

THE SECULAR CITIZEN

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A NATIONAL FAMILY WEEKLY

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THE SECULAR CITIZEN

Celebrating

25

Years

1991 - 2016



"HUM SAB EK HAI" Programme by BCS Vikhroli Unit

The Vikhroli Unit of the Bombay Catholic Sabha organized its 8th annual inter-religious programme titled "HUM SAB EK HAI" on 6th December, 2015. The Parish Priest Fr. Rocky Banz welcomed the speakers from Seven different faiths. The Chief Guest Adv. Magesh Sangli (Ex. MLA) along with Guest of Honour Mr. Prashant Das (Tal. President, NCP) Mr. Sanjay Kokane and Mr. Jayant Dandekar (Social Workers) graced the occasion. The others present at the event were Fr. Anthony Robins and Fr. Sanjeev Pereira, Besides many other important invites participating in the event created a strong impact of this unique programme.

The programme started with a dance prayer by the children of vikhroli which was Choreographed and Directed by Jessie J. D'souza. The lamp was lit by all the Priests Present of Different Religion. Each one prayed in their own way to the Almighty for unity and peace to remain for ever in this world. The



speakers also conveyed that India is a home of all religions and one needs to have mutual respect for each other. They also stressed on the fact that all religions teach brotherhood and harmony. All the dignitaries were felicitated by the members of the Vikhroli Unit. The programme ended with singing of the National anthem.

AFJ Jubilee Christmas Tree Party

The Ambassadors For Jesus had their annual Jubilee Christmas Tree on Sunday 13th December 2015 at the Divine Mercy Chapel, Calcutta.

Children from several parishes in the city attended and a few children from the suburbs graced the fun-filled occasion which began at eleven in the morning.

AFJ Founder Melvyn Brown was Father Christmas and he helped in giving away the gifts and prizes won by the children. Melvyn was assisted by his team of associates. Games galore won prizes for all participants, and all the children were treated to bags of presents to take away home, which included delightful edibles.

The members, associates and co-workers of the AFJ came forward in a big way to make the annual treat a big success. Our Founder thanks all those souls responsible in making this party in celebration of the birth of Jesus a memorable event.



'Thought for the week'

Write it on your heart that every day is the best day in the year

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Coming of a New Year

by Don Aguiar

A new year presents new hope; this is the best opportunity to start afresh and not get weighed down by the past year, it's that time of the year again! The winter season signals the year-end and tells us that a new dawn is approaching. As I see it, this "change of year" symbolism is important for two reasons: One, it allows us to take stock of the year that has gone by and second it provides us with the hope of being able to start afresh and not get weighed down by the past

How many of us apply the same amount of gusto to our lives today? As kids we just enjoyed the day. We didn't worry that our masterpieces would melt and disappear. The conditions didn't have to be perfect. We didn't worry about how much time we had. Whatever we built or fun we had was perfect exactly the way it was.

Wouldn't it be magical to bring some of that wonder back into our lives today as adults? I know some of you are saying, I don't remember having fun like that as a kid. Trust me you did, you probably have just forgotten how to play. As adults we can be pretty boring.

As a child you knew the value of being in the moment. Today many of us are so geared up we view ourselves as production robots doing more and more all the time. Society tells us that doing and having more is success. These are all important but our quality of life is key to peaceful living.

Just as days come straight after nights, so will opportunities come straight after difficulties; development and expansion will come straight after recession, and all - regularly, you can count on it

The New Year is a good time to reflect and is certainly an excellent time to plan and decide what you are going to do and accomplish this year. I also encourage you to think and ponder about who you want to "be" this year. Many times we get so caught up in doing that we forget who we are being and who we are becoming.

In the movie 'Tamasha', Ranbir Kapoor's character struggles to cope with a mediocre corporate job and yearns to be something his heart and his girlfriend tell him to be - a storyteller. He creates his livelihood and achieves fame through a unique theatre musical format. He carves his own destiny. How many of you are stuck in boring corporate jobs? How many of you wish to break out and follow your dreams? Now's the time.. Give careful thought to what you want to do though and give it a 5 year window. Anything less and you haven't given yourself enough of a chance. Do something you enjoy, else you will give up in the trough of sorrow!

At this time of year I encourage you to choose a theme to embrace for the year. For you this could be the year you choose to incorporate more balance in your life, maybe it is spirituality, patience, nurturing or peace. Choosing a theme can help you stay anchored in being who you want to be this year.

What will this year 2016 be about for you? Will life be a grand adventure or will it be more of the same as 2015? Chances are if you do the same things as last year you will get

(Contd.. on p. 4)

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the same result. Is there an area of your life that could use a new beginning? Could your health use a new beginning or your relationship with your spouse? Could your career or business use a jolt of new energy? Set your intention and steer yourself in that direction. Sound easy? Remember lasting change happens over time.

A new year will always begin at the end of the previous year - guaranteed.

The purpose of this article is to raise a few questions you should ask yourself:

1. How do you take advantage of this fascinating fact that at the beginning of each year you get a new, blank page? - A page that is waiting for you to fill it with: your dreams, aspirations and goals
2. How many times you find yourself filling this blank page with old and irrelevant ideas from last year?
3. Are you using an ineffective approach / life philosophy from previous years?

Answering these questions will help you become more aware of content that you pour into the New Year.

A new year always brings new opportunities, as well as old opportunities we already forget of. True, some of those opportunities could be implemented during the year - however, the beginning of the year brings a special atmosphere that motivates action, and that's - an opportunity!

Are you looking forward to the New Year or are you bogged down with unfinished tasks from this year? No matter what sort of year you have had, you still have the opportunity to end this year on a high, and start the New Year on a positive note.

You will have had a number of successes in the last twelve months and it is important to acknowledge them. At the same time, you can learn from those things that did not quite go the way you had hoped.

Here are some simple ways of ending this year powerfully.

1. Review the year that is about to end. Write down some of the highlights of all the good things that happened to you. You will be surprised just how much goodness and happiness you have actually had this year. Write down all your achievements such as "I did more exercise", "I gave up junk food" or "I wrote a book".
2. Share and celebrate your successes this year with your family and friends. This self acknowledgement and appreciation will be a great platform for the New Year.

You deserve it. As usual, being grateful for the goodness already in your life makes it possible for you to receive even more. Celebrating your successes is also a key step in having the confidence to take on new challenges in the New Year.

3. Send greetings of appreciation and thanks to those people who have helped make this year special for you. Use the normal Xmas paper cards, or better still, be economical and environmentally friendly and use email or internet ecards. Express gratitude for your past alliances and at the same time, forge stronger friendships for the future.
4. Review your current to do list for work. Be ruthless and eliminate as many tasks as you can, without doing them. Then choose just one task and get it done before the end of the year. Finally, throw away your unfinished to do list and do not write another one till next year. You will be surprised how great it will feel not having a list of things to do.
5. Finish off any unresolved matters. Look at completing any small unfinished and niggling tasks around the house, such as oiling any squeaky door hinges, and make sure that these things do not play on your mind early in the New Year
6. Clear up some clutter. Go around the house room by room, collect those things you no longer want and either dump or give to a charity shop. Have a clear space so that the New Year can begin to bring you greater prosperity. Be ruthless and do not wait till spring time to clear your unwanted stuff.
7. Go through your important paperwork and bring up to date as much as possible. You do not want to start the New Year worrying about mundane administration tasks. If you use a computer, then delete any old and unnecessary files and emails.
8. Review how you have spent your time this year, and identify those things that have been draining your energy. Make a plan to eliminate those relationships that no longer work for you. Look at smarter ways of spending your time. Begin to say NO this year to things that you don't really want to do. Unsubscribe from newsletters, magazine, email groups so that your time is not cluttered up in the New Year.
9. Be different and do something new. Before the end of the year, do something that you have never done before. For example, go and see a children's pantomime on your own, take a city tour guide or dine in a restaurant you would have never thought of trying. End the year on a new voyage of discovery and child like curiosity.
10. Start walking every day for at least 20

minutes until the New Year begins. Not only will you feel great but you will be avoiding the weight gain problems so common during the Christmas season. Also, you might just enjoy the walking so much that it could become a great new habit for the New Year.

11. Rest and relax. Though you will get busy with some of the above suggestions, it is also important to take it easy now for a day or two and do nothing. Sleep in all day, or just laze about in front of the TV.

Recharge yourself before the New Year 2016 kicks in.

No matter how the year ends for you, just remember that it has been a great year. And next year you can make it even better.

Yes, there are many things that can and should be done on the arrival of a new year, and with no doubt this article is just a nutshell.

However, it's guaranteed that if you make sure to take advantage of the opportunities, every year - there is no doubt that the new year will take you one step further toward your success, and so will the following year.

I'd like to end this article with the following quote:

Don't wish for things to be easier - wish to be better.

Don't wish for fewer problems - wish yourself to have more skills.

Don't wish for less challenges - wish for more wisdom.

"Start by doing what's necessary; then do what's possible; and suddenly you are doing the impossible."

- Saint Francis of Assisi

"Take the first step in faith. You don't have to see the whole staircase, just take the first step."

- Martin Luther King, Jr.

Take time to smell the roses or at this time of year, get out and play and make some fresh tracks in 2016.

I wish you and your loved ones - a year of success, a year of fulfilling dreams... may the year bring you new opportunities and challenges and may you find the inner strength in yourself to grow through them.

A Happy New Year!





Challenges Facing Women in the Workplace

An international seminar on, "Women and Work", organized by the Pontifical Council for Laity, took place in Rome on 04-05, Dec. 2015. About 100 participants discussed the challenges facing 'professional women' trying to balance the demands of their careers and their family life. The seminar will be especially looking into the gender pay gap, as well as innovative solutions to help women overcome discrimination in the workplace.

Pope Francis expressed his hope that the symposium will help to affirm the indispensable role of women in the family, in the formation of children, as well as the essential contribution of women workers in the building up of economic structures, and a politics worthy of humanity.

One renowned Australian publication in 1999, "Women and Man: One in Christ Jesus", by Donella Johnston, notes that women out-participate men in all areas of Church life except in the Ordained Ministry. In education, healthcare and social services, it revealed that women perform respectively around 70%, 80% and 90% of the labor.

Ms. Donella pointedly remarked that in India, Bishops now also have a remarkable gender policy. Several goals of the report have yet to be achieved, but the vision is there. And if I may add, for Scripture does not differentiate: "... There is neither male nor female, for we are all one in Christ Jesus" (Galatians 3:28).

—**Dr. Trevor Colaso, Banda (West). (Now at Memphis, TN, USA)**

The Fourth Wiseman

"The Fourth Wiseman", published in the Christmas issue of The Secular Citizen, is copied and not original.

Hence the author should have given due credit to the writer from whom he has copied this story.

This story does not appear in the Bible because it is presumed to be just a hypothesis.

The Story of the Other Wise Man is a short novel or long short story by Henry van Dyke. It was initially published in 1895[1][2] and has been reprinted many times since then. Any story from a novel cannot be reproduced without the author's permission.

The Fourth Wiseman is also a movie. The story of Artaban, the fourth Magi, who spends his life looking for Jesus his King.

Director: Michael Ray Rhodes
Writers: Tom Fontana (teleplay), Henry van Dyke (short story)

Stars: Martin Sheen, Alan Arkin, Eileen Brennan

All this information is available on the NET. Kindly publish this letter, since plagiarism is an unethical practice.

—**Vera Alvares**

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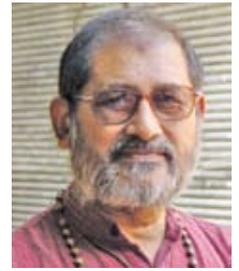
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Ban-Galore



by chhotebhai *

Ban-Ban-Bangs-galore! This time it's not the BJP, but the AAP Govt in Delhi that is subscribing to the Big Ban theory; from which even the Supreme Court seems to have taken a cue. The BJP banned beef and eggs. In France the hijab is banned. Recently Whatsapp was temporarily banned in Brazil. Now cars in Delhi will be banned for 15 days depending on whether they have odd or even numbers. The Supreme Court has then gone and banned the sale of 2000+ cc diesel SUVs for three months in Delhi.

Ironically, when the BJP earlier tried to ban porn websites the literati and liberati cried foul, with the Govt quickly capitulating! Are we then to believe that we Indians, cutting across religious and party lines, value our porn more than our corn? But for the endangered environment we won't mourn.

In the present instance in Delhi the alarm bells rang because of suffocating air pollution, accentuated with the onset of the winter fog. The jury is still out on which type of vehicles are the real polluters. What we have forgotten is that the sudden increase in air pollution was occasioned by Diwali crackers, and the burning of paddy stubble in the Capital's agricultural hinterland. Earlier paddy was manually harvested with a sickle at ground level and the straw used for fodder or thatched houses. Now paddy in Punjab and Haryana is harvested by huge combine harvesters, which leave half the straw in the fields. This hinders ploughing for the winter sowing. So farmers resort to burning the stubble, polluting the air and also depleting the soil of precious nutrients. But I have not heard of any Govt or court banning firecrackers or damaging agricultural practices.

Be that as it may, Delhi's air pollution is largely a man made disaster; be-



cause of society's callous attitude and successive Govt's lopsided planning. Does anybody remember the Tata Nano that had an attractive introductory price of just Rupees One Lakh? It bombed. Why? Because we Indians, especially in the north, are obsessed with everything big – big fat weddings, big bellies, big boobs, and yes, big cars. No nano stuff please. SUVs are offroaders, and advertised as such on TV. But the urban rich use them; though they may occasionally offroad to mow down poor people sleeping on the pavements. They are also a status symbol for politicians, the environment be damned. The Govt or the courts cannot change peoples' mindset.

But Govts can do macro planning and introduce disincentives. Remember the "good old days" where we had just three models – Ambassador, Fiat and Standard Herald? About 30 years ago the Maruti 800 burst on the horizon, as a refreshing alternative. Now we have countless car manufacturers, models and variants. We have cars, but no roads parking space or trees to absorb the toxic emissions.

In contrast what is our production of mass rapid transport systems (MRTS) – trains, buses and metros? In the 68 years after Independence we have added barely 25% of rail track to what was laid down by the British. We still have just two manufacturers of big buses – Tata and Ashok Leyland. We have just about awoken to the utility of

suburban and metro trains (and I'm not talking about the 98,000 Crore overpriced, impractical and elitist Bullet Train).

I live in Kanpur and was able to access the Detailed Project Report (DPR) of the proposed Kanpur Metro. It has some interesting data. In 2011 the city's vehicular population was 7,09,804, which climbed to 9,50,968 in 2014 (an annualized growth of 11.3%). In contrast, according to the Census of India 2011, our decadal population growth rate was 17.7% (annualized at 1.8%). This means that vehicular growth rate is 6½ times more than that of the population. With growing prosperity and social aspirations this is bound to increase further.

Lest I sound sanctimonious I must admit that my family has been road aficionados for generations. My grand father was a life member of the Royal Society of Carriage and Automobile Manufacturers, at a time when automobiles were not much different from horse-drawn carriages. He owned the first car in Kanpur, a steam fired chain driven contraption with wooden wheels, probably made by Daimler. He also owned the earliest Ford Model T. I myself enjoy long road trips, and my son is a professional biker and cyclist too.

But the time has now come to draw the line somewhere. We just cannot go on burning up scarce fossil fuels, to fuel our desires; as also wars over oil. When Pope Francis was elected two years ago he appealed to priests and nuns to stop using cars, and switch to bicycles. He is on record saying that it is a crime for them to be

(Contd.. on p. 8)

Advice To Catholic Parents...

On 5th Dec. 2015, Pope Francis met with the Association of Catholic School Parents, on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of its foundation.

He encouraged participants to promote an education focused on the fullness of humanity, with an authentic humanism. He reiterated a call he made recently to the World Congress of Educators – that Catholic education must make room for everyone, and must not select recipients in an elitist manner.

He emphasized the role of parents as primary educators: “As parents you are custodians with the duty and with the primary and indispensable right to educate children in a positive way; so as to ensure that schools live up to the task, especially when education is intended to be truly Catholic! Never dispose off human and Christian values which testify to the worth of the family and society.”

“Further, there is no challenge more noble than when ‘bridges are built’; between school and country, school and family, and school and civil institutions. He persuaded parents to bond where division advances, and to generate harmony and peace in preference to exclusion and rejection.”

He concluded with a reference to the holy family of Nazareth, wherein “Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature, and in favor with God and man” (Luke 2:52).

—**Dr. Trevor Colaso, Bandra
Now at Memphis, TN, USA**

A Christmas Message

On Christmas Day, the Birthday of Jesus Christ is celebrated by Christians all over the world. Millions of people of all faiths also join in this celebration of Peace, Joy and Harmony. The Holy Bible tells us that, at his birth, in the little town of Bethlehem, in the Land of Israel, on a starry night, nearly 2,000 years ago, a bright angel appeared in the heavens and announced to a group of lowly shepherds, keeping night-watch over their flocks, "Behold, I bring you Good News of a great joy - a child has been born for you. He is Christ the Lord." Soon the angel was joined by a large choir of angels singing, "Glory to God in the highest; and on earth, peace to men of goodwill."



The birth of Jesus, as a little babe, shows the world that God loves all his creatures and all human beings, and that we are all God's children - brothers and sisters of his Son, Jesus, the 'Emmanuel', namely, 'God with us'. He was welcomed with great love by his simple village parents, Mary and Joseph, in a humble stable, amidst sheep and cattle, and surrounded by the lovely hills and valleys of Judea. It does appear that all creatures of the earth also welcomed their Lord with open arms. Jesus grew up to be the "greatest teacher mankind has ever known", as Mahatma Gandhi wrote. He always practised what he preached; went about doing good and working wonders and miracles to help the poor; and finally, gave his life for all mankind, by willingly accepting a cruel death on a cross to bring God's forgiveness and salvation to all of us, sinful human beings, and restore harmony to the whole of creation. Even though he was being insulted and abused by his enemies, while hanging on the cross, his dying words were, "Father forgive them, for they know not what they do."

Christmas Day is celebrated with both devotion and gaiety everywhere: with solemn church services where Christ's message of peace, harmony and joy is proclaimed; joyful singing of Christmas songs or carols; lighted stars and evergreen Christmas trees of all sizes, and attractively decorated cribs depicting scenes of the birth of Christ. As a sign of the peace and brotherhood that Jesus brings, people give gifts to the poor and needy and share presents among themselves. The celebrations included dazzling fireworks, glittering displays of multi-coloured lights, and lavish decorations on houses and buildings. There are also warm exchanges of Christmas wishes and greeting-cards, meetings for joyful family meals and cheerful gatherings for various social celebrations in parishes and neighbourhoods.

In the 4th century, in the town of Myra (in what is now modern Turkey), there was a very generous and charming bishop, known as St. Nicholas, who used to go about giving gifts to the poor and to children at Christmas. This kind, Christ-like Bishop was mainly responsible for the custom of gift-giving, which soon spread all over the world. He is the original Santa Claus, known to the world for hundreds of years as 'Father Christmas'. It was only in the 1930s, that the advertising genius of the Coca-Cola Company in the United States, captivated the world, at Christmas time, with the figure of Santa Claus, as we know it today - an old man, with a flowing white beard, dressed in a red robe, wearing a red cap, and riding a carriage drawn by reindeers across the snow, distributing gifts to children. Since then, films, radio and TV, and the song, "Jingle Bells", have made this new figure of 'Santa Claus' so popular that people have almost forgotten that Christmas Day is actually the birthday of Jesus Christ! They need to be reminded that it is the Lord Jesus, with his eternal message of peace and joy to the world, who is at the origin and centre of Christmas. He is God's greatest gift to humanity - much greater than all the gifts, which all the Santa Clauses put together, can give us. "A Merry Christmas, filled with the Peace and Joy which the Lord Jesus brings to one and all, not forgetting Brother Sun, Sister Moon, Brother Air, Sister Water, Mother Earth and all the wonderful creatures around us."

—**Jose ph M. Dias, S.J.**

New Year Resolution's

START AFTER THE END

Everyone is excited about this Happy New Year

**A New Year,
A New Start and
Way to Go**

Envision your New Year Resolution's.

Though it is believed that New Year resolutions are a concept of the west, understanding is that from time immemorial every individual looks forward for a new beginning and begin fresh, in the beginning of a new calendar year. By gone's are bye gone's. Now leap forward, open up a new chapter by listing your accomplishments of the previous year and add new future goals. It's though hard but can be cultivated. Remember resolutions are not some sort of life changing events, it helps look forward. It's an affirmation that you're interested in fully living in the year to come.

Your success and happiness lies within you. Always resolve to live a life of contentment and positivity. Discover what you would like to have happened in your life this 2016. It's a time when all hopes are new, there are new aspirations and renewed spirits. So with these thoughts build your life. Your new year is what you make it. Move in to the New Year with great expectations and work towards fulfilling it.

Remember then there will be a meaningful chapter waiting to be written.

A word of Caution:

Generally most people's New Year Resolution tends to revolve around the same things – *I won't do this – I*

2016
HAPPY NEW YEAR

won't do that.

Are New Year resolutions made to be broken?

Instead –

visualize in concrete terms.

Let your goals be specific, measurable and realistic which can be achieved. Don't let any setbacks derail your momentum.

New Year Resolutions are normally personal goals for personal purposes. However we are social animals and live in a society and community. Let's keep in mind how as individuals we can contribute towards the welfare of the society and obligation towards our community.

The least we can do is, comply with the existing local, state and National laws, relevant to the operations of your day to day working.



2016
HAPPY NEW YEAR

(Contd.. from p. 6)

buying the latest models of cars. He himself uses a very small car, even when he went to the UN recently. But I have yet to see priests and nuns cycling around. Taking a cue from the Pope and, yes, from my son, I have also started using a cycle two years ago, and I motivate others to do the same.

My 12-year-old Maruti 800 is now on its last legs. I do need to buy a new car, funds permitting. Hopefully, it will be CNG. I fail to understand why the Govt cannot increase the number of CNG stations and popularize this clean fuel by reducing the excise duty on such vehicles and taxes on the gas; instead of flaring it at every oil refinery. It is a criminal waste of precious natural resources.

So on the one hand while society must take a long hard look at itself, and its expensive/ expansive choices, Govts must also come up with far reaching policies to increase the MRTS, encourage cleaner fuels, and deter private vehicles. A sure fire deterrent would be to ban (haha – ban) banks from giving loans for the purchase of private vehicles, be they two or four wheelers. Till then the odds will even out on bans galore.

** The writer is the Convenor of the Kanpur Nagrik Manch*

CHEERS TO NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS MAY IT BE A MEMORABLE ONE – GO MAKE IT!!!!

HAPPY 2016

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2016
HAPPY NEW YEAR

Whither

Minorities?



BY FR. CEDRIC PRAKASH
SJ

It is December 18th: 'Minority Rights Day' once again! Given the fact that minorities all across the world were subject to systematic targeting by 'majoritarianism' and in order to strengthen the cause of the minorities, the United Nations promulgated the 'Declaration of the Rights of Persons belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities' on 18th December 1992 proclaiming that "States shall protect the existence of the National or Ethnic, Cultural, Religious and Linguistic identity of minorities within their respective territories and encourage conditions for the promotion of that identity".

India's greatness has always been in her rich tapestry of diversity and pluralism; the sub-continent has been a 'potpourri' of cultures, religions, ethnicities, languages wherein the wealth of each, however seemingly insignificant, was recognised and appreciated. Sadly, however, all that India has epitomised these past centuries has received a severe drubbing with consistent acts of intolerance particularly on minorities since June 2014.

Instances can be highlighted ad nauseam: the ghastly murder of Akhlaq in Dadri village following a rumour that he had slaughtered a cow and eaten its meat (this was proved to be totally untrue); the murder of rationalists like Kalburgi and Dabholkar who thought differently and who challenged the obscurantism propagated by right-wing fundamentalists; the hegemony by some of the majority community on what others (particularly the minorities) should eat, drink, wear or see; the abusive and derogatory remarks made on the minorities



by officials and other functionaries of the ruling class; the manipulation of school curriculum to foist a 'majoritarian' agenda; the continued insistence by the Government to rename December 25th (which is Christmas, a sacred day for Christians - the birth of Jesus Christ), as 'Good Governance Day' and make it mandatory for Government employees to work on that day.

In spite of the grim ground reality, the Government of India will continue its act of tokenism with some cosmetic programmes on December 18th in order to propagate a myth that 'all is well' with the minorities of the country. There will be photo-ops with some minority religious leaders 'to prove the point'. One is sure however that there will be no political will to rein in those who continue minority bashing and who apparently have the complete support of 'those-on-the-top'.

On September 12th 2014, eminent jurist Fali Nariman delivering the annual lecture of the National Commission of

Minorities (NCM), strongly asserted that "Hinduism is losing its traditional tolerance because some Hindus have started believing that it is their faith that has brought them political power – and because this belief is not being challenged by "those at the top". Nariman's words were like pouring water on a duck's back; there have been manifold instances of attacks on minorities ever since that lecture.

The observance of December 18th is not about 'minority-ism': heightening the fears and insecurities of minorities but rather of the ability and courage of those who belong to majority communities to tangibly show that in India all have their space, rights and freedom.

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

NESCOM Holds First Convention

Guwahati: The North-East Social Communications (Nescom) in collaboration with the Indian Catholic Press Association (ICPA) organised the first North-Eastern regional convention of Nescom at Montfort Provincial House in Guwahati from December 4 to 6. The theme of the convention was "Communication Media and Evangelisation in North-East."

Inaugurating the convention, Chairman of the CBCI Office for Social Communications and bishop of Baruipur in West Bengal, Most Rev Salvadore Lobo stressed on social communications and the need to change the system of evangelisation and the mentality of communications.

In his presidential address at the inaugural function on December 4, Archbishop of Guwahati Most Rev John Moolachira spoke about the situation



Archbishop John Moolachira addressing the convention. The others in the picture are Fr Barnes Mawrie, Bishop Salvadore Lobo, Bishop George Pallipampil and Bishop Thomas Pullopillil.

ever capacity possible.

The keynote address to the convention on Regional Languages and Evangelisation in the North-East was given by Fr Dr Barnes Mawrie, president of the Sacred Heart Theological College, Mawlai.

Director of Nescom and president of ICPA Fr Alfonso Elengikal briefed the participants about his personal contacts with bishops and others in the field during the past two months to prepare the ground work for the convention. He also welcomed the participants. ICPA secretary Jose Vincent proposed the vote of thanks. Brothers in formation of the Society of St Paul in Guwahati rendered a melodious welcome song.

The others who addressed the three-day convention included Fr Johson Parackal, Director of the Don Bosco Institute, Guwahati; Fr Michael Makri, Director of Social Media and Pasto-

ral Ministry in Shillong; Fr Shaibu, Director of Fransalian Communication Centre in Guwahati; Editor of Shillong Times Ms Patricia Mukhim; Fr George Plathottam, former Director of Niscort, Delhi; Superior-General of MSMHC sisters, Sr Philomena Mathew, Provincial Superior of FMA sisters in Guwahati, Sr Elizabeth George; Provincial of Montofort Brothers in Guwahati, Bro M K Devassy, Fr Vincent Wilson, Director of NATFORM from Nagercoil, Sr Christine, Councillor of MSMHC sisters; Sr Shiji James, Ex-

Nominations For ICPA Awards

The Indian Catholic Press Association invites nominations for three annual awards to be conferred on selected journalists/writers/publications during the Association's National Convention and General Body meeting to be held at Ishwani Kendra, Pune from March 11-13, 2016.

The awards are in the following categories:

- 1) Fr Louis Careno Award for an outstanding journalist/institution in India in English or any other recognised Indian language other than Hindi.
- 2) Swami Devanand Chakkungal Award for a journalist/institution in India for outstanding contribution to journalism and literature in Hindi language.
- 3) Award for Best reportage on SC, ST for a journalist/publication for promoting/campaigning the cause of the SC, ST.

The last date for nominations is 31 January 2016.

For further details, please contact the President, Fr Alfonso Elengikal (+919833807756)
e-mail: alfonsoelengikal@gmail.com or Secretary, Jose Vincent.K.J. (+919746545115)
e-mail: jvincent@rediffmail.com

ecutive Committee member of Signis, North-East and Fr Amalraj, Deputy Secretary of North-Eastern Bishops Conference.

A special award in the name of Blessed Alberione for 2015 was presented to Salesian Father Sebastian Ishoray for translating Bible into Bodo language. The others who were honoured on the occasion for their media works were Fr Hilarius Lamare from Jowai, Fr Thomas Mankin from Tura, Mr Pores Aind of Assam Tribune from Dibrugarh and Fr UV Jose, SDB from Nongpoh.

Nescom's operational area comprises 15 dioceses of North-East and was started in 2000.

—Jose Vincent K J, Secretary, ICPA



Bishop Salvadore Lobo addressing the convention. Fr Barnes Marie and Archbishop John Moolachira are seen

and life of people in North-East and the need to showcase the life of Jesus to all.

Chairman of the Office for Social Communications in North-East and bishop of Miao, Most Rev George Pallipampil threw a challenge to the participants to make the best use of all that is available with them in their evangelisation efforts.

Bishop of Bongaigaon Most Rev Thomas Pullopillil offered his unstinted support to Nescom and ICPA in what-

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Description of Bride/Groom you need.

Baptised Parish/Church _____

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I understand that the Registration and service charges paid by me is only for getting the contacts which is non-refundable.

During the period, I shall provide any other information required by you whenever needed.

Signature

Is The Monkey Under Your Bed?

by **Capt. Mervin John Lobo**

Many were the legends of Mary of the Middle Ages. They were one avenue through which the people developed a child-like confidence in the Mother of God. For the fundamental object of all these incidents was one: to depict the great mercy of Christ, Blessed Mother and to show the power of her intercession for the soul gone astray on repentant sinner. Better than some doctrinal tract, they acted forcibly to teach the universally accepted truth that all God's graces come to us through the hands of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Charming are the legends of Mary in the literature of Church chronicles. For legend at that time did not mean some tale or fable. It signified a real event or occurrence, *res legendae* in Latin, a thing to be read. A story to be written down and told and believed. Great men of learning of the Church, like St. Alphonsus de Liguori and St. Francis de Sales, believed in these *res legendae*. They utilized them as a catechetical form of instruction, and wrote them in their books so that they could instruct the faithful and be read for all times.

In the city of Naples, (Italy), in the early fifteenth century, a certain distinguished gentleman began to entertain the modern notions of the day critical of the Catholic Church. Soon he had abandoned the practice of the Faith and was causing great scandal among the faithful for his open ridicule of those who frequented the Sacraments and practiced popular pious devotions.

Nonetheless, his affairs prospered, as so often happens among the men of this world. He became famous for the marvelous feasts and Parties that he frequently hosted in his palatial residence. Of particular interest to all was an unusual little steward who would serve the astonished guests. Dressed in a charming red velvet and gold braid vest and hat, serving plates with perfect propriety, and then offering charming displays of acrobatics, was

none other than a grinning little monkey!

It was the talk of the city, and many the ladies who pleaded with their husbands to accept the invitations to a feast put on by the avowed agnostic so that they might witness the marvelous sight! Before too long, the gossip about the strange steward reached the ears of a parish priest renowned for his holiness and virtue. But instead of dismissing the talk or issuing warning about attending the Parties of one so opposed to the Holy Church, the priest asked to receive an invitation to the next gala event to see for himself the truth of this talk.

The host at first desisted – none of those foolish, sour-faced clerics would set food on his premises! But in the end, his spirit of pride conquered: he wanted to flaunt the feats and antics of his devoted little four-footed servant to the credulous priest. The invitation was issued. The evening arrived, and the priest rang at the bronze gates of the palace some time after the festivities had begun.

"A priest begging leave to enter my hall," his jovial host remarked at his entrance. "Will wonders never cease! But, indeed, this is a house of wonders."

"Yes, so I have heard," the priest calmly replied. "And truly I must say I am interested to see this amazing sight of a monkey who serves a man."

The host immediately rang his special silver bell that called his peculiar steward to his presence. But the monkey, who only moments before had been charming a group of ladies with his antics, did not appear. The baffled host shook his head in amazement. This was the first time it had failed to respond to his call. The priest insisted: he had come expressly to see this strange sight and would not be deprived of the pleasure. The host called again. No reply. The monkey seemed to have disappeared. A search of the house was made and finally the creature was discovered, shaking in his velvet suit under the bed of the host. It was dragged out from under

the bed, the little creature trembling and struggling to escape the presence of the priest.

"Now," the priest demanded, "I command you in the name of the Almighty God, Three in One, to tell your master who you are and what is your purpose in this house." Forced to obey, the furious, still trembling monkey spat out these words to his shocked master. "I am no ordinary beast. I am a demon from hell who has taken on the form of a monkey who attends to your every bid and call. And so I do, but I await under your bed every night for the first night that you might leave off that abominable custom taught to you by your mother of saying three Hail Mary's before you retire. For then, and only then, do I have permission to strangle you in your sleep and drag your soul to the eternal fires."

With these words spoken, the writhing monkey disappeared. The arrogance and mocking manner of the host faded with the wretched creature. Ashen faced and shaken, he turned to the priest. "Ah, my fortunate man," the holy man said. "For fortunate indeed you have been to have retained this small devotion to the Mother of Mercies, who never abandons even the most wretched who have recourse to her." "He heard the confession of the man, who became a model of faith in the city and was especially renowned for his tender devotion to the Virgin Mary.

How many of us in our journey through life have felt the presence of a monkey under our beds? And how many of us have experienced the goodness and mercy of Mary, who until the end of the world will never cease relieving the miseries of man and flying to their aid to return them to the path of truth, the Holy Catholic Church? The Mother of Mercy, she stays the hand of justice of her divine Son for all who invoke her, even for three Hail Mary's.

This story is proof of the words of St. Bernadine de Bustis. This great Lady is more desirous to grant us graces than we are desirous to receive the."

Pan, Must For Deals Above Rs 2 Lakh

and move towards a cashless economy. Amendment in the Income-tax Rules shall take effect from January 1, 2016.

The Government is committed to curbing the circulation of black money and widening of tax base. To collect information of certain types of transactions from third parties in a non-intrusive manner, the income-tax Rules require quoting of PAN where the transactions exceed a specified limit. Persons who do not hold PAN are required to fill a form and furnish any one of the specified documents to establish their identity.

One of the recommendations of the Special Investigation Team (SIT) on Black Money was that quoting of PAN should be made mandatory for all sales and purchases of goods and services where the payment exceeds Rs.1 lakh. Accepting this recommendation, the Finance Minister made an announcement to this effect in his Budget Speech. The Government has since received numerous representations from various quarters regarding the burden of compliance this proposal would entail. Considering the representations, it has been decided that quoting of PAN will be required for transactions of an amount exceeding

Rs.2 lakh regardless of the mode of payment. Besides, the ministry rationalised monetary limits for certain transactions requiring mandatory quoting of PAN. The monetary limits for sale or purchase of immovable property have been raised from Rs.5 lakh to Rs 10 lakh, and that for hotel or restaurant bills raised from Rs 25,000 to 50,000. Sale or purchase of shares of an unlisted company has been raised from Rs.50,000 to Rs 1 lakh.

CBDT (Central Board of Direct Taxation) clarifies that opening of a no-frills bank account such as a Jan Dhan account shall not require PAN but stated that the requirement of quoting PAN shall continue to apply to opening of all bank accounts including in co-operative banks; CBDT states that "The above changes in the rules are expected to be useful in widening the tax net by non-intrusive methods. They are also expected to help in curbing black money

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"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 that is done to me and who are in all instances in life with me. I, in this short dialogue want to thank you for everything and confirm once more that 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.

—J.W. Martis, Mumbai

A Genuflection At The Year's End



BY MELVYN BROWN

The year 2015 was no tryst with destiny but a twist of sorrow, suffering and surprise. Not everything was to moan about, yet, the stab of evil has had a crimson underflow.

Over the last weeks of this inglorious year, the German Chancellor Angela Merkel was named by Time magazine, "Person of the Year" after days of infighting and a shortlist which included Donald Trump and believe-it-or-not, the ISIS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi. Angela Merkel was awarded for her resilience and leadership in the refugee crisis and with problems in the European Union.

The year began with the India-China growing rivalry. The International Monetary Fund believes that India will outpace China's economic growth in 2016.

Africa discovered that the Islamist insurgency was becoming too much to handle, while a jihadist gang raged in the countryside. It was noted in early February that dozens of young girls had been abducted by the Boko Haram in the past month. Abuja, the Nigerian capital witnessed crowds of people shouting: "We want our girls back and alive!"

The Russian-backed rebels in the Ukraine broke the cease fire when government troops fled the town sometime 18 Feb. as Ukrainian soldiers were on their way to Debaltseve.

The month of March found the U.S. and its allies preparing a drive to chase ISIS and their stronghold from Iraq. What the Americans and their allies were most worried about was the chaos it would bring to the Middle East. According to U.S. Intelligence the number of ISIS fighters had crossed 27,000. The Syrian city of Raqqa was declared as the capital of the caliphate. Iraq's city of Mosul had

been taken the previous year.

Sophie McManus' debut novel, *The Unfortunates* was well received in the United States. The thriller recorded the rise and fall of a dynasty in high-society.

At this stage in mid-year, folks across America and Europe wondered if the Iran nuclear deal would be an asset to the U.S.

In India, the *Secular Citizen*, a national Family Weekly, broke ground with a cover-spread on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and the feature, "One Year of NDA Rule". It was well received. Modi had won the General Elections on the broadsheet of development and the vision of a "better day to come". The words of the P.M. went viral when he said, "minimum government and maximum governance."

A wee hour in time was allotted to Singapore as it celebrated its 50th birthday as a successful city-state. It will be recorded in history that Singapore was a model Southeast Asian city. It's commitment to an open and transparent economy brought multinationals support with money and foreign ideas. Singapore became a global City.

August. The migrant crisis eventually crashes into the heart of Europe. Migrants who had hopes and dreams of a better life in the U.K. are set up in squalid camps in Calais, France. The fear of a "migrant invasion" came out of the cupboard. It was said that over 137,000 asylum seekers had reached the shores of Calais.

Wenzhou, in China is known as 'China's Jerusalem'. The Chinese authorities had ordered removal of prominent crosses on religious buildings. Over 1,100 Chinese churches removed the cross in East China's Zhejiang Province. China's growing Christians protested, sending letters to Catholic

leaders. The Christian communities launched an ecumenical "make and carry a cross" campaign.

Violence and political upheaval in Libya had promoted a 'risk or die' syndrome for migrants. The post-Gaddafi power vacuum drew in thousands of jihadists, murderers, smugglers, flesh-trade dealers and Europe-bound refugees. Ubari, once a garrison town became a violent hell-hole for smuggling.

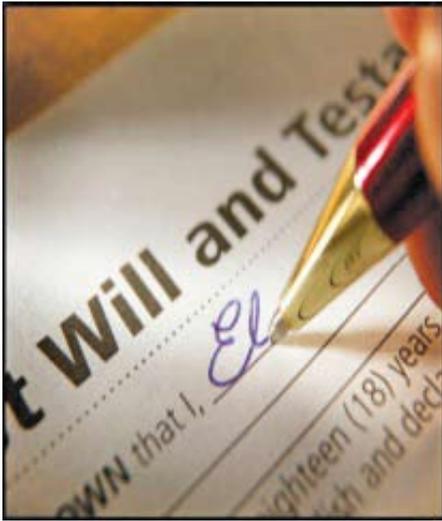
California decided to agree with patients of terminal illness who wished to have a last choice. Doctors and medical circles were also in agreement for the same freedom to be given to patients.

Slaughter, "genocide", rape, beheading and murder had reached the point of intolerance worldwide. The powers that be had little room to bend or breathe or to make direct and positive decisions. No place was safe. Too many good men were living in pockets of fear. From presidents to perverts, the song was the same: say much and do nothing. Fire shots in the air and bomb empty spaces. All this was ironic and complex.

The clash between radical Islamists and liberal nationalists caused the death of atheist and secular Bangladeshi bloggers. Secular voices were targeted in Dhaka, capital of Bangladesh. Activists take action in protest speeches and marches. Avijit Roy, a secular blogger was murdered.

Pope Francis in his encyclical on the environment wrote: "A "revolution" is needed to combat the climate from changing. "

The pontiff added, "The earth, is beginning to look more and more like an immense pile of filth."



On Executing a Will

An old proverb proudly proclaims “Where there is a Will there is a way” But in today’s world of greed this is skillfully replaced by “Where there is a Will there are Relatives”

Though this has been said in lighter vein, the reality of it cannot be ignored and there is a possibility that many could have experienced such situations much to their disadvantage.

A Will as we all know is the document that disburses the wealth/possessions of an individual after his demise to his siblings or persons of his choice. This is not a seemingly easy task, in the sense that the testator [the one who executes the Will] has to decide that the distribution of his wealth will not bring an ill feeling among the legatees [Beneficiaries of a Will]. A good norm to follow is never to prepare a Will when one is angry. A cool mind and a sedate temperament brings about a judicious discretion.

The requirements needed to execute a Will

1. The testator must group together all the assets owned by him legally. A rented house does not constitute ownership and cannot be bequeathed to anyone.
2. He/She must decide which asset of his/hers is to be bequeathed to whom. This is exclusively his choice.
3. An Executor must be appointed, who will carry out in letter and spir-

it the wishes of the testator. This should be a reliable person who must be kept informed that he is the Executor and his name and address must appear in the Will and it must be made known that his decision will be final.

4. He/She must get their signatures attested/verified by two witnesses. These persons only verify that the testator has signed the Will in their presence. There is no need for these persons to read the entire contents of the Will.
5. Finally, the services of a doctor must be availed, who will certify [in the Will] that the testator is in good health and of sound mind at the time of executing the Will
6. On drafting the contents of the Will help of the legal fraternity which today is expensive [sometimes as much as Rs.30,000/=] is not necessary if the testator can make his own composition since legal jargons are not necessary.
7. Section 18 of the ‘REGISTRATION ACT’ very clearly states that it is not compulsory to register a Will. In these days much advice is given about the need to register a Will. The advantage if any of a registered WILL cannot however be determined by those who propagate registration. The only advantage is that a registered Will preserves the sanctity and prevents fraudulent Wills from making their appearance. Thus it is the testator alone who can decide whether the Will executed by him needs registration or not. Strange as it may sound section 40 of the Registration Act provides for registration of a testator’s Will even after his demise.

8. Most testators prefer a secrecy to what they have bequeathed and to whom. This norm has been followed for generations. However revealing the details in advance to the legatees is not a bad idea as it allows the testator to realize the impact created as a result of his Will. But this disclosure must be made in the presence of all concerned and before the finalization of the Will. If an atmosphere of contentment prevails and a consensus is reached, it would be a good idea if a Memorandum of Understanding on Rs.100/= stamp paper is drawn up and signed among the legatees with the testator as the sole witness. This is a new concept and prevents a lot of misunderstandings later. However this document must be ‘Registered’ to preserve its authenticity.
9. **What about the ‘Probate Factor’**
Probate of a Will means certification under the seal of a Court of competent jurisdiction, a grant of administration to the ‘Estate’ of the testator. In simpler terms this means that if a testator bequeaths immovable property that stands in his name to a legatee, he [legatee] is bound to obtain a ‘Probate’ if he desires to transfer the property in his/her name.

Important points to be kept in mind

1. Never execute a will when you are angry.
2. The executor appointed by you must be reliable, trust worthy and expected to carry out your wishes in letter and spirit.
3. Immovable property if possible should be transferred by the testator during his lifetime, by a gift deed.

Readers desiring any clarification/assistance may contact the writer (Jude Chaves) on 022 – 28942659.

Inspiration!

Be Watchful Of Your Decisions

When faced with a decision in life - big or small - we try to make the best choice. But sometimes, despite our good intentions, we make bad choices. In a life filled with choice after choice after choice, we're bound to make a few mistakes. Life can sometimes feel like a big game of trial and error and often you don't have any idea what the best choice might be. Sometimes it's the smallest choice or decisions that can change your life forever. Here are such some small, deadly decisions to avoid on your journey forward

Making decisions about our careers, our families and our lives is not always easy, sometimes we find ourselves faced with difficult choices. We can be starting at two options and almost literally feel torn between which one to choose. Obviously, making a fair decision in such situation is a task in itself. We bring you a list few decisions that you happen to make in a hurry or don't ponder much over it and regret it later!

Working too much: Perhaps the most common regret people have in later years is working too much - the rest of us should take note. So much of life seems to revolve around making money and getting ahead but lifestyle is a choice, people work hard to be able to buy more stuff but we're better off with fewer things. Possessions are not the key to a fulfilling life!

Wallowing in chaos: Another mistake people make is wallowing in the chaos of everyday life or listening to too many other people. If it's a choice that affects you, it's critical to listen to your own inner voice, which can't be heard in the chaos. You can call this

voice intuition, conscience, a divine spirit, higher consciousness - whatever fits your belief system. That small voice is your built-in guide. It must be listened to, respected and followed. To find that voice, get out of the chaos. Find quiet. Be still and listen. Then follow that inner voice.

Running away from problems: Running away from your problems is a race you'll never win. You may not be proud of all the things you've done in the past but right now is a new beginning. It doesn't matter who you used to be; what matters is who you are today. What you do today can improve all of your tomorrows. So don't run; instead do something that creates positive change.

Being ungrateful: Even in the most peaceful surroundings, the ungrateful heart finds trouble. Even in the most troublesome surroundings, the grateful heart finds peace. Choose to see the world through grateful eyes; it will never look the same again.

Choosing not to let go: Bitterness, resentment and jealousy are like drinking poison. You are the only one who loses. Life is too short to resent all the people who may have hurt you. Let hard feeling go. Then spend the energy you save cherishing the people who love you.

Allowing anger to occupy your heart: The best medicine is a strong dose of love, laughter and letting go. Just like we would never allow even a tiny bit of poison to be in our food, let us not allow even a tiny bit of anger to live in our heart.

Letting your expectations run wild: Everyone has their own challenges, everyone has their own journey. It is meaningless to compare one with the other. Always love and accept the real people in front of you, not the fantasy of who you hope and wish these people could become.

Disrespecting others: Treat people the way you want to be treated.

Karma is only unkind if you are. No matter what happens in life, be good to the people around you. If you do, you'll leave a great legacy behind regardless of the dreams and ideals you choose to pursue.

Disrespecting yourself: Being kind to yourself in thoughts, words and actions is just as important as being kind to others. The most painful thing is losing yourself in the process of loving others and forgetting that you are special too.

Putting up with unfaithful friends and lovers: The people who want to stay in your life will always find a way. Real friends and lovers stay faithful. You shouldn't have to fight for a spot in someone's life. Never force someone to make a space in their life for you, because if they truly care about you, they will create one for you.

Neglecting important relationships: Relationships built on a foundation of love and respect can weather many storms and earthquakes. This foundation can be checked, maintained and kept healthy with generous doses of acceptance, forgiveness, listening, gratitude and considerate actions.

Never taking risks: Life is inherently risky. There is only one risk you should avoid at all costs and that is the risk of doing nothing. Get out there and make something happen, even if it's just a small step in the right direction. Strive for progress, not perfection.

Other decisions that you will regret soon

- Stressing out
- Choosing not to be brave
- Buying too much stuff
- Staying in your horrible job
- Not being true to self
- Choosing not to say you're sorry
- Not being grateful enough

Five steps for recovering from a bad decision

- Take full responsibility of your life; don't rely on others
- Understand and evaluate your choices
- Apologise and explain things to yourself
- Focus more on the present
- Be proactive in the future

Grooms



MATRIMONIALS

MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, aged 29 years, Ht. 5' 8", Wt. 52 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Hotel Management, working as a Team Leader. Contact email : rikhil.joseph@gmail.com OR 9819665309 **(Regd. No. 6466)**

MUMBAI : Mangalorean RC Bachelor, aged 39 years, Ht. 5' 10", Wt. 64 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. MBA in International Tourism Management, Switzerland currently working as Head - Training with a reputed organization. Contact email : catholicmatri2015@gmail.com OR 9833829330 **(Regd. No. 6465)**

USA : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, aged 29 years, Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 65 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.E. (I.T.), working as a Software Consultant. Currently in Mumbai, Contact immediately Email : rahul.ferns@gmail.com OR 9833932407 **(Regd. No. 6463)**

MUMBAI : Roman Catholic Bachelor, aged 29 years, Ht. 5' 8", Wt. 85 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.E.IT & MBA IT, working as a Business Analyst. Contact email : briansavio86@gmail.com OR 09820744043 **(Regd. No. 6467)**

MUMBAI : East Indian Roman Catholic Bachelor, aged 31 years, Ht. 5' 6", Wt. 63 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. M.Sc., working for MNC. Contact email : j.31784@gmail.com OR 26120397 / 9920074467 **(Regd No.6458)**

MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, aged 45 years, Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 72 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.A., having own business. Well settled. Contact email : listv21@yahoo.co.in OR 9821656739 **(Regd No.6455)**

MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, aged 39 years, Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 60 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Com., and currently working with a Software Development company as a General Manager, H.R. Contact email : savio_fd7@rediffmail.com OR 9320099950 **(Regd No.6454)**

MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, aged 45 years, Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 70 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Sc., (Physics), Green Card Holder. Contact email : florencedsouza07@gmail.com OR 8879718760 / 9820438278 **(Regd No.6450)**

MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catho-

lic Bachelor, aged 30 years, Ht. 5' 8", Wt. 72 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.E. (Elect. & Telecom), working as a Networking Engineer in KUWAIT. Contact email : alwayswelcome107@gmail.com OR 9819269721 **(Regd No.6449)**

MUMBAI :Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, aged 38 years, Ht. 5' 6", Wt. 72 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.A., working as a Deputy General Manager. Contact email : albert.pinto2006@gmail.com OR 9320341260 **(Regd No.6446)**

MUMBAI : Maharashtraian Roman Catholic Bachelor, aged 25 years, Ht. 6' 2", Wt. 94 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.E., MBA (Fin.), working as a Dy. Manager. Seeks a well qualified, cultured and homely girl. Contact email : bharati.muntode@gmail.com OR 9322105132 **(Regd No.6436)**

MUMBAI : Mangalorean RC Divorcee, 1st marriage annulled by the Church, aged 38 years, Ht. 5' 10", Wt. 68 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Undergraduate, working as Asst. Manager-Stores in Cruise Lines. Contact email :jacque@universalmedicare.com OR 7045120382. **(Regd No.6435)**

MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, aged 30 years, Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 58 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn.Post Graduate in Marketing, working as a Manager. Contact email : francis.godad@gmail.com OR 9820829839 **(Regd No.6429)**

MUMBAI : East Indian Roman Catholic Bachelor, aged 25 years, Ht. 5' 11", Wt. 75 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn.F.Y.B.Com., well employed. Contact email : gerardd754@gmail.com OR 9930620943/9594766322 **(Regd No.6424)**

MUMBAI :Mangalorean Roman Catholic Divocee, aged 44 years, Ht. 6', Fair Complexion, Edn. Undergraduate, working as a Security officer in Ship. Seeks a suitable match. Contact Email : maldsouza@gamil.com OR 09480157258 **(Regd No.6198)**

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)**

MUMBAI : Christian Bachelor aged 37 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 RC Bachelor aged 30 years, Ht. 5' 6", Wt. 78 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. BMM, MBA, working as a Manager. Seeks a simple, intelligent, qualified, family oriented girl. Contact email : bombayite84@gmail.com OR 9224444833 **(Regd No.6186)**

PUNE : Goan RC Bachelor aged 29 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 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 : Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, aged 36 years, Ht. 5' 9", Wt. 86 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. M.Com., Position : Financial Consultant. Seeks a alliance from RC graduate/pst graduate spinster. Conatct email : raceangelreb@yahoo.in OR 9821173681 **(Regd No.6172)**

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MUMBAI : Parents of R.C. Mangalorean Spinster, 27/5' 1", Only daughter, very fair, B.Com., seeks professionally qualified, well settled bachelors of good character and family background, preferably working and living abroad. Contact email : pashana72@gmail.com OR 91-67597766 (Regd. No. 6461)

MUMBAI : RC Spinster 30 / 5'2", MBA (F) working as Manager HR seeks alliance from Qualified Bachelors having a good family background. Reply with details and photo to maryline.sebastian7@gmail.com (Regd. No. 6464)

MUMBAI : East Indian Roman Catholic spinster, aged 26 years, Ht. 5' 2", Wt. 49 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. BMS., MMS (Mum. Uni.) working as a Data Analyst. Seeks well educated and working and settled abroad, preferably dubai. Girl willing to relocate any city in the world. Contact email : melwyn_dsilva@hotmail.com OR 9224258001 (Regd. No. 6462)

BANGALORE : Goan Roman Catholic spinster, aged 28 years, Only child, Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 55 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Masters in Library & Information Science, working as an Asst., Librarian, seeks a boy preferably working in Bangalore. Contact email : gracefreitas@rediffmail.com OR 9731866341 (Regd. No. 6460)

MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 25 years, Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 55 kgs., Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B. Pharm, working as a Project Engineer. Contact email : zarina_zeena@yahoo.co.in OR 9833352185 (Regd No.6459)

AURANGABAD: Parents invites alliance for their Roman Catholic spinster daughter aged 31 years, Ht. 5' 2", slim, fair and good looking, B.E. (I.T.), seeks well settled and well educated bachelor. Contact email : timothy.anthony@gmail.com OR 9823891561 (Regd No.6457)

MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 30 years, Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 68 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. M.A., B.Ed., Teacher by profession. Contact email : valerie.fds@gmail.com OR 9819714445 (Regd No.6456)

MUMBAI :Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 23 years, Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 45 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. T.Y. B.Com., currently pursuing Travel & Tourism Course from Thomas Cook. Contact email : daisy.diana92@yahoo.com OR 9768964704 (Regd No.6463)

MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 26 years, Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 50 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com.,PG in Banking, working in a Private Bank. Contact email : paispascal@gmail.com OR 9892921564 (Regd No.6452)

MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 27 years, Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 54 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.A., working as a Financial Analyst in MNC. Seeks a suitable match. Contact email : serraoolinda@gmail.com / natasha_serrao19@yahoo.com OR 9619522154 / 9969114346 (Regd No.6451)

MUMBAI :Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 30 years, Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 65 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, beautiful, Edn. B.Com., working as an Asst. HR Officer. Contact email : genesalis@yahoo.com OR 9324515797 (Regd No.6448)

MUMBAI:Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 23 years, Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 55 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.M.S.,working in Visa Department. Seeks a suitable match. Contact Mob : 9930466725 (Regd No.6447)

MUMBAI :Born and broughtup in Mumbai Tamilian Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 34 years, Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 65 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., Working as a Sales Executive in a reputed diamond jewelry firm. Caste No Bar. Contact email : achari@yahoo.co.in OR 9833838392 (Regd No.6445)

MUMBAI : 33 Goan 5' 2" RC Spinster B.Com. Level 1 CFA Works as Team Leader with U.S. Based Investment Bank Seeks suitable alliance from Educated sober well settled RC Bachelors Possessing good Christian and moral values. Email : raisaraisa1212@yahoo.in OR revonne@yahoo.co.in (Regd No.6444)

MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 27 years, Ht. 5' 8", Wt. 70 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.A., Science & Politics, working as a Jr. Officer. Contact email : merlin.dalmeida@gmail.com OR 9820687734 (Regd No.6443)

MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 24 years, Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 49 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. M.Com., working. Contact email : dsouzaavi29@gmail.com OR 9920113059 (Regd No.6442)

MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 29 years, Ht. 5'4", Wt. 70 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. M.Com., working as a Sr. Associate. Contact email : olgapin123@gmail.com OR Tel.: 25134641 (Regd No.6441)

MUMBAI : Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 32 years, Ht. 5'4", Wt. 64 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., working as a Risk Analyst. Contact email : jesmetal@hathway.com OR 9821925913 (Date of Birth 18-5-1983) (Regd No.6440)

MUMBAI : Mangalorean/Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 29 years, Ht. 5'6", Wt. 56 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.E. Comp. MBA., working for MNC. Contact email : sybil8.lobo@gmail.com OR 9920309470 (Date of Birth 3-5-1986) (Regd No.6439)

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Christmas And The Family



by Fr. Anil Rego
Priest in charge
Nativity of our Lord Church
Kandivli(E)

But they were just happy to get back to their widowed mothers & siblings.

Rio de Janeiro) he stated: "Not only would I say that the family is important for the evangelization of the new world. The family is important, and it is necessary for the survival of humanity. Without the family, the cultural survival of the human race would be at risk. The family, whether we like it or not, is the foundation." In the same vein, the late Pope St. John Paul II was quoted: "The future of humanity passes by way of the family. It is therefore indispensable and urgent that every person of good will should endeavor to save and foster the values & requirements of the family.

In His Apostolic Exhortation on the Family – Familiaris Consortio he declared: "And since in God's plan the family has been established as an intimate community of life & love. The family has a mission to become more & more what it is, that is to say, a community of life & love, in an effort that will find fulfillment."

This Christmas, as we gaze at the Holy Family in the numerous cribs, images & tableaus we come across, may we be inspired to foster love & care in our own families and the families we know. So that our families will be able to withstand any strain & the pressure that modern life imposes. And remember: IF YOUR HOME IS NOT A HEAVEN THEN HEAVEN WILL NOT BE YOUR HOME. May the Christ child fill your Homes with the Joy, Love & Peace of Heaven this Christmas and the Year to come.

Mother Teresa had this very interesting incident to narrate, to highlight the importance of the Family. A small boy of 8 yrs was in her 'home for the abandoned'. Mother noticed that while this boy was very much present in the house in the daytime. The boy would be found missing from his very comfortable bed, at nights. Curious to know where this boy was disappearing every night, Mother told one of the Brothers from the home to discreetly follow this boy when he slipped out. To see where he was spending his nights. The Brother found that this boy walked some distance and entered an abandoned pipe on the road. There in this pipe were a young woman and her infant. The boy would snuggle up to this woman and give her some of the food he packed from the home. And then he would cuddle up and sleep with this woman and her infant. To awaken early in the morning and return to Mother Teresa's Home. Mother then explained that though the boy had a comfortable bed with clean sheets & a fan above in the home, he chose the mosquito ridden & rickety dwelling of his mother. Because the warmth of the presence of his mother & baby sister was incomparable to even the best of comforts.

When I was doing my regency as a seminarian in the Orphanage – Our Lady's Home at Dadar, I was witness to this fact. Though the boys had a comfortable life in the Home with decent food, comfortable beds, facilities for studies, sports & recreation. When it came time for the Holidays, they were all excited to go home. And I knew that most of them lived in slums where there was no furniture or a fan.

The Holy Family of Nazareth did not have even a house of their own at Bethlehem. They were compelled to settle in a place reserved for animals. A dark & dingy cave. Yet the love & the warmth of this Family have captivated the minds & hearts of people for centuries. It has inspired the best paintings, songs, plays & numerous tableaus. In all the din and rapturous celebration of Christmas, the sight of a crib with the scene of the Holy Family in rustic settings brings such peace to the soul. I'm sure you have experienced this. Jesus, Mary & Joseph demonstrated very powerfully at Bethlehem that love & caring in the family can overcome the highest degrees of deprivation and adversity.

In this, the year of the Ordinary Synod in 2015. we all need to examine the health of our own families. The Synod recognized the negative impact that dysfunctional families have on society. This is increasingly evident in developed countries where families are falling apart under the strains of modern living. This has been a major concern of our beloved Pontiff, His Holiness Pope Francis. In an interview on Radio Catedral (radio broadcasting station of the Archdiocese of

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