEDRIC PRAKASH SJ

to show that it is the ordinary citizen who needs to come out on the streets and to lead the country on issues that may have serious repercussions for future generations.

The lead article in today's 'Times of India' (ed. Ahmedabad page 1) speaks about how the Gujarat Government is pressuring the Central Government to lift the moratorium on some of the country's critically polluted industrial clusters – Ankleshwar, Vatva (in Ahmedabad) and Vapi - which was a decision of the previous UPA Government in 2010; besides, the National Green Tribunal on the basis of a petition filed by Trupti Shah and others has sent a notice to the Government of Gujarat regarding the Statue of Unity Project on the Narmada River which is bound to create serious ecological problems for the whole State.

So it's our turn to lead! India is a classic example of how sustainable development is thrown to the winds: the 'corporatisation' of the country; the anti-small farmer land acquisition ordinance; a 'development' model which caters to the rich and the powerful; the desperation to further nuclearize the country; the total insensitivity to the environment and to ecological concerns - are all powerful indicators

Significantly, April 22nd is also the day on which the Jesuits celebrate the feast of Mary, the Mother of the Society of Jesus. It was on this day in 1541, exactly seven months after the approval of the Society of Jesus and two weeks after Ignatius of Loyola was elected its first Superior General that he celebrated Mass with his other companions at the altar of Our Lady in the Basilica of St. Paul Outside-the-Walls in Rome, during which they also made their solemn vows.

The care of the earth has been a consistent concern in the way of proceeding of the Jesuits since the last several years. In 1999, this concern was highlighted in a document 'We live in a Broken World' and this was furthered with an even greater commitment in 2011 with a path-breaking document 'Healing a Broken World'.

The General Congregation 35 of the Jesuits emphasises that "Our response to environmental and ecological concerns is therefore a mission:



our apostolic response. "As servants of Christ's mission we are invited to assist him as he sets right our relationships with God, with other human beings, and with creation." (D3#18)

It is more than just a coincidence that 'Earth Day' and the feast of Mary, the Mother of the Society of Jesus' are observed today: April 22nd. It is a powerful reminder that "the care of the environment...touches the core of our faith in and love for God." (GC35. D3 #32); while any activity, however cosmetic, is certainly welcome.... we are indeed called to do much more! It's our turn to lead!

(\* Fr. Cedric Prakash SJ is the Director of PRASHANT, the Ahmedabad-based Jesuit Centre for Human Rights, Justice and Peace.)

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(Contd.. from p. 8)

stroll as we go by a dilapidated red-brick house. "Really?" We say in unison, stopping to stare.

"Uh-huh," My dad says. "It's called 'The Red House' and Matheran residents give it a wide berth. I sure as heck wouldn't hang around the place, especially after dark. Not after what happened to us."

"What...what?" I swing around to my dad.

"Well, this was about twenty years ago. I was with a group of friends and we'd come up to Matheran for the weekend. About seven or eight of us were out on a late night stroll. We were just about here..." My dad walks back about fifty yards to indicate the spot. "As we approached the house, we saw a figure wearing a white shirt and loin-cloth walking towards us. It moved right under that lamp-post there by the gate of the Red House. As you can see, the light would have shone directly on it. One of us, I forget who, said jokingly, 'Now there's a ghost for you!' The words were no sooner said, than the figure vanished. Kaput. Gone. Nothing there. Just the empty road under the lamp-post. Yet we'd all seen it clearly."

"So what did you do?" I ask. "We turned and ran. Glancing over our shoulders all the way back! We puzzled over it for days afterwards, but it wasn't till much later that we heard about the reputation of the Red House."

I glance again at the bungalow, at its crumbling walls and gaping roof. It looks brooding, secretive.

My brother is intrigued. "Take a photo of us on the veranda, Dad," he says. "So I can tell them about it at school." My dad feels a prickle of unease, even though it is broad daylight. He shrugs. "Well, okay, but let's make it quick." My brother and I stand by the rotting veranda rails and my dad clicks the camera. (The photograph when developed later shows a figure standing just behind us. It's just a trick of light and shadow, but the effect is eerie nonetheless.)

In the evenings as usual we go for another stroll pri-

marily to see the sun a fiery red orb of light slowly sinking beneath the horizon, and threads of light lingering in the sky, mingling with the rolling clouds, dyeing the heavens first orange, then red, then dark blue, until all that was left of the sunset was a chalky mauve, and then that melted away in turn as stygian darkness took over the sky. Sequin-silver stars like the glowing embers of a dying fire winked down at us, illuminating the atramentous curtain of sky, and then suddenly the clouds parted, and we find ourselves looking at a lustrous, argent disc casting brilliant rays of moonlight onto the dark grounds... we watch with an unwavering gaze, in the quite scenic atmosphere, as we now thank God for the beautiful day.

The monkey population hasn't decreased; they still make their presence felt at mealtimes, and the young monkey chasers continue to heft their slingshots! We are half way through our main course, when there is an ominous rumble on the roof. My brother freezes, his spoon half way to his mouth. Monkeys," my mom says, and small army of them descends, swinging off overhanging branches and landing just beyond the

veranda railings. A big male leaps onto the veranda baring his teeth and eyeing a slice of bread at my elbow. There is a shout from across the compound, and a small boy races towards us, slingshot poised. The monkey beats a hasty retreat, and the whole tribe crash off through the trees, in search of easier pickings. The small boy squats on the steps of the veranda and grins triumphantly. It turns out that he is the son of the youth-now promoted to waiter-who performed the same service for my dad and mom when they were honeymooners many years ago. The art of monkey warfare is handed down from generation to generation in Matheran.

In spite of the multi story hotels offering modern amenities, loud music and tourist not interested to ramble through the woods to various check points to enjoy the scenic beauty the place offers, the red-earth trails will still meander serenely through the glades and ghosts of the past will still inhabit the remaining bungalows tucked away in the woods. Matheran "chikki" fudge/toffee will still be sold in the shops and the cheeky monkey population will continue to mooch tidbits from the unwary. And, likely as not, the bazaar's chess champion will "estill" be there too, with the skin between his toes scoured to depletion. And so also will the HOLY CROSS FEAST in Matheran be celebrated with aplomb and the attendance at the Feast Mass increasing year after year. So come and participate in this year's HOLY CROSS FEAST in Matheran which will be celebrated on 10th May 2015 in the morning 11 AM.

When you enter the Church compound you get excited, how is the Church going to accommodate so many devotee for the feast service? You may also think that participating in the Church service and Church celebrations of the Feast of the Holy Cross in Matheran will be so boring but everything is different, it's so devotional, enjoyable and everywhere fellowship and fun, you just will enjoy participating in this service and celebration which comes just once a year. Do not miss

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# Benefits of Using Coconut Oil As Toothpaste

**C**oconut oil is one of those foods that seems to have endless uses. One use you may be unaware of is that it's a fantastic base for toothpaste. Often, conventional toothpaste can be full of harmful chemicals and agents, but the alternative natural toothpastes are pricey. So why not try making your own coconut oil toothpaste as a health, inexpensive alternative? Here are six reasons you should make the switch.



## 1. No harmful chemicals.

One of the biggest downsides to traditional toothpastes is the harmful chemicals they contain ... so much so that they have to put a warning on the label that tells you to call poison control if swallow some. If it's not safe enough to swallow, why would you be brushing your teeth with it?

The beautiful thing about coconut oil is that there are no harmful chemicals in it and since it's incredibly health to eat, if you happen to swallow some it would actually be beneficial to your health.

## 2. Anti-Bacterial

Coconut oil is anti-bacterial and has shown to be very effective at killing the bad bacteria in your mouth. Think of it as Mother Nature's mouth wash! Swishing the coconut oil in your mouth after you brush will give you the same effect as traditional mouth wash. minus the harness.

## 3. No foaming agents

A common ingredient in toothpaste is a soap called sodium lauryl sulfate. SLS is used as a foaming agent because it gives people the illusion that the toothpaste is cleaning their teeth simply because it's foaming up. But SLS has been linked to canker sores, a painful oral problem you probably don't want to deal with.

## 4. Inexpensive

Using a few tablespoons of coconut oil

is incredibly inexpensive and will last you months, making it the most inexpensive toothpaste you've ever used!

## 5. Your dog can use it

Coconut oil isn't just for humans; it's incredibly health for dogs as well. Although I'm sure our dogs really enjoy getting their teeth brushed with chicken flavoured toothpaste, coconut oil is just as effective and safe for their teeth and health as it is for ours.

## 6. Easy to make

Aside from all the health benefits, coconut oil toothpaste is incredibly easy (and fun!) to make. All you need is an empty jar and a few ingredients:

**Baking soda:** helps with whitening, acts an abrasive to help clean your teeth

**Essential oils:** will give your toothpaste a distinct flavor

**Erythritol, xylitol or stevia:** natural, tooth friendly sweeteners that will enhance the flavor of your toothpaste (don't use xylitol if you're planning on using it for you pets — it's toxic to them)

Once I made the change from regular toothpaste to making my own, I realized I'd never go back. There's nothing but positive benefits in making the switch, so why not give it a try?

## Simple, All-Natural Homemade Toothpaste

**W**e all know about eating healthy and as organically as we can, but now I am concerned about a new issue.

It seems some studies claim fluoride, when taken daily, can be toxic. Since most of us receive fluoride unwillingly and unknowingly in our water supply, having it in our toothpastes can lead to overexposure. It is not a nutrient, therefore our bodies do not require it. Dr. Joseph Mercola has found that too much fluoride affects children's IQ, causes thyroid issues, and can even cause cancer. Most of Europe -- 97% -- has banned it from their water supply, and the claims that it fights tooth decay are also being questioned.

These concerns led me to create my own toothpaste, which tastes just as good as the commercial brands. I make the paste with coconut oil, which is known to be antibacterial and helps guard against tooth decay. If you want more of a whitening paste, add a drop of hydrogen peroxide.

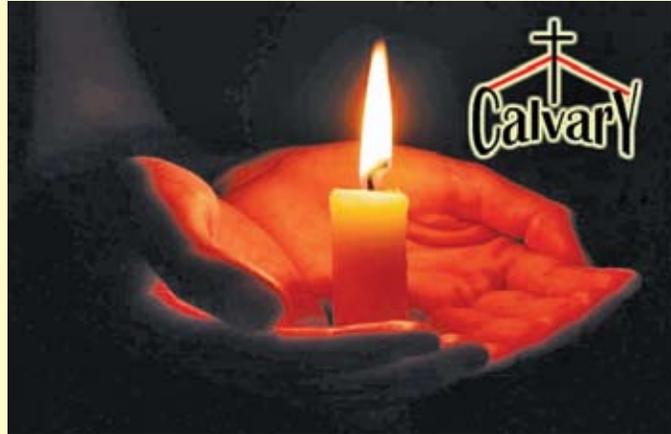
*Here is the recipe. It's great fun to make with the sprites!*

### Ingredients:

3 tbs Organic Baking Soda  
3 tbs Coconut Oil  
20 drops of peppermint or cinnamon oil  
2 tsp glycerin  
a few drops of stevia or one packet of xylitol (which also fights tooth decay)



# Calvary in the Candle-light!



**O**n this mid-summer evening, the imposing structure dedicated to St. Theresa, stood as usual in all its magnificence, calling the Faithful to join in the Eucharistic celebration at dusk. It had been a sultry day and the approaching night held no promise of respite from the strangulating heat. There was not the tiniest whiff of breeze that evening and not a single leaf moved on the stately Ashoka trees that stood silhouetted against the grey sky outside the church. As the Ave Maria pealed its tender notes from the spires, the Faithful assembled to commemorate the Last Supper, “Do this in memory of me!”

Within the church the numbers of believers that gathered around the sacrificial altar were more than usual that evening. They stood enveloped in darkness, waiting for the celebration to begin. There were no lights and the church was pitch dark. In the absence of the whirring sound of fans, the silence seemed to be magnified tenfold. Though the power to illuminate our surroundings had failed, the divine power was very much evident in the gradual building up of an atmosphere of piety and devotion. Soon, like the tiny fireflies candle lights appeared on the altar and the cross behind was outlined in the dim flickering light. Even in darkness, the Lord was there stretched out on the wood of the cross, blessing his people!

The celebrants Frs. John and Daniel entered in a resolute manner, defying not only earthly darkness but darkness of the spirit and soul. The Mass

commenced. The reflections dwelt on the plight of millions in our country and all around the world who are deprived of not only power but the basic necessities of life such as food, water and shelter. Illumination of homes is secondary to the people who fight to survive. Our attention was drawn to



BY VERA ALVARES

the fact that in remote areas our missionaries and their flocks live and pray in thatched little huts without ventilation, lights and fans. Power is a distant dream and they dream of better things such as reign of peace and harmony. Eucharist is eagerly awaited by the

Faithful who walk in the sweltering heat to attend Mass and receive the Lord, regardless of the distance, time and convenience.

Within the church, in the darkness with sharpened senses, the responses seemed louder, hymns more melodious as we sang hymn after hymn praising the Lord for his blessings. With Fr. John leading the congregation with timely intonations, chants and prayers, the Eucharist became what it is meant to be, the source and summit of our Faith and life! Voices raised in prayer and song resounded in the dark vault of the church, the Spirit seemed to move among us touching each troubled soul and the silence at Communion was a wonderful new experience. And all this while the little

candles flickered, a silent testimony to a bond between the Good shepherd and his stricken sheep! Did we need darkness to concentrate and focus on the proceedings at the altar?

What struck me was how every word uttered without the aid of amplifiers, in prayer and supplication reached the ears of every member of the congregation, drawing appropriate responses and how the Faithful moved in the dark to receive Communion. Proceedings were so smooth and orderly as though the church had been brightly illuminated. Probably, with the lights, wordly distraction too had been done away with! It was a warm friendly session between man and his loving Father.....

That day, Calvary by the candle-light stood out to atone for man's ungratefulness. It seemed to me that while Jesus, the crucified Lord seemed to dissolve in blood and water in the mid-day sun on Golgotha, we the redeemed live within our little comfort zones cushioned from the harshness of life. Prayer leaflets which are normally ignored were extensively used that day as fans. Comforts that one cannot do without.....But once in a way, the Lord decides to tug at the strings to remind us that being the privileged ones we ought to be on our knees with grateful hearts in front of this Calvary in the candle light!

## Number of British women becoming nuns hits 25-year high

**London:** The number of women becoming nuns in Britain reached a 25-year high last year, according to figures released by the Catholic Church on Thursday.

In 2014, 45 women took holy vows, a figure that has trebled in the last five years, in contrast to a worldwide trend that has seen nuns dwindle steadily over the last four decades.

"There is a gap in the market for meaning in our culture and one of the ways in which women may find that meaning is through religious life," said Father Christopher Jamison, director of the vocations office of the Catholic Church in England and Wales.

Nevertheless, religious life vocations promoter Sister Cathy Jones admitted British attitudes to religion had changed considerably in the last few decades, reported Zee News.

"We are never going to be at the place we were at 50 years ago, Catholic culture was at a very different place," Jones said.

"But the fact that more women are becoming nuns than there has been in the past 25 years shows that as a generation we have turned a



corner."

One novice is Theodora Hawksley, aged 29, who left a job as a postdoctoral researcher in theology at Scotland's University of Edinburgh in January to train as a nun at the Congregation of Jesus in London.

"I don't have to worry now about practical things like making a career for myself," Hawksley said, describing her choice as a "relationship of love".

"There is another person in an order in London and she is 27 and we meet to chat. You are not on your own... There are plenty of people asking themselves the same questions."

At about one in 12 Britons, Catholics are the second-largest faith group in Britain after Anglican Christians, but those identifying as religious have been in decline in the country.

The figures were released shortly before the Church's annual "world day of prayer for vocations" on Sunday, in which Pope Francis is to praise the "call to love".

## 'Doctorate of Philosophy' Conferred on Kevin Noronha



**Dr. Kevin Prathap Noronha**

Kevin Prathap Noronha of Pangla in Udupi Taluk has been conferred 'Doctor of Philosophy' (Ph.D.) by Manipal University for his thesis 'Automated Identification of Diabetic Eye Diseases using Digital Fundus Image'. He has been guided by Prof. (Dr.) K. Prabhakar Nayak, Department: Electronics and Communication, through Manipal Institute of Technology (MIT) Manipal. Dr. Kevin is the son of Mrs. Lethitia Noronha and Late Mr. Mark Noronha of Shankerpura. He is serving as Associate Professor in the department of Electronics and Telecommunication, at St. Francis Institute of Technology, Borivli, Mumbai

## Thanksgiving



Thanks to St. Francis Xavier for the favours granted. Praying for more favours.

— Mrs. Shirlley F. D'Souza, Goa

# Here's How India Could Gain From Using Drones



## From disaster relief to crop spraying: Five ways India could gain from using drones in everyday life

**T**he Indian regulator is said to be working on a framework that would allow the civilian use of drones without compromising on safety, thus joining a select group of countries that have already notified provisional norms for such uses. Apart from the Directorate, however, clearances will also be required from the air navigation service provider, the ministries of defence and home affairs and other concerned agencies before we get to see drones employed in routine civilian use.

### Disaster relief

When the Uttarakhand faced torrential rains and severe flooding in the year 2013, a startup in India called Social Drones teamed up with 10 others and came to the rescue. The startup deployed unmanned quadcopters in the affected areas to conduct aerial surveillance and subsequently provided the images and videos to organisations working on flood relief to better target their efforts. Not only this, the drones also assisted the volunteers by transferring some of their goods like medicines and first-aids kits to the top of the hills easing their weight on the steep trek.

### Aerial surveillance

In a country as crowded as India, stampedes at religious or political gatherings is not unheard of and

Drones are more formally known as unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV). Essentially, a drone is a flying robot. The aircraft may be remotely controlled or can fly autonomously through software-controlled flight plans in their embedded systems working in conjunction with GPS. UAVs have most often been associated with the military but they are also used for search and rescue, surveillance, traffic monitoring, weather monitoring and firefighting, among other things.

More recently, the unmanned aircraft have come into consideration for a number of commercial applications. In late 2013, Amazon announced a plan to use drones for delivery in the not-too-distant future. The service, known as Amazon Prime Air, is expected to deliver orders inside a 10-mile radius of a fulfillment center within 30 minutes.



drones worldwide have proved useful in managing crowds efficiently by providing critical information in real time. Real time traffic management is an obvious area to use the drones.

### Last-mile delivery

Even though Amazon's plans to bring drone aided delivery to India was shot down by DGCA ban last year, drones may see a comeback by one of the e-commerce companies to ensure quicker delivery to their customers or just for a gimmick but the charm of seeing flying copters delivering goods

can't be resisted.

### Emergency rescue

While drones are commonly used in search operations by military as well as police departments in many countries, Canada became possibly the first country to save a man using a drone. This could have a lot of potential use in India where road accidents are more than common and the interiors of the country are not as easily mapped as some of the major cities.

### Agricultural applications

Farming on difficult terrains comes with its own set of problems and drones are helping solve some of them. In California, commercial drones manufactured by Yamaha are being used for many agricultural purposes covering everything from keeping an eye on crop-eating bugs to spraying disinfectants. If the Indian government allows the drones to be used for agricultural applications, Indian farmers could automate a lot of their tasks using these flying copters.

# Churches Affected By Proposed Development Plan

(Contd.. from last issue)

10. Most Holy Trinity Powai 45.70 meter D.P. Road widening adjacent to the Church will shrink the part of the Church Property. Refer Sheet No.42 of the Eastern Suburbs. It is shown as Residential Commercial Zone.
11. Our Lady Of Dolours Sonapur 13.40 & 21.30 meter D.P. Roads adjacent to the Church will shrink the part of the Church Property. Refer Sheet No.10 of the City. It is wrongly shown as Primary & Secondary School ( DE1.2).
12. Our Lady Of Egypt Santa Cruz East (Kalina) The Graveyard and St. Mary's High School & College is affected by 13.40 meter D. P. Road. Refer Sheet No.10 of the Western Suburbs. The Church and Cemetery is shown as Primary & Secondary School ( DE1.2). Part of ground, part of graveyard and meeting hall and Parochial House falls under Special Planning Authority and is shown as part of Mumbai International Airport.
13. Our Lady Of Fatima Kirol Rear portion of the Church a new 12.20 meter D. P. Road proposed. Refer Sheet No.25 of Eastern Suburbs. The Church and Cemetery is shown as Primary & Secondary School ( DE1.2).
14. Our Lady Of Glory Byculla 27.45 meter D.P. Road adjacent to the Church will shrink the part of the Church Property. The Church is also affected by 13.40 meter D.P. Road in front and 18.30 meter D.P. Road at the side which will affect the graves. A new 9.15 meter new D. P. Road passing through Church Ground is proposed leading to the Cemetery. Refer Sheet No.25 of the City.
15. Our Lady Of Good Counsel Sion Widening of existing road in front of the church by 36.60 meters will affect the church property. Behind the church the area is marked as Old Age Home ( DH3.2 ) Refer Sheet No. of the City. The Church and School is shown as Primary & Secondary School ( DE1.2). Grotto of St. Anthony a new reservation is shown as Playground/Park/Garden ( DOS1.4).
16. Our Lady Of Health Versova 9.15 meter D.P. Road passing through the, Our Lady of Health Church (a Heritage Structure CTS No. 1268 of Village Versova ) & the adjacent Playground ( CTS No. 1266 of Village Versova ) 9.15 meter D.P. Road passing through the St. Anthony High School ( having CTS No. 1224/2 of Village Versova ) & the adjacent Playground ( CTS No. 1226 of Village Versova ) 9.15 meter D.P. Road passing through the St. Anthony High School Property no.1271(Handicap) not shown in the Draft plan.
17. Our Lady Of Health Sahar A new 15 meter new D. P. Road widening is proposed touching the Cemetery. Refer Sheet No.16 of Western Suburbs. Inside the Church Compound a new reservation is shown as Playground/Park/Garden ( DOS1.4) The Church is shown in Commercial Residential Zone.
18. Our Lady Of Health Cavel 18.30 meter D.P. Road adjacent to the Church will shrink the part of the Church Property. Refer Sheet No.10 of City. It is shown as Commercial Residential Zone.
19. Sacred Heart Santa Cruz West 27.45 meter D.P. Road widening on S. V. Road, 18.30 meter D.P. Road widening on Road leading to Subway and 13.40 , D.P. Road widening on Khar Police side will shrink the part of the Church property . Refer Sheet No.9 of the Western Suburbs. It is proposed as heritage in the proposed heritage list but not shown as heritage and is marked as Commercial Residential Zone.
20. St. Andrew Bandra West 27.45 meter D.P. Road adjacent to the Church will shrink the part of the Church property and cemetery / grotto. The 13.40 meter D. P. road will affect the frontage and the part of Bosco Hall. Refer Sheet No.2 of the Western Suburbs. It is shown as heritage and marked as Residential Commercial Zone.
21. St. Anne Mazagaon 21.35 meter D.P. Road adjacent to the Church will shrink the part of the Church property. Refer Sheet No.17 of the City. It is wrongly shown as Primary & Secondary School. ( DE1.2 ).
22. St. Anthony Santa Cruz East (Vakola) 36.60 meter D.P. Road in front of the Church will shrink the part of the Church Property. Similarly 13.40 meter road on rear side will affect the Church and the School. Refer Sheet No.9 of the Western Suburbs. It is shown as Commercial Residential Zone.
23. St. Francis Xavier Vile Parle 12.20 meter D.P. Road adjacent to the Playground will shrink the part of the school Playground. Similarly 13.40 meter D.P. Road passing through the Shishu Bhavan. Refer Sheet No.15 of the Western Suburbs. The Church is shown as "ORPHANAGE".
24. St. Francis Xavier Kanjur 27.45 meter D.P. Road widening in front of the Church will shrink the part of the Church property . Similarly a new 27.45 meter D.P. Road at the rear of the Church will affect the church property. Refer Sheet No.42 of the Eastern Suburbs. It is wrongly shown as Primary & Secondary School. ( DE1.2 )
25. St. John The Evangelist Marol 9.15 meter D.P. Road passing through the St. John the Evangelist High School ( CTS No. 1308 of Village Marol ) & the adjacent Play-

(Contd.. on p. 16)

(Contd.. from p. 15)

ground ( CTS No. 1307 of Village Marol) Similarly 9.15 meter D.P. Road passing through the St. John the Evangelist Church ( a Heritage Structure and having CTS No. 1306 of Village Marol ) & the adjacent Playground ( CTS No. 1307 of Village Marol ) The proposed road widening would affect the 4 century old Grotto of Mother Mary situated in the compound of St. John the Evangelist Church ( a Heritage Structure ) as also the Holy Cross situated in the compound of the Church. Refer Sheet No.19 of the Western Suburbs.

26. St. John The Evangelist Fort Affected by 27.45 mtrs ( 90 ft ) road. Metro route also touching close to the church property. Refer Sheet No.7 of the City. The Church falls in Heritage Area. It is shown as Commercial Residential Zone.

27. St. Joseph Umerkhadi Affected by 18.30 mtrs road. Refer Sheet No.14 of the City. The Church is wrongly shown as Primary & Secondary School.

28. St. Joseph Juhu Affected by 13.40 mtrs road. Refer Sheet No.14 of the Western Suburbs. It is shown as Residential Commercial Zone.

29. St. Peter Bandra West Affected by 27.45 mtrs ( 90 ft ) road. Refer Sheet No.12 of the Western Suburbs. The Church is wrongly shown as Primary & Secondary School.

30. St. Stephen Cumballa Hill Affected by 27.45 mtrs ( 90 ft ) Refer Sheet No.12 of the City. It is shown as Residential Commercial Zone.

31. St. Teresa Girgaum Affected by 27.45 mtrs ( 90 ft ) road, which would require demolition of part of the Church itself. Metro route also touching close to the church property. Refer Sheet No.13 of the City. The Church falls in Heritage Area.

32. St. Vincent Pallotti Marol Affected by 9.15 mtrs new D.P. road side of the Church Refer Sheet No.19 of the Western Suburbs. The Primary/ Secondary School behind church proposed in the D.P. needs to be checked.

33. Mount Mary Basilica Bandra West Affected by 8.30 mtrs D.P. road widening in front of the Church, which will affect the Holy Cross. The steps leading to the Church from rear side of the Church are shown as road widening. Refer Sheet No.2 of the Western Suburbs. It is shown as Residential Commercial Zone. Please note the Shah Rukh Khan bungalow "Mannat" and the new building adjoin Mannat is shown as heritage. Similarly the steps leading to Mount Mary Church from the rear entrance are shown as heritage but 400 years old Mount Mary Basilica is not shown as heritage. The Retreat House and Pastoral Centre is shown as others [truncated by WhatsApp]

## Catholic Bishops' Conference Of India (C.B.C.I.)

The Catholic Bishops' Conference of India (CBCI) strongly condemns the highly provocative and irresponsible statement of Shri Munna Kumar Shukla, General Secretary of the Akhil Bharatiya Hindu Mahasabha, as reported in the press on 23rd April, 2015.

The Standing Committee Meeting attended by 40 members including cardinals, Archbishops and Bishops, held from 22nd to 24th April, 2015 at St. John's Medical College In Bangalore took a serious note of the highly objectionable and provocative statement and said, that the Christian community is greatly shocked and its susceptibilities are deeply wounded.

Shri Shukla's contention that attacking a Church is not illegal and that it violates no law is highly untenable and contrary to standards, norms and laws of the land. The Hindu Mahasabha leader's statement that Churches are no longer places of worship but factories for conversion of Hindus into Christianity is highly insinuating and derogatory. He further stated that the Central Government should protect and award the youth who attack Churches. He also claimed that the Taj Mahal was previously a Shiva Temple.

The Bishops observed that in recent times there has been an escalation of violence against Christians and other minorities together with highly unwarranted statements. All such attacks indicate a sinister pattern and evil design calculated to denigrate and defame the Christians, peace-loving and law abiding citizens of India.

During their deliberations the Standing Committee of the Catholic Bishops of India demanded that the Central and State Governments initiate swift action to put an end to such inflammatory and provocative statements; to halt of attacks on Christians and other minorities and to ensure that communal harmony and peace is not disturbed.

—Cardinal Baselios Cleemis Catholicos,  
President,  
Catholic Bishops' Conference of India

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# Image On Tilma “Completely Outside” Science

Soon it will be 484 years since Our Lady put her image on the cloak of a Mexican, St. Juan Diego. The ‘tilma’ has stood the test of time, and the phenomenon has no practical explanation. This awesome miracle has haunted me over the years. I have rare books, articles and research efforts done by physicists, scholars, writers and men of science on the cloak. But most of all, I wish to share a few incredible moments in the history of the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

If you are a firm believer in the miracle of Our Lady of Guadalupe’s “cloak-image”, physicist Adolfo Orozco’s research assessment made recently will make you shudder. Time and accidents have not destroyed the Marian image on the cloak, he said, adding, “there is no scientific explanation for the phenomenon. It’s incredible.”

The history of the ‘tilma’ bearing the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe began on the morning of December 9, 1531, feast day of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin. Juan Diego was a humble Mexican who had lost his wife Maria Lucia when she died suddenly in 1529. The shock of her passing away was unbearable and Juan decided to go and stay with his uncle in Tolpetlac. Every morning he would walk for miles over the rugged hills to hear Mass.

Two years later, in 1531, on that special December morning, he listened to the strains of music in the stillness- and to his wonderment he heard the voice of a woman, “Juanito ... Juan Dieguito” she gently called him. He looked up at the rocky hilltop, unafraid, and saw a Lady in a bright glow of overpowering light.

The Lady said, “ Know for certain, dearest of my sons, that I am the perfect and perpetual Virgin Mary, Mother of the True God, through whom ev-

erything lives, the Lord of all things, who is Master of Heaven and Earth. I ardently desire a teocalli (House of God) be built for me where I will show and offer all my love, my compassion, my help and my protection to the people. I am your merciful Mother, the Mother of all who live united in this land, and of all mankind, of all those who love me, of those who have confidence in me. Here I will hear their weeping and their sorrows, and will remedy and alleviate their sufferings, necessities and misfortunes. Therefore, in order to realize my intentions, go to the house of the Bishop of Mexico city and tell him that I sent you and that it is my desire to have a teocalli built here. Tell him all that you have seen and heard. Be assured that I shall be very grateful and will reward you for doing diligently what I have asked of you. Now that you have heard my words, my son, go and do everything as best you can.

Juan went reverently to the Bishop and after several visits to prove his case, the simple Mexican was finally to bring proof of Our Lady’s apparition ordered by the Bishop of Mexico City.

The Mexican walked back to the hilltop and as astonished to find roses growing where it was not the season or the place for roses. He gathered the roses in his tilma under the instruction of Our Lady and took it to the Bishop, laid out the roses before him and then, to the amazement of all, on the tilma or cloak was the imprint of



the Virgin.

The physicist, Adolfo Orozco who had spent many years researching on the miracle of the tilma made a presentation at a Marian Congress in Phoenix, America. Orozco stated that the image imprinted on St. Juan Diego’s tilma is “completely outside” any scientific explanation. He said the cloak should have decomposed years ago because of the humid, salty environment around the basilica where the tilma is kept in Mexico City.

A painted copy of the image, made in 1789 of a similar material had fallen apart in pieces. The natural life of the ayate fibre from which the tilma is woven is about 20 years ; the original tilma with the delicate cloth had hung in the open for a century. In our present century a bomb, directly below the image had exploded – but the tilma retained its pristine condition.

The original image remains intact even after 478 years. Orozco told his audience that even nitric acid had once accidentally spilled on a section of the cloth. He affirmed that there is no natural understanding how the image survives through time and destructive events.



BY MELVYN BROWN

# Turning Water Into Wine

## The Agricultural Revolution

by Francis Lobo

### THE AGRICULTURAL CRISIS

Recent events have highlighted the crisis in agriculture—the disasters and the economic imperatives. On the one hand there has been destruction of crops by unseasoned rains and hailstorms, the failure of the last monsoons, and the threat that the next monsoons may be the same. Bumper crops that had to be dumped because of drops in demands, fall in exports and un-remunerative pricing, indebtedness and inability to repay debts resulting in farmer suicides, floods and devastation in several states and rotting of farm produce. Added to these are the economic pressures that agriculture is not sustainable. It accounts for only 15% of GDP but has to support 2/3rd of the population. The children of farmers don't want to go into farming. With landholdings becoming more fragmented a change to new avenues for the farming community have to be created

All this flies in the face of what is happening on the other side of the road. The affluent, the celebrities, are buying farmland and farmhouses and getting bumper crops and making huge profits which are tax free. There are 2 Indias.

The crises are to be tackled on 3 fronts.

- 1) Make agriculture productive so that returns are competitive with industry and real estate
- 2) Introduce preventive and corrective measures like insurance and timely relief against disasters
- 3) Increase employment in rural areas through multi cropping, rural industries, non-farming activities, value additions, innovations and technology

### LEARNINGS FROM MANUFACTURING

Henry Ford applying ZERO based budgeting management techniques worked from first principles to determine the minimum cost of manufacture of a car from the basic raw material to the finished product. He found he could sell a car for \$500 and still make a profit, when the current price was \$16,000. This not only made cars cheap but the production, employment and wages jumped

by several orders of magnitude.

The same can be done in agriculture. Prepare a land inventory for what to do on each type of land. Determine the maximum yield for each unit of land, the minimum inputs required in terms of water, fertilizer, micro-nutrients, pesticides, labor. That quantum jumps are possible have been determined by inter and intra comparisons of crops, regions, countries. With the present inputs, if efficiently managed, yields can go up by several times.

### THE MIRACLE AT THE MARRIAGE FEAST

The Bible tells the story of how Jesus turned water into wine at a marriage feast when the wine had run out. He did it instantaneously. But in another place, he talks about the mustard seed and how miracles are possible every day.

Water is turned into wine daily in our farmlands with countless miracles and strange things happening. Water whose property is to flow downwards, instead flows upward through the trunk and branches.

Nutrients are absorbed from the earth leaving the waste behind. They get converted into sap and juice which are the raw material for the wine. The truck branches and the leaves support and protect the fruit till they are ready for harvesting. And the seeds have in them the power to ensure that they live on into posterity. The saying goes “you can tell the number of seeds in a fruit, but you cannot tell the number of fruit in the seed”

### THE POWER OF AGRICULTURE

Crude has its origin in the agricultural world. It was once considered a nuisance, destroying the crops and polluting the soil. Today it is the most valuable commodity on this planet. Apart from supplying energy, it is used to create tens of thousands of products for clothing, construction, fertilizers for food, medicines, plastics. So also agricultural products have the scope for catering to all human needs, food, clothing, houses, energy, medicines, soil conservation.

Unfortunately industrialization has dazzled the world and we have not looked at other avenues. It required the IT revolution to show us the opportunities in the unseen waves in the air in which we live. They have generated, myriad opportunities, millions of jobs and created billionaires. Let us not concentrate on manufacturing, which with mechanization and automation, is no longer a job creator. It rather results in the concentration of resources and power in the hands of a few which is inappropriate in the 21st century when people are enlightened and would like to participate in the decisions that change the future

### THE ROAD AHEAD

India can take the lead in the agricultural revolution. It had led in the white revolution, making India the No 1 Milk producer in the world. Through the green revolution, it has also made India an exporter of food.

In agriculture, every bit of produce has tremendous power and value packed into it from the skin to the seed. Agriculture should replace manufacturing as the driver of the economy. Every village should be self-sustaining, with the increase in non-farm employment, in services, tourism, education, health care etc. In 2010, the All India Employment was 32.1 %, with West Bengal at 47.3% and Kerala topping the list at 64.3%

Farming activities need to be diversified. The impact on our health and well-being. Agriculture has a big impact on nutrition, health, growth and development of children, control and cure of diseases. The returns have found to be of the order of 40-50 to 1

Social Impact Assessment (SIA) is a must to ensure that all aspects and all those effected are considered in any change in land use.

- The landless labor
- The children of tomorrow
- The Aged
- The Opportunities that are possible and which are being lost
- The protection of the ecology
- Lifecycle costs and benefits of

(Contd.. on p. 22)

# Inspiration!

## 24 Steps for a Productive 24-Hour

**W**hether you want to launch a successful business, get promoted to a management position within your company, or invent the next big social media network, in order to reach your goal, a brick by brick approach is going to have to be taken from the moment you get up until the second you fall asleep. Here is a guide to help you

### 1. Wake Up Early:

This might sound difficult to pull off, but doing so will provide you with more time to accomplish important tasks and activities. With limited distractions in the morning, this time has the potential to be your most productive part of the day.

### 2. Visually See Your Goals:

Write your goals on Post-It Notes on your bathroom mirror and read them twice a day until they're accomplished. Then post them on your bedroom mirror.

Visually seeing your goals each and every day will not allow for you to forget about what you are trying to accomplish. Looking at your goals each day will make your 24-hours more productive.

### 3. Watch Motivational Videos:

Let's face it; projects at work aren't going to go perfectly 100% of the time. It can be hard to stay motivated if something doesn't go your way. Each day before you open your first email, watch a motivational clip online to get your mindset in the right place.

### 4. Leave Drama Behind

If you want to be able to concentrate properly at work, there cannot be



drama and stress weighing over your head. If you got into an argument with your significant other the night before, make sure to make up before you start the workday. This will lead to a more productive day.

### 5. Eat a Healthy Breakfast:

Eating a wholesome, nutritious morning meal will get your body feeling great.

By recharging your brain and body, you'll be more efficient in just about everything you do.

### 6. Write Down Daily Goals:

Writing down daily goals will help you stay more organized and accomplish more.

### 7. Stay Hydrated:

According to the Mayo Clinic, the lack of water can lead to dehydration, a condition that occurs when you don't have enough water in your body to carry out normal functions. Even mild dehydration can drain your energy and make you tired.

Make sure to drink 8 glasses of water per day and you will see your energy levels over the course of the day start to increase.

### 8. Check Fewer Emails:

Start checking your inbox less frequently and start accomplishing more.

### 9. Do Something that Makes You

### Happy:

Life is too short not to enjoy each and every day. Incorporating an activity that makes you happy should be a part of your 24-hour schedule.

### 10. Workout:

doing some type of physical activity will be extremely beneficial for your health. Your physical and mental health will improve if you incorporate some type of workout into your daily routine.

### 11. Less Meetings:

If the meeting is scheduled for a shorter time span, the agenda can likely still get covered in a quicker and more efficient manner.

### 12. Reduced Commute Time:

Sometimes, your living situation can be hard to change. If you have the opportunity to make your commute shorter, this can greatly increase your effectiveness in the office and enhance your overall style of life outside of the workplace.

### 13. Do something that makes you uncomfortable:

Doing something that makes you uncomfortable each day will allow for you to stand out amongst the competition and accomplish goals you never thought could be achieved.

### 14. Don't Hold Grudges:

Make sure to focus on the present moment and the future and not waste your time on something that can't be changed from the past.

### 15. Reach Out to Influencers:

If you reach out to someone who is influential and the one whom you admire not only help you grow your network but also will keep you motivated.

### 16. Write A Journal Entry Each Day:

Venting in the form of written communication is also a great stress reliever.

(Contd.. on p. 22)

# Grooms



# MATRIMONIALS

MUMBAI : Tamilian Roman Catholic Bachelor, aged 40 years, Ht. 5' 9", Wt. 75 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.E. Electronics, Self employed, having own house. Contact email: cyril.khanna@yahoo.com OR 9867070056 (Regd. No. 6322)

MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, aged 40 years, Ht. 5' 10", Wt. 73 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Higher Secondary. working as a Fabricator in U.K. Contact email : savioeferns@gmail.com OR 9769054347 (Regd. No. 6321)

MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, aged 29 years, Ht. 5' 8", Wt. 82 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. H.S.C. + P.G. Diploma, working on Cruise Ship. Contact email : stanlyboba@yahoo.com OR 9869332407 / 22836151. (Regd. No. 6220)

MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, aged 46 years, Ht. 5' 8", Wt. 55 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. SSC, working as a LIC Agent Assistant. Contact : 9819266107 / 28954378 (Regd. No. 6219)

AMBERNATH : Roman Catholic Bachelor 18<sup>th</sup> June 1983 Born, Educational Three and Half years Diploma in Hotel Management and Catering Technology, Height 5'8" smart Charming with own accommodation. Working in Hotel Industry As Asst. Manager in Mumbai Father Govt. Pensioner, Mother I.C Nurse in Govt. Hospital Seeks Alliance from Catholic Spinster Contact: Mrs. Severine Dias Ambernath : 9960582206 (Regd. No. 6218)

MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, aged 35 years, Ht. 5' 11", Wt. 67 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. H.Sc. + Shipping Course, working as a Chief Officer in Ship. Contact email : veigasterrance@yahoo.com (Regd. No. 6215)

MUMBAI : RC Goan bachelor, 36 yrs, 5' 9", 58 kgs, wheatish complexion, youthful, pleasing personality, working as Senior Customer Ex-

ecutive seeks alliance from spinsters below 35 yrs. Contact email : greenarch644@gmail.com OR 9833930211 (Regd. No. 6214)

Pune : Tamilian RC Bachelor aged 42 years, Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 62 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Diploma Mech, Engg., Working for Govt. Concern. Well settled. Seeks a simple, qualified girl. Contact email : berland@rediffmail.com OR 9822397126 / 8097191727 (Regd. No. 6191)

Pune : Goan RC Bachelor aged 33 years, Ht. 5' 10", Wt. 65 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Diploma Holder, having own business. Seeks a Goan homely, family oriented girl. Contact email : inbluedreamz@yahoo.com OR 9881768210 (Regd. No. 6189)

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 : Mangalorean RC Bachelor, aged 34 years, Ht. 5' 10", Wt. 71 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Sc., Diploma in HRM, working as an Executive Asst., Secretary in MNC. Contact email : conrad\_2305@yahoo.co.in OR 9869661682 (Regd. No. 6319)

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)

KOLAPUR : Roman Catholic, Goan, 30 years, Ht. 5' 8", Wt. 75 kgs, Fair Complexion, Studing M.D., General

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

Medicine. Seeks a suitable match. Contact email : boom\_anup\_41@yahoo.com OR 9422628636 / 9273337666 (Regd. No. 6179)

MUMBAI : Goan RC Bachelor, aged 32 years, Ht. 5' 6", Wt. 70 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. MBA in Banking, working as a Auditor. Seeks a good natured, family oriented, smart, ambitious girl. Contact email : conrad\_rodrigues@rediffmail.com OR 26454896 / 65178959 (Regd. No. 6178)

MUMBAI : Mangalorean RC Bachelor, aged 34 years, Ht. 6' 2", Fair Complexion, Handsome, Edn. B.Com., & HTL Management, Working on Cruise Line as Supervisor, Seeks an educated, simple, Mangalorean girl above 5' 5", Email : marprop111@gmail.com (Regd. No. 6045)

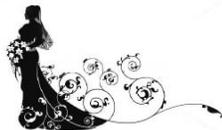
MUMBAI : Mangalorean RC Bachelor, aged 30 years, Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 74 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. HSC, working as a Band Bld operator. Seeks a simple, home, mangalorean working girl. Contact email : diana@mahindra.com OR 966447565. (Regd. No. 6091)

MUMBAI : Mangalorean RC 1st marriage annuled 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)

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**MUMBAI :** Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 29 years, Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 58kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.com., MBA, Diploma, working as a Manager - HR. Contact email : diaana\_5@yahoo.co.in OR 9967189785 / 9967064555 (Regd. No. 6324)

**MUMBAI :** Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 28 years, Ht. 5', Wt. 50 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. HSC (Beautician Course), Beautician by profession. Contact email : manuel.moreira555@gmail.com OR 9967217676 (Regd. No. 6323)

**MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 24 years, Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 47 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. T.Y. B.A / D.ed., Teacher by profession. Only Child. Contact email : tina.jennifer@rediffmail.com OR 9820957941 (Regd. No. 6285)

**MUMBAI :** Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 26 years, Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 58 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Sc., I.T. working as a Software Engineer. Contact email : marialns123@gmail.com OR 9833659905 (Regd. No. 6272)

**MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Born again Christian Spinster, aged 27 years, Ht. 5' 3", Wt. 60 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. M. Com., working in Dubai. Contact email : elle\_2k7@yahoo.co.in OR 00971-555404182 / 9833747558 (Regd. No. 6271)

**MUMBAI :** Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 25 years, Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 57 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. M.A., working in Private Firm. Contact email : jmae26@yahoo.co.in OR 9819440647 (Regd. No. 6269)

**MUMBAI :** Mahrastrian Protestant Spinster, aged 28 years, Ht. 5' 4", Fair Complexion, good looking, Edn. B.A. LL.B., Advocate by profession. Contact email : ruch\_20jan@yahoo.in OR

7738674508 (Regd. No. 6268)

**MUMBAI :** Mangalorean RC Spinster, aged 29 years, Ht. 5' 6", Wt. 62 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., M.Com., PGDBA., working as a Sales Executive in Chemicals Company. Contact email : joswin13@yahoo.com OR 09820914606 (Regd. No. 6262)

**NAVI MUMBAI :** Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 34 years, Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 60 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., presently working in U.K. Contact email : criscyalphonso@gmail.com OR 9594749903 (Regd. No. 6258)

**MUMBAI :** Mangalorean RC Spinster, aged Date of Birth 14-05-1983, Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 63 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. MSc. Nursing, working as a ICU Nurse in Abudhabi - UAE. Seeks a well educated Mangalorean Bachelor with good family values. Contact email : janydz\_1484@yahoo.com OR 9930076741 / 28918871. (Regd. No. 6257)

**KUWAIT :** Mangalorean RC Spinster aged 34 years, Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 58 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Com., Computer, Finance, Banking Marketing Course & Airlines Course completed, employed as a Travel Co-ordinator in Kuwait. Seeks a groom preferable working in Kuwait. Contact Email : lucy777p@gmail.com OR 00965-65686358 / 9867308911 (Regd. No. 6255)

**MUMBAI :** Mangalorean RC spinster 1973 born, 5' 5" tall, fair complexion with qualifications, B.Com. (Mumbai), M.B.A. Finance (Canada), M.B.A., (H.R.) and Diplomas in I.T. (NIIT), Comp. (APTEC), and Cert.Ind Acct. (I.C.A.), working in good position. Graduate / Post Graduate unmarried R.C. Bachelors upto 45 years, employed in good position and well settled in Mumbai or abroad. Contact email : bellwether77@yahoo.com or Mobile No. 9892700617. (Regd. No. 6166)

**DUBAI :** Mangalorean RC Spinster, aged 25 years, Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 65 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. BMS,

MBA Finance, working as a Bank Officer in Dubai, Contact email : pdsouza.acb@gmail.com OR 08970986766 (Regd. No. 6256)

**MUMBAI :** Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 25 years, Ht. 5', Fair Complexion, Edn. BMS, pursuing correspondence PGDBA, working for MNC as an Analyst. Looking for bachelors with good family background, well educated and well settled. Please reply with Bio-data and recent photograph. email : indyjonesm@gmail.com OR 9967509233 (Regd. No. 6234)

**MUMBAI :** Mangalorean RC Spinster, aged 26 years, Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 56 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.E., (IT), MS, working as a Sr. Software Engineer in USA. Contact email : wilfysouza@gmail.com OR 9869036355 (Regd. No. 6207)

**OSMANABAD :** Anglo Indian RC Spinster, aged 22 years, Ht. 5' 2", Wt. 45 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. M.E., Student. Contact email : janetshinde@g.mail.com OR 9422935470 (Regd. No. 6206)

**MUMBAI :** Mangalorean RC Spinster, aged 29 years, Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 65 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.E., working as a Sr. Analyst in MNC. Contact email : joe51in@yahoo.co.in or 9322282297 (Regd. No. 6203)

**MUMBAI :** Goan RC Spinster, aged 23 years, Ht. 5' 6", Wt. 58 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.A. (Hons), B.Ed., M.A. (Part), Teacher by profession. Contact email : cancer5belita@gmail.com OR 9892499656 (Regd. No. 6202)

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(Contd.. from p. 18)

a project

Agriculture has a big impact and we need to know how it can be used to change lives tyles and save the billions of dollars spent on diseases of the heart, diabetes, obesity etc. The power of our medicinal and ayurvedic plants have not even been tapped

The fragmentation of agriculture and land holdings has 2 options – Consolidation as is the conventional economic thinking or cooperatives. Cooperatives meet the need of freedom for the individual in the 21st century. However they have been ruined by traditional politics. Transformational politics must go hand in hand with the growth of cooperatives.

Finally agriculture depends on water, the universal vehicle for carrying life. It is everywhere and in everything. The scope for water preservation, conservation, recycling, purification are immense. We can prevent the water wars of the future by using water as the driving force of the economy as the waves in the air are driving the cyber world

(Contd.. from p. 19)

**17. Face-to-Face Meeting:**

Make sure to schedule a face-to-face meeting during your day. If you hold more face-to-face meetings each day, more important events will happen in your life.

**18. Don't Multi-Task:**

There is nothing worse than doing multiple projects with a mediocre result. Instead, focus on one-task and hit a homerun with that project.

**19. Drink Coffee:**

Having a cup or two of coffee before lunch can give your workday a nice jump-start with the added fuel. Just make sure not to drink too much, otherwise you can be mess-up your health.

**20. Plan Ahead:**

At the end of each day, plan ahead and make a "to do" list for all of the tasks you need to accomplish for the following day.

**21. Read Often:**

Reading can also help stimulate your

brain on a daily basis while helping you develop more ideas. Start reading each day and incorporating this into your routine!

**22. Organized Calendar:**

When there are a millions of things taking place in your day, it is hard to remember information pertaining to the future. An organized calendar will help you be productive for future events.

**23. Go to Bed Early:**

If you really want to make the most out of your 24-hours, you should start getting a good nights rest so you will have the proper energy to tackle all of the tasks that lay ahead of you.

**24. Smile:**

Start smiling more each day and enjoying everything that your life has to offer. This will help in many areas of your life.

You can read the The Secular Citizen Online at: [www.issuu.com/secularcitizen](http://www.issuu.com/secularcitizen)



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# THANKSGIVING They Prayed and Favours Granted

All your family problems, financial needs, purity, dangers, job, housing, happy death and other needs, pray to your favourite Saints from the bottom of your heart.  
Announce the favours granted.

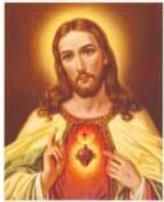
## Thanksgiving Ads & Announcements: -

	Colour	B/W
Favours granted minimum	Rs. 600	Rs. 400
i.e. 15 words + 1 block(1 photo of saint)		
each additional block	Rs. 400	Rs. 200
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Other small prayers (upto 100 words)	Rs. 1000	Rs. 600

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## Thanksgiving

Thanks to Sacred Heart of Jesus & St. Jude for the favours granted



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.

— Ms Flavia Rego, Dubai

## Divine Mercy

### Three O' Clock Prayer to the Divine Mercy

You expired, O Jesus, but the source of life gushed forth for souls and an ocean of mercy opened up for the whole world. O Fountain of Life, unfathomable Divine Mercy, envelop the whole world and empty Yourself out upon us. O Blood and Water, which gushed forth from the Heart of Jesus as a fountain of Mercy for us, I trust in You.



Amen.

—Mrs. Della Lewis, Goregaon

## PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT



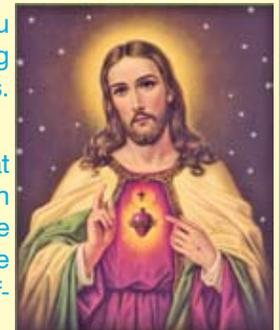
“Holy Spirit, thou who makes me see everything and shows me the way to reach the ideal. You who gives me the divine gift to forgive and forget the wrong that is done to me and are in all instances in my life with me. I, in this short dialogue want to thank you and confirm from you once more that never 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”.

—Mrs. Della Lewis, Goregaon

## Novena to the Sacred Heart of Jesus

Almighty arms of Jesus, before you I come with all my faith begging you for comfort in all my difficulties. Do not forsake me, Good Jesus.

Open your doors in my way that your Almighty Arms will open and close as you design to give me that tranquility that I so desire (make your petitions for three difficulties).



Oh my Jesus, receive that supplication from a wounded heart that is always fighting for me, with your divine power, never let me scramble for want of help. Almighty Jesus assist me to find a shelter in your celestial country ever AMEN.

Kindly note: This prayer start on Friday and must continue for 15 days. Make 4 copies and give away. Each day light a candle while praying and then put it out. Only one candle to be used for 15 days. Thank you my Lord for helping me in all my difficulties and special favours granted.

—Mrs. Della Lewis, Goregaon

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