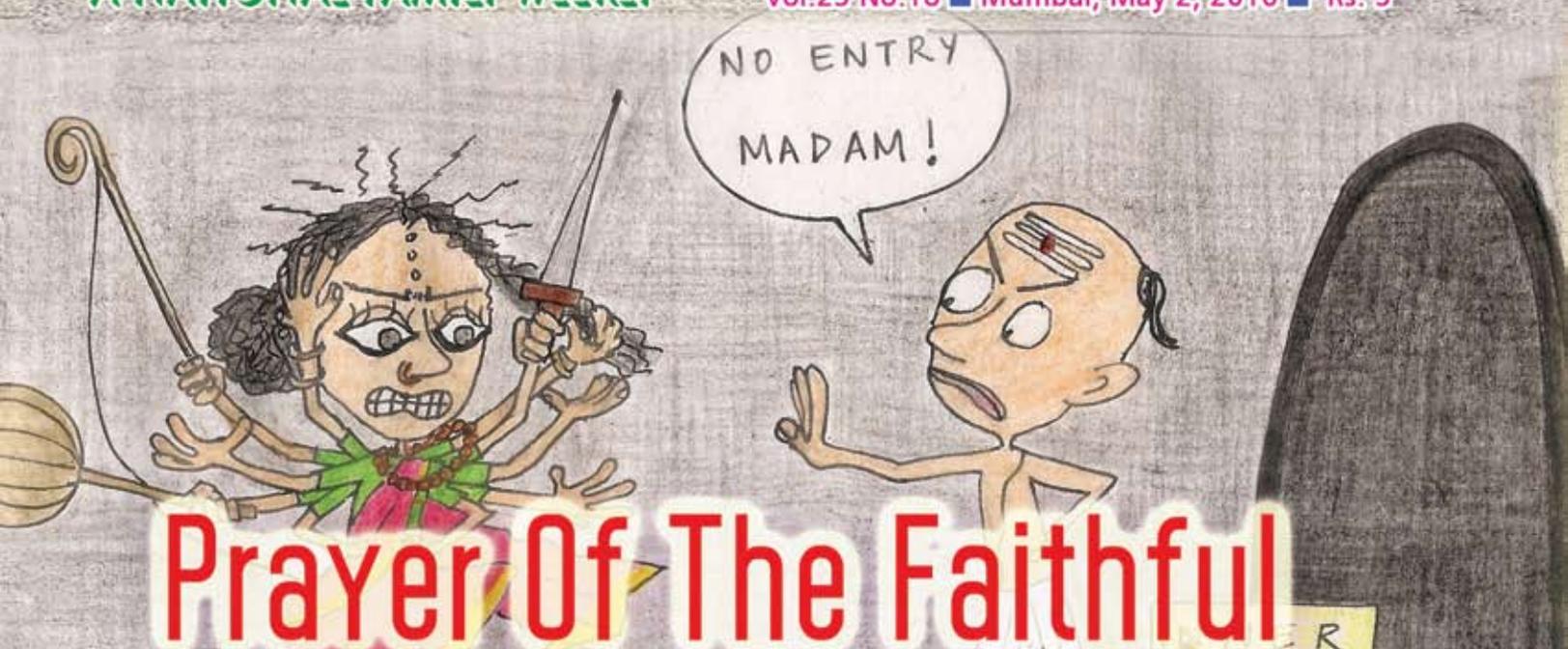


THE SECULAR CITIZEN

(Total pages 24)

A NATIONAL FAMILY WEEKLY

Vol.25 No.18 ■ Mumbai, May 2, 2016 ■ Rs. 5



Prayer Of The Faithful

No Woman Admitted

Regulation of this holly mountain Omnesan prohibits any woman from climbing farther through this gate according to the religious tradition

Omnesanji Temple

ER
SANCTUM



मंदिर जायेंगे
दरगाह जायेंगे



महाराष्ट्र की आंदोलनकारी महिलाओं के लिए पंजाब

अब नहीं सहेंगे यह भेदभाव

राष्ट्रपति जी हमारा सवैधानिक अधिकार दो।

राष्ट्रपति जी हमारा सवैधानिक अधिकार दो।

अब नहीं रुकेगी नारी शक्ति

अब नहीं सहेंगे यह भेदभाव

स्वतंत्र भारत में भी महिलाओं को समानता क्यों नहीं?

परंपरा की दुहाई देने वालों ने जनेऊ और चोटी क्यों त्याग दी?

अब नहीं रुकेगी नारी शक्ति

महाराष्ट्र की आंदोलनकारी महिलाओं के साथ है पंजाब

Discrimination Seen In Christian Absence In Minority Commission

Sister Jessie Kurian, a former member of the National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions (NCMEI), sees discrimination in keeping the post of a Christian vacant in the quasi-judicial body.

The Central Government set up the four-member commission in 2004 to promote education among minorities. It does not have a chairperson now and Sister Kurian's apprehensions came amid speculation that the Human Resources Development ministry could appoint a member from the Jain community to the post.

The Jains, who got minority status in 2014, have been pressing for a membership in the National Commission for Minorities. But there's a possibility the community could be accommodated in the NCMEI instead, the telegraphindia.com reported.

Christians, who form 2.3 percent of India's 1.2 billion people, are more than six times the number of Jains in the country.

Not appointing a Christian as an NCMEI member would amount to discriminating the community, Sister Jessie says.

Two Muslims and a Sikh are the other members in the NCMEI, which decides on granting minority status to institutions.

Kurian said Christians, the country's second-largest minority grouping, had a "legitimate" expectation after being involved in running more than 30,000 educational institutions where over 20 million children study. "Despite praiseworthy contribution in education, if Christians are not represented in the NCMEI, it will be discrimination against the community by the central government," the Catholic



Sr. Jessie Kurian

nun said.

The commission has always been represented by a Christian since it was set up. The NCMEI Act says the commission would consist of a chairperson and three members from the minority communities to be nominated by the central government. The chairperson must have been at least a high court judge while any person of eminence, ability and integrity can be a member, the act says.

The three members on the panel now are Zafar Agha, a journalist; Naheed Abidi, a Sanskrit scholar, and Baltej Singh Mann, an economist. While the previous government had appointed Agha, the current government appointed Abidi and Mann in 2015.

Sister Kurian, a member of the St. Anne's Providence of Secunderabad, agrees that there is "no legal provision" that the NCMEI must have a Christian as a member. "But it is a legitimate expectation going by the population and contribution of Christians in education."

Kurian, an NCMEI member from 2008 to 2009, said the commission has always had a Christian member. Valson Thampu, who was until recently the

principal of Delhi's St. Stephen's College, was among the first three members appointed in 2004.

After he resigned in 2007, Vasanthi Stanley, a political leader from southern India, was made a member. When she resigned in 2008, Sister Kurian was appointed for the remaining term. Cyriac Thomas, a university professor who was appointed in 2010, completed the full tenure of five years.

Sr. Jessie Kurian appeared unimpressed by the appointments made in the last two years, saying none of the members had a legal background. "The NCMEI is a quasi-judicial body. The commission has to dispose of cases based on landmark judgments of the Supreme Court and high courts on minority issues. Hence the members should preferably have a legal background," she said.

The commission awards minority certificates to institutions set up by minorities. In 2011, it had declared the Delhi-based Jamia Millia Islamia a minority university. The decision has been challenged in court.

Until January this year, the NCMEI had awarded minority certificates to 11,623 institutions, including 4,447 in Kerala, 2,604 in Uttar Pradesh and 696 in Bengal.

The NCMEI Act, however, does not say that the members should have a legal background.

Courtesy: Matters india

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'Thought for the week'

The essence of wisdom is using what we know and confessing to what we do not know.

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(Article on p. 11)

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Bishops Urge Prime Minister To Invite Pope Francis

New Delhi: A delegation of Catholic bishops Monday urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to invite Pope Francis at a time suitable to both the Indian government and the Vatican.



The delegation led by Cardinal Baselios Cleemis, president of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of India (CBCI), met the premier to request him to personally lead the Indian delegation for the canonization of Mother Teresa scheduled for September 4 in Rome.

A press statement issued by CBCI spokesperson Fr Gyanprakash Topno said the prime minister "appreciated the sentiments of the bishops and assured that he would favorably consider" their requests.

Cardinal Cleemis was accompanied by CBCI secretary general Bishop Theodore Mascarenhas and deputy secretary general Monsignor Joseph Chinnayyan. They met the premier at his office in the Parliament.

The press release said Modi promised to consult with his colleagues regarding the invitation to the Pope.

The CBCI team renewed the Indian Church's concern for Salesian Father Tom Uzhunnalil, who has been in the custody of Islamic terrorists of Yemen since March 4.

The CBCI delegation appreciated the steps taken by the India government to save the life of Fr. Uzhunnalil from the abductors. It requested that the prime minister personally intervene for the priest's safe release.

The bishops welcomed the prime minister's many initiatives to improve the standard of life of millions of Indian living in rural areas

The delegation assured the Catholic Church's cooperation and participation in all government efforts to build a better India, the press statement said.

The Standing Committee of the bishops' conference is meeting in New Delhi from April 27. The committee that meets twice a year takes all important decisions for the Church in India.

Source: MattersIndia

Thanksgiving



Heartfelt thanks for the favours granted. Praying for more favours

—Samuel G. George, Kalina



Supporting Narendra Modi ...

The Sunday Times dated 17th April, reports "Nation chose Modi, we need to support him: SRK". So says Shah Rukh Khan, "I would like to state very clearly, when we chose a leader of our country, whoever (it) may be, as great as (Narendra Modi), all we have to do is to support him.....". Well said, Mr. Shah Rukh Khan. And this coming from a man, who only around five months back was criticised for his "intolerance" remark. "There was nothing worse than religious intolerance and that it would take India to the Dark Ages", says the news report.

So, what has changed Mr. Shah Rukh Khan in these five months or so? Is the situation any better now? Are the minorities feeling safer now? How far has the country progressed since Mr. Narendra Modi taking over the Prime Ministership? How do you expect the people of this country to support Mr. Narendra Modi, when the man refuses to speak up for the minorities in this country; when he does not have the guts or power to stop his party leaders from making provocative statements? There is lots more..... And when he does speak, it is without conviction – his words sound hollow! And of course, how do you expect the people to support a Prime Minister who is more often on "world tour"? Is he around to see the ground realities here in the country? He needs to feel the pulse of the people of the country!

The people of this country have chosen Mr. Narendra Modi as the leader of our country – yes, he promised "Acche Din" to the people of this country; today, they are disillusioned, and still waiting, Mr. Shah Rukh Khan.

Let him show that is in charge – as Prime Minister of the country; the people of this country want to see some concrete results. Only then can we support him. Till then, Mr. Narendra Modi will continue to be "vote catcher" for his party – purely a "Marketing Manager"!

—Melville X. D'Souza
- Orlem, Malad

'Achhe Din' In The Offing?

With a more than normal monsoon forecast by the meteorological department this year, 'achhe din' for the 'aam admi' is now set to become a reality, it seems. Never mind the earlier promises of the govt, it is the most refreshing piece of news for one and all, especially for a beleaguered govt at the centre, struggling hard to end the misery of farmers and the hundreds of drought-hit villages in the country where more than 25% of the people are starved of water and agriculture badly hit. In this bleak scenario of despair and hopes of a promising forthcoming monsoon, there are several lessons to be learnt. Firstly, it is important that we realize our dependence on nature to a great extent for our survival, despite the advances made in science and technology. Secondly, it is our bounden duty to make judicious use of our water resources by preventing its wastage through proper planning and maintenance of our systems. Finally, even a good monsoon can prove to be of little benefit to the people if proper care is not taken in storing the bountiful harvest and prevent its rotting in godowns, as past records have shown.

—A. F. Nazareth,

Do Not Waste Water

Maharashtra is lurching under a very severe drought this year due to insufficient rains. We should not waste water. We should also not leave the water running when we are brushing our teeth, washing clothes, shaving or cleaning dishes. We should keep the tap closed and not let the water go running unnecessarily. Water is precious and cost money. There are millions or people in Maharashtra who are not getting a drop of water in their taps since September 2015. We must think of them. We must also not waste water by using a hose to water the plants in our garden.

— Jubel D'Cruz,
Dombivili

Prayers for Rain

The year gone by has seen this country caught up in one of the severest drought in recent times. The failure of the monsoon being the primary cause.

None of us would like to see the situation repeat itself for a second year in a row, let alone the disaster it can create.

The good news is that the MET department has, with the equipment at their disposal, has predicted a good monsoon for 2016. It is not that we can't rely on these people. But let us put our faith and trust on the ONE who will never let us down.

Would it not be a good idea to start right away invoking the blessings of the almighty, that our country be blessed with a plentiful rainfall and an abundant harvest? Through the years we have resorted to pray for this only after we find that the monsoon is failing us. Let us not wait for this situation.

(Contd.. on p. 6)

(Contd.. from p. 5)

Prayers for a good monsoon should be encouraged in our churches, our housing societies and in our homes. The time of course is to start without any further delay.

We all know that God can and will if he were sought.

—*Jude Chaves*

' Open Places Of Worship To Everyone '

A place of worship is a sacred and tranquil place where one can pray without the fear of gender discrimination since God is common to both men and women and since the Maharashtra

Chief Minister defended activist Trupti Desai detention when she tried to enter the restricted platform at Shani Shingnapur despite a High Court order opening all temples to men and women he has committed contempt of court and must be arrested and must be boycotted and recalled through a

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right to recall law which must be enacted immediately if he tries to support gender discrimination by passing a law in favor of it and courts must ensure justice in future judgements by preventing the passing of such a gender discrimination law.

The Chief Minister, Deputy Chief Minister, Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister, President, Vice President must under go a compulsory psychiatric test before assuming office and the Chief Minister Deputy Chief Minister Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister must be directly elected by the people who must also be given the choice of selecting ,nominating and elected non-nominated candidates for these posts and the newly elected bodies must elected the leaders of the houses cutting across political barriers to ensure impartiality when electing the leaders of these elected bodies.

Parsee fire temples and Mormon/Church of the Latter Day Saints where people belonging to other religious communities are barred from entering must be opened to all religious communities by filing a case in a court of law against these unjust, stupid and idiotic bans which serve no useful purpose because the very fact that Parsees and Mormons can freely enter all other places of worship is patently unfair and one-sided and by barring people from other religions from entering their place of worship means that something untoward/unacceptable is going on .

In Malaysia non-Muslims are barred from entering mosques and this discriminatory law must be challenged in a court of law by human rights activists.

So the 'Acche Din' which Narendra Modi promised is just a gimmick and a conman's trick to get votes by hook or by crook and will never ever arrive under his crooked, communal and autocratic government and thus eternal vigilance to ensure protection of one's fundamental rights is the need of the hour.

—*Peter Castellino*

Ban 'Killer Robots' or Laws

An ominous report appeared in The Times Of India, pg. 17, Apr. 13, 2016: "Don't Give Robots the License to Kill", experts warn UN. This dispatch prepared by the Human Rights Watch and Howard Law School cautioned, that technology allowing a pre-programmed robot to shoot or kill, or a tank to fire at a target with no human involvement is only years away. It called for a ban on such killer robots!

The Vatican's Holy See also participated, and demanded that such LAWS – Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems be prohibited. Nuclear armaments, chemical weapons, clusters munitions and anti-personal landmines are good examples. The use of LAWS will only lead to false security and instability; and will not establish the conditions for true peace.

The Holy See's Permanent Observer to the UN, Archbishop Ivan Jurkovic further revealed: If we want peace, we must avoid LAWS. We must strive to 'convert minds'. Peace must be born out of 'mutual trust' between nations, instead of being imposed by the 'terror of weapons'. This confidence is based on the 'ethics of brotherhood'; but the accumulation of LAWS undermines that trust.

The real fight, the Archbishop portrayed, is one which will restore justice to the vulnerable, respect human rights of weaker sections, recognize the dignity of minorities, restore political and democratic participation, and promote all round integral development. And may I add, that on our part, " we must lead lives worthy of the Lord, bearing fruits in every good work" (cf. Colossians 1:10).

—*Dr. Trevor Colaso,
Bandra (West)*

Why I signed Interfaith Climate Change Statement

Mumbai: Cardinal Oswald Gracias, Archbishop of Bombay, was among 20 religious leaders from India who signed an Interfaith Climate Change Statement urging governments to ratify the historic Paris Agreement on climate change without further delay.

The plea came four days before the signing of the agreement on April 22.

Cardinal Gracias then explained his reasons for signing the statement in an article that appeared in The Hindustan Times newspaper on April 21.

The article:

Tomorrow is a day when many people in India and around the world will be thinking about the Earth and our environment.

For many Catholics, people of all faiths and none, April 22 is international Earth Day. It is also the day when heads of state and government representatives gather in New York to renew their vows to the Paris Agreement, which they signed last December as a pledge to end the fossil fuel era.

This should be a day to celebrate the world; however, the current state of our planet means we must rather bemoan its condition and act to rectify them.

Almost a year on from the Pope's Encyclical, *Laudato Si*, which I invite everyone to read, how much has the world and India changed? Pope Francis wrote that, due to pollution and climate change, 'our home is beginning to look more and more like an immense pile of filth'. Step outside in India, and often you will be breathing some of the dirtiest city air on the planet. Talk a walk through our towns and villages, and you will see the foul-



Cardinal Oswald Gracias

ness of our rivers.

Of course, there are reasons for optimism. The Paris Agreement on climate change has been signed. The government's ambitious targets for renewable energy sources such as solar and wind are noble, and worldwide renewable energy investments are increasing at an astonishing rate. With the cost of solar energy plummeting, the situation can only get better. And Delhi has recently trialed its car pollution-reduction scheme to great success.

This is simply not enough, however.

A recent report stated that India has the world's highest number of people without access to clean water – a staggering 76 million. Droughts are currently crippling several Indian states. Six of the world's ten worst polluted cities are Indian — their citizens are breathing air that's up to 15 times dirtier than what is considered healthy.

Immorally, it is of course the poor who have contributed least to these problems that are worst impacted. For

their sakes, the burning of fossil fuels like coal, oil and gas, coupled with unabated and unplanned urbanization, must cease soon as possible. Twenty-one countries have already proven that it is possible to reduce greenhouse gas emissions while keeping the economy growing — India could be among them, but is not.

That is why, on April 18, together with over 260 other faith leaders, I signed a declaration calling on heads of state to implement the Paris Agreement as soon as possible, and urging the swift phase-out of fossil fuel subsidies as part of a transition to using 100 per cent renewable energy by 2050.

Faith communities are already working hard to alleviate many of the world's problems, but we can do even more by reducing emissions in homes, workplaces and centers of worship, and to divest from fossil fuels and invest in renewable sources of energy.

Together, people of all faiths and none, let us therefore strive to make this April 22nd a reminder of how humanity is abusing our planet, a gift from God.

Courtesy: MattersIndia

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Matheran – We are Comin 8th May...



by **Don Aguiar**

Once there were twins Mark & Michael both good for nothing and better known for their miscommunication and misunderstanding but ambitious and in need of popularity and by hook or crook they wanted to attract attention,

Mark was the owner of a depleted old boat. It so happened that Michael's wife died the same day that Mark's boat sank. A few days later, a kindly old woman saw Mark and mistook him for Michael. She said, "I 'am sorry to hear about your loss, you must just feel terrible."

Mark, thinking that she was talking about his boat said, "Heck no. In fact, I'm sort of glad to be rid of her. She was a rotten Old thing right from the beginning. Her bottom was all shriveled up and she smelled like old dead fish. She was always losing her water: she had a bad crack in the back and a pretty big hole in the front too. Every time I used her, her hole got big-

ger and she leaked like crazy. I guess what finally finished her off was when I rented her to these four guys looking for a good time. I warned them that she wasn't very good but they wanted to use her anyhow. The fools tried to get in her all at once and she split right up the middle." The old lady fainted!

Let the other person think the way s/he thinks. Even if s/he is wrong, it is better than s/he discovers what is right. That validation is important and it is mutual. Anything one sided is not going to work in a relationship. If you commit a mistake that is good, because learning from it you won't commit the same one. Therefore in relating to another granting freedom to the other person seems to be the most crucial thing

All individuals are free to have their perceptions and opinions. They are free to think differently. One should be ready for that. In relationships and in marriages it is so important to understand this.

The Story goes thus - That these ambitious twins Mark & Michael asked their friend, how they could be popular? How will people pay attention to them? Knowing their caliber, their friend advised them to go to a gathering where prominent people would be present and would be delivering intelligent speeches etc. while in the middle of the program, do what donkey does. Honk like a donkey, and everyone will forget about what is happening on the dais and turn towards them. They will enjoy everyone's attention.

And so the twins did as advised advertising as they had been told about the MATHERAN FEAST (HOLY CROSS FEAST) on 8th May 2016 and the beautiful weather and surroundings Matheran has to offer. Many in the gathering expressed interest and decided to participate in the Matheran Feast on 8th May 2016 by attending the Holy Eucharist at 11AM celebrated by Bp Savio.

May your thoughts be as glad as the trinity? May your heart be as light as a song? May each day bring you bright, happy hours? That stays with you all the year long. Wish you A HAPPY FEAST!!!!

There are only two kinds of people in the world, the people settled in Matheran and the surrounding areas and those who wish they were settled out there.

At this time of the year we stay with our good old Bawaji friend whose generosity, warmth, sprawling bungalow, his stories, humor, beautiful and cool surroundings with a wide spread of shady trees makes it a wonderful place to be in.

Last year our Bawaji friend in Matheran told us about the two crazy neighbors he has and we never in our wildest dreams thought that we would get a chance to experience the same. In the afternoon my friend's worker met with an accident while chopping the tree branch and had to be rushed to

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the village doctor to stop the bleeding and there we met Mr. Rustomji our friend's neighbor who prefers to come along with his medical checkup results to speak to the village doctor. He prefers to consult the village doctor than the doctors in Mumbai and drives down once a month.

Looking at the medical checkup results the Doctor Is Amazed at What Good Shape the Bava is in and asks... "How Do You Stay In Such Great Physical Condition?"

"I'm A Golfer," Says the Old Bava, "And that's why I'm In Such Good Shape.

I'm Up Well Before Daylight And Out Golfing At The Gymkhana.."

"Well," Says the Doctor, "I'm Sure That Helps; But There's got to Be More To It... How Old Was Your Dad When He Died..?"

"Who Said, My Dad Is Dead?"

The Doctor Is Amazed...

"You Are 80 Years Old And Your Dad's Still Alive.. How Old Is He?"

"He's 103 Years Old," Says Mr. Rustomji.. "In Fact He Golfed With Me This

Morning And That's Why He's Still Alive.. He's A Golfer Too!!"

"Well," The Doctor Says, "That's Great, But I'm Sure There's More To It Than

That... How About Your Dad's Dad..?"

How Old Was He When He Died?"

"Who Said My Grandpa's Dead..?"

Stunned, The Doctor Asks, "You Mean You're 80 Years Old And Your Grandfather Is Still Living!?! Incredible, How Old Is He?"

"He's 128 Years Old," Says Mr. Rustomji.

The Doctor Is Getting Frustrated At This Point...,

"So, I Guess He Went Golfing With You This Morning Too?"

"No... Grandpa Couldn't Go This Morning Because He's Getting Married Today."

At This Point The Doctor Is Close To Losing It.,

"Getting Married..!"

Why Would A 128 Year Old Guy Want To Get Married In The First Place?"

"Who Said He Wanted To? The

Bride Is Pregnant... The doctor is

stunned.....

They don't make men like Mr Rustomji and his earlier generations anymore. The reason is because in today's time, you are defined by your wealth and not to your worth as a human being. They don't make men who believe in values and are willing to sacrifice pecuniary gains for remaining steadfast on their values. They don't make men who take a stand and see it through.

What is amazing about Mr. Rustomji and his family (and certainly unintentional) is the fact that modern science — which so many assume is the antithesis or even enemy of Catholic teaching — actually bears out the truth and value and relevance of what the Church has taught for 2,000 years

Relating to the world is not an option, nor is it a matter for concern. What counts is how we manage and respond to different situations. We cannot free ourselves from all relationships.

Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It turns what we have into enough, and more. It turns denial into acceptance,

chaos to order, confusion to clarity. It can turn a meal into a feast, a house into a home, a stranger into a friend and that is what we experienced at the Matheran Feast and our stay with our Bawaji friend.

There is gentleness and genteelness which our Bawaji friend and his neighbor will always have, and something that will always inspire generations. That is what I came away with when I left his house last year a couple of days after the feast, seen off by him and not some staff member.

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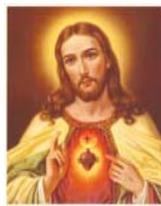
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Thanksgiving



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

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

— Ms Flavia Rego, Dubai

Bangalore Archbishop Orders Closure Of Church



Archbishop Bernard Moras of Bangalore has ordered indefinite closure of a parish that erected the statue of a controversial priest flouting the prelate's warning.

Archbishop Moras issued the canonical decree April 21 after St Paul the Hermit Church at Vishwanatha Nagenahalli in R T Nagar, a suburb in the southern Indian city, installed the statue of Fr Chowrappa Selvaraj, popularly known as Fr Chasara.

The priest, who was the leader of the Kannadiga faction in the archdiocese, died on March 16 after battling several illnesses. He was 60. His funeral was held at St Joseph's Church at Briand Square in Chamarajpet following day.

The archbishop's canonical decree to the parish priest and parishioners indicated that they should not install a statue or a bust of Fr Chasara. The warning was in compliance with Canon 1187 of the Code of Canon Law.

On April 19, the archbishop had asked the parish not to go ahead with its plan to erect Fr Chasara's statue.

The decree says the parish priest's April 20 letter and photographs the parishioners furnished through Fr Santosh the following day are "clear evidence of the violation of the Canon 1187 and non-compliance of the Canonical Warning."

The archbishop ordered immediate closure of the parish and asked its pastor Fr Vincent Santhosh to remove the Blessed Sacrament from

the church, lock it and report to the archdiocesan headquarters.

"No sacrament may be celebrated in the church till this sanction is lifted," the canonical decree said. Archbishop Moras further declares that the church "will remain closed until the bust of Fr Selvaraj has been removed from the church compound and the parishioners promise in writing to abide by my orders and the laws of the Church."

Fr Chasara, a popular Kannada preacher and writer, led the Akhila Karnataka Catholic Krishthara Kannada Sangha (All Karnataka Catholic Christian Union).

He was among six priests charge-sheeted in the murder of Fr K J Thomas, rector of St Peter's Pontifical Seminary, on April 1, 2013.

The magistrate had also issued a Non-Bailable Warrant for the arrest of Fr Chasara and the others. The warrant is yet to be executed.

Handbills circulated in Vishwanatha Nagenahalli said the function to install Fr Chasara's statue in church compound was scheduled for 11 am on April 24.

Noted Kannada writer Siddalingaiah was to install the statue at a function chaired by Karnataka Rakshana Vedike (forum to save Karnataka) chief T A Narayana Gowda.

According to the handbill, the statue unveiling program was to be preceded by Mass at the church led by Fr A Anthappa, who is also accused and charge-sheeted in the rector murder case.

'Good Divine Doctor' Jesus!

At the General Audience on April 13, 2016, Pope Francis reminded the faithful, that Jesus is the 'Good and Divine Doctor'! He offers his beloved, but sinful children to partake of His "Two Medicines"!

He reflected on how Matthew, the corrupt tax collector was welcomed by Jesus and became a saint! It is true that being a Christian does not make us sinless; but like Matthew, each of us is to entrust ourselves to the Lord's grace and mercy, despite our sins. We have all sinned; but in Matthew Jesus shows sinners that He does not look at their past, their social conditions, or external conventions. Rather He opens a new future for them – Because, 'No sinner is without a future; and no saint without a past'! Suffice, to respond to the invitation with a humble and contrite heart. Therefore, the Christian life is a 'school of humility, that is open to God's forgiveness.

The Holy Father also warned against arrogance and pride, which prevent people from recognizing themselves in need of salvation; and thus impedes them seeing the 'Merciful Face of God'! We need The 'Physician Jesus'! He heals our illnesses, and frees us from fear, death and the devil. His medicines are two-fold: The 'Table of The Word'; and The 'Table of The Eucharist'! (cf. Dei Verbum, 21). These are the two medicines with which He heals and nourishes us, the Pope revealed: "Because those who are well have no need of a doctor; only those who are sick" (Mark 2:17).

—Dr. Trevor Colaso,
Bandra (West)

Prayer Of The Faithful

The prayer of the [female] faithful over the 'Right to Pray', has undoubtedly shaken the self styled protagonists of male domination in matters of prayer and worship. To say that a certain category of females does not qualify to go anywhere near the Lord is sacrilegious. One wonders how the Lord Almighty whispered in the ears of those who frame the rules about who should and who should not come close to him. These things normally happen in this world when it comes to Kings and Queens as also Presidents and Prime Ministers more for security than any other reason.

The Lord does not have any such compulsions and to do things in his name is to insult him. Various temples across the country are being managed by a different set of trustees or God men who believe that like any other corporate entity they can frame their own rules and regulations forgetting all the time that they are violating the spirit of the constitution – the all powerful book of the country. Unfortunately, in the Hindu religion there is no hierarchy as far as authority is concerned and therefore there is no unanimity of approach to this very sensitive issue. The women of the by-gone days accepted the verdict of the Holy men without any reservations and surrendered their rights in the process. This was prevalent when the women empowerment was something that was unknown. The new generation however challenged these Holy men of God to assert their rights in the eyes of the law and did not hesitate to knock doors of the Courts. The courts did not let them down, as expected.

Every trick in the book was used to somehow prevent / dissuade the activists from achieving their goal. First they banned even men from entering the sacred area – not because they were not eligible to enter but simply to keep women away. Surprisingly, this suggestion had come from one of the most revered gurus of the Art of Living fame. Later the temple management did not hesitate to collect other pliant women to block the entry of the activists despite the Court telling the government to ensure that women exercise their right but the police did nothing only to be frowned upon by

VIEWS on NEWS

the judiciary. Ultimately, the management of the temples, one after the other, saw the writing on the wall and diluted their rigid stand on this very delicate issue.

If the women, by virtue of the biological clock go through a certain process, they still remain sinless. However, those who want to ban their entry into the temples are not free from sin and therefore not saints as most of them claim to be. This is the irony of things. Some of the God men who manage such temples are also accused of murder, rape and other indiscretions like financial and other irregularities. It is perfectly in order for them to stand close to God but the women across the board are forbidden to go anyway near.

The most shocking comments came from a Shankacharya who feels that curse will befall on these women who have entered the Sanctum Sanctorum. All these developments are fallout of 'all the bad things that people indulge in at the honeymoon'. The Holy man, it appears, does not believe in the natural process of procreation. Was he born through Immaculate Conception? By uttering such nonsense, he has belittled the law of nature and God's plans. The stand taken by the like of Tripti Desai has caught the fancy of women of other religions. Jewish ladies in Israel have demanded equality in matters of prayer. Tripti Desai's movement has inspired Israeli women it looks like. Now she is taking on the RSS.

Fire Works

The tragedy in the temple in Kerala arising out of fireworks display resulting in the death of over 100 innocent devotees has disturbed the whole nation. This is one tragedy which could have been easily avoided. Those devout had come to pray and enjoy the colourful fireworks in the wee hours of that fateful morning. Understandably in small towns appropriate medical facilities are not available which expose victims to danger. The magnitude can be understood from the fact that the PM had to rush there with a team of highly qualified doctors to face the situation. This must receive universal acknowledgement. It shows the PM's concern.



by Marshall Sequeira

Unfortunately, in our country the politicians browbeat the Officials and make them do their own bidding. Shrewd as they are, such pressure is applied 'orally' without any trace of record. If there is trouble, they wash their hands and make the Officials face the music. These politicians always have their appendages hanging around who do not hesitate to literally blackmail an Official. It could be a veiled threat of transfer to an odd place – all this in the name of the politician. Officials everywhere go through this harassment.

This tragedy has brought the issue of dangerous crackers into public debate. It has the potential of a major catastrophe like the one witnessed in Kerala. The danger is much more in crowded metropolitan cities because of the density of the population there. Noise pollution affects the infants, the aged and the infirm not forgetting the animals who cannot complain. The activists and NGOs must come forward and make it their mission to bring some sanity in the bursting of noise bearing fireworks. In cities where there is enough noise otherwise, the impact is greater.

We see in places like Mumbai, especially during festival time, that crackers are sold openly by the roadside and stocks are kept inside the shops. This is a very dangerous thing to do because on crowded roads, someone may throw a cigarette butt and that would be enough to turn the place into an inferno. Not only that shop but all adjoining ones will be engulfed in no time. The whole policy needs a thorough review since the safety of the public is paramount. Ban all noise bearing crackers, atom bombs etc completely and allow only the sober ones which light up and bring joy [and not pain] to those who watch. This is something that the politicians must address without looking at their vote banks.

Sportsman Quits Job To Chase Dream For Less-Privileged

“The starting point for all my achievements is my failures” says 39-year old faith and passion driven sports aficionado Elvis Joseph who’s ‘Champion –in-Me’ project is a first-of-its-kind project in the world. The program deals with sports for children living with HIV/AIDS and to eradicate stigma and to empower these kids through sport as a medium and get them into the mainstream.

In this interview with ADOLF WASHINGTON talks to ELVIS JOSEPH of his struggles, hopes and dreams, his Faith, motivation, his various projects and his passion to help the poor and less-privileged excel in sports.

Elvis who established the Bangalore Schools Sports Foundation (BSSF) on April 4, 2009, began with just 20 kids now reaches over 2,000 children and targets one million in India.

EXCERPTS:

From 20 kids to over 2,000 children and now you wish to reach one million children. The beginning must have been pretty tough.

The starting point was my failures. I failed as an athlete to represent the country with so many challenges and no opportunities. I struggled for support but nothing happened. I looked for support from my family, friends, well wishers. Probably they never saw the bigger picture and so they prodded me more into studying. But it was my conscious decision — to live a purpose-driven life. I quit my job in 2009 to chase a dream. I wanted to establish an organization where I specifically work with children. While in the US for work, I did a degree in sports management.



Elvis Joseph

My long-term goal is to reach out to one million children and youth and empower them through sports and to be recognized by the government of India and the UNESCO..

You have a special focus on children, especially the poor and less-privileged. Is there any particular reason?

Yes. You are right. I have an inclination and desire to raise children and youth who have the talent but lack opportunities. I am now planning to induct cost-effective value-based sports modules that would identify talented children for the future. I feel many children and youth are deprived of opportunities and the right to play sport. Society has character-assassinated them and shelved them as “Under-privileged” and never acknowledged or groomed their rich God-given talents.

But India paints a dismal picture of sports-promotion. How much has our educational contributed to sports promotion?

I am disappointed that Sport here is seen as a recreational activity but never as a possible profession in itself. There is no promotion or grooming. Look at the schools, they charge a sports fee whether the school has a ground or not or whether

the children do sports or not. I started the Bangalore Schools Sports Foundation (BSSF) to bridge this gap. I wish we look at sports in with holistic approach toward education so that children and youth can make a wonderful career. It is only sports that disciplines one’s life and keeps him/her healthy, fit, strong and responsible in making informed choices.

Does your Facebook cover spell out your motivation?

Oh yes. It reads “God changes caterpillars into butterflies, sand into pearls, and coal into diamonds, using Time and Pressure. He is working on me. In his grip, I belong to Jesus Christ. It says it all. I am motivated by a love and compassion toward humanity and to share the love of Christ in this way.

There are many social service/charity organizations that promote sport. What is unique about BSSF?

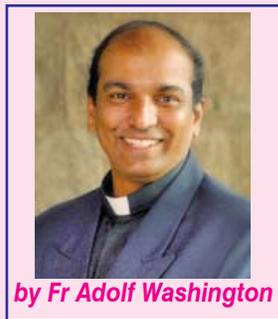
BSSF is a mission-driven organization with a clear focus on reaching out to children and youth, transforming lives through sports unlike other academies and clubs. It is the only sports NGO in Bangalore. [BSSF’s

You are an athlete. How do you train kids for other sports? Which is your core team?

I train children in athletics, soccer, rugby, kabaddi and now working on hockey and fitness. I induct other coaches to train kids in their respective sport. My core team has been my younger brother Joe Louis, Reeth Abraham- international athlete, Shrikar Archar and Simon Rodrigues of the Bangalore Catholic Charismatic Renewal Services. My brother is a musician (a guitarist) but he supports me completely in raising funds for the projects and supports the administrative concerns. Redemptorist Father Jacob Britto is my mentor.

How do you generate funds for your projects? Do you charge members? Has the government been of assistance?

Financial support has been mostly from



by Fr Adolf Washington

family members, friends and a few organizations. I have no endorsements or recognition from the government but recently was recognized and appreciated by the UNAIDS Chief Michel Sibidi at Geneva for having two HIV positive children to compete at the Children Olympics. We do not charge 90 percent of children who train with us only 10 percent children who are from affluent families pay during travel.

What projects do you have for the less-privileged?

Our successful projects are 'Champion in Me' – Sports for children living with HIV/AIDS, Magic Feet – Soccer for the slum children, Invisible Talent- sports for children and youth in prison, Challenged – sports for paraplegic children and 'I am She-sports exclusively for the girl children. We do have also the Bangalore School Games, the largest game forum that brings 4,000 children to compete in 12 disciplines of competitive sports.

The church has also tapped sports talent through her institutions. Don't you think much more can be done? How can BSSF support?

I had initiated a project called the Catholic School Games exclusively for Catholic schools and colleges. Bangalore Arch-



bishop Bernard Moras had a meeting inviting all the principals to take this forward but slowly the schools backed-out citing academic pressure and time constraints.

Who could partner with your mission?

Anyone who has a passion for sports can support and can generously contribute in cash or kind towards our mission. Those wishing to support this Mission can contact us. (Contributions are tax exempted).

Looking back since BSSF's inception in 2009, how do you measure your success?

Honestly, I have lost track of my achievements, so much of Media (print electronic both national and international) but I know the hand and the favor of God has really raised me from ashes to a level I can't imagine. I have been honored by mayors, governors and eminent personalities from so many countries but my most proud moments have been in winning souls for the glory of God.

Playgrounds in our institutions are shrinking in the name of academic expansion. Your comments.

I tried reaching the government with solution plans to restore corporation play grounds. We even organized a 3-mile run in every constituency for the cause, but it did not materialize.

It is unfortunate that schools charge a sports fee from every student irrespective if they do sports or not. This is unacceptable and totally unfair. We need to emphasize on sports being mandatory in all schools and colleges.

You have a special focus on sports for the girl-child. Can you tell us more about your project.

The present focus is on 'I am She' project. The future of sports in India, especially customized sports project, is for under-privileged girl children whose parents are either daily wagers, street vendors or those living in brothels. Our girl-children come from such background and they are being trained to become future sports persons for the country.



Build Business On Budget

Don't let a small budget deter you from your dream of business ownership. With some financial savviness, you can start your business for less than you think



Starting a business is a commitment, to yourself and your future. Some people say you need money to start a business. Others think it's down to who you know, what you studied, timing or just the economy. No matter who you are and the life you lead, you can be an entrepreneur and you can start building your business on a budget:

Work out of house

One of the biggest expenses for new business owners is leasing space. For businesses that depend mostly on the Web, it's much easier to work out of your home- you can conduct your business online and have virtual meetings. Even if your business isn't an internet startup, you can still work out of your home, but consider having a separate entrance for your office to keep your home life separate.

Sole proprietorship

A sole proprietorship is owned by an individual who is responsible for its debts, but isn't legal entity separate from that individual. (This means that you can't put 'Inc'. after the name of the company, because this defines it as a corporation.) However, you should consider incorporating your business when it grown big enough to be a separate entity. If debt is accrued, you are protected from this debt since the corporation is now considered a separate person under the law. That said, unlike a sole proprietorship, it's expensive to set up and requires periodic filings.

Use own equipment

You many already own the products you need to start a new business and when you convert them from personal

to business assets, they also become tax deductible. This applies to your cell phone, computer and anything else that you use regularly to conduct your new business. Not sure if this applies to you? It's a good idea to read up on tax deductions for small businesses.

Try wholesaler

When purchasing products, find vendors that are open to helping new businesses get started and that don't mind drafting a budget plan with you. To find vendors, visit trade shows or go directly to a wholesaler or distributor for your needs. It's not just your capital you want to protect: You want to lay the foundation for rapid success.

Assess your assets

What have you got in the bank? You will need this money to support your business in its start-up phase and pay-off necessary business and personal expenses such as payroll, rent, utilities and so on, until the business is self-sustaining. Using a spreadsheet, create a list of the start-up expenses and capital expenditures that you expect to incur, alongside the assets that

you have. Try to assign costs to each expense, even if it's a best guess.

The right funding

Keep in mind that even remain in debt for the first few years. Potential sources of funding include a small business loan from your local bank, tapping into your savings, money from other investments, borrowing from family and so on. Try to avoid racking up costly credit card debt that could cost 20 percent or more in yearly interest fees.

Creating the concept

- Before you quit your job to become an entrepreneur, you must first think of a concept, product or service that will generate a steady stream of income.
- This may sound easy, but for most people, this is actually the hardest part.
- You should conceive a plan that puts your experience and expertise to use in the profitable way possible.

Thanksgiving



Thanks to St. Anthony, St. Jude, Holy Spirit, Our Lady of Perpetual Succor, Sacred Heart and Infant Jesus for favours received. Please continue to bless us.

—A D'Sa & Fly, Mumbai

From Indifference To Mercy: A Catholic Manifesto



BY MELVYN BROWN

To be indifferent today in the face of escalating evil in the world is a modern challenge. The selfish manner of indifference in Europe has become a global and urgent issue. Christians are being persecuted, killed and enslaved. The migrant problem is strangling Europe

“Too many times we have not welcomed you”. Pope Francis spoke to refugees in a video message recently.

Western Europe has for many years shown indifference to the fate of refugees. The pontiff, in an act of mercy took three Syrian families to the Vatican from the Greek island Lesbos. The pope encourages an NGO service of the Jesuits to assist refugees. Many detention camps hold migrants as they wait to request asylum.

Pope Francis in a recent message appealed to Catholic communities: “Become islands of mercy in the midst of a sea of indifference.” Catholics are more comfortable being missionaries of mercy through prayers, penance and sacrifice. As spiritual messengers they carry the Rosary and wear the Miraculous medal.

Mercy and forgiveness should become a trend, a Christian Spring, an act of total awareness. When heads roll, Father forgive them. When they commit rape, Father forgive them. When they indulge in genocide, Father forgive them. When they murder their own brothers in their faith, Father forgive them

Being witness to brutal crimes (watching live TV) reminds the people of God that evil is crawling out of Pandor’s Box, and those who matter are blind to the outrage of what is happening to world society. The cold retreat into ourselves is an example of indifference. Catholics are often overwhelmed by bad news and the spiral of their pain avoids any prompt or suitable action.

In this Year of Mercy there have been mo-

ments of extreme euphoria and extreme sadness at the shock of the wicked who wish to rule the earth: their traumas catalyzed an inner circle of their own doubts and mad intentions. They are not adapted to a sensible life and leave no room for accountability. Their warped ideas and to dare suicide is a brain-dead order of non-reasoning, shame and sorrow. Christians always pray for them and in mercy forgive them, as Christ did from the cross.

When the Lord calls his children to Him, at such times we discover a closeness to our enemies, children of the one and same God for whom Christ died and rose again. Christians possess the trust in the Spirit of God and humbly know of His divine love and infinite mercy for all.

The evil and sinful among His children are also our brothers and sisters regardless of their diabolical dreams of destroying the world. We must feel impassioned to forgive them and thereby save the earth from their spiral of darkness in hate.

Holy Mother the Church can teach us how not to be indifferent- to guide the faithful to redeem the souls of those imprisoned in their own selfish standards of terror and fanatical fear.

Pope Francis recently stated “A merciful heart does not mean a weak heart. Anyone who wishes to be merciful must have a strong and steady heart, closed to the tempter but open to God...”

Missionaries of Mercy are men, women and youth who have resolved to pray for the fallen children of God; to ask for God’s mercy and forgiveness. Never to be indifferent to their sinful ways. The Ambassadors For Jesus and their associates, the Catholic Women United, have been requested to take on the mantle of forgiveness and to be merciful to all those extreme cases “bitten by the beast of revenge, malice and lust-for-blood”.

The mystical body of the Church suffers pain when one of God’s own turn evil. “If one member suffers, all suffer together,” the pontiff had said. Let us meditate on this and put aside indifference in our heart. Parishes and Eucharistic communities join hands and send our prayers and devotions to almighty God through His Son Jesus.

There are no easy answers to complex problems. Many activists and Christian leaders believe that ‘faith motivates action’ Reflecting on this concern and conviction, belief does control behavior. By the virtue of this claim a terrorist must have been driven to hate by ‘ideology’ qua theology.

When there is indifference there can be no forgiveness. The global village is today in a critical position with the tar of violence and extremism running wild. Domestic abuse, rape and other atrocities are erupting on a large scale. This horrible and embedded madness is not only radicalizing across Turkish, Afghani, Sudanese, Bangladeshi and the Arab diasporas, it has chosen to sweep across Europe, America and England.

Missionaries of Mercy are growing in silence around the civilized earth and the so-called Third World countries. The Catholic men, women and Youth (AFJ members and Missionaries of Mercy) are living with deep concern and often with crime in their neighbourhoods. In parishes and Catholic communities the word is spreading. Friends meet together.

Where there is hate Christians show mercy. Where there is violence, forgiveness. Where there is evil, exoneration. If the Muslim dies for a cause, the Christian overcomes death by a New life in Christ through mercy and forgiveness. Mercy and forgiveness is the greatest weapon to defeat the ugly shades of sin.

Living A Life Of Prayer

In prayer, we talk to God. When we read the Holy Bible, we let God talk to us through His Word. The Bible tells us that faith comes to us by hearing and reading the Word of God. As you regularly read the Holy Bible and pray, you will grow in faith in two ways. First, you will learn what God promises; He makes promises that you can claim. Second, the inspiring stories of the Holy Bible will reassure you and help strengthen your faith. Let us remember what faith is: In its simplest form, faith is believing that God will do what He says He will do. To know what God says to us, we must read the Holy Bible daily. God reveals words to man. He tells us how He wants us to live. He tells us what He will do for us. It includes many accounts of His dealings and intervention for individuals and all mankind. If you live a life of prayer, you will develop a close relationship with God. As you walk with God, your faith will grow. To walk with God, is to have deep faith. Walking with God means a daily relationship with Him.

If you would like to know more about faith and what faith is, read the book of Hebrews, Chapter 11, Verses 1 to 40. Upon visiting many Christian homes, one would find things that would sadden the heart of a believer and gladden the heart of a non-believer. Many Catholic homes have a strange and particular habit of keeping relics and statues that are typically pagan and even demonic. These people have erroneously forgotten that Our Lord Jesus Christ is the Master and Saviour of our homes and our life. Placing interest and faith in pagan statues undermines our faith in Christ Jesus and placing our faith in unknown powers. And by putting these statues, we are providing gateway to the devil to enter into our homes.

With mass productions and easy availability of movies, one is tempted to keep pornographic movies in one's CD collection. It is amazing how much

pornography has infiltrated in our homes and many do not take it seriously. Even some Hollywood and Bollywood movies contain pornography and obscenity at unimaginable levels, which pass off as 'Family Viewing'. Also subscription to pornographic channels is something which should be avoided at all cost. Certain books like those of Ayn Rand and Da Vinci Code should also never be read or permitted to enter into our homes.

Obscene paintings, no matter how much they are expensive, well sought after or even decorative, should also not be kept in our Christian homes at any cost. Many paintings abound with nudity, sexual suggestive, blasphemous and obscene, some might be anti-Catholic or unchristian, others might be plain disturbing. Another unnoticed but widely prevalent feature in Christian homes are satanic music, trance music and other demonic music bands.

Prayer is important in the life of every Christian. Leading a prayerful life keeps us closer to God. The Lord's Prayer (i.e. the Our Father), is known by all Christians and can be one guide to leading a prayerful life. You need to realise that Jesus Christ is to be worshipped and revered and held in high esteem in your life. One must also remember that it is Jesus Christ who takes care of our daily needs in life. We should also realise that Jesus Christ can keep us free from all temptations and help us overcome them. For leading a prayerful life you must trust God for all these things.

Leading such kind of life may also involve helping other people in need. This task can be performed in different ways. Any act or task that helps you to focus on God is a part of leading a life of prayer. This may include a simple act of enjoying nature. Praying at least three times a day is also important. At these times, with God, it is important to not let anything interrupt your time



by Jubel D'Cruz

with Him. This may include something like ignoring the phone when it rings or watching television. In your prayer life it is important not to let obstacles hinder you. Some obstacles which you may encounter are that God may ask you to perform something which you don't want to do. If you encounter hurdles in your prayer life, it may be helpful to include these aspects in your prayers too.

We should take everything to God in prayer. The sacred book gives us many examples of God's people taking their concerns to Him in prayer. It tells us how Moses was obedient to God and how he followed the instructions of Lord. He was always seeking God's direction in leading the people of God into the wilderness. Moses led the people with confidence because he knew from where their help came. A life filled with prayer will be a life lived in obedience to God and His Word. You were created for fellowship with the Supreme Being and prayer is the avenue you use to converse with God. In 1 Thessalonians Chapter 5, Verse 17, God commands you to pray without ceasing.

You may ask how you can do this; you can always stay in an attitude of prayer. When the Holy Spirit prompts you to pray for someone or something, then you are ready to lift it to the Lord no matter what time of the day it is. Living a life of prayer changes the believer; you become more aware of God and His influence on your life and the lives of others. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.

Tips to have a more organised life

Sometimes life can get hectic and, being organised can make everything so much easier. Follow these tips to be more organised

Gather some supplies : A daily planner, small notebook, sticky notes, highlighters, and a calendar are recommended. You can either buy these at a store or make your own. You may also want stickers and different colored pens.

Set up your calendar: Choose a good spot in your room (or anywhere else you'll see it often) and hang it up. Use highlighters and pens to mark special dates, such as softball practice or when your English essay is due. You may also want to use a special highlighter colour specifically for marking when your period starts and



ends. This way you're never caught off guard.

Set up your planner : Depending on what type of planner you get, fill in your information accordingly. Make notes to yourself about homework, pep rallies, and other events you participate in.

Use your sticky notes regularly: Stick them up on your bathroom mirror with homework reminders, TV show times, and anything else you need to remember! Don't limit yourself to just your bathroom mirror, though, stick them anywhere you'll see them easily.

Do your work first : Make sure that all your homework is finished within three hours before bedtime, if you can. Then, you can text your friends

and hang out with your family.

Balance your job with the rest of your life: If you have an after-school job, life is even more hectic for you. Make a few copies of your weekly schedule and keep one with you at all times. This way you know if you're free or not when friends ask.

Plan one day per week to relax: If you can't fit a whole day in, make sure you at least get eight hours of down-time per week, even if it's only an hour per day.

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Crisis in judiciary: Let's not allow CJI Thakur's tears to go to waste

by Nilanjan Mukhopadhyay

First a disclaimer - I have turned cynical after being witness to all-round deterioration in standards of public behaviour. So, when I first saw the news about Chief Justice of India choking on his words and wiping tears while addressing an august gathering of chief ministers, chief justices - both former and serving, Union Law Minister DV Sadananda Gowda, senior Union Law and Justice Ministry officials, other dignitaries, the media and of course the Prime Minister of India, I thought that Justice TS Thakur was "doing a Modi" on the Prime Sevak of the country. On the dais, Modi downward, everyone must have had a Zuckerberg-like sensation when the Facebook top honcho could do nothing but look impassively as into the crowd at the Facebook Town-hall just seven months ago.

On his part, Modi deviated from the script and besides offering a one-on-one meeting (what did he say? *Alag se mil ke baat cheet kar lete hain?* I hope he didn't say this because the phrase has a different connotation and every Indian knows what this means!), the prime minister recalled his intervention as Gujarat chief minister. Modi recounted that he attended these conferences as the representative of the western state - he did not hide his disdain for such conclaves - and in those sessions suggested that courts and judges cut down on their holidays to reduce pendency of cases. In his interaction with the media, CJI Thakur retorted that judges do not go on holidays to the hills but spend the time writing copious judgements.

How does one make sense of what transpired on Sunday and had the nation riveted on it till the incident was overtaken by events of greater dramatic value? Was CJI Thakur adding prestige to the office he holds or did



he belittle the institution by a public breakdown?

Let's take up first things first. It is not rare for public figures to display emotions while speaking in public meetings or even in semi-public gatherings (like conferences, media interaction etc.,) In January this year American President Barack Obama cried while addressing a press conference on gun culture and violence it begot in the country. A debate was sparked: is it good for President (we can extend this to prime minister and other public figures in India) to be emotional or not? There cannot be a closure on the debate though most agreed, and rightly, that men do cry sometimes but when and how this gets triggered, differs from person to person, situation to situation.

So was CJI TS Thakur justified in his breakdown? Could he had have chosen another way of expressing pent up emotion and frustration at what he perceives as indifference of the political class to the crisis in judiciary and acute pendency of cases?

I clearly have no real problem with CJI Thakur displaying his softer side but I do hope that his public tears are not

dismissed as a publicity device and instead evoke empathy. The incident needs to evoke not just compassion but must also arouse anger because it drawn attention to the deficiencies of the judiciary and the causes.

So what does the CJI say in between tears and chokes?

To begin with, his speech is a severe indictment of the government (Modi Bhakts please note before trolling, this is not indictment of just one government but all previous ones too) for stalling appointment of judges to the High Courts and doing nothing to increase the number of courts and judges. The numbers are sheer: 434 judicial vacancies in the High Courts; a 1987 Law Commission report warned about India slipping into grossly inadequate ratio of judges to population; former CJI Altamas Kabir's letter; to then Prime Minister Manmohan Singh seeking steps to increase judges' strength over five years to at least 50 judges per million. And much more - we can fill up this website with the numerical deficiency and the imperfections in judiciary But that would hardly serve any purpose.

Despite tom-tomming how his govern-
(Contd.. on p. 22)

Inspiration!

Appreciate what you have

forward to, look at people who don't even have half of what you have, in terms of wealth, family or career. By doing this you will be able to realise

You could get a new lease of life by understanding the value of what you already have and being grateful for them. Here are ways in which you can appreciate what you have in life

Have you heard the saying, "You don't know what you have until it's gone?" That saying needs to go away. Because we need to start appreciating the things we have in front of us, right now. Not when they go away and are long gone and suddenly we're left with all of these regrets. We need to learn how to be happy with what we have while we have them.

Remember that you won't live forever. First and foremost, remember that your time here is limited and it's up to you to decide how you'll use it. When someone survives a near-death experience, they always resolve to live life to the fullest after that moment. But is there any reason you need to wait for a near-death experience? Why not decide to live life to the fullest right now? Simply deciding to do so makes it much easier to figure out how. On the other hand, you could devote your entire life to complaining.

Write down what you're thankful for:

Keep a small journal to record things that come to mind. Don't feel that you can only write down major things like moving into a new house or having a baby. It will be much more beneficial if you set the bar really low and feel free to write down small things like finding a coin on the street or making it through an intersection just before the light turned yellow. It's not really the act of writing these things down that matters, so much as the habit of being on the lookout for things you



can write down. When you get in the habit, you'll be seeing and appreciating many things you might not even have noticed before.

Always practice and polish your best skills:

What you have in life does not only include your materialistic possessions but also your knowledge and skills. Think about your best skills and how you can use them to gain an edge over other. Life will become naturally easier and more beautiful when you are able to use your top skills to get what you want and show everyone what you are capable of.

Put effort in showing affection to your near ones:

One of the most genuine ways of appreciating what you have in life is to offer gratitude and love to your near and dear ones who may have stood by you in the worst of times. In the rut of life, you may have taken them for granted at many occasions. By putting efforts in showering affection on them and making time for them, you will be able to appreciate life in its purest form.

Compare yourself with people who have less things:

If you think you have hit the bottom in your life and you have nothing to look

that you have to stop complaining all the time to be able to appreciate your life.

Travel and explore:

When you travel and get exposed to new people and places, you may be able to see how differently you were brought up from other people and how different your life is. You will be able to see your own life and achievements in a completely new perspective and this may help you to be grateful about what you have in life.

Involve yourself in charity and community work:

Community and charity work does not always mean helping the poor and feeling good about yourself. It also includes helping others by sharing your skills or knowledge. Teach a neighbour's child, help your aunt's kids get through their homework or share your hobbies and skills with others. Your conscience will feel light and you will be able to feel good about yourself because of your contribution to the society.

Try to have a positive outlook all the time :

Being grumpy and sad about everything in life is only going to pull you away from being able to appreciate what you have in life, whether it is wealth, family or career. Try to smile a lot, have a chirpy outlook and let your attitude be contagious.

Pause and slow down:

Are you stuck in chasing money or success in life? Then, you must pause and slow down a bit. Doing simple things like watching the rain, observing the beauty of a flower, going for a walk in morning or sitting under the stars at night will make you thank your stars for what you have in life.



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MUMBAI : R.C. Bachelor, aged 40 years, Ht. 5' 8", Wt. 74 kgs, Graduate, working as Sr. Executive. **Contact** : 7208672463

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 Roman Catholic Bachelor, aged 29 years, Ht. 5' 9", Wt. 80 kgs, Fair complexion, Edn. M.Sc., Advance Computer Networking, working as a Networking Engineer. Contact email : grettadsouza53@gmail.com OR 9833418836 **(Regd. No. 6328)**

MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, aged 45 years, Ht. 6', Wt. 65 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. SSC., working as a Security Guard. Contact Mob : 8451069841 **(Regd. No. 6494)**

MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, aged 32 years, Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 63 kgs, Fair complexion, Edn. 12th Sc., + Navatical Studies, working as 3rd officer in Merchant Navy. Seeks Only Goan girl. Contact email : ferns1244@gmail.com OR

9920884799 **(Regd. No. 6327)**

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 : Roman Catholic bachelor, aged 27 years, Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 65 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. Graduate, working as a Front Office Clerk in DUBAI. Contact email : sam_sin88@hotmail.com OR 971559969531 OR 9821388194 **(Regd. No. 6489)**

MUMBAI : Mangalorean RC Divorcee, 1st marriage annuled 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 40 years, Ht. 5' 10", Wt. 73 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Higher Secondary. working as a Fabricator in U.K. Contact email : savioeferns@gmail.com OR 9769054347 **(Regd. No. 6321)**

MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Divorcee, aged 34 years, Ht. 5' 10", Wt. 99 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Sc., Hospitality and Hotel Administration, working as a Duty Manager, Contact email : roshanihma@gmail.com OR 09769237575 **(Regd. No. 6472)**

MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic bachelor, aged 30 years, Ht. 5' 8", Wt. 72 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.M.M., L.L.M., M. Phil., Law, Postition : Professor + Legal Advisor., Contact email : kevintauro85@gmail.com OR 9820529060 **(Regd. No. 6487)**

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

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 : Goan RC Bachelor 32 years, Ht. 5' 6", Wt. 60 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. S.Y.B.A., Computer Engineering, working as a Team Leader. Seeks a Goan or Mangalorean girl. Contact email : myfrancis@gmail.com OR 9969887236 / 9870002508 **(Regd. No. 6310)**

MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic 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)**

GERMANY: Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, aged 34 years, Ht. 5' 11", Wt. 75 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. M.Phil/Ph.D., Occupation : Research & Development/Scientist. Seeks fair, goodlooking, educated Goan RC Girl below 28 years. Contact email : mira.spf@gmx.de OR 49404916382 **(Regd. No. 6486)**

MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, aged 29 years, Ht. 5' 10", Wt. 80 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. M.B.A., working as a HR Manager in DUBAI. Contact email : jassyfernandes1958@gmail.com OR 9503282306 **(Regd. No. 6476)**

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DUBAI : Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 28 years, Ht. 5' 3", Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.A. in Mass Media, working as a Senior Executive in Govt. in Dubai. Staying with parents. Seeks a well settled and educated East Indian or Goan Bachelor. Contact email : axferns@gmail.com OR Mob: 00971554005544 **(Regd. No. 6527)**

DUBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 30 (DOB 30-4-1985) Ht. 5' 7", Beautiful and Fair Complexion, Edn. Masters in Health, Care (MHA), Employed as a Manager in MNC Dubai, is looking for a suitable alliance between the ages of 32 to 36 with a height 5' 10" and above. Kindly respond directly to the party by email : aara8185@gmail.com with your photograph. **(Regd. No. 6528)**

KUWAIT : Mangalorean RC Spinster aged 35 years, Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 58 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Com., Computer, Finance, Banking Marketing Course & Airlines Course completed, employed as a Travel Co-ordinator in Kuwait. Seeks a groom preferable working in Kuwait. Contact Email : lucy777p@gmail.com OR 00965-65686358 / 9867308911 **(Regd. No. 6504)**

MUMBAI : Mangalorean RC Spinster, aged 40 years, Ht. 5' 2", Wt. 60 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. F.Y.B.A., Teacher by profession. Contact email : dmljanet@gmail.com OR 9769950008 **(Regd. No. 6500)**

MUMBAI : Mangalorean RC Divorcee, aged 58 years, looks much younger to her age, Ht. 5' 3", Wt. 58 kgs, Fair and Beautiful, Edn. Undergraduate, Seeks a match below 65 years. Contact email : loicy30@hotmail.com OR 9920422021 **(Regd. No. 6529)**

MUMBAI : Mangalorean RC Spinster, aged 39 years, Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 55 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. MBA, PGDM, working as a IT Engineer, Seeks a suitable match. Contact email : 2016onlyforyou@gmail.com OR 9819194352 **(Regd. No. 6479)**

MUMBAI : Mangalorean RC Parents from Mumbai seek alliance for their daughter aged 28 year's height 5' 4", Fair, highly educated, working as a Physiotherapist in States. Seeks a suitable match from states. Contact email : mariapereira1909@gmail.com OR 9833819039. **(Regd. No. 6478)**

MUMBAI : Mangalorean RC Parents from Mumbai seek alliance for their daughter aged 28 year's height 5', Chartered Accountant working in MNC in Mumbai for a reputed company, seeks for a qualified RC bachelor, aged upto 31 year's, with good family background and values. Preferably living in Mumbai or abroad. Contact email stanley_ds118@yahoo.com **(Regd. No. 6475)**

MUMBAI : Goan RC Spinster, MBA, Fair, Dec'83, 5' 1"/46 kgs, employed with a reputed Pvt. firm.

Seek alliance from India / Abroad. Please send details and photograph to email : fedora48@hotmail.com OR call 24303096 / **9833125356 (Regd. No. 6474)**

MUMBAI : Mangalorean RC Spinster, aged 33 years, Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 68 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Com., working in Bank as AVP in **LONDON**. Contact email : rati27@gmail.com OR 9869476537 **(Regd. No. 6473)**

MUMBAI : Mangalorean RC Divorcee, aged 54 years, Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 75 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. SSLC., working as a Care-taker. Contact : 9324953353 **(Regd. No. 6470)**

RAJASTHAN : Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 28 years, Ht. 5' 3", Wt. 65 kgs, fair and good-looking, simple, loving, very understanding girl, Edn. M.A., B.Ed., CTET, Teacher by profession. Contact email : arleen_sunni@yahoo.co.in OR 8239871729 **(Regd. No. 6469)**

MUMBAI : Parents of R.C. Goan innocent divorcee, 1st marriage annulled by the church, 35/5' 2", looks much younger to her age, Only daughter, working in Muscat as a teacher, seeks preferably working and living India OR abroad. Contact email : carvalhovanessa28@yahoo.com OR 8308932277 **(Regd. No. 6468)**

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.sebastian7gmail.com **(Regd. No. 6464)**

MUMBAI : East Indian RC 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)**

MUMBAI : Mangalorean RC Spinster, aged 27 years, Ht. 5' 2", Wt. 54 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., Dip. in (HR), working as a French Analyst. Contact email : selmamascahas88@gmail.com / malmasca@rediffmail.com OR 9702111899 **(Regd. No. 6368)**

MUMBAI : Mangalorean RC Spinster, Only Child, aged 24 years, Ht. 5' 2", Wt. 45 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Com., working as HR. Contact email : staceydsouza95@gmail.com OR 9930276885 **(Regd. No. 6367)**

MUMBAI : Mangalorean RC Spinster, Only Child, aged 30 years, Ht. 5' 6", Wt. 65 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Post Graduate (Marketing & HR), studied and working in **SYDNEY-AUSTRALIA**. Contact email : sydn2020@gmail.com OR 9892112703 **(Regd. No. 6366)**

MUMBAI : Goan RC Spinster, aged 31 years, Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 45 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. BMS & appearing for MBA. working as a HR Manager in IT Company. Contact email : alee_812@rediffmail.com OR 9967924579 / 8454841729 **(Regd. No. 6365)**

MUMBAI : Goan RC, 1st marriage annulled by the church, aged 40 years, Ht. 5' 2", Wt. 60 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Sc. (MBA Pursing)

working as a Quality analyst. Contact email : ephania_helen@yahoo.com OR 8879867471 **(Regd. No. 6364)**

MUMBAI : Mangalorean RC Spinster, aged 28 years, Ht. 5' 2", Wt. 62 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. M.Sc.(N), MBA (HCS), working as a Nurse Educator and Hospital Supervisor. Only Child. Goodlooking, smart. Seeks a suitable match. Contact email : vvlfernandes@yahoo.co.in / vcfernandes@gharda.com OR 9923597306 / 9867138818 **(Regd. No. 6362)**

MUMBAI : Mangalorean RC Spinster, aged 29 years, Ht. 4' 8", Wt. 52 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.A., working for Banking organisation. Contact email : fabian_sequeira@yahoo.com OR 9892717501 **(Regd. No. 6361)**

MUMBAI : Mangalorean RC Spinster, aged 23 years, Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 60 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. M.Sc., in Chemistry, working as a Jr. Chemist. Contact : 9969008104 **(Regd. No. 6356)**

MUMBAI : Tamilian RC Spinster, aged 26 years, Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 60 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. BHMS/BAMS, Homeopathic Doctor. Contact email : shanin2304@gmail.com OR 9820055319 **(Regd. No. 6355)**

MUMBAI : Mangalorean RC Spinster, aged 35 years, Ht. 5'2", Wt. 49 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., ALAM (US), working as a Sanctions - Manager in Bank. Contact email : renita.coutinho@gmail.com OR 9820841317 **(Regd. No. 6351)**

MIRAJ : Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 33 years, Ht. 5'4", Wt. 57 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. M.A., B.Ed., Fashion Designer / Teacher. Contact email : histellain@yahoo.com OR 08421515747 **(Regd. No. 6348)**

MUMBAI : Anglo Indian RC Spinster, 34 years, Ht. 5' Wt. 48 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, B.A., MBA/PG (HRM), working as Secretary, Seeks a suitable match. Contact email : smith-jenny0407@gmail.com or 9819791693 / 9819610348 **(Regd. No. 6346)**

VALSAD : Goan / Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 27 years, Ht. 5'1", Wt. 58 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., working. Seeks a suitable match. Contact email : idsouza14@gmail.com OR 9892233758 **(Regd. No. 6345)**

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St. Mary's Konkan Community (SMKC) Dubai



St. Mary's Konkan Community (SMKC) Dubai, a well-known philanthropic association of Dubai held their general body meeting last week and unanimously elected Joseph Fernandes, as the President, for the forthcoming years 2016-2018. Paul Berty Colaco was elected as Vice President.

The elected SMKC Dubai office-bearers for year 2016 – 2018 are: Joe Fernandes - President; Paul Colaco - Vice President; Elizabeth

Noronha - Treasurer; Anna D'cruz - Secretary
Avil D'silva will continue as the Web Coordinator of SMKC Dubai's web portal - www.konkanuae.com
The outgoing president Veronica Rego will continue as an Advisor to the newly formed team.

Committee Members are :
Noel Mascarenhas, Jennifer Mascarenhas, Frenny Fernandes, Pius Dcruz, Fidelia Colaco, Bhaskar G, Lawrence Almeida, Ivan Dsouza

Children 5 to 12 years age sanctioned full seat in the trains

Hitherto children 5 to 12 years of age had to travel in the trains with elder's half ticket fare. Under this, they were not entitled for a sitting berth seat or sleeping facility. They had to travel with their elders sharing the seat and sleeping berth.

From 10.4.2016, the Indian Railways has changed this and elders can book full seat to the children by paying full elder's ticket fare and there by the children are eligible for a sitting berth and can travel by sleeping accommodation.

Note: However, this facility is not applicable to unreserved (general) classes - days.

—R.L Dias President,
Railway Yatri Sangha. Udupi.

(Contd.. from p.18)

ment has gone about attempting to repeal outmoded laws on an occasions where the focus was not on it, Modi has spoken about looking beyond the night and seeking solutions. But judiciary is not the only institution in crisis. The Indian health sector, education, and bureaucracy in general terms are witnessing grave challenge. From the political system to the quality of our doctors, teachers, lawyers, chartered accountants, scientists, call centre executives and even politicians, there is overall decline in quality. The judicial system is actually not just witnessing a deficiency of numbers but also quality. What then is the way in which Modi and the CJI, if and when they sit for a tête-à-tête, are going to address the decline in the quality of judges. When I say this, I am not referring to the handful of judges in the apex court or the correspondingly larger assembly

in High Courts (though many legal luminaries say that the rot begins at the top) but in the lower courts which continue to be the extremely arbitrary because such behaviour provides opportunities for decisions influenced by lucre and other means.

Let us not allow CJI Thakur's tears to go to waste and let's not get caught into debating whether his behaviour was proper or not. It is for the government to act and address the problems he has listed and the ones he has not. Judicial reforms cannot become a cliché as it has been for all other reforms - electoral or police where debate has continued endlessly. Everyone knows what the solutions are but no one wishes to initiate steps. The crisis facing Indian judiciary is greater because barring what is a visible on the surface there are far more serious issues beneath the surface.

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

“Holy Spirit, thou who makes me see everything and shows me the way to reach the ideal. You



who gives me the divine gift to forgive and forget the wrong that is done to me and are in all instances in my life with me. I, in this short dialogue want to thank you and confirm from you once more that never want to be separated from you, no matter how great the material desire may be. I want to be with you and my loved ones in your perpetual glory. Amen”.

— M. R. S

Salesian Priest Bags Prestigious Award



Prime Time Research Media Private Limited has awarded Fr (Dr) John Parankimalil, the Principal of Don Bosco College of Teacher Education, Tura, with the Global Education Excellence Award, 2016 under the category, "Best Principal for Teacher Teaching Institute in Meghalaya." The award was conferred on him on 10th April 2016 at New Delhi, in the presence of a large number of civil dignitaries, and educationists from different parts of the country. In a glittering function held in the B.Ed College, Tura, the next day, Fr. Parankimalil was felicitated by Rev. Fr. Guillermo Basa, the General Councillor for Missions of the Salesian Congregation in the presence of Fr. V.M. Thomas, Salesian Provincial of Guwahati, Fr. Johnson Parackal, Provincial Councillor in charge of Youth Pastoral, Education and Culture and Fr. Joseph Teron another Provincial Councillor.

Fr. Johny's contribution to Education has been recognized in the past and many awards were given to him when he was the Principal of St. Anthony's Higher Secondary School, Shillong. In 2002, he received the national Best Teacher Award from Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam, the then President of India. In 2009, he received the Gems Foundation's Best Teacher Award (East Zone) from Shri Kapil Sibal, the then HRD Union Minister and more recently in 2014 and 2015, the Government of Meghalaya honoured him with 'Pioneer of Education' and Mission Green Award, which he received from Dr. Mukul Sangma, the honourable Chief Minister of Meghalaya.

—Fr Alfonso Elengikal (Guwahati)

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