

THE SECULAR CITIZEN

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HEAD-ON-A-PLATTER, FOOT-IN-THE-MOUTH!



So there's a new drama unfolding on the Parliamentary Stage of the world's most populous democracy, eh? And if my guess is right the world is waiting with bated breath to see the curtain rise on the grand finale! And why not! After all when Herod yielded to his luscious paramour's demand for the head of John the Baptist on a platter there was no media coverage—only the gospel narration to help us visualize the scene. Today with the media so instant in every respect so to say, we can look forward to hyperbole being spelt out live at its rhetoric best! Herod had John the Baptist beheaded within the confines of the prison. But Smriti Irani has made a public offer to chop off her own head if her answers to Mayawati's queries are not acceptable to the latter. With Mayawati having outright rejected her fiery answers it follows that Parliament must gear up for witnessing Smriti's act live and in full public view....

(Read inside)

Seminar on Advances in Life Sciences



The Department of Botany recently organized a two day seminar on "Advances in Life Sciences". The seminar provided a forum to students, faculty members and researchers to share their experiences with renowned scientists.

The key note address was delivered by Prof. R. Uma Shaanker of University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore, on 'Bioprospecting in the Western Ghats, flavor, promises and challenges'. In his address, he spoke about the work done and challenges faced at his institute in prospecting the bio-resources of rich Western Ghats. He also spoke about the work being done on discovering drugs from bugs.

The lead lectures was delivered by Prof. S.R. Yadav of Kolhapur University, Retd. Prof. Irene Furtado of Goa University and Mr. Shridar Jawak of NCAOR, Vasco on 'Requisites for thoughtful conservation and preservation of plant diversity of western ghats'. Microbiological advances and techniques in Life Sciences and Applications of Remote sensing to life sciences respectively. A large number of students and research scholars also presented oral and poster presentations on both the days of the seminar.

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'Best Bank' award for Model Bank



Mumbai,: The Maharashtra State Co-operative Banks Association Ltd., Mumbai (an Association of Co-operative Banks) at their 20th Annual Award Distribution Ceremony, awarded Model Co-operative Bank Ltd. 1st Prize for Best Bank among Co-operative Banks in Mumbai Region (in the category of Deposits above Rs.500 crores)

The function was held on Thursday, 18th February, 2016 at Swatantryaveer Savarkar Smarak Sabagriha, Dadar (W), Mumbai and was attended by Senior Management and Directors from Co-operative Banks. This Award is another milestone for Model Co-operative Bank, who had recently received 3rd Prize for Best Bank among Co-operative Banks in the category of deposits above Rs.300.00 crores to Rs.1500.00 crores from 'The Brihan Mumbai Nagari Sahakari Banks Association Ltd., Mumbai as Financially Sound and Well Managed Bank (FSWM).

Mr. N. S. Vishwanathan, Executive Director, Reserve Bank of India presented the award to Chairman, Mr. Albert W. D'Souza, General Manger & CEO, Mr. William L. D'Souza and Addl. General Manager Mr. Harold M. Serrao.

The Bank has its roots in the Mangalorean Catholic Co-operative Credit Society Ltd., which was registered on 26th April, 1916. The Bank, which is

celebrating 100 years of its foundation is proud to receive this award in recognition of its excellent services. The Bank is constantly riding the path of progress.

The Chairman, Mr. Albert W. D'Souza and Board of Directors have expressed their gratitude to all the Shareholders, Customers and Well Wishers.

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Tel: 2269 35 78 / 2265 49 24 : 2264 0996

E-mail : secular@vsnl.com, secular@sezariworld.com

Website: www.sezariworld.com

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Editor-in-chief : LAWRENCE COELHO Editor: PHILIP MYABOO

'Thought for the week'

Don't worry about hard times, because some of the most beautiful things we have in life come from changes or mistakes

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Cover : Head on plater - Foot in the Mouth

(Article on p. 7)

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Bishops want Catholics to get political

Jakarta: The Indonesia bishops' conference has called on Catholic groups and laypeople involved in political parties to unite their efforts to promote Christian values.

Catholics working together is the best way to realize a common goal, said Archbishop Vincentius Sensi Potokota of Ende, chairman of the bishops' laity commission, during a meeting in Jakarta on Feb. 25.

"It's important to consolidate. We must work together to achieve the common good," Archbishop Potokota told about 200 politicians and academics from different Catholic groups.

The prelate remarked that in previous years it was difficult for Catholics involved in politics to unite, which led to the situation where the Catholic ideal of creating a common welfare was not realized.

The archbishop said in the past the Catholic Church had a number of respected leaders and national heroes committed to the spirit of Catholicism. As ways of example Archbishop Potokota spoke of the national hero Ignatius Joseph Kasimo and Fransiskus Xaverius Seda, a respected former cabinet member during the era of Suharto.

Speaking with ucanews.com after the meeting, Father Guido Suprpto, the commission's executive secretary, said that the bishops want Catholic groups and laypeople involved in politics to re-strengthen Catholic values.

"The commission on laity seeks to unite Catholic figures and remind them of the mission that they must carry forward," Father Suprpto said.

To do this, more meetings will be organized for Catholic parliamentarians, governors, regents and mayors, Father Suprpto said. The bishops will also encourage more Catholics to get involved in politics in order to make changes in society, he added.

Jacobus Kristiadi, a political analyst and senior fellow at the Center for Strategic of International Studies, said that Catholic leaders must work together to help form and guide Catholic groups.

The past failure in not assisting groups or individual laypeople, he said, has contributed to many Catholics becoming engaged in corrupt and illegal practices. He pointed out that 80 percent of the population of East Nusa Tenggara province is Catholic but it ranks number one in Indonesia for corruption.

"I encourage the Catholic Church to plan a roadmap on how to guide and better prepare Catholics for politics," said Kristiadi.

Source: UCAN

ICPA Awards Declared

Kochi: Reggie David, a Catholic journalist from Jabalpur and Kirubai Doss, a Dalit activist and writer from Neyveli in Tamilnadu have been chosen for the Indian Catholic Press Association (ICPA) Awards for 2016.

While Reggie has been awarded the Swamy Devanand Chakkungal Award for Best Hindi writer, Kirubai got the CBCI SC/BC Commission Award for articles on Dalit issues and his consistent stand on Dalits.

Each award carries a cash prize of Rs 10,000, a citation and a trophy.

The awards will be conferred on them during the 21st National Convention of Christian Journalists and the Annual General Body meeting of ICPA at Ishvani Kendra, Pune from March 11 to 13.

Bishop of Pune, Most Rev Thomas Dabre will preside over the inaugural function of the convention and will deliver the keynote address on "Christian Journalists and Family Values" at the convention.

Jose Vincent K J
Secretary, ICPA

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BJP Versus ALL

"Hindutva Versus Nationalism"

This time the battleground is the Jawaharlal Nehru University. All the major national newspapers and channellines carry every details of Kanahya Kumar's arrest and thereafter what followed. Political pundits assess the stand taken by the Bhartiya Janata party government as a "masterstroke" by the Modi regime. Majority of this vast country even today, hardly can differentiate or decide the correct stand between 'hindutva' and 'nationalism'. This is a painful fact every SECULAR Citizen has to digest - if he wishes to live peacefully in India. The deeper you think of it, the greater painful it appears to be. Was Afzal Guru's SC punishment a 'judicial murder'? Its rather difficult to fathom it. A police report denies any slogan shouting by JNU students' union president - kanahya kumar. Was he beaten up by the police? The Delhi police commissioner Bassi seems to be in a political soup. He is being branded a BJP supporter....

A high level intelligientia of the society firmly believe that a frank, a-political, a-party descussion should take place in which all details from Afzal Guru's hanging to freedom of Kashmir. Unfortunately the Indian democracy has not reached that adulthood. Nearly two months ago an ISI attack in paris still has its effect - entire France is under a strict emmergency. No one raises any voice against the government action. Nor does any one question obama why Laden was thrown into a deep sea after his killing. The Federal Government of America has all rights to intercept ant E-mail or message. No voice ever raised there. The 'freedom of speech' in the wise west is under a strict scrutiny of 'reasonable restriction'. Most of the BJP leaders neither know nor care about reasonable restrictions in



their speech. They rule our democracy ! Unfortunately, university campuses have become their battlegrounds and students are made their handy instruments. The incidents at the Pune Film Institute are fresh in our minds.

The inept handling of controversis created a lot of bitterness. So was the case at the chennai ITI Ambedkar Periyar study circle. Rohit Vemulla's suicide in Hyderabad created a bad impression on modi government. Now the battlefield is the JNU. In all these

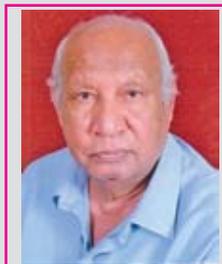
cases a controversy was created - hindutva versus nationalism. Modi government knows it very well that tall claims on economic reforms and development will have absolutely no effect to win elections in U.P and ASSAM.

Modi lovers know it mighty well that the political graph of Narendra

Modi is fast falling down. That's the only masterstroke can be 'hindutva X nationalism'. The BJP chi ef Amit Shah is all out to a natio-wide tour, the only agenda is 'janjagruti abhiyan' (public awarness programme) to raise the 'Hindutva' awarness. Karl Max has been always correct in India- ' religion is the opium'. Amit Shah's meetings will raisee the slogan : 'Bharatmata ki jai' and the undertone will be hindutva....

What about your poll promises ? Has the inflation gone down ? Could you create jobs for the millions of jobless youths ? What about your claim to return the black money ? Has Pakistan - India ties become better? Is the common man happy with you? Your expensive foreingn tours have been fruitful in any way?

The common man has fast gone to dogs! 'Ram naam satya hai'....



by Ignatius Dabhi
Sr. Journalist



Priestly Celibacy

This is with reference to the letter 'Priestly celibacy'--- A layman's perspective, by Prof. Robert Castellino (Secular Citizen, Feb 29). None will disagree that there are more important and pressing issues plaguing the Catholic church today, than priestly celibacy. It is a shame that some of our priests are cherishing ambitions of married life instead of emulating the example of their Lord and master Jesus Christ who remained celibate all his life in a state of perfect chastity. Whatever respect our priests have today is because, as anointed ones, they are regarded as ones set apart and belonging to the realm of the sacred. That some of the Apostles were married is no justification for scrapping celibacy which has been zealously guarded by the Catholic church as a mandatory discipline for centuries. The superiority of the celibate state in priestly ministry over the married state has been explicitly stated by St Paul in 1 Cor. 7, when he states that celibacy is the best way to dedicate oneself to the service of the lord because an unmarried man concerns himself with the Lord's work, whereas a married man with worldly matters.

—A. F. Nazareth, Alto Porvorim

Pope on Marriage and Women...

Pope Francis on 18 Feb. 2016, gave a lengthy press conference on the flight back from Mexico to Rome, sharing thoughts on many subjects. I shall uncover just two aspects: Marriage and Women!

1. On the question of divorce and remarriage, he revealed that the post-Synod document on the fam-

ily will explore in depth the issue of marital breakdown, and especially the need for better marriage preparation. He noted, how many couples are pressured getting into marriage quickly if there is a baby on the way; saying that as Bishop of Buenos Aires, he instructed his priests to put off such weddings until couples were ready to commit to each other lifelong.

2. On revelations that Pope St. John Paul had a long-standing close association with a Polish born American philosopher Anna-Teresa Tymieniecka, he commented; "A man who is unable to have such a good friendship with women is 'a man who is missing something' in his life. Personally, I like to ask advice from women who 'see things in a different way'. The Church and its priests have still not understood how much good women can bring in terms of counsel, help and healthy friendships. There were 'saint-friends' like Francis and Clare, Teresa and John of the Cross." The Good Word indeed praises communicative women: "She opens her mouth in wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue" (Proverbs 31:26).

—Dr. Trevor Colaso, *Bandra*

The Coconut Tree is not a Grass

It is very strange indeed that the present government of Goa amended a state law to remove the coconut tree from the list of protected trees, justifying its decision by saying, "classifying the coconut tree as a 'tree' was an error because botanically it is only a 'palm' and not a tree" (Secular Citizen, 15 Feb). Has the government at least consulted the Department of Botany

of Goa University before taking this decision? Ought not this reputed Department to take up the matter with the government in the interests of authentic science and the protection of the environment? In fact, scientific as well as non-scientific literature all over the world regards the coconut tree as a 'tree', while 'palms' are only leaves taken from branches of this precious tree. On Palm Sunday, for example, Catholics use 'palms' and not 'whole coconut trees' in their ritual processions even in Goa!

Standard dictionaries define a 'tree' as a tall plant, with a trunk and branches made of wood, well above the ground. The main parts of a tree are the roots, the trunk, the branches and the leaves. In Botany, the coconut tree is a member of the family Arecaceae (palm family). It is the only accepted species in the genus *Cocos*. It cannot, therefore, be regarded as a 'palm' or a 'grass'. Grasses are defined as monocotyledonous, usually herbaceous flowering plants in the family Poaceae. They have stems which are hollow, except at the nodes and narrow alternate leaves borne in two ranks. The lower part of each leaf encloses the stem, forming a leaf-sheath.

If governments begin assuming the authority to redefine scientific, historical and other facts, well established by universally recognized scholars, we are sure to become the laughing-stock among enlightened peoples all over the world. It is probably due to such increasing tendencies on the part of the present-day governments in India, to impose their bizarre ideas on our scientific community, that our own India-born Nobel laureate in Physics, who now works in Cambridge University, remarked, a few months ago, that "The Indian Science Congress is just a circus, where no serious science is discussed, and I shall never attend it again." Is not the present Government, therefore, bringing all Indian Science, both modern and ancient, into disrepute worldwide?

—Joseph M. Dias, *S.J.*
Andheri (E), Mumbai.

“Misericordiae Vultus”:

“THE FACE OF MERCY”

(The Papal Bull convoking the Extra Ordinary Jubilee of Mercy 2015-2016)



Dr. S. Santiago,
Delhi

THE FACE OF MERCY

Through the release of the Papal Bull “MISERICORDIAE VULTUS” which means “THE FACE OF MERCY”, our Holy Father Pope Francis convoked the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy commencing from Dec. 8th, 2015 and concluding on Nov. 20th 2016. The declaration of the Jubilee Year of Mercy is significant and noteworthy in the context of violence, blood-shed, conflict, war and corruption prevailing in the world today.

What is the purpose of this Jubilee of Mercy? Pope Francis states “At times, we are called to gaze even more attentively on Mercy so that we may become a more effective sign of the Father’s Action in our lives”.

In a world that believes in ‘eye for an eye’, ‘tooth for a tooth’, the approach of Pope Francis to extend mercy instead, is very much in consonance with the Gospel values, as preached and practiced by our Lord Jesus Christ.

THEOLOGICAL UNDERSTANDING OF MERCY

Mercy is not an abstract word but rather it has to be focused on the light of Christ’s face, a face to recognize, contemplate and serve.

Our Christian life begins with an act of mercy, an act of rescue in Baptism. And this work of Rescue becomes the pattern of our life in Christ. The Father of Mercy continues to rescue us and helps us conform our thoughts, our words and our actions to the life of His Son, since it is only in His Divine life that we can ultimately tread the path of happiness in life.

The Church also sets before us a well established path so that we may unite ourselves to Christ and follow His way of Mercy. The world needs to discover that God is Father, that there is Mercy, that cruelty is not the path, that condemnation is not the path and

that terrorism is not the way. All of us – sinners, the doubtful, the wounded and the disenfranchised – are to be treated and to be helped to heal, to stave off the broader disease of conflict, indifference and intolerance.

NO VIOLENCE, NO CORRUPTION BUT CONVERSION

The Pope makes a powerful appeal against organized violence and against those who are advocates and accomplices of corruption which is a festering wound.

During the Jubilee Year, there must be a True Conversion “This is the opportune moment to change our lives. This is the time to allow our hearts to be touched. When confronted with a evil deeds, even in the face of serious crimes; it is time to listen to the cry of innocent people who are deprived of their property, their dignity, their feelings and even their very lives. All one needs to do is to accept the invitation to conversion offered by Jesus, offered by the Church.

The motto of the Jubilee Year is “Merciful Like the Father” which emphasizes the need for forgiveness.

PRACTICAL WAYS OF LIVING THE JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY”

The Corporal Works and Spiritual Works of Mercy are to be resumed in order to reawaken our conscience, too often grown dull in the face of poverty. And let us enter more deeply into the heart of Gospel where the poor have a special experience of God’s Mercy. The relationship between justice and mercy has to be such that we should not stop at a legalistic way but rather aim at a path that leads to merciful love.

The Pontiff presents **Pilgrimages** during the Jubilee Year as a means of sharing the mercy of the Father with all the people we come into contact

with. We need not look for far away pilgrim-centers but could find the Merciful God present even in the small shrines and Holy places close to our place.

Focusing on a **Merciful Solution For Divorced and Remarried Couples** is also included in the suggested practical ways of living the Jubilee Year of Mercy.

The Pope exhorts, “I trust that this Jubilee Year celebrating the Mercy of God will foster **an Encounter with Other Noble Religious Traditions**. May it open us to even more fervent dialogues so that we might know and understand one another better, may it eliminate every form of close-mindedness and disrespect and drive out every form of violence and discrimination.”

SACRAMENT OF CONFESSION/ RECONCILIATION

One of the central aims of the Jubilee of Mercy is to reorient the Sacrament of Confession back to the centre of the Church’s pastoral life.

Mercy is the tangible expression of God’s Love in the world. By placing ourselves in situations to reflect upon this love and to experience the grace of this love in the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation, we find the strength, the courage and the compassion to be instruments of mercy to others.

To help emphasize the role of the Sacrament of Penance during the Jubilee, **the Pope will send out “Missionaries of Mercy”** – priests with faculties to pardon sins in cases otherwise reserved for the Holy See. These priests will serve as a visible sign of the importance of the Sacrament of Reconciliation in our lives of faith.

(Contd.. on p. 7)

HEAD-ON-A-PLATTER, FOOT-IN-THE-MOUTH!

So there's a new drama unfolding on the Parliamentary Stage of the world's most populous democracy, eh? And if my guess is right the world is waiting with bated breath to see the curtain rise on the grand finale! And why not! After all when Herod yielded to his luscious paramour's demand for the head of John the Baptist on a platter there was no media coverage—only the gospel narration to help us visualize the scene. Today with the media so instant in every respect so to say, we can look forward to hyperbole being spelt out live at its rhetoric best! Herod had John the Baptist beheaded within the confines of the prison. But Smriti Irani has made a

public offer to chop off her own head if her answers to Mayawati's queries are not acceptable to the latter. With Mayawati having outright rejected her fiery answers it follows that Parliament must gear up for witnessing Smriti's act live and in full public view.

Never in world history has such an offer been made by any single individual ever. O yes – we do hear of beheading threats in newspapers and the like. But an offer to chop off one's own head? That too for something so innocuous as one's explanation or answer not being found satisfactory by another? It is obvious that playing saas, bahu or whatever on the small screen has rubbed off so thoroughly on our HRD manriji that she has decided to merge television drama with parliamentary rhetoric to give viewers of prime time as well as other time and all time true VFM (value for money). The truth is Indian idiot-box viewers have long been starved of real action-thrillers! This one could run in theatres for eons for sure!

Frankly, there's no gainsaying the fact that there's no 'maaya' lost between the two fiery characters of the ongoing drama and the BSP strongwoman seems to be in no mood to let the offer of the BJP mantri go by un-acted upon. So well, it's time the Information & Broadcasting (I&B) Ministry no less gears up for the big show by having a special team of professionals on hand to ensure that every single nuance of the execution of Smriti's offer is caught live on celluloid for posterity apart from being televised live.

The very thought of the act is grizzly and yet very interesting, too! Indeed, not to be overlooked is the fact that it will be the first time someone is going to chop off his or her own head. Pray,



by Ladislaus L
D'Souza

what will Smriti be using to carry out the act—a chopper, a saw, a sword or what? And presuming that the foot she put in her mouth when she made her wild offer is probably still stuck there, one cannot help but surmise that the foot too will be chopped off her leg along with the head. What a sight that will be!!

Now, whose blessings will the HRD mantri be seeking before she transports herself to the other side of the divide between temporal life and eternity—the Prime Minister's? Or the President's? And who of the two will be the chief guest at the head-&-foot-chopping event? Perhaps the President because the PM is exceptionally busy with his self-publicity foreign jaunts. And to whom will she be selling off her broadcasting or telecasting rights? Perhaps the I&B mantri could float the speedy formation of a special Parliamentary Production House that could forthwith be entrusted with the task of handling such tamashas and then offer limited rights to foreign production or telecasting houses for a tidy consideration. It'd help to keep in mind that this could be only the start of a new series of creepy-crappy dramas, Smriti's real-life-to-real-death drama being certain to influence other ideas.

Bravo Smriti! May we have more of your ilk in public life! As for you, Mayawati, may your tribe increase!!

(Contd.. from p. 6)

OASIS OF MERCY

Pope Francis defines Mercy as "Mercy is the force that reawakens us to new life and instills in us the courage to look to the future with hope. He wants the Jubilee Year to become for Catholics to contemplate just how merciful God has been to them and to understand better how they are called to be merciful to others in turn. Mercy is the beating heart of the Gospel. He is inviting people to a year long spiritual journey to recognize our loving God of Mercy who is willing to open the door of his heart to our knock of repentance.

In conclusion, we will entrust the life of the Church, all humanity and the entire cosmos to the Lordship of Christ asking him to pour out His Mercy upon us like the morning dew, so that everyone may work together to build a bright future.

Wherever the Church Is present, the ~Mercy of the Father must be evident: Wherever there are Christians, everyone should find an Oasis of Mercy.

Christians dismiss “Hindu” Jesus

New Delhi: Christians in India have refused to be drawn into a controversy over a claim that Jesus Christ was a Hindu and Christianity was just a sect of Hinduism.

“There is an attempt to re-write history and draw us into controversy. Christianity is well grounded and based on the person of Jesus who without a doubt is a real person in history,” says Fr Nigel Barrett, spokesperson for the Archdiocese of Bombay.

The Catholic priest was reacting to a news item about upcoming release of a book making those outlandish claims by a trust allegedly linked to the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS, the national volunteers’ corps), the umbrella organization for rightwing Hindu groups.

“The RSS is welcome to claim what they will, it doesn’t affect us. Our faith in Jesus is based on a personal encounter with Christ,” Father Barrett added.

The trust, Swatantryaveer Savarkar Rashtriya Smarak (Savarkar National Memorial), preserves and propagates literature and ideology of Damodar Savarkar, the book’s author, and his younger brother Veer Savarkar Ganesh one of the five founders of RSS.

The elder Savarkar wrote the book, “Christ Parichay” (introduction to Christ), in 1946, claiming to present evidence, references and other materials to prove that Christ was Hindu. According to him, Jesus came to India to study the Vedas, and became an expert in Yoga. He then returned to his country to preach the right path or religion. While preaching, he got involved in a political storm and was crucified, but miraculously escaped alive.

Scheduled for release on February 26, the book claims that Jesus Christ was born Keshao Krishna in a Tamil Vishwakarma Brahmin family and Christianity is just a sect of Hinduism.

The RSS has tried to distance itself from the controversy saying the author was not the founder of their organization. “We wish to clarify that Ganesh Damodar Savarkar wasn’t founder of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh. There was only one RSS founder, Dr Hegdewar. Savarkar was in no way associated with RSS,” said Pramod Bapat, a top RSS functionary in the Konkan region of western India.

However, several accounts on the RSS, including one by its own member of parliament M J Akbar, have chronicled Savarkar’s ties with the organization. Akbar’s India: A Siege Within says this about the RSS’s origin: “...five friends who started the RSS were Dr BS Moonje, Dr LV Paranjpe, Dr Tholkar, Babarao Savarkar and Dr Hedgewar himself.”

Another book by Ritu Kohli explains Savarkar’s influence on MS Golwalkar. Political Ideas of MS Golwalkar: Hindutva, Nationalism, Secularism says: “In 1938, Golwalkar prepared the first systematic statement to the RSS ideology, “We, and our Nationhood, Defined” a text which he later revealed was an abridgement of an essay on nationalism by Babarao Savarkar.”

The claims have evoked widespread condemnation.

Clyde Crasto of the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) dismissed the book’s claim as “politically driven and a fabricated story” He says the claims do not make sense. “The current political scenario is allowing such false ideas to spread.”

Abraham Mathai, president of the Indian Christian Voice and former Vice Chairman of the Minorities Commission said, “The book is a sign of high ignorance of the author. Jesus Christ was born 2000 years ago in Bethlehem and died at Calvary. Yes, Christianity came first to India rather than the West, when St Thomas, one of Jesus’s apos-

ties came here to preach. The basis of this book is completely false.”

Young Christians too, hit out at claims. IT professional, Kevin Noronha from Borivali said, “The book has no basis. The Christian community is strong in faith. Things like these cannot shake our belief, it only makes it stronger.”

Christians asserted that such claims cannot shake their faith. Anita Quadros, a logistics professional, said, “If Savarkar had read the Holy Bible, he would have not written all this. St Thomas preached Christianity and not Hinduism. Our faith will stand firm in the face of this nonsense.”

Michelle D’souza, another Catholic in Mumbai, dismissed the book as “all rubbish. It is a made up story. Years ago, when the book was written, this conspiracy theory was not accepted now so many years later, it seems funny rather than true.”

Samir Netto, a Worli resident, said he book is an attempt by a group that would prove that their religion is the only religion in the world. “It is sad to see the book getting so much publicity for its blatant lie. In Israel, they are still investigating how Jesus disappeared from the tomb, I think we now need to inform them that Jesus is in Kashmir as per Savarkar’s claim in his book,” he added.

Dolphy D’souza, former president of the Bombay Catholic Sabha, described the book as “a figment of the fertile imagination of the author. The RSS should be disappointed that their sinister plan has not succeeded. They are looking to divert the public’s mind from the inability to govern well.”

Joseph Dias, general secretary of the Catholic-Christian Secular Forum noted that the “saffron brigade” has also claimed Jews and Arabs as Hindus. “We would have protested and filed an FIR, but this book does not deserve that. The changed political scenario is leading to the saffronization of all spheres which is sad to see,” he added.

Courtesy: mattersindia

Shepherd Of My Soul

by *Ninette DSouza*

Have mercy on me, O God, in your unfailing love; In your abundant compassion, blot out my sin. Wash me thoroughly of my guilt; And cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my wrongdoings; And my sin is always before me. I know you desire truth in the heart; You teach me wisdom in my inmost being.

Stanford Medical Centre has reported that our outer layer of skin renews itself every 7 days, every cell in our body renews itself every 7 years. In the OT every 7 years all debts were to be forgiven. Safe to say, God was the one who began this renewal in multiples of 7. After 6 days of strenuous physical activity, mental stress & emotional turmoil, He calls us to cease & desist on the 7th - The Sabbath. All of this just goes to show that, renewal & new beginnings are to be far more frequent than we, with our limited understanding would have thought them to be. Like the Prodigal Son in Luke's gospel, we too can experience joy and renewal when we lead ourselves back home to, 'The Shepherd'

We accept unquestioningly that the season of Lent helps us address issues that are causing us to drift away from the Shepherd of our Soul. It is not sin that destroys God's people, it is the unresolved sin that does so. So how do we get back on track? Who will show the way? Said award winning writer, Bill Quiseng, "You have no right to manage others if you are not passionate about what you do" In the gospel of Matthew 7: 3-5, Jesus tells us, "Why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye and not see the plank in your own brother's eye???? Harsh words from a gentle Saviour? Let's stop short & check. Am I always the first to instruct others about cleanliness when at any given moment my house looks like a tsuna-

mi just hit it? Am I in a hurry to counsel others on their ineptitudes while being oblivious to the same in myself? Do I rush to lead others to Christ without checking to see if I myself know 'The Way' & that I am actually leading myself towards it?

In this busy, goal oriented times we are living in, if we don't direct our steps to Christ consistently, our frustrations can get the better of us, caramelizing our hearts without it showing on the outside. We could end up trading content for image, with an adept rationalizing of our lack of need of God's mercy & become experts at making excuses rather than making changes. It's an easier option that asks less of us & we're fine with it. A cursory glance would indicate that, cosmetic Christianity is adequate fare for many of Christ's followers today. But in the end we Christians do not stand to be counted, we will be weighed. God does not look at our outward appearances, He weighs our motives, He searches our hearts, the kind that will not be found at even the most expensive cosmetics counter, in the fanciest mall. The heart that He is seeking is one that has made a 180° turn & which is leading itself back to its Saviour. It is important for us to understand that, God does love us as we are, but He loves us too much to allow us to wallow in our apathy. God's correction is synonymous with His protection.

After experiencing a series of ups & downs in my life over the last couple of years, I've been led to realize that, a pure & simple devotion to Christ, is the only thing that is needed. It is in Him that we can actually find fulfillment, not only in religious activities (as good as they may be), or in serene settings that give us a needed respite from our harried schedules. He is not to be the rest from our labours, He ought to be the rest in our labours. The closer we get to Jesus, the more at home we will feel in this journey of life. God designed it that way. "Live out your devotion to your Saviour &



out of the depths of your Christ neediness your poor spirit will be made wealthy" –amazing words I came across in a book. In the frenzy of an 'I, Me, Myself' lifestyle can we recognize the voice of the Shepherd? He's ever present & always accessible. The question is never "God are you speaking?" The real question is "Am I listening?" "Act, and God will act"--- St. Joan of Arc. He will surely counsel us, comfort us, warn us. In the midst of an imperceptible drift towards a fall in faith and grace, try and hear His voice, try and recognize the sound of His call, through the din. The moment you do, you have direction, then follow and if needed RUN towards the call. "The strength of a man consists in finding out the way in which God is going & going in that way too."... emphasized Henry Ward Beecher, a social reformer & preacher known for his emphasis on God's love.

Even if many days of LENT have already gone by there is no need to fret. Every moment, of every day, of every year, is at our disposal, to use our brokenness to press in to, The Shepherd. No matter the state of our being, we can draw close to Him, learn from Him, catch His ways..... the sooner the better. It would help to remember that walking with Jesus would entail massive life changes from the way we are used to living. When we choose to walk with Christ, when we want more than just the illusion of being close to Him, we will need to make the right choices, not casual ones. Real ones!!!. It's not about reading the Bible more, praying more, having more faith, more this, more that. It's about getting back to Jesus & surrendering to Him completely, no half measures are allowed.

(Contd.. on p. 18)

Nationalists or Patriotism

by Don Aguiar

It is an accepted article of faith that our clergy can read and sense the pulse of the people better than anyone else. If the Cardinal and the Bishops were to get a whiff of the current mood of the community they would realize it has dramatically changed.

On both the social and spiritual issues hope and a sense of opportunity have been replaced by despair and despondency. Euphoria and optimism are giving way to pessimism and gloom devoid of transformational initiatives, cynicism is creeping in.

Our community is going over a cliff in very slow motion and though everyone knows what is going to happen, no one is lifting a finger to do anything about it. The memory of significance along with a few remaining pockets of influence are all that remains and those too are disappearing with every successive year. The clergy high command in the Archdiocese of Bombay, a grandiloquent description that will soon start sounding ridiculous, is trapped in an existential dead end, as it is the very problem that it must solve.

The need is to examine the colonial era laws which serves the clergy's purpose of reinforce divisions, but perhaps has no place in democracy. One aspect of this law is that it did not want any kind of tension coming from any group that felt the intolerance from the clergy that undermined their democracy. The second and negative aspect is that it emphasized the divisions within the community in a dramatic way.

Asserting intolerance should not be tolerated as silencing of dissent and generating fear in the minds of the laity by the clergy which makes it harder to have a dialogue based democratic

community. Many in our community are being termed intolerant by the clergy rather than the clergy appreciating their true patriotism to the community. They have been much too tolerant with the intolerance from the clergy. This has to end. So what should we do to support freedom and liberty? Our community should not tolerate the intolerance from the clergy that undermines our democracy.

It is observed that while our community has a long and deeply etched tradition of tolerance towards the clergy, there has always been a streak on intolerance, and the clergy's complicity in that.

The difference between a nationalist and a patriot is the difference between believing your country or community is great and can do no wrong and believing that your country or community is great but not perfect. Nationalism asks you to be blind to the bad aspects and to believe your country or community is without fault. True patriotism is loving your country or community while also criticizing the things that are imperfect and considering the ways it could be greater. Could we possibly think of our clergy in the Archdiocese of Bombay as nationalists?

The social narrative has been hijacked by the clergy and the laity intellectuals and their sympathizers, ably assisted by an ill advised communication strategy on the part of the Cardinal and clergy. Despite high pitched selling of social issues there is general recognition by all stake holders that the clergy rhetoric belies reality. And nothing symbolizes this better than the past. They signify continuity and status quo rather than change and transformation.

There is more unemployment in our community at present day as per reports in our national news papers, although our community is more edu-

cated, compared to the other communities in India - Here's an experiment worth thinking about. What happens if someone gets a monthly amount without working for their living? Will they sit passively at home or do they develop themselves and provide a meaningful contribution to the community? Many in our community are living on interest and money from their past savings or on the sale proceeds of selling their ancestral or otherwise land holdings which makes it their own version of 'basic income'. Will it work? And for how long will such a basic income be able to sustain them?

At a recent interaction, a senior community member pondered about our work ethic as a community. Why do we take so many holidays? What do we do on these holidays, he wondered. Why is it that in other communities, people work for the sake of work (almost a work is worship mentality), while we look for the first excuse to not work? While I think he was referring to the babu culture (not prevalent in much of the private sector), our famous jugaad mentality and pride in taking shortcuts is reflective of a similar psyche. What in our collective experience, in our ancestry or perhaps just in our current environment makes us take the easy road.

Once upon a time it was our community that called the shots but now the need is to take a look at the other communities who were once way behind us and have at present overtaken us by building their financial, social and cultural, land holding and religious muscle and now call the shots. They have now even put up their own educational institutions and think tanks which offers a higher quality of education and guidance than our educational institutions in which these very people have passed through but at present our educational institutions are struggling to maintain a standard. Could this be because of taking the

(Contd.. on p. 15)

Misplaced Priorities

What exactly was said or sloganeered within the campus of the Jawaharlal Nehru University [JNU] is being investigated into and the matter is now with the judiciary of this country – the nation's last hope. This is one institution that is revered and admired for its impartiality and integrity, some black sheep notwithstanding. Once the matter goes to court; everybody should leave it to the judiciary to give its decision.

The morphed videos and also may be manipulated leaflets etc have put a question mark on the veracity or otherwise of the numerous allegations that may have been made against those who do not adhere to the official [read as RSS] ideology. What needs first to be established is whether all the anti-national slogans and leaflets can be attributed to the bonafide students of the university. This is one institution established when M.C. Chagla was the Education Minister in 1969. It was meant to be a unique university to usher in scientific socialism and to introduce new educational streams that would revolutionize the education system. Housed in a sprawling 1000 acre complex it has ten schools and four special centres which produce high quality research publications, books, working papers and M.Phil and Ph.D thesis. Today, the JNU alumni occupy important positions, in academics, government, and private sector and in fact in all walks of life. This university was ranked by the NAAC as the top university in the country.

This premier institution which is acclaimed world-wide should have been spared by our politicians. While the students are well within their right to follow whichever political ideology they accept and admire, they can equally, within its precincts, debate and discuss the merits and demerits of those ideologies. This perhaps must have been happening for decades before the politicians saw in these students prospects of huge vote banks for their own selfish reasons. The politicians infiltrated into the campuses and created rift among students and today we are seeing the outcome of that development. There are distinct political groups within the student fraternity and the intensity of that rivalry is witnessed during the elections to Students' Unions which are based on po-

VIEWSON NEWS

litical ideologies of our polity. Naturally, the parties get involved and in the process we have clashes between different groups. The young minds are corrupted by these politicians.

The Police did not crown itself with glory in dealing with the situation that occurred in the first part of February this year. The RSS affiliated students Union played a prominent role in targeting their opponents in the name of nationalism and patriotism. The thinking is if you do not wear your patriotism on their sleeves you are anti-nationals. This holier than thou attitude is the cause of all troubles in this country. Sedition is a very serious charge and it should be invoked in the rarest of rare cases like death sentence. When you are not sure who has raised those slogans why not wait till all the investigations are over to decide which sections of IPC are applicable. The HM talks of Pak terrorist being behind the happenings. The behaviour of lawyers was disgraceful.

The students must refrain from doing anything that will hurt this nation which has been built with the sweat and blood of our freedom fighters. We have got freedom on a platter so let us learn to cherish this legacy. They must devote their life and energies to make this nation the envy of the contemporary world. Someone sent me a WhatsApp message – "Bhagat Singh at 23 died for his nation, Neerja at 23 died for her passengers on board but the youth of today is dying to break this country". To this I may add – "Capt. Pawan Kumar at 23, among others, sacrificed his life in Pampore in J & K recently to save the lives of Kashmiris". Let the student community be guided and inspired by these young martyrs.

Haryana in turmoil

When thousands of farmers committing suicide year after year, the Government of India does not think it fit to act with alacrity to address this tragedy. Some of the leaders mock those farmers. They feel it is fashionable to commit suicide. Some others think they are jilted in love etc. Nobody listens to them because they do not indulge in wide spread violence damaging public and private property worth thousands of crores of Rupees. They do not burn buses, cars, shops, police stations or



by Marshall Sequeira

indulge in rail roko affecting millions of passengers forcing the authorities to cancel hundreds of trains. The farmers are not organized or concentrated in one State but spread throughout the country. Similarly, when war veterans, some in their nineties, agitate for months and even go on fast, they get caned and even manhandled. They register their protest peacefully but that is not good enough to be heard. They do not indulge in hooliganism so nobody cares. We have seen students agitating for months but the government decides to brazen it.

On the other hand, the Jats like the Patels in Gujarat, by no means poor, in one week created havoc which not only affected Haryana but the entire country. The type of violence witnessed on television even with the army and paramilitary forces in large numbers around, only shows the intensity of the agitation. A lot of people lost their lives.. People are asking questions of this government. There are even reports of large scale gang rape of helpless women and the subsequent massive cover up operation.

But what is astonishing is the number of high level meetings held in quick succession to consider whatever the Jat leaders asked for and set up high level committee to take it forward. The authorities have to come out and answer tough questions including what were the compelling reasons to act in a manner and haste that they did. Hooliganism cannot be seen to be rewarded which sends wrong signals to others to emulate their Haryana counterparts if they want their demands to be met. The Haryana CM has not come out with any explanation even on the alleged gang rape of almost a dozen women who are believed to have been dragged out of their cars. Some of the reports are spine chilling but the DGP of the State, looked very casual in his approach to this heinous episode. The Central Government's silence is deafening.

Prepare for Retirement



Financial security in retirement doesn't just happen. It takes planning and commitment and yes, money. Putting money away for retirement is a habit we can all start with

Transitioning from working life to retirement takes careful financial planning and decision-making-give yourself plenty of time to prepare. Here are some things you can do ahead of time.

Start saving, keep saving

If you are already saving, whether for retirement or another goal, keep going! You know that saving is a rewarding habit. If you're not saving, it's time to get started. Start small if you have to and try to increase the amount you save each month. The sooner you start saving, the more time your money has to grow (see the chart below). Make saving for retirement a priority. Devise a plan, stick to it, and set goals. Remember, it's never too early or too late to start saving.

Learn pension plan

If your employer has a traditional pension plan, check to see if you are covered by the plan and understand how it works. Ask for an individual benefit statement to see what your benefit is worth. Before you change jobs, find out what will happen to your pension benefit. Learn what benefits you may have from a previous employer. Find out if you will be entitled to benefits from your spouse's plan.

Retirement needs

Retirement is expensive. Experts estimate that you will need at least 70 percent of your preretirement income

– lower earners, 90 percent or more – to maintain your standard of living when you stop working. Take charge of your financial future. The key to a secure retirement is to plan ahead.

Contribute

If your employer offers a retirement savings plan, such as a 401(k) plan, sign up and contribute all you can. Your taxes will be lower, your company may kick in more, and automatic deductions make it easy. Over time, compound interest and tax deferrals make a big difference in the amount you will accumulate. Find out about your plan. For example, how much would you need to contribute to get the full employer contribution and how long would you need to stay in the plan to get that money.

Don't touch savings

If you withdraw your retirement savings now, you'll lose principal and interest and you may lose tax benefits or have to pay withdrawal penalties. If you change jobs, leave your savings invested in your current retirement plan, or roll them over to an IRA or your new employer's plan.

Ask your employer

If your employer doesn't offer a retirement plan, suggest that it start one. There are a number of retirement saving plan options available. Your employer may be able to set up a simplified plan that can help both you and your employer.

Basic investments

How you save can be as important as how much you save. Inflation and the type of investments you make play important roles in how much you'll have saved at retirement. Know how your savings or pension plan is invested. Learn about your plan's investment options and ask questions. Put your savings in different types of investments.

By diversifying this way, you are more likely to reduce risk and improve return. Your investment mix may change over time depending on a number of factors such as your age, goals, and financial circumstances. Financial security and knowledge go hand in hand.

Ask Questions

While these tips are meant to point you in the right direction, you'll need a lot more information. You can talk to your employer, your bank, your union, or a financial adviser. Ask questions and make sure you understand those answers. Get some practical advice and start your right away.

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The relationship of parents and children should be more like close friends who should be able to discuss their hearts out to each other. Here are things that every parent must tell children for their better lives

The relationship of parents and children should be more like close friends who should be able to discuss their hearts out to each other. The shyness of child from her parents or the busy schedule of parents sparing no time for child can only make things worse. The parenthood comes along with certain package of responsibilities that any parent is obliged to follow for the betterment of their child or children. Sometimes a universal way of parenting goes with every child, but then there are reported cases where parents have to be extra cautious and parenting has to be peculiar of the child type.

Love your body and the way you are:

We should know the fact that god made us all different, with obstructed yet purposeful reasons. Children are the very tender specimens of the adults. They should be given suitable and comfortable environs to grow, blossom and prosper. Parents should tell their children to never compare themselves with others. There may be differences in their skin color, texture, heights, physiques, speech, thinking capacity, artistic attitudes etc. and hence this should be taught to the kids that it is absolutely normal to be different than others. The feeling of inferiority in any child can turn out to be a massive explosive building inside of him/her, which can demolish his/her own self and sometimes others' too. It is the duty of the parents to make their children feel good about themselves and their bodies.

Share about the mishappenings:

Every child should be taught so that if ever anything goes wrong with him/her, the first thing that should light his mind is to tell the parents about it! This is one of the basic symbols of good parenting and care taking. In various

What Parents Must Tell Kids



cases, children keep on stressing themselves with the unduly burden of secret they treasure, which in fact should be avoided as stress at an early age can hamper the very growth of the children. Sometimes a child witnesses some disaster and keeps it as a secret fearing the dressing down of the parents. The child might also wonder himself as the cause of the mishappening, while this may or may not be the reality. In such cases, parents should be able to read the behavioral differences in child and should talk to them so as to unburden them off the unnecessary tensions.

Help others because the world is round:

Although schools and colleges are meant for overall growth and development of child, the social development of child still lies in the hands of his/her parents, to a much greater extent. The society we live in, works on the principle of give and take – you give good, you get good and you give in bad, and the bad returns to you! So, parents should tell their children about assisting the one in need, about helping the weak and feeble. Only this way, can we expect our posterity to be tied by the relations of humanity and friendliness. Respecting elders and helping them by offering

seat in a crowded bus, or by helping them carry their bags can be just a few ways to mention.

Avoid talking much to strangers:

In the innocent childhood when little kids barely know many people, it is vital on the parents' part to teach them this practice. While it is considered good to help lost strangers by helping them catch the right path or answering strangers if they ask for time etc., but responding to those strangers who try to collect personal details about family or house (in person or online), unnecessarily, is not to be done! Most parents also beware children against abduction practices.

Protect yourself:

Young children should be taught about simple practices as how to defend themselves and combat the situations of unruly harassment. There are cases of child harassment resulting in serious repercussions for the child. Hence, the children must be warned in advanced and should be given basic training, just in case if they meet such situation. A frightened child might not tell the parents about such thing. Therefore, it should be taught to the children from the very beginning that in every situation possible effort to run away from the situation to their parents, and tell them every detail about the same.

Discuss the physical changes:

During puberty, children – both girls and boys are undergo a lot of changes, both physical and mental. This is the very crucial time when parents need to be friendly to their child so that he could tell them the minutest detail about their body. If proper communication between the child and the parents is absent, then the child may bear a lot of stress.

Tell Children not to keep secrets:

Parents should tell their children about the differences in keeping secrets. Certain things which tend to hurt somebody, can be kept and buried as a secret, but any issue of past, which haunts the children – some offensive view or some accident, should not be kept as a secret and instead should be discussed and dealt out with the parents.

Relationship

All of us have many bad habits and we don't even realise them. But these subconscious habits could hurt your beautiful relationship. These could even cause your precious one to go far from you. After the stage of crush, you start realising those nagging habits that have been in your relationship since the very first day but you were not able to get them as you were enjoying the sweetness of your new love. Here are some habits which make your partner want to leave you.

Treating your partner like a project: Constantly trying to change your partner and mold them into the person you want them to be is a toxic habit that could destroy your relationship.

Making your fights public : Not only will this not solve whatever it is you're fighting about, but your partner could become completely repulsed by this childish behavior and decide to leave you.

Criticizing close friends and family: When you criticizing your partner. A partner who feels like you are constantly bashing their loved ones may grow to resent you.

Prolonging an argument: Dragging an argument out even longer than it has to be is seriously just a waste of time.

Holding grudges: Holding on to every little mistake your partner has made and being unable to forgive will only exhaust your partner and ruin your relationship. When your partner has apologized, and the two of you have talked it through, make sure you forgive them.



Avoiding important conversations: When you know there's an important issue to be discussed but you avoid it, you are only giving your partner more reasons to feel uneasy about you and the situation in general.

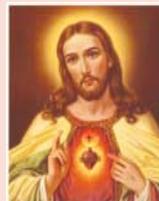
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Thanksgiving



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.

— Mrs. Felicia Cardozo, Andheri West

(Contd.. from p. 10)

easy road or following nationalist policies?

A key reason for the Jain community's success is its culture to ensure that their community members succeed socially, financially, economically and spiritually. One of the key components of its culture is understanding that every masterpiece starts out as an ugly baby. "Originality is fragile," their head priest writes in his book, "The world is often unkind to new talent, new creations. The new needs friends." "Our job is to protect our babies from being judged too quickly. Our job is to protect the new." However, excess positivity is not good either. Good feedback needs to be honest, but from a position of trust and empathy. The purpose of creative feedback is to move the community forward. Anything that does not fulfill that purpose - no matter who it comes from - has no place in a feedback session or in the community.

Could our clergy and the laity intellectuals and their sympathizers possibly think of following this pattern of being a true patriot and as leaders steer our community to growth, progress and prosperity rather than be content in following nationalist policies?

Following nationalist policies results in our community's gradual decent into oblivion and our government not caring to take our community's requirements and opinion into consideration. This leaves us vulnerable to attacks from the communal forces who see our community as a soft target and the government responding half heartedly or very often not at all in protecting our community from the damage caused by such communal elements.

However, personally a principle of life has always been useful to me: "trust, but be careful of whom." And also another, which in German says: Tue recht und scheue niemanden.. That is, "do everything you consider just and don't be afraid of anyone."

Mumbai Gets 4 International Catholic Schools



The craze for International schools may be gauged from the fact that the Maharashtra state govt has granted permission to 1018 new schools to commence operations from the academic year 2015-16. Of these, 18 are in Mumbai. Four of these new schools are Catholic, run by the Archdiocesan Board of Education (ABE). They are: St Stanislaus and St Joseph's Bandra, Sacred Heart's Santa Cruz and St Anne's Orlem. Together with Don Bosco's Matunga, which opened a year earlier, there are now 5 international ABE Catholic schools in Mumbai, to cater to the needs of Catholic students. These schools will need some time to find their niche in the fiercely competitive educational field.

Catholic schools were set up to provide affordable and quality education. This is being done and will continue to be done. But it was found that several affluent Catholics were opting for the international schools. Catholic students in these schools were being deprived of religious education. Hence

it was decided to start a few international schools to cater to the needs of such students.

The policy may be reviewed after a few years and the number of such schools may be increased only if there is a demand from Catholic students. It is not the intention of the church to cater to others in this niche category.

While not many Catholic parents can afford the fees of international schools, there is a burgeoning class of 'upper middle' families in the city who desire and are willing to pay for a higher standard of education for their children, but with a more affordable fee structure than international schools. I believe that starting ICSE sections in existing ABE schools will be a boon for Catholics in Mumbai. The fee structure of about Rs 30,000 per annum is very affordable for many parents in Mumbai. This proposal will provide a wide option for Catholic parents across the social and economic strata.

—Prof Robert Castellino,
Orlem

CAPITAL GAINS TAX

Capital Gain tax as name suggests it is tax on gain in capital. If you sale property, shares, bonds & precious material etc. and earn profit on it within predefined time frame you are supposed to pay capital gain tax. The capital gain is the difference between the money received from selling the asset and the price paid for it. Capital gain tax is categorized into short-term gains and long-term gains. The Long-term Capital Gains Tax is charged if the capital assets are kept for more than certain period 1 year in case of share and 3 years in case of property. Short-term Capital Gains Tax is applicable if these assets are held for less than the above - mentioned period. Rate at which this tax is applied varies based on investment class.

WHAT IS ALTRUISM?



Altruism is an expression of concern for the welfare of others without any obvious benefit or motivation on the part of the individual expressing the concern. It is actually quite difficult to find instances of true altruism in the psychological sense, as many acts which are perceived as altruistic actually carry psychological rewards. In humans, helping others generally results in a feeling of pleasure or satisfaction, suggesting that humans have actually developed a biological imperative which pushes them to behave in an altruistic manner by providing an emotional reward. When people talk about altruism, however, they don't usually mean altruism in the biological or psychological sense.

Knowledge



Page

What are angel sleeves?

Angel sleeves are a style that dates back at least to the renaissance. Instead of being fitted to the arm, the sleeves are cut with lots of extra material, so that they have appearance of 'wings'. The extra length of the sleeves varies widely, from just below the elbow to covering the hands and the extra material might be so long that it trails on the floor. Though many angel sleeves are cut very long, so that the open cuffs reach down the knee, the term can be used as a general name for any sleeve that is made with a lot of material and doesn't have a gathered cuff.



What is Green Energy?

Green energy is energy that is produced in such a way as to minimize its negative impact on the environment. Traditional energy sources, most notably fossil fuels, produce greenhouse gases that are believed to be primary cause of an effect as global warming or climate change. Sources of green energy, such as solar, wind, geothermal and hydro energy, are developed and promoted as alternative sources that make little or no contribution to climate change.

WHY DO THINGS LOOK WAVY IN HEAT?

The wavy lines that appear above a hot-grill or an asphalt road in the middle of the summer are caused by a phenomenon called refraction. Refraction is the bending of light waves and it occurs when light passes between substances with different refractive indices – in this case, cool air and hot air. Because hot air is less dense than cool air, light speeds up when it reaches a hot surface and then curves back upwards, causing the viewer to see an image of the sky and the surface to appear wavy in the heat. This phenomenon is responsible for desert mirages, as refraction and reflection look very similar to the human eye.

What is a Colour Identifier?



A device called colour identifier is helpful for individuals who are blind, have low vision or have colour vision impairment. When placed on a surface, the colour identifier recognises the colour and announces its name. The device, also known as a colour analyser or recogniser, can announce the shades and tints of a colour as well, such as dark brown, blue-green or pink. It works by interpreting saturation, hue and lightness to determine the correct colour. The device can be used on various surfaces, including paper, cloth, wood or plastic and also on natural objects.

Culture of Accumulation – leading to self destruction !



by **Melville X. D'Souza**
- **Orlem Malad West**

I am one of those who does not like to throw away things easily; on the contrary I like to collect scrapped items with a view to make something out of it at a later date. Anything that catches my fancy, it is picked up - it could be anything some broken metal contraption, anything weird, wild, dried flowers/leaves, obsolete items, whatever. But of course, finding a suitable place at home, is a difficult thing. Some would like to call this as, 'accumulation' – accumulation of unwanted items. One of my colleagues would jokingly remark that this man has a "bhangar" shop at his place ! Well, that is harmless accumulation of trash ! But there is another form of accumulation that we need to give thought to.

A few Sundays back I came across this news report with regard to the 51st International Eucharistic Congress held in the Philippines recently. Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle from the Philippines referred to what he called the 'Culture of Accumulation'. Speaking at the Eucharistic Congress, he said, "The reality is that human achievement is often fuelled by materialism, the accumulation, the consumption of goods, even when they are not needed". That was thought provoking. Yes, it's true, we are today living in a materialistic world – we want to keep on accumulating – wealth, money, power through fair or unfair means. We easily fall prey to the marketing gimmicks and end up accumulating of things, many of which we do not need. We do not seem to know when to stop – how much is enough, one would ask ? It is said, "you never know how much is enough unless you know what is more than enough !".

How do we come out of this quagmire ? We find it very difficult sometimes and seem resigned to the situation we are in. We are presently, in the season

of Lent and I think this could be the right time for reflection. We seem to be blinded by this bug of "accumulation" and so, we go on accumulating, accumulating and accumulating. Cardinal Tagle may have been referring to material things we accumulate during our life time. We need to ask ourselves, in the process, are we also accumulating sin in our hearts ?

Do we have a grudge in our heart against our neighbour ? Are we jealous of our colleagues in office ? Are we jealous of somebody in the neighbourhood because he has a bigger flat or has bought a new and bigger car ? Are we building up anger in our heart over some dispute with our neighbours or even with our own family members over some serious issues ? Are we piling up hate in our heart against somebody who may have run down our name in society ? Are we gossiping about somebody in the market place ? Are we filling our heart with the feeling of revenge for the hurt people have heaped upon us ? Does this accumulation of hurt feelings, jealousy, hatred, etc., into our hearts, with no end in sight, not amount to 'accumulation of sins'? Human that we are, little do we understand that this will prove to be self-destructive !

Over the years, during the period of Lent, we have always been called upon to look into our hearts and seek repentance for our sins; we need to examine our hearts. We need to get rid of this "culture of accumulation" – accumulation of sin !

This culture is prevalent not just on the individual level. On the international front, we find several nations at enmity with other nations for some reason or the other. We see nations accumulating arms and ammunition, including nuclear weapons, either to defend

themselves or seeking revenge for earlier hostilities. The 'nuclear' club seems to be increasing dangerously as days go by. Again, little do these nations understand that this mad accumulation of arms and ammunition will ultimately lead to self-destruction !

So where do we stand ? This is the time for some soul searching, We need to repent. We need to get rid of this bug called "accumulation" – to move away from this culture of Accumulation !

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Protect your memory

It's common to experience a little memory loss as we age but much like muscles, the more exercise you give your brain, the stronger it will be. And you don't need any crazy products or regiments stay sharp, these simple lifestyle tips can keep you for years

Keep your body fit: Stretching and exercise brings oxygen to the brain and creates new neuron connections.

Take brisk walks each day and do stretching exercises. Increased cardio can make your brain actually grow, with more white matter and more neuron connections.

Manage your stress: Stretching and relaxation exercises help keep anxiety in check. Stress causes the body to release cortisol and cortisol has been found to shrink the memory. Try meditation as it has also been proven to substantially improve memory function.

Check your iron: Iron helps the neuro transmitters which are essential for memory to function properly and your body may be sensitive to low amounts. It's proven as in a study, women low in iron missed twice as many memory questions as women with adequate levels of iron.

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'Beautify Mumbai's Beaches'

Mumbai's beaches which are its attraction for both domestic and international tourists stink.

Garbage from the beaches must be cleared at night both by hand and by using specialised beach cleaning machines and waste water from residences, offices and factories must not be allowed to flow into the sea and this pollution can be curbed by making it compulsory for them to have water treatment plants.

Trash traps can be used to capture waterborne debris before it reaches the sea.

Hawkers must be settled at hawkers plazas on beaches from where they can ply their trade and dust-bins must be provided for people to throw their garbage and similarly the fisherfolk must be provided a separate sectioned off area where they can dry their fish.

Unclaimed fishing nets restrict movement causing infection in the animals that breathe air and suffocation and so they must be removed at once.

All marine animals like dolphins and whales that die on beaches must be removed immediately to avoid polluting beaches.

Fines must be imposed on people littering beaches but the fine must not be wasted but used to fund important and useful projects.

Oil spills on beaches must be immediately removed to avoid beach destruction and pollution and double hulled oil tanker ships must be promoted to avoid unnecessary oil spills.

Waterborne ailments like gastroenteritis, respiratory illness, skin rashes and ear, nose and throat infections have a high sensitivity and unclean beaches only aggravate them.

So people must keep beaches simple, healthy and clean as they are the pride of our city and to encourage clean beaches every year a prize must be given for the cleanest city beaches while the dirty beaches must result in their municipal corporators being permanently boycotted and blacklisted and also being recalled for totally failing in their duty.

—Peter Castellino

Meaning of Lent

- L - Leave
- E - Every
- N - Negative
- T - Thought

—Jubel D'Cruz, Dombivili,

Liquor license

Until now one day's temporary liquor license for private parties was costing Rs 13,000. From today this has been increased to Rs 15,000 for parties with more than 100 persons and reduced to Rs 10,000 for parties with less than 100 persons.

(Contd.. from p. 9)

When you cannot remember the 7 habits of highly effective people, the 22 (or more) characteristics of being a good wife, or the 100 ways of love; it's time to get back to The Shepherd. When at the Lenten missions the preacher insists that you increase your devotion, reduce your worry, augment your faith or banish your fears; it's time to get back to The Shepherd. When you feel overwhelmed by testimonies of others experiencing God's grace & mercy, of having prayers answered while you are still waiting; it's time to get back to The Shepherd. Yes my dear readers, it's time to hear His voice and simplify your life. It's time to get back to Jesus, the Shepherd of your Soul, pure and simple. I tried it (the process is on). Why don't you?

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Inspiration!

Always believe in yourself

Believing in oneself is one of the most important things required for success. If you lose faith in yourself for some reason, use these ways to gain it back

The world that we are living in is extremely competitive and challenging, and people start to doubt themselves and their abilities when they meet with failure. But a few failures are not the end. You must get back up again.

Accept Your Current Situation

The first thing you need to do if you want to get back up and start believing in yourself again is to accept your current life situation. You have to make peace with how your life looks at the moment and what led to this situation that you are in. Fighting with your situation won't do you any good.

Recall past success

If you are feeling down and out, use your past to get motivated again. Remember the time when you were awesome and you used to rock it! Put yourself in that past and think about the awesome things that you used to do back then. Now remember that you can do it again. Use your past to your advantage. It'll give you an optimistic view towards the present.

Trust Yourself

This is one of the most important things that can help you get that belief and confidence back. All the energy, power, courage, strength and confidence is within you. Spend time with yourself to access it, whether it be through meditation, journaling, or activities that make you trust in



Talk with Yourself

We are the ones who create who we will become. We do that every day by our daily beliefs and self-talk. It's really important that we talk to ourselves and motivate ourselves.

Don't be afraid

Fear stands for False Evidence that Appears Real. It is the main thing that holds you back from believing in yourself again more than anything else. Face your fears and don't let them stop you from achieving your goals.

Let off the hook

You have to forgive yourself for any failures or mistakes that you have committed in the past and move on. You have to look at the future and stop living in the past. Be compassionate towards yourself.

Get a positive attitude

Having a positive attitude towards everything is the quickest way in achieving that belief and confidence in yourself. Be thankful for whatever you are and whatever you have.

Let a Life Coach Help You

A life coach is a professional that helps, supports, and guides you. A life coach can help you recognize your abilities and skills. They can help you refocus on your goals and remember your past successes. When you're full of doubt, your life coach will believe in you and help you to believe in yourself again.

Why believe in yourself?

It is a very well-known fact that if anyone wants to succeed in life, they must believe in themselves. We have to believe in ourselves and in our abilities because our inner faith will create our external results. People easily lose faith in themselves when encountering setbacks, failure and fear. When you lack confidence in yourself, others will pick up on that and won't take you seriously. Not many people live the life that they have always wished to live; they give up on their life goals as soon as they encounter the first setback.

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MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, aged 39 years, Ht. 6', Wt. 80 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. HSC., Dip. in A.C. Mechanic, working as a AC Technician in Muscat. Contact Email : suaresroshan@gmail.com OR Tel.: 23733750 Or 968-99694267 **(Regd. No. 6113)**

MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, aged 32 years, Ht. 6', Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Com + IATA working as a Manager for Emirates in Dubai Seeks a humble, godfearing, educated Mangalorean girl. Ht. above 5' 5", age below 28 years. Contact email : philomenanoronha60@gmail.com OR 9619639323 **(Regd. No. 6040)**

MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic 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 : RC Bachelor 40/5'8", B.E., working in Senior position reputed IT firm. Seeks alliance from R.C. spinster educated good family background Pl. reply with photograph and details to keithcardozo@hotmail.com or contact 9820338755 **(Regd. No. 5996)**

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tact email : larsen316@gmail.com OR 9819068603 **(Regd. No. 6213)**

MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Divorcee, Australian Citizen, 47 yrs, Ht 5'11, Wheatish, BCom, Govt. job, seeks suitable march. Reply with photo to chrisnorbert@outlook.com / sharlet1968@gmail.com **(Regd. No. 6411)**

MUMBAI: Goan RC Bachelor, aged 37 years, Ht. 5' 6", good looking XII Pass, presently working as Share Broker having own bungalow accommodation at Bandra Mumbai also getting good regular monthly rent seeks goodlooking RC Spinster. Call 9167372840 Contact email : pintolazarus2012@gmail.com **(Regd. No. 6393)**

MUMBAI: Goan RC Bachelor, aged 29 years, Ht. 5' 11", Wt. 85 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. MCS, working for IT Company in U.S. Seeks a suitable match. Contact email : marcon-cruz58@gmail.com OR 9930630927 **(Regd. No. 6373)**

MUMBAI: Tamilian RC Bachelor, aged 27 years, Ht. 5' 8", Wt. 72 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., LLB., Advocate by profession. Seeks a educated, working girl from good family background. Contact email: robint9@gmail.com OR 9869020707 **(Regd. No. 6372)**

GOA : Goan RC Bachelor, aged 31 years, Ht. 5' 8", Wt. 60 kgs, Very Fair Complexion, Edn. 3 years Diploma in Catering, working as a Chef at a Supervisory level. Contact email : chef-savio83@gmail.com OR 8652744565 **(Regd. No. 6363)**

MUMBAI : Goan RC Bachelor, aged 25 years, Ht. 6', Wt. 80 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.E. in Electronics and Telecom from Mumbai University, working as a Software developer in a well known MNC in Mumbai. Only Child. Seeks a suitable match. Contact

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

email : clive2111@ymail.com OR 9967555521 **(Regd. No. 6359)**

MUMBAI : Mangalorean RC Bachelor, aged 41 years, Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 65 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., working as a Admin. Controller in DUBAI. Contact email : dsouzarobin25@gmail.com OR Tel : 22-24983066 **(Regd. No. 6358)**

MUMBAI : Mangalorean RC parents, residing at Navi Mumbai, invite alliance for their bachelor son 29/6', M.S. (Electronics) from RMIT, Australia. Australian citizen, working as Asst. Manager, in Australia, seeks alliance from qualified RC spinster upto 26/5'4" and above with good family background and Christian values. Please contact : wwlewis86@gmail.com / 022-27422720 **(Regd. No. 6357)**

MUMBAI : Mangalorean RC Bachelor, aged 33 years, Ht. 5'7", Wt. 70 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Software Diploma, working as an IT Engineer. Seeks a understanding, caring, simple Mangalorean Girl. Contact email : johndmello@rediffmail.com OR 24972108 **(Regd. No. 6354)**

MUMBAI : Mangalorean RC Bachelor, aged 37 years, Ht. 5' 11", Wt. 80 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. HSC + Dip. in Catering, working on cruise line in store department. Handsome, sober, having own house, seeks a simple, godfearing, working Mangalorean girl. Contact email : lewisroyston@yahoo.com OR 7208759704 **(Regd. No. 6353)**

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MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 26 years, Ht. 5' 3", Wheatish Complexion, Edn. M.Com, (Accounting) GNIIT, Working for a reputed IT - MNC as a Finance Executive. Seeks a well qualified and settled Mangalorean groom age upto 31 years, working in India or abroad. Contact email : nishalobo88@gmail.com OR 9930913027 / 9869077568. **(Regd. No. 6340)**

MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic 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)**

MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, 27 years, Ht. 5' 11", Wt. 60 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. MBBS, Doctor by profession. Contact email : crickslick@gmail.com OR 9892629974 **(Regd. No 6331)**

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MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 29 years, Ht. 163 cms, Wt. 62kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. M.D. (Ophthalmology) Doctor by profession. Seeks a Mangalorean bachelor from Mumbai or Mangalore below 32 years, preferably Medical profession. Contact email : rufa0107@gmail.com OR 9969642490 **(Regd. No. 6325)**

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MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 37 years, Ht. 5' 3", Wt. 50 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. M.Sc. (Chemistry) working as an Executive. Contact email : piress90@yahoo.com OR 9867736474 **(Regd. No. 6320)**

MUMBAI : Goan RC Spinster, aged 30 years, Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 52 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. M.B.A. in Finance, working as an Executive. Contact email : md279197@gmail.com OR 9619374254 **(Regd. No. 6318)**

MUMBAI : Goan RC Spinster, aged 34 years, Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 69 kgs, Fair and good looking, Edn. B.A., well settled, seeks a qualified, sober, well settled bachelor from good family background. Contact email : feelingblessed2015@gmail.com **(Regd. No. 6317)**

MUMBAI : Mangalorean RC Spinster, aged 26 years, Ht. 5' 2", Wt. 50 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. M.A., Teacher by profession. Contact email : aranha.priya22@gmail.com OR 9920320332 **(Regd. No. 6316)**

MUMBAI : Tamilian Protestant Spin-

ster, aged 29 years, Ht. 5' 1", Wt. 48 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Post Graduate, working as a Manager in Bank. Contact email : ratnam.rachel@gmail.com OR 9833425894 / 9869308405 **(Regd. No. 6315)**

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MUMBAI : Karnataka Methodist Protestant Spinster, aged 29 years, Ht. 4' 8", Wt. 55 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Tech, working as a Deputy Manager in HDFC - IT Industries. Contact email : gmshilesh@gmail.com OR 9765361362. **(Regd. No. 6312)**

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Multi intentional masses and stipends

It has become a common practice for churches to celebrate multi-intentional masses by clubbing together mass-intentions for different purposes such as departed souls, thanksgiving, praise, etc, offered by the faithful for a particular day and time. Stipends are therefore collected from all those offering the mass for their intentions. Such a practice is forbidden by Canon law 948 which explicitly states that only the intentions of the first stipend payer will be fulfilled by the Eucharistic celebrations and the rest of the intentions will have to be fulfilled on other days by offering separate masses for individual intentions. It is also not known why some Archdioceses have forbidden the clubbing together of mass intentions while in others it is permitted. Do we have separate Canon laws for different Archdioceses? It is also re-

grettable that the stipend for masses has increased threefold in the past few years which negates the noble purpose for which it was actually meant. A stipend is primarily meant to serve as a token of offering by the donor in the sacrifice of the mass as well as to offset some of the petty expenses of the priest and some minor expense incurred by the church for the Eucharistic celebrations. By raising the price of masses every year and linking it to the cost of living amounts to trading in masses which is forbidden by Canon law and a grave sin. It takes us back to the days of the Reformation when indulgences were sold by the corrupt priests. It is time we stop this malpractice.

—A. F. Nazareth,
Alto Porvorim

Shrine in Udipi introduces new system for alms-giving

Udipi: The St. Lawrence Shrine at Attur village near Karkala in Udipi district introduced a new system to distribute alms to the destitute during the annual feast this year.

The tradition of giving alms at the St. Lawrence Shrine has been on for the last 16 years. The needy used to roam about in the area during the annual feast, which used to inconvenience devotees.

This year, the shrine committee put an end to this practice. All kinds of begging were banned in the premises. Meanwhile, the devotees were encouraged to deposit money in two separate boxes for the alms-seekers. The alms collected in these boxes were distributed to the destitute according to their needs during the lunch on January 29, the concluding day of the annual feast, along with food packets.

Around 2,000 destitute or alms-seekers received Rs. 10.84 lakh, according to a press release.

Lucas D'Souza, a devotee who had come from Sasthan to the shrine, distributed snacks and alms to the destitute on the occasion.

Rev. Fr. George D'Souza, rector of the shrine, and Fr. Vijay D'Souza, assistant parish priest, were present during the distribution.

Lakhs of devotees visit the shrine throughout the year, and especially during the feast. The annual feast this year was held from Jan 24 to 29. A total of 42 masses in Konkani, Kannada, Malayalam and English were celebrated during these five days.

Five bishops –of Udipi, Ballari, Mangaluru, Varanasi and Beltangady dioceses - celebrated the Holy Mass in three days from January 26 to January 28.

Bishop Gerald Isaac Lobo of Udipi was at the Attur shrine all the five days of the feast.

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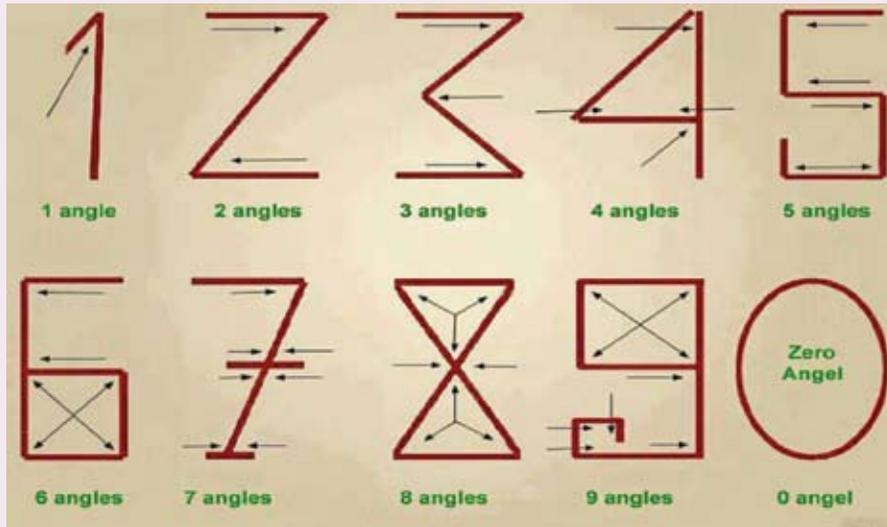
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The Logic Behind Numbers

We use numbers every day. We use it to write, to calculate, to think and also to count things. But how much do you know about the actual numbers you use?



The unique feature of our numbering system, having each position represent a power of 10 (as opposed to a system like Roman numerals), developed some time between the first and sixth centuries. The symbol for zero is an exception, having been invented around the same time as the decimal numbering system.

Most of us know that they were invented way back, by the Arab empire, adapted by the whole world. Before that, the popular numbers were the Roman numbers (I for 1, X for 10 and so forth). But do you know WHY the numbers look the way they do? If not, then here's why:

The numbers we write are made up of algorithms, (1, 2, 3, 4, etc) called arabic algorithms, to distinguish them from the roman algorithms (I; II; III; IV and so on).

The Arabs popularise these algorithms, but their origin goes back to the phoenician merchants that used them to count and do their commercial compatibility.

Have you ever asked the question why 1 is "one", 2 is "two", 3 is "three"?

Ans: It is all because of angles.

Yes, it is the number of angles in each letter.

What is the logic that exist in the arabic algorithms?

Ans: Easy very easy. There are angles.

Look at these algorithms written in their primitive form and check it up.

you will notice that the 7 has a line through the middle of it. That was the way the Arabic 7 was originally written, and in Europe and certain other areas, they still write the 7 that way. Also, in the military, they commonly write it that way., in fact we will write 7 with a line through it - this is the probably because we are getting ancient but also when we were at school a teacher wrote it in the same way and you wanted to be all cool and hip so started writing it that way. Also in the military they commonly write it that.

Do you know what nine has a kind of curly tail on it that has been reduced, for the most part nowadays, to a simple curve, but the logic involved still applies. It's really tough to imagine curled 9 ever having been commonly used.

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