

THE SECULAR CITIZEN

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Evasion And Fraud In India

How is it that in the year 2012-13, there were, believe it or not, three individuals who paid a tax of Rs. 100 crore or more? In the same year, there were 46 dollar billionaires in India who were collectively worth \$ 176 billion— Rs. 11.61 lakh crores; that is ten times more than the Rs. 1.14 lakh crores collected from all the individual income tax payers in the country! How is it that there were only 18,358 individuals who had an income over Rs. 1 crore, and only 10 lakh persons with incomes over Rs. 10 lakhs? This is when, as a report put it, in 2011-12, four luxury carmakers alone sold 25,645 vehicles with an average price of Rs. 40 lakhs, and in Mumbai alone some 1880 luxury apartments worth Rs. 10-100 crore were in the market for sale.

... An anti-national is one who refuses to chant "Bharat Mata Ki Jai," not the one who refuses to pay tax...

(Read inside)

Women as Permanent Deacons

In a meeting with about 900 members of the International Union of Superiors General, representing nearly half a million 'women religious' from all continents, the Holy Father indicated that he was willing to set up a commission to explore the possibility of women serving as permanent deacons. Permanent deacons may carry out all duties of the priestly ministry including preaching, officiating at baptisms, nuptials, administration of parishes in the absence of a priest etc except celebrating holy mass and hearing confession.

Pope Francis was responding to questions from the Superiors who asked why women who presumably served as deacons during the early church, were excluded from the diaconate ministry today? The Holy Father told the Superiors that he had discussed the issue with a knowl-

...why women who presumably served as deacons during the early church, were excluded from the diaconate ministry today?

edgeable professor several years ago, but he was still unclear about the exact role of these religious woman who served the church. The Superiors had cited Romans 16:1 "...our sister Phoebe who served the church in Cenchreae". However the exact role of women like Phoebe remains unclear. (For the record lay deacons came into existence only after Vatican II). Probably they had a larger role in the sacrament of baptism as in the days of the early church the entire body of the person to be baptised had to be immersed, without clothes, in the water.

The Holy Father expressed the hope that a commission might throw light on the role of women who served the early church. And while this does not



mean that we shall be seeing women ordained as deacons tomorrow, it does mean that it is an idea whose time has come, or maybe, coming. In the meantime, let us pray that God may give the Holy Father good health and a long and fruitful life in the service of the church.

—Prof Robert Castellino Orlem

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'Thought for the week'

We fill our bodies with food, minds with ideas, homes with stuff, lives with things to do but our souls are still starving.

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Chastity & Celibacy

by Don Aguiar

A childhood friend was in town last month. He runs a successful business and as we sat drinking chai in the scorching heat, I was struck by his easy sense of playfulness. He seemed not to take himself seriously nor worry about competence. He was open to surprise and to appearing a fool and turned all my answers into questions. Between the search for truth and the possession of it, there is a comma, and he had a distinct preference that his views of the meaning and definition of chaste and celibacy are right. But I was smiling calmly when he left.

One cannot help but feel that humanity has advanced not because it has been sober, responsible and cautious but because it has been immature rebellious and playful

Webster defines chaste as "not having engaged in unlawful sexual intercourse; virtuous; free from obscenity, descent; undefiled or stainless." Roget gives as synonyms the words: pure, virginal, virtuous, unsullied, unblemished, innocent, good, wholesome, moral." In the Bible the word translates agnon which is properly "clean" and tropically, "innocent, modest, perfect, chaste, pure" in a moral sense. This word is derived from agos (an awful thing) sacred (physically, pure, morally blameless or religious, ceremonially, consecrated. It is the word for holy and saint.

Unfortunately, we live in a time when chastity is trivialized. Young men and women are ridiculed in movies, music and literature if they have maintained their virginity. Yet, our society is beginning to see the damage that has been done. However, it is a shame that chastity has to be "promoted" and "advocated" like a fad when it ought to be the expected norm.

It is only the chaste man who can make the strong one rise and store it in the brain; that is why chastity has always been considered the highest virtue. A man feels that if he is unchaste, spirituality goes away; he loses mental vigor and moral stamina.

That is why in all the religious orders in the world, which have produced spiritual giants, you will always find absolute chastity insisted upon.

The chaste brain has tremendous energy and gigantic will power. Without chastity there can be no spiritual strength. Continence gives wonderful control over mankind.

Jesus was not hung up on social conventions. He freely ignored stupid social conventions such as being forbidden to hang out with the Samaritans. But when it came to sex he was very serious. Why were Jesus and the apostles so uptight about sex when they were

(Contd.. on p. 8)

'Curb Communalism Immediately'

With reference to the article-cum-report titled : Jharkhand Lutheran Pastor Found Murdered in THE SECULAR CITIZEN dated MONDAY , 16 MAY,2016 the heinous crime goes to show that the BJP has no policies and programmes and is only interested in polarizing the minority and majority communities to distract people from its failures and in the process is showing its true face and colours.

An anti communal bill permanently banning communal political parties and associations and preventing them from restarting under any new name is very necessary and a bill making the anti-conversion laws passed throughout the country illegal is also very necessary.

A truth and reconciliation committee must punish perpetrators of communal violence and fine political parties responsible for communal violence in addition to making them compensate victims of communal violence monetarily.

The police must also be de-communalised by flushing out communal elements present amongst them and must be made autonomous to help them function efficiently.

The people responsible for the murder of the Lutheran pastor must be severely punished when caught and tried with a very lengthy life sentence in order to deter other heinous acts from being committed in the future.

Eternal vigilance is the price paid to safeguard our rights and it is a small price to pay to ensure that our country remains secular and does not become a theocratic Hindu state as the BJP would like to make it.

—Peter Castellino

Is The World Built Only For Young, Non-Disabled, Privileged Men?

by Merril Diniz

If a young girl cannot attend school because she cannot walk, how can she ever expect to get an education?

According to a recent article by the BBC, KM Yadav, a tea seller in Uttar Pradesh has achieved a minor feat by helping hundreds of Indian villagers get access to critical government information. In turn, this info enabled them to claim their benefits and rights. This Yadav did, using the RTI (Right To Information) Act, which has come to be known as the “weapon of the weak”.



As brilliant as it is, though, the RTI is mostly inaccessible to those who cannot read and write. In fact, according to a UNESCO report released in 2014, India's illiterate population constitutes 287 million people i.e. 37% of the world's population, and the largest number of illiterate people residing in one nation. So, unless adequate helplines and support centres are put in place, this demographic has very little hope of using the RTI to their advantage.

When you really think about it, though our Constitution states that we are all equal in the eyes of the law, in reality, our public spaces, facilities and services are most suitable for a very specific demographic – young, literate, non-disabled, privileged males. Throw in English-speaking, and you have an additional layer of accessibility. Where does that leave the rest of our population? The statistics speak for themselves.

India has over 100 million senior citizens, many of whom never make it to a polling booth during an election, due to lack of transportation. If that is the case, how are they expected to exercise their franchise during an election?

Well, the number of people with disabilities between age 15 to 59 years, according to the National Census 2011, was 1.34 crore. Of these, 9.9 million are ‘non-workers’ or ‘marginal workers’ because they are excluded by our education systems.

And here's a real kicker. If a new mom is expected to nurse her baby in a restroom, how can she ever expect to visit any public space? After all, would you eat your lunch or dinner in a loo? I doubt it!

We live in a diverse world. Yet, **the vast majority of our populations cannot access basic facilities and services because our transportation systems, our education systems, our workplaces, even the way we design something as basic as a toilet, barely reflect the diversity of humankind.** Let's accept that inaccessibility in all its myriad forms is deeply rooted in our systems and our psyche, and if we want to make a change, we have to start seeing accessibility as a human right, not as a favour we must do to make life “inclusive” for a specific demographic.

Source: Youth ki Awaz



MPs Salary Hike - they've lost it!

When the prime minister Narendra Modi appealed to the “well-off” citizens of our country to give up their ‘LPG Gas Subsidy’, thousands and thousands responded positively; this was to enable the government to provide cheaper LPG to the needy and the poor. I wonder what his perception of “well-off”. Does it include the big or small business people, or CEO’s of large corporate houses, or the higher-income salaried class ?

Oh, but perhaps our ‘Honourable’ ‘Members of Parliament’ (MPs) do NOT fall in this category of “well-off”- our **MPs are really the poor class of society**. And so, after the last 300% ‘massive’ hike in MPs salary & allowances, yet another proposal has been passed a couple of days ago, to **‘double’ the salaries of our ‘Honourable’ MPs, from the present Rs.50000.00 p.m. to Rs. 1.00 Lac p.m. and also to double their allowances !** Besides, they are also clamouring for a host of other facilities. **Should Mr. Narendra Modi, not classify our MPs as “well-off” ?**

Several parts of the country, especially Maharashtra, are facing severe drought conditions, farmers are committing suicide as they cannot make ends meet. And here we have our ‘elected’ representatives giving themselves a massive salary hike ! **They should be ashamed of themselves – oh how can they ? They have lost it long time ago !**

A couple of days ago, there was a newsreport which says the former prime minister Mr. Manmohan Singh has proposed that his party MPs donate their salaries to his party fund as the party is in need of funds ! What about the suffering farmers ? **What**

about those struggling to make a living ? Who will help them ? Can we expect our MPs – from ALL political parties, contributing towards alleviating the sufferings of the less fortunate countrymen ? Is it too much to ask of our “well-off” MPs ? Or should we say, “they’ve lost it ?

—Melville X. D’Souza -
Orlem, Malad

Melwyn Brown says it all.....

Kudos to AFJ Founder , Melwyn Brown for his mini article in vol.25 # 19 pg.8 on his observations on the purpose of Divine presence and his determination to take the A F J movement to another high. I am impressed by the writers valuation of God Almighty as he gives full credence to the fact that God is of the universe and the Creator of all things and his present to humankind is of the planet earth. I am also in appreciation for what the writer is striving for. The eradication of gluttony and avarice, lust and the protection of all that is still in place within the ambit of God’s acceptance and purview. The writer has ceremoniously brought to the forefront the Mother of the Son of God as the patroness.

I wonder if the Catholic fraternity in other places in India have this kind of devotion towards the essentials of our Catholic faith as is present in this Kolkata Roman Catholic enclave. In conclusion may I ask for permission from the writer to expand on his very meaningful vision and proclaim amongst my fellow clansmen and women that every city in this country should be dedicated to a spiritual guide to act as our escort in times of turbulence and

unnecessary mind chatter. And as a protector to serve as armament and apron for all the abusive tirade and anomaly. Pray for India.

—Rtn. Calwyn D’Abreo

Women as Deacons

After the inclusion of girls as altar servers and women as Eucharistic ministers, it now seems to be the turn of women to be ordained as deacons in the Catholic church. The relentless struggle by feminists for equal representation and ministries in the Catholic church seems to have borne fruit, with the recent announcement of Pope Francis of a Commission to be set up to study ordination of women as deacons. It is not known why women have been excluded from the diaconate over the centuries, when there are several instances in the New Testament, where women have played an active role as deacons, and also in the forefront of the setting up of the early churches during the missionary activities of St Paul. In Romans (16: 1-16) for example, St Paul mentions his indebtedness to 7 women who were active in the service of the gospel. Paul also makes further mention of his female fellow-workers who were instrumental in leading the church house services, In his letters (Phil 4: 2-3, Col 4: 15, 2Tim, 4: 21) .

—A. F. Nazareth,
Alto Porvorim

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Evasion And Fraud In India

by **Nissim Mannathukkaren**

Thrasymachus: When there is an income tax, the just man will pay more and the unjust less on the same amount of income... I tell you, Socrates, injustice—

when practised on a large enough scale—has more strength, freedom and mastery than justice. — Plato, *The Republic*.

When the government released income tax data for the first time a few days ago, it gave us an opportunity to study one of the vital areas of our economic life, hitherto hidden from public scrutiny. It expectedly generated commentary on the implications of the data for the economy and so on. But what it has not generated is a moral and political reflection on the data.

If we consider the data from the latter point of view, two things emerge. One: the data cannot be termed anything but shocking (the fact that it has not occasioned any moral revulsion or critical political questions is precisely part of a larger problem). And two: more, importantly, the data gives the lie, in a searing fashion, to the recent discourse of nationalism, sponsored by the ruling party and the government, and amplified by the

elite classes.

How is it that in the year 2012-13, there were, believe it or not, three individuals who paid a tax of Rs. 100 crore or more? In the same year, there were 46 dollar billionaires in India who were collectively worth \$ 176 billion—Rs. 11.61 lakh crores; that is ten times more than the Rs. 1.14 lakh crores collected from all the individual income tax payers in the country! How is it that there were only 18,358 individuals who had an income over Rs. 1 crore, and only 10 lakh persons with incomes over Rs. 10 lakhs? This is when, as a report put it, in 2011-12, four luxury carmakers alone sold 25,645 vehicles with an average price of Rs. 40 lakhs, and in Mumbai alone some 1880 luxury apartments worth Rs. 10-100 crore were in the market for sale.

In total, there were 2.87 crore individual income tax returns in 2012-13 (out of a population of 125 crores). 1.6 crores of this did not actually pay any tax, so, effectively, income taxpayers amounted to 1 percent! To give a comparative sense, Canada (of course, a G8 country), had the same—2.88 crore returns, out of a population of 3.5 crores!

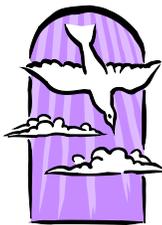
Amazingly, the tax-GDP ratio has re-

mained almost constant even after two and half decades of spectacular growth and wealth creation in which the GDP increased 4.5 times (the recent social media buzz was that India is now the fastest growing economy in the world, overtaking even China). In the mid-1990s, there were only 2 dollar billionaires with a combined worth of \$ 3.2 billion. But in 2016, there were 111 billionaires with a net worth of \$ 308 billion—Rs. 20.48 lakh crores.

The staggering statistics are evidence of shocking levels of tax evasion, fraud and also legally sanctioned tax breaks on income and wealth favouring the richest classes. What does this mean for the discourse of nation and nationalism? What kind of a nation are we talking about when vast numbers of its middle and upper classes, the so-called wealth creators, are the very sections that eviscerate the economic vitals of the nation by not contributing to the national cause?

The “drain of wealth” theory was one of the greatest economic and moral weapons of the Indian nationalists against the colonial rule. Ironically, the nation is subject to the same drain of wealth now. Around \$450 billion has gone out of India, illegally, from 2002. In the same period, the FDI inflows into India were around \$ 150 billion. As Frantz Fanon, the philosopher and anti-colonial revolutionary, noted many decades ago, in the wake of the independence from colonial rule, the

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colonial exploiter is replaced by the native exploiter. Nationalism thus becomes an “empty shell, a crude and fragile travesty of what it might have been.”

The current nationalist/anti-nationalist binary is the most potent example of this travesty. **An anti-national is one who refuses to chant “Bharat Mata Ki Jai,” not the one who refuses to pay tax.** One can indulge in the grossest forms of economic corruption and participate in shoring up an exploitative economic order, but that does not make one an anti-nationalist. As economists have shown, India is an extreme case when it comes to relying overwhelmingly on indirect taxes, with its catastrophic consequences for the poor, unlike the developed countries, which rely overwhelmingly on direct taxes on income and wealth.

Why any of this does not cause any moral outrage is because nationalism has been reduced to a symbolic/cultural entity unyoked from its material underpinnings. That is why we see the exaggerated and virulent battles around the emotive idea of the nation, rather than its material organisation. While the Prime Minister of Iceland resigns over his name figuring in the Panama Papers, there is hardly a ripple in India regarding the Indian names in them. While the “nationalist” government is proactive in jailing “seditious” students, it is hardly serious about investigating the 1200 powerful Indians in the Swiss Leaks. As Fanon would have put it, it “provides nationalism alone as food for the masses.”

The scholar Benedict Anderson had shown that the nation is conceived as a community; that is, despite the huge disparities between people within the nation, it is imagined as a comradeship. As he puts it, “ultimately it is this fraternity that makes it possible, over the past two centuries, for so many millions of people, not so much to kill, as willingly to die for such limited imaginings.”

In the India of the present, the burden of such sacrifices is exclusively

placed on the marginalised and the oppressed castes and classes, while the powerful and the wealthy, leave alone sacrificing for the nation, do not even pay what is simply due from them.

This is the conceit of nationalism that no one who profits from it wants to address. By joining the circus supposedly exposing corruption perpetrated by politicians, the privileged conveniently ignore their own participation in the economic fraud perpetrated on the nation. Their rapturous singing of the national anthem, wittingly or unwittingly, becomes a mask. Evading taxes is not an aberration; it is a mundane activity. If “no taxation without representation,” was the rallying crying of the American Revolution, in India there is representation without taxation.

Thrasymachus, in his dialogue with Socrates, asserts that “justice really serves the interest of the ruler, the one who is stronger, at the expense of the weaker.” What is astonishing is that his cynical view of Athens 2500 years ago is equally valid for the India of the present. While releasing the tax data, Prime Minister Modi said that it should “lead to enhanced insights for policy making on taxation.” What did he not say was that it was a scathing commentary on the nation.

Unless the cultural idea of the nation as comradeship and fraternity is complemented by material and economic arrangements that realise this, the nation will remain only in name. It will be Frantz Fanon’s empty shell.

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Pope Francis’ “Dreams”! ...

On May 06, 2016, Pope Francis was awarded the ‘International Charlemagne Prize’, the best-known prize for work done in the service of European unification.

His lengthy acceptance address, of which I have selected only a part of it – “I Dream of a Europe ...”. Europe or EU is a multi-lingual and democratic union of 25 countries is a good example for our beloved nation India to emulate. And so the above phrase could be redefined as: “I have a dream of an India ...” (Brief extracts)

“I dream of a ‘new European humanism, one that calls for courage and a sound humane utopian vision. I dream of a Europe that is a mother who respects life and having children is a responsibility and a great joy. I dream of a Europe that offers fraternal help to the migrants seeking acceptance, because they have lost everything and need shelter. I dream of a Europe that is attentive and concerned for the infirm and elderly. I dream of a Europe committed to human rights of everyone, and upholding the dignity of the human person. I dream of a Europe where young people breathe the pure air of honesty and a simple life undefiled by the insatiable greed of consumerism ...”

The Pope concluded: “Thus a Church rich in witnesses will be able to bring back the pure waters of the Gospel to the roots of Europe, stirring it on the paths towards Christian unity, in response to Jesus’ prayer, “that they may all be one” (John 17:21).

—Dr. Trevor Colaso, **Bandra**

(Contd.. from p. 3)

so radical about breaking down other social barriers? It is because they knew something that modern culture has forgotten.

People are born from sex; people die from sex (STIs). If we get a powerful gift for Christmas, say a car, there are rules that keep us safe. It is the same with sexuality.

If you love any one person you are not very far away from becoming a monk or a catholic priest – just one person you have to drop. The step, a single step, and you become a monk or catholic priest. And when you have only so much of love, why give it even to one person? Why not keep it for yourself? The logic is the same. If you go to the logical conclusion, then the monk or catholic priest seems to be the right person. Why bother with a wife? Why not go to a Catholic seminary/monastery and keep it for yourself. But do you think the monk or catholic priest has any love?

Why has this idea risen in the religions? - The same concept of scarcity: that if you give love to the world, to people how will you give to God? The same idea, if you give it to your wife then how will you give it to God? Collect all your love and escape into a seminary/monastery and give it all to God.

You will not be able to give, because to give to God, the only way is to give to the world. God is hidden here. God does not live hidden in some seminary/monastery. He is spread all over existence, in the rocks, in the rivers, in the mountains. You give! Learn to give and you will have so many new sources opening up

Anatoly France said: "Of all the perversions, chastity is the strangest." Chastity is a kind of miserliness: don't give love to anybody and when you contain all, people think you are chaste, you are not, and you are simply poisoned.

This vow of chastity and the practice of celibacy are taken by catholic priest; this vow and practice are really very difficult to translate. It has been translated as sexual continence. That's not right, because this vow and practice are wide words, very vast. Sexual celibacy and chastity is a very narrow thing; it is one part of it but not the whole of it. The words chastity and celibacy for a catholic priest means living like a god. The very words means living like a god, living a life divine. Of course, in a life divine, sex disappears.

Celibacy can only be spontaneous; there is no other type of celibacy. If it is not spontaneous, it is not celibacy. You can force it. You can control your sexuality, but that is not going to help. You will not be celibate; you will be only more and more sexual. Sex will spread all over your being. It will become part of your unconscious. It will move your dreams, it will become your motivation in dreams, it will become your fantasy. In fact, you will become more sexual than you ever were before. You will think more about it and you will have to repress it again and again.

Try to force celibacy upon yourself and your dreams will become sexual, they will have a quality of sexuality.

People who try to control themselves have chosen a very foolish way. Control will not happen, but they will become cold. That is the only way a man can control himself -- to become frozen so that energy does not arise.

Remember, there are two types of celibates. One: who has simply forced celibacy upon himself -- he is a wrong type, he is doing violence to himself. The other: who has tried to understand sexuality, what it is, why it is; who has watched, observed, lived through it, and, by and by, has become aware of its futility; by and by, has become aware of a deep frustration that comes after EACH sexual act.

Celibacy is one of the most unnatural things. It has destroyed so many human beings -- millions -- Catholic priest, nuns & monks, Hindu monks, Buddhist monks, Jaina priest, monks & nuns. For centuries they have been teaching celibacy; and the most amazing thing is, even in the twentieth century, not a single medical expert, physiologist, has stood up and said that celibacy is impossible, that in the very nature of things, it cannot happen.

We need to recognize that God made us sexual beings. It is His intent that men realize and fulfill their sexuality. Furthermore, our sexuality is for our good and our pleasure. When God announced His intent to make a woman, it was because it was not "good" for man to be alone. Numerous times in the Bible God encourages man to find the joy of harmoniously or suitably accompanying woman?

To impose celibacy means to pervert the sexual energy of man. It is celibacy that has created homosexuality. It is celibacy that has created sodomy. And, finally, it is celibacy which has brought humanity to experience

the great joy of AIDS. AIDS is called a religious disease. It has been created by all the religions. Nobody ever has been celibate, whatever the pretensions; you can only be a hypocrite. But your sexual energy will find ways to move -- it is natural.

The old concept is that if you prevent all love making from your heart, you will be chaste and celibate. You will not be chaste and celibate, you will be simply dead. You will become simply neurotic, you will be perverted. Many facts have appeared in the news and newspapers from time to time of catholic priest developing unhealthy attitudes and are then unable to continue to be chaste and celibate resulting in the Catholic Church sweeping these unfortunate incidences under the carpet, transferring the priest and counseling the victims to make them feel it is their fault or paying millions of dollars compensation to the victims.

Why would the Catholic Church want to take such a massive risk in shielding their priest wrong doings or if not possible then admitting and compensating the victims?

Is this concept relevant in dealing with a sense of guilt? It is important to forgive so that we do not nurse guilt. Past failures, mistakes or wrong doings can be overcome and get on with life. When one is wise one can let go of one's guilt, hurt, frustrations. Whipping, hitting or criticizing a guilty person is not going to reform him. Similarly pitying yourself over an ill advice act is not going to help one grow out of it.

However these wrong doings are rarely about logic or truth. Like trolling on the internet they are about attacking someone. The best attacks, in fact, have only a tiny degree of possibility, but are quite difficult for the person attacked to prove otherwise. Let's slap on the muck. Proving something is no longer important before attacking anyone. A tiny degree of plausibility is all it takes. To become popular is important but to do it at the cost of being one's spiritual guide and then betray one's confidence and losing one's creditability is not worth it.

To some this may indicate an organized campaign of intimidation. The alternate explanation of inarticulate, but real fury over chastity & celibacy condensation needs to be controlled.

However there is a lesson in this for all of us. We people and the media have to be careful on what story we give credence.

The Power Of The Spoken Word

(Est Potentia Ex Verbo)

by Rtn. Calwyn D'Abreo

*Some believe in the power of technology.
Others believe in the power of numericals.
Then some others believe in the power of friendship.
Often times we observe the power of money.
Hercules the Greek hero believed in the power of muscle.
The masses believe in the power of the people.*

How often have we stood by the belief that there is power in the spoken word.... the epilogue of everything that is construed , constructed and provided for manifestation, thenceforth.

Woe be to the fertile mind that castrates itself from the nuances of good and proper librettos or the divine ebullience, the buoyancy, the joy , the euphoria , the sparkle, the effervescence, **the sharp cut of the spoken word.**

Search for metadata on the opulence of well constructed words that are spoken and see if algorithm pedestals can evaluate the power of the quantum effect of verbosity. When you use words to say much or to say little the ratio between what is said and the way it is said is the consideration. Speech analytics define the power of the spoken word with percentages of the domino effect. If one word is a good word then the next to follow in your delivery will automatically take good precedence even over the emotional quotient of its conveyance with the primary.

This will happen if you are in consonance with the reason for it's presence as an exclamation and not as a disaster as in a diatribe.

The spoken word extends its agenda beyond the presence of its subordination to the will of the mind to release meaningful elements of speech. Partnership with the emotional presence of the consciousness in man and full value attested to the otherwise similarity that stems from being cognizant or sentient on an issue that needs verbal delivery is possible.

Every syllable uttered or a mono syllable announced by the automatic mechanism of the human body

through the vocal of the structure of the breath diaphragm and the larynx is the after result of the triad – the mind , the belief and the desire in full consonance with the being.

Now begins the use of the engineered spoken word. Every word is a mechanized version of emotional value given to a thought that needs vocal delivery and acceptance. Try it, just now. Chances are the results will be as simple as a 'good morning' or a detrimental 'why did you move my cheeses' verbal intonation. Every plasmic delivery in the form of sound waves create an impact on the aura standing in front of the human body.

There is vibration of the esoteric type and the results can be seen and felt according to the resultant impact to which it is applied. The spoken word contains a pattern of delivery. As you comment or discourse a distinctive or pervasive quality that also accommodates the character of the delivery becomes either a descant or the opposite of it as if in silent retort.

Suppose you intone in a strong voice as if in a Gregorian chant you are expending the availability of pure classical interaction. Try being a rap artist poet and accept a gerund for a simile. Between a noun and a verb the conscious mind stays confused and no arbitration is possible. Most of the rap artist leverage on broken language syntax.

Now that the preface for the science of the spoken word has been elucidated upon let us strike rich with how to de-

avour the strength that the articulated and the verbalized is enunciated. And the impact of it all.

What you say is what you get.

Jesus Christ – a name by which we respect the emanation of divinity on earth in flesh and blood was a young man of many words. He proclaimed every thought of his by the supplementation and endorsement in words of His philosophies, His conceptions ,His beliefs , His meditations and His judgments by words. He was a verbal powerhouse and did all his teachings primarily by the power of the use of words. Jesus will always be remembered for his Sermon on the Mount. Evaluating the Sermon one begins to acknowledge that the words spoken by Jesus could come through only from an unusually, very wise and gifted being who had the divine power to regulate time and space and the presentation of His thoughts in words.

He spoke to a large multitude of people of the neighborhood in an authoritative voice, yet mild and without rancor, there was no venom in his delivery nor was there bitterness, there was no resentment nor was there animosity. Jesus colored the delivery with parables and good diction as each word of his was recorded for generations to come and finds a prominent place in the Bible. Jesus is an example of how a good speaker should dispense with words to create that which is required from the transport of thoughts that is consigned into words.

Jesus chose his words very carefully.

He did not rattle off like in a weak Sunday homily or like in a paid for oration. His speech , wherever, He went, we can classify, as well attributed towards that time and place and surprisingly meant for every future generation and relevant enough for a world without end.

We must emulate the system and the
(Contd.. on p. 16)



Principal removed for dividing class on caste lines

The Uttar Pradesh government has sacked a school principal who tried to segregate students on the basis of their caste.

Radhey Shyam Varshney, principal of the government-aided Seth Phulchand Bagla Inter College in the northern Indian state's Hathras district, worked out his caste experiment with the ninth grade students. He also appointed class teachers on the basis of the caste.

Acting on complaints, District Magistrate Avinash Krishna Singh ordered a probe by the District Inspector of Schools. After the matter was found to be true, the principal was removed, reports ndtv.com.

Work on new Kachativu church suspended

Kachchativu: The construction of a new church on the island of Kachchativu has been stopped by the Sri Lankan Government after India raised issues over it.

Navy Commander Ravindra Wijegunaratne told the Sunday Times construction work had been suspended until the issues were resolved. He said the Navy had been asked to undertake the construction by Jaffna's Bishop the Rt. Rev. Dr. Bernard Gnanapragasam.

The foundation stone was laid last Monday. Vice Admiral Wijegunaratne said the Bishop had pointed out to him during last year's Kachchativu feast, attended by thousands of devotees from Sri Lanka and South India, that the existing church was too small.

Indian nuns agree to donate their organs

New Delhi: Sixty Indian nuns from the Congregation of the Mother of Carmel have pledged to donate their organs, saying it was their contribution for the Year of Mercy.

The nuns of Dehradun province in northern India's Uttarakhand state offered their pledge to donate their organs to state sports and forest minister Dinesh Aggarwal on May 11.

"We have been helping people through our social services when we are alive and now after death our organs will be helpful to those in need," Sister Jaya Peter told ucanews.com.

She said 110 Carmel sisters in Kerala made the same pledge last month.

Protests erupt after rape of Catholic teacher

Dhaka (AsiaNews) - Hundreds of Christians protested yesterday in the streets of Dhaka, denouncing the brutal rape of a Catholic teacher by the Muslim principal of the school where she works and his friend. The sexual violence against the 26-year-old woman who shall remain anonymous, took place on May 13 in Kushtia in western Bangladesh.

The teacher was raped and then threatened to with public humiliation through the posting of the video of the rape online Facebook. Nirmal Rozario, general secretary of the Bangladesh Christian Association, told AsiaNews: "We have heard about the incident and ask the local administration for justice. We want that the attackers be punished."

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Shame & Scandal

Kidnapping, ransom, murder, suicide, and sexual exploitation – all the ingredients of a B grade Bollywood movie.

Except that this is real not reel life. And it is all happening in the holy, apostolic, Catholic Church. It reminds me of the line from an old song - "Shame and Scandal in the Family".

The latest episode in this seemingly never-ending saga is the abduction and assault on Bp Prasad Gallela of Cuddapah, Andhra Pradesh, on 25th April. As per the report of Benwen Lopez in Indian Currents, the bishop and his driver were kidnapped, physically assaulted, blindfolded, and released after several hours and a ransom demand of Rupees Fifty Lakhs. The alleged mastermind was a priest of the diocese, Raja Reddy, alias "Daddy". He runs his own NGO called "Daddy Home". It is alleged that it was in this very "home" that the bishop and his driver were held to ransom. The other two alleged co-conspirators are again priests of the same diocese, and both are also Reddys.

The Reddys' angst against the bishop apparently was because he hails from a dalit community, and he had refused to give plum postings to the Reddys. Bizarre though it is, had it been an isolated incident, it could have been treated as such. It isn't. Of late there have been a spurt of murders/ suicides of priests in Karnataka and Kerala, as also the sexual molestation of nuns. It is a deep-rooted malaise, and must be seen in the wider context of what is happening in the Catholic Church, more particularly in India.

I see these as symptoms of a greater disease. From the symptoms we must go to the disease. Lopez says that casteism and financial corruption are the most painful wounds inflicted



Bishop Prasad Gallela of Cuddapah



by chhotebhai *

on the church. I would not treat them as superficial wounds, but as a cancer that is surely and steadily destroying us. Rev Suresh Mathew, Ofm Cap, the Chief editor of Indian Currents, says that acceptance or admission of the disease is the first curative step. Let us then accept the reality of these diseases and address them accordingly.

We begin with caste. It is the bane of India, and the church has not been left unscathed. Casteism in the Church is manifest in many forms, beginning with the oldest Christians in Kerala. It is common knowledge that the Syrian Christians (as they are now known) that were converted in apostolic times, belonged to the higher castes. The Latin Catholics, converted about 500 years ago by the Portuguese, were mostly fisher folk. The second oldest community, the Goans, was also horribly caste conscious, because the Portuguese first converted the Saraswat Brahmins, in the expectation that the others would follow suit. Unfortunately, till very recently, Catholics wore robes of different colours during religious processions, to indicate their caste.

Perhaps the most outrageous caste discrimination within the church today is in Tamilnadu. There are separate

seating arrangements in the churches, separate ciboria for communion, and yes, after death too, separate cemeteries. When I was National President (NP) of the All India Catholic Union (AICU) in the early nineties, I had visited the infamous cemetery in Trichy that had a wall separating the burial areas of the dalits and the rest. I was informed that the local M.P., a Catholic, had declared that if the wall was not dismantled before Christmas he would cut off his right hand. Last heard, the wall and the hand are both intact!

In Andhra the Reddys are a prosperous community and many embraced Christianity. YSR, the former Chief Minister, was a Christian. G.S. Reddy M.P. was the NP of the AICU for several years. The Reddys, while embracing Christianity, did not jettison their cultural roots. Even the Hindu Reddys were at ease with them. I recall Dr B. Gopala Reddy, the Governor of U.P. in the 60's. His wife Lakshmikan-tama and daughter Anuradha regularly attended the Marian novenas in the Lucknow cathedral.

It is possible that in the next phase of evangelization the dalits were converted, leading to resentment among the Reddys, who may have felt that their exalted position was being compromised. There are many more in-

(Contd.. on p. 17)

Dispelling the cult of Jayalalithaa and Mamata



On the face of it, Jayalalithaa and Mamata Banerjee are as different from each other as idli sambar is from machher jhol. The Tamil Nadu chief minister is the self-styled empress of Poes Garden, a remote, inaccessible figure who thrives in imperial grandeur; the West Bengal chief minister, by contrast, likes to project herself as a plebeian folk heroine in crumpled sari and chappals who revels in her street-fighting image.

Jayalalithaa is the convent-educated cinema star who took over the MGR legacy while Mamata is the "outsider" from the backstreets of Kalighat who pushed ahead without a political godfather. And yet, as the two women battle for re-election, their common traits are intriguing as they mirror both hope and despair in contemporary Indian politics.

Both Jayalalithaa and Mamata run their parties as tightly-controlled one-woman shows: does anyone know who is number 2 in their respective parties, someone who might be considered a potential successor?

Travelling through West Bengal and Tamil Nadu on the campaign trail, one didn't notice a single poster of any other leader from the AIADMK or the Trinamool Congress.

In effect, the party is completely identified with the individual at the top with no space for any alternative power centre. In the Congress, there is mother and son, in the BJP, Narendra Modi must share space occasionally with an Amit Shah or even an Arun Jaitley.

Both Amma and Didi evoke a mix of awe and fear among their followers and legislators that borders on intimidation. Ask an AIADMK MP to appear on your television show, and the instant response is: "I will have to ask Amma," after which the individual does a disappearing act.

The Trinamool Congress local leaders are a little more willing to speak up, but those who express any dissent like the former railway minister Dinesh Trivedi must know their days within the party fold are numbered.

Maybe the seemingly ruthless, mercurial style of leadership has been deliberately cultivated to keep the men-folk in their party on constant guard. In a patriarchal system, maybe a certain element of designer madness is needed to ensure that the male members don't begin to take their leader for granted.

No image better symbolises just how Jayalalithaa is perceived within the party than that of former chief minister O Paneerselvam prostrating himself before his "supremo". Mamata may not approve of such a public display of obsequiousness but privately even senior TMC leaders are expected to "serve" the "boss" at all times.

Their governance style is also laced with similar heavy doses of populism that combine welfarist intent with occasional financial recklessness. Jayalalithaa's "freebie" culture extends from genuinely innovative measures like "Amma canteens" where idlis are available for Re 1 to a system of patronage that revolves around virtually "bribing" voters with a range of con-



sumer goods from mixers and grinders to smartphones and even scooters this time.

The West Bengal chief minister doesn't have the luxury of distributing similar goodies but she too has pushed ahead with a SOP-driven model that offers Rs 2 a kg rice, discounted medicines, free bicycles for girls and special grants for madrasas. Are we surprised then that both Tamil Nadu and West Bengal are struggling with large budgetary debts?

Both leaders have also earned the growing ire of the urban middle class, which accuses them of running an unaccountable regime that has institutionalised corruption.

In Chennai, a businessman tells me on record of a "rate card" which requires payments to be made to the top political leadership. In Kolkata, one is told of the stranglehold of local "syndicates" that operate a mafia-style operation where money is collected on behalf of the party.

Corruption has been a familiar charge that has haunted Jayalalithaa through her political career while Mamata, by contrast, rode to power on her reputation for being an "honest" politician. But in the last year, the Saradha chit fund expose and the Narada sting

(Contd.. on p. 22)

Hillary Clinton's campaign slams Donald Trump for mocking Indians

Washington: Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign has slammed Republican frontrunner Donald Trump for mocking an Indian call centre worker during an election rally this week, saying it shows disrespect towards the community and is reflective of his divisive rhetoric.

"Donald Trump mocking Indian workers is just typical of his disrespect that he has shown to groups across the spectrum," said John Podesta, chairman of the Clinton Campaign.

"He has run a campaign of bigotry and division. I think that's quite dangerous for the country when you think about the fact that you need friends, allies. The kind of campaign he is running breeds disrespect across the globe and breeds division and danger here at home," he told reporters in Germantown, Maryland after formally launching 'Indian-Americans for Hillary', an effort by the community to rally behind the Democratic presidential front runner.

Podesta was reacting to Trump's apparent use of a fake Indian accent to mock a call centre representative in India during a campaign rally in Delaware this week.

The real estate tycoon said that he called up his credit card company to find out whether their customer support is based in the US or overseas.

At the same time, he described India as a great place, asserting that he is not angry with Indian leaders, The Times of India reported.

Meanwhile, an Indian-American entrepreneur also hit out at Trump, calling his comments "demeaning".

"When Donald Trump fakes the accent of an Indian at the help desk, it is demeaning and demonising to me



personally," said Frank Islam, a top Indian-American bundler in the Clinton campaign who has helped raised more than USD 100,000 for her.

A resident of Maryland, Islam is part of the newly launched 'Indian-Americans for Hillary'.

He also disagreed with the remarks of Republican Governor from Maine, Paul LePage, who had said that Indian workers are "worst" and "hardest" to

understand.

"I do not know, where he got that impression. I consider Indian-Americans very hard working and they aim high," he said.

"I consider Indian-Americans to be thoughtful, constructing, hardworking and resilient. So I do not agree with him," Islam said, adding that the community played a key role in strengthening the country.

Hindu group prays for Trump to fight Islamic terrorism

Members of the right-wing Indian group, the Hindu Sena, conducted a 'havan' (prayer ritual) to ask the Hindu gods for Donald Trump's success in the US presidential elections. The ritual is believed to have taken place at popular monument Jantar Mantar in New Delhi on 11 May.

Hindu Sena members were pictured conducting the ritual while surrounded by statues of Hindu gods, as well as several images of Trump. Above where they sat, a huge banner read: "Hindu Sena supports Donald Trump: Hope for humanity against Islamic Terror"

Vishnu Gupta, founder of the Hindu Sena, said: "The whole world is screaming against Islamic terrorism, and even India is not safe from it. Only Donald Trump can save humanity."

Herbs To Cleanse The Blood

Lack of physical activity, poor consumption of healthy food, and over consumption of animal based products can lead to a build-up of toxins in the blood and body. Cleansing the blood, is a good way to improve immunity, prevent heart diseases, improve overall health and fight cancer. Try these 15, popular Indian herbs, which are known for their blood cleansing properties. But, before you embark on any kind of detox, check with your health practitioner.

Neem

Neem has antiseptic, anti-fungal and anti-viral properties that are vital for blood cleansing. Neem also helps fight blood clots and can be used to treat skin ailments, ulcers, arthritis, and gum diseases.

Honey:

Honey helps in producing blood, protecting the arterial walls, improving blood circulation and purifying the blood. Honey is also anti-bacterial in nature, so it is a great way to prevent infection.

Amla (Phyllanthus emblica):

Amla helps in the assimilation of iron, improves the quality of blood and wipes out toxins from the body. Amla also fights heart disease as it nourishes the blood and improves blood circulation.

Mulberry:

The Chinese believe that this berry cleanses the blood and increases the production of blood. Mulberries also protect the cardiovascular system and also detoxify the liver.

Guduchi (Tinospora cordifolia):

This herb is a detoxifying agent that purifies the blood. It is beneficial for those who smoke and drink alcohol as it helps purify the toxins which build-up in the blood.

Antamul (Tylophora asthmatica):

This flower has medicinal properties, which can cleanse the blood and can be used to treat respiratory illnesses

like asthma and bronchitis. It is also called Khadari, Naippalai or Mendi in India.

Capsicum:

Capsicum not only detoxifies the blood and the circulatory system, but also purifies the digestive system and regularises blood pressure. Capsicum is also a good source of vitamin A, B and C and minerals like iron, calcium and phosphorous.

Dhatura ki jad (Burdock Root):

This root cleanses the blood by flushing out acids that harm the body. It also helps the kidneys purify blood and helps balance the hormones by releasing protein from the pituitary gland.

Amar bel (Cuscuta reflexa):

Consume this flower, which is also considered a herb, because it cleanses the blood. Amar bel also helps promote liver and kidney health.

Bhutkesi or Yarrow Flower:



This flower is a blood cleanser and promotes the functioning of the liver. It is commonly used for its anti-inflammatory properties in natural medicine. Bhutkesi grows in Kashmir, Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh.

Dandelion Root:



The dandelion root is one of the best herbs to detox the liver and kidneys. But it also purifies the blood as it promotes the proper functioning of the liver and kidneys.

Pit Papda (Fumaria officinalis):



Pit papda is an age-defying herb that enhances the texture of hair and the complexion. This herb has several health benefits and works to improve blood production and purifies the blood.

Karanj (Pongamia glabra):



Get rid of the toxins and waste from the blood with karanj. Pongamia glabra or the karanj helps the kidneys flush out toxins from the blood and the skin.

Chobchini (Smilax China):



In herbal medicine, Chobchini is used to relieve pain and inflammation in the body especially in the joints. But it is also consumed as a blood cleanser. It is known as the China root but is effectively used in Indian herbal medicine.

Manjistha (Rubia cordifolia):



This is one of the best herbs in Ayurveda, which cleanses the blood from waste and toxins. It is also used as an immune regulator.

Family Life Is No Exception To Challenges

I am so blessed that I have a good husband who looks after me and loves me," said a woman to her friend at a party, adding, "we do have our ups and downs, of course". That woman understood the intensity of closeness in love, the value of responsibility her husband carried, and she could appreciate her place in family life.

Pope Francis' document, *Amoris Laetitia* (Joy of Love) is a book every family should read and possess. It touches upon love, X-Spam-Subject: YES marriage, sex and the Christian family "as great gifts of God".

Roy had been separated from his mother. He lost count of the years. In fact, his mother's second marriage had taken her to Assam and she had gone without saying a word. His grandmother brought him up. All he could think about was to meet her for once. Then he heard his mother was terminally ill. Roy wanted to tell her he loved her. He stood at the side of her bed with tears in his eyes. His mother touched his face and said, "I have always loved you, my son. I can now truly rest in peace. Thank you."

"...I will never forsake you or abandon you." (Hebrews 13:5).

Rachel had been a rebel in the family. For reasons known best to her, she bore resentments towards her father, disliked her mother and could never tolerate other family members. Then they all turned up to wish her on the birth of her first child. She decided it was never too late to change, and welcomed them all with a big hug each.

Family life can be a see-saw of conflicts and moments of happiness. Change and challenge often bears a score of problems with near and dear ones in daily routine. Sometimes estrangements could come about, battles, grudges, no less. The stress and emotional strain may easily lead to health break-downs and major life hurdles.

Dorothy Thompson, American journalist, had this to say: "Courage... is nothing less than the power to overcome danger, misfortune, fear, injustice, while continuing to affirm inwardly that life with all its sorrows is good; that everything is meaningful even if in a sense beyond our understanding, and that there is always tomorrow."



BY MELVYN BROWN

Family is always a relevant factor. Disagreements will always be present. It's how you react that really matters. Whenever Rita brought up the subject of her uncle or aunt, she had to hear a lot of unkind words from her mother. Whatever the reasons, talk

of the past would bring up hostile times which her mother could not let go.

Rita learned to pay a deaf ear to her mother's stressed feelings. In time all the gripes and grudges fell apart. Her mother started to slowly negate her nasty emotions. Rita had learned that people have enough of their own problems. There was no need to shoulder their burdens.

Marital relationships also have heartaches and tensions. Roger was the ideal husband any woman might want. He was smart, dressed well, was also polite, affectionate to his wife Anna, less stressed and a good friend to his in-laws. Then, came the baby.

Anna was not able to fully meet her domestic demands, her husband's needs, all because of the baby. Roger felt he was being ignored. Anna's balancing act was wife, mother and cook was taking its toll.

Roger took control. He made it happen, thanks to his reasonable nature and outlook. He helped to turn the marriage around to its former self. With smiles, assurance and tenderness he saved their marriage.

"Do not let your hearts be troubled". (John.14:1).

The bitterness, recalls Ashton, began

years ago over petty differences at his marriage. Bernice, his wife wanted to serve imported wine for the toasting at the reception; her mother ordered for the local church wine. "This is my wedding. If you don't like my choice you can leave."

Her mother left. For fifteen years there was no communication for the two, all over a silly argument. 20 years later Ashton wrote to both of them, mother and daughter.

When Ashton passed away after a fatal accident the letters were found in his diary. "I love you both. I miss seeing you both together." This brought about the reconciliation. The estrangement was over. "Be careful then how you live, not was unwise people but as wise". (Eph.5:15).

Sibling rivalry must have started with Cain and Abel. But families today can learn the experience of its sufferings. Nothing has changed. Always prepare a youngster for the coming of his brother or sister. When the new-born arrives talk about caring, loving and sharing. Acknowledge the older ones behavior. Reject name calling. Talk together about each others problems. Ask for the child's forgiveness when things go wrong. Forgive and be merciful. "Set... an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity." (1 timothy 4:12).

Roma could not forgive her brother who did not come forward to help her when their father was sick and dying (he was in a state of shock at the loss). Years later he asked his sister to forgive him. Roma was happy to be merciful and forgiving. Below every apology is a heart-warming word, love. "Forgive... so that your Father in heaven may also forgive you" (Mark.11:25).

Teen years can also be a challenge for the young and for parents : keep calm, have a sense of love and do be realistic. Do not overact. Show respect. Say a prayer. Keep God in your family and in your life.

(Contd.. from p.9)

style that is most effective when it comes to the power of speech.

Cannot we believe that whatever we say is a direct reflection of what we are thinking and what we trust to be correct and true. If we are in synchronization with our thoughts and deploy honorable, incorrupt means to assemble ourselves in the fashion and deportment of a character that the society around us accepts then what we say is most of the time accepted as reliable.

We are often masters of negative words and they are so well contained in the dictionary of our minds. Our peers and parents and owners of our virgin years must take full responsibility for inculcating in us this erroneous zone of considerations.

We are adept at complaining or talking about what is not right and what is wrong, the presence of poverty and insecurity and the bad effect of a modern generation and why terrorism is present all over the earth. You are only going to attract more of the same whether you like it or not. It is the universal law. It is like the Law of Gravity, This law was always there and will always be there. You get what you think about and talk about...most.

The intensity of the emotions and feelings of your thoughts is the thermometer of how much impacting the resultant is. Your thoughts become words. These then snowball into cumulative positivity or detriments that affect the source and the surroundings in which

they have been placed or from where they come from. Each thought is a vibration. A vibration is like a magnet in the void and attracts similar thoughts and by default those manifestations that are encouraged by the word of mouth as in words that matter. Thoughts crowd the mind. You begin to think in words. Your mind speaks to your emotional quotient. These magnetic thoughts attracts corresponding situations that are in tandem to the vibrations your thoughts contain. And to give fillip to the concert of thoughts you are using and by default the powerful force of words that emanate from yourself as an inside element as you think in word form and as an outside presentation in speech that can make a mountain disappear.

The higher the frequency of the vibration the more easy it is to manifest that which you are attracting by the vibration of thoughts with active word participation. There is power in the spoken word. Every word that you utter in the quietness of your mind or in the inside of a hallowed hall you are either affirming your thoughts that come before you make them into words or veto that which you are not in appreciation of and with.

Speak positive words after exciting yourself by choosing positive thoughts, positive beliefs and confident and buoyant and hopeful conclusions of that which you are wanting to create. Let your words generate a powerful vibration. Deduce the best from the strength of the words you speak by emotionalizing and giving feeling to your words. Are your words optimistic...?

Optimistic words create expectant views that in turn vibrate positively to get you a similar vibration to effect manifestation. Try it ,today. Speak yourself out. You will notice that you are continuously attracting positive situations as you announce their requirements by the word and the emotions in your voice that reflects the dynamic tension at the time of delivery.

Prospectus and his tutorial partner

Thesis, the inimitable denizens who arrived in Rome from Greece were scholastic gurus who focused on verbal intonations held lecture classes within the many roman amphitheatres. Study assemblies were held for members of the Roman senate is recorded in the history of the past. They made the opulent members of the assembly understand that everything you speak has the capacity and the possibility to set right or damage, to heal or to harm, to construct or to destruct by the mere presentation of words. The more emotion and feelings you instruct each focus word to contain becomes the 'vi determinata' or the determined force and activation of the resultant begins.

Words spoken have actual power. They are in actual existence. By using the emotional quotient they become honest and authentic representations of that which you are feeling.

The Infinite Intelligence is an example for all to rely as per the Bible. God who is the I am of all creation as is taught to us spoke the world into being by the power of words. The language used was not English nor Italian nor Greek but apparently a voice delivering creativity at its best in a verbal communication and we presume in a style that cannot be duplicated. The copyright stays with the creator. If it was a paragraph in melody, which I hope and pray it must have been then the lyrics are not yours and mine to understand on this earth for a motley crowd. In the event that you accept that you were made in the image of the creator and the source of all energies then be blessed by the mere fact that you have with you a special inference of value – the power to speak as did the Infinite Intelligence.

St Paul said wisely and referred to the power of the spoken word ' Do not let any unpleasant, foul, distasteful ,objectionable , nasty, harmful natter or even a whisper come out from your mouth but only that which is helpful and joyous assisting others in their needs as much as you attract their benevolence '.

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(Contd.. from p. 11)

stances of institutionalized caste discrimination in the church, but for now I will revert to the situation in Andhra, and what lessons we can learn from it.

The resentment of the Reddys reminds me of how the Jews felt when the Gentiles began to accept Jesus. They considered the latter unclean, a word similar in meaning to the “untouchable” in India. When the Roman Centurion Cornelius wanted to be baptized Peter was initially horrified, because “it is forbidden for the Jews to mix with other people of another race” (Acts 10:28). However, God shows Peter a vision of clean and unclean foods and tells him three times (yes Peter always needed to be told three times) that “what God has made clean you have no right to call profane” (Acts 10: 14-16). He acknowledged that “God has made it clear to me that I must not call anyone profane or unclean” (Acts 10: 28). He then declares that “God has no favourites, anybody of any nationality who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him” (Acts 10: 34-35).

Since we Christians so often forget what scripture says, we need to remind ourselves of the following verses. Referring to the hostility between the Jews and Gentiles St Paul says, “He has made the two into one entity and broken down the barrier which used to keep them apart, by destroying in his own person the hostility ... by restoring peace to create a single New Man out of the two of them” (Eph

2:14-16). Paul further reminds us that “Everyone of you that has been baptized has been clothed in Christ. There can be neither Jew nor Greek, there can be neither slave nor free-



man, there can be neither male nor female – for you are all one in Christ Jesus” (Gal 3:27-28).

Are the Reddys ready to listen to the Word of God? Why only the Reddys? Every one of us who discriminates against a fellow human being cannot lay claim to being a Christian. Even more so for a Catholic priest who claims to proclaim God’s Word.

The second disease referred to by Lopez is financial corruption; which is becoming more and more visible. Earlier the clergy dealt more with spiritual things, but now they deal with big institutions, big ideas and big money, and the temptation is too strong to resist. From breviaries they have switched to briefcases. Simplicity and renunciation, especially among the diocesan clergy, is becoming a thing of the past. The clergy are accountable to none. There is no provision for RTI in the church. From pastors of souls they have become masters of doles (funds). There is a palpable fall in moral standards and an increase in living standards. Bishops seem unable to rein in their priests, perhaps because they too have their Achilles heel, which can be used to blackmail or silence them.

I spent seven years under the tutelage of a very holy priest, Fr Augustine



Deenabandhu Ofm Cap, and have learnt much from holy and learned Jesuits and Redemptorists. I have seen what really Christ-like priests are capable of achieving. Hence I feel more sad than angry at the pathetic quality of priests today. It is not that they are bad; it is just that they are not good enough, and far from the perfection that they are called to (cf Mat 5:48). I see many sociological, psychological and ecclesiological reasons for this decline in standards.

Before Vatican II (1962-65) there was an over emphasis on rules and regulations, with rigid norms for priests, including their dress and lifestyle. Vatican II replaced this with personal responsibility. Most clergymen did not know how to handle their newfound freedom, and tended to abuse it. The process of vocation promotion and seminary formation remained stuck in the pre Vatican II era, resulting in a gross mismatch. I shall dwell on this later.

Before that, there are some very human factors that warrant attention. Firstly, since priests are celibate they have no spouses to prick their egos! This may sound stupid, but it isn’t. Hence they live in splendid isolation, as the Lord of the Manor, rather than as the Babe of the Manger. Secondly,

(Contd.. on p. 18)

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(Contd.. from p. 17)

all men have a creative urge – to produce a Baby, a Book or a Building. The first B is foreclosed, the second is not easily attainable, so the majority opts for B3 – Buildings! They can go on endlessly building institutions, but not communities.

Thirdly, they have mistaken identification with, to being identical to the laity; often living very secular lives. This has in turn lowered their image in the eyes of the laity, who now perceive the clergy as being no different from themselves.

Fourthly, there is the deep frustration with celibacy and continence. A seminary professor once said to me that most priests are celibate, not out of conviction, but either because of lack of circumstances or fear of consequences. The way many of our brother priests dress, eat, drink and make merry raises a big question mark about their continence. This frustration manifests itself in flamboyant lifestyles, the thirst for power and a superiority complex that masks their own sense of inferiority.

These human weaknesses are more acute in the diocesan clergy, as compared to those in religious orders. There are two reasons for this. Firstly, religious orders have ongoing formation for their members. Secondly, to a large extent they have some form of community life. The diocesan clergy are bereft of both. Pope Francis belongs to a religious order, the Jesuits. He seems to be aware of this. I have noticed that in his papacy several of the newly appointed bishops in India belong to various religious orders. I see this as affirmative action.

Lest I sound too subjective let me add some objectivity from the relevant teachings of Vatican II. The “Dogmatic Constitution of the Church” says that “Priests do not possess the highest degree of the priesthood ... they are dependent on the bishops in the exercise of their power” (LG 28). The “Decree on the Bishops’ Pastoral Office in the Church” affirms this. “Bish-

ops enjoy the fullness of the sacrament of orders, and all priests as well as deacons are dependent on them in the exercise of authority” (CD 15). Appointments and transfers are not to be done under pressure. The Decree says that pastoral considerations alone are to determine these. “A parish exists solely for the good of souls ... hence this should be the determining factor in the appointment and subsequent transfer of priests: (CD 31). It is therefore obvious that a priest cannot function autonomously, or lay claim to a particular post, as seems to have been the case with Daddy (not father) Reddy. The Decree also affirms what I said from subjective experience that “to render the care of souls more efficacious, community life for priests is strongly recommended” (CD 30).

Delving deeper, I feel that the present style of seminary formation, which was established after the Council of Trent over 400 years ago, is terribly outdated. In his introduction to the “Decree on Priestly Formation” (Abbott Edition) Alexander Carter says, “A seminary is not a lumber mill or a smelter. It cannot take a raw youth, and after subjecting him to a few approved processes, turn out a neatly fashioned or keenly honed priest”. In layman’s language this means that no matter how much you refine iron ore you will not get gold.

The aforesaid decree lays emphasis on the circumstances of the person entering the seminary. Aspirants should have the “right intention and full freedom” (OT 2). And again, “Careful inquiry should be made concerning the rightness of intention and freedom of choice” (OT 6). It advocates that “vocation promotion should be systematic ...and take appropriate help from modern psychology and sociology” (OT 2). It asserts that “Necessary standards must always be firmly maintained, even when there exists a regrettable shortage of priests” (OT 6).

From 1979 to 1982 I was the founder Secretary of the U.P. Regional Youth

& Vocations Bureau, through which I was actively involved in youth ministry, marriage counseling and vocation promotion. I had evolved a radically different approach to vocation promotion; which was much appreciated by the doyen of Indian theologians, Fr Josef Neuner SJ. I regret to state that the present form of vocation promotion is far from what is envisaged by Vatican II. It is too much to elaborate here, but rightness of intention and freedom of choice are both questionable.

For now, suffice it to say that if we don’t abide by the Word of God, if we turn our backs on the teachings of Vatican II, and if we are loath to learn from the behavioural sciences, then we are bound to see many more bishops bound and gagged; and many more Daddy Rajas demanding their pound of flesh; thereby shaming the Church with their scandalous behaviour.

** The writer was earlier actively involved in vocation promotion and has often conducted programmes for seminarians.*

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The Power Of Patience

Everything is easier when you embrace patience. So, whether you're trying to lose weight, take on exercise and learn a new skill at work, keep the word patience in your mind always. Our mind will answer most questions if you learn to relax and wait for the answer

Patience is the ability that helps us to manage and control our emotions, endure delays or frustrations without becoming uptight or moody. It is a trait that calms you down when there is a problem to face, a need to respond to life's challenges and accept circumstances that is beyond our control. Here are few ways to learn and achieve patience for a greater sense of well-being:

Patience makes you calm:

Patience creates feelings of peace and calmness of spirit that helps combat anger and frustration which often transpires with impatience. Make a rigorous effort to develop patience with perseverance and effort just like you do during a physical exercise. Find out what drives you over the edge whether it's waiting in a doctor's office, bad traffic, annoying co-workers or spouse's disregard to do an errand. Rather than being chucked into anger or panic, try to understand the underlying cause of these feelings to fend off the frequency of impatience. Admit that you have a problem and try solving it by noticing it when you feel impatient.

Patience helps us make better decisions :

When you are patient, you approach

life with a calm perspective taking time to appraise a situation, mulling over the pros and cons. If you want to learn patience and achieve the art, then do not fret or panic, even if the upshot of the situation is bad. Dealing



with situations calmly can help fight the odds to churn out good and better results. But taking time to crackdown a problem requires patience.

Patience allows us to understand others:

Each individual is unique belonging to a different culture or society. Interestingly patience helps us to accept and have empathy for others because it gives us the mental and emotional flexibility to respond with kindness and to feel compassionate. Understanding, tolerance and compassion towards others are some of the attributes of being patient. Having more patience and compassion prevents you from getting wound up when someone crosses the path of your goals.

Patience makes happy relationships:

In our purpose driven culture, we lose sight of giving importance to other people's feeling especially our loved ones. Choosing to disregard others' needs will only make us lonely and brood. Patience is a key component of every healthy relationship as it helps partners, friends and colleagues to feel loved and prized.

Patience and the power of determination:

As rightly quoted- "Patience and determination have a magical effect before which difficulties disappear and obstacles vanish." Life can be an ordeal or joyful, but exercising patience and perseverance can get you through various challenges whether it is big or small. Patience is a valuable trait that helps you reach your goals and eliminate obstacles.

POSITIVE OUT-LOOK

Being positive can ward-off every misfortune in life. Stay-

ing unruffled and patient can help you face any kind of adversity. Remember that life is not a rat race, but a ride to be relished in every way. Patience won't follow overnight but can be achieved only through persistence.



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MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, aged 30 years, Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 58 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. Post Graduate in Marketing, working as a Manager. Contact

email : francis.godad@gmail.com OR 9820829839 **(Regd. No. 6429)**

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

MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, aged 39 years, Ht. 5' 8", Wt. 75 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Com., working as a Senior Clerical in well known Hospital. Contact email : ajw2512@gmail.com OR 9920611659 **(Regd. No. 6398)**

MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, aged 31 years, Ht. 5' 9", Fair Complexion, Handsome, Edn. B.Com., working as CEO in Family Business. Seeks a good looking, smart, stylish girl. Contact email : mail2marg@gmail.com OR 9821556409 **(Regd. No. 6396)**

MUMBAI: Goan Roman Catholic 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 a goodlooking RC Spinster. Call 9167372840 Contact email : pintolazarus2012gmail.com **(Regd. No. 6393)**

MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, aged 35 years, Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 75 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Graduate, working as a Manager in Cruise Line. Contact email : oszy_2001@yahoo.com OR 9833944206 **(Regd. No. 6385)**

MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, aged 34 years, Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 64 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. HSC, working as a Script Writer. Seeks a suitable match. Contact email : roydandsilva@gmail.com OR 28815914 **(Regd. No. 6384)**

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MUMBAI : Tamilian Roman Catholic Bachelor, aged 27 years, Ht. 5' 8", Wt. 72

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MUMBAI : Mangalorean RC Divorcee, aged 44 years, Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 66 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. HSC., Service. Contact 9167419437 **(Regd. No. 6292)**

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MUMBAI : Mangalorean RC Bachelor, aged 27 years, Ht. 5' 9", Wt. 86 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Sc., IT, MCM, working as a Associate Developer. Only Child. Seeks a educated girl. Contact email : peterlobo.lapetero@gmail.com OR 9969477179 **(Regd. No. 6278)**

MUMBAI : Goan RC Bachelor, aged 28 years, Ht. 5' 11", Wt. 78 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.E. I.T., Principal Consultant in South Africa. Contact email: ronaldsouza.pm@gmail.com OR 9702970004 / 9820842154

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tode@gmail.com OR 9850978699. (Regd. No. 6374)

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MUMBAI : Mangalorean RC Spinster, aged 31 years, Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 58 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. M.Sc., writer and editor of Science Research Publications. Contact email : tnmdfg@gmail.com OR 9619428279 / 8879452467 (Regd. No. 6378)

USA : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 31 years, Ht. 5'4", Wt. 54 kgs., Fair Complexion, good looking. Edn. M.A., MBA., working as Sr. Manager in USA. Seeks well qualified bachelors working in USA. Contact email : divineword121@gmail.com (Regd. No. 6377)

MUMBAI : East Indian Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 29 years, Ht. 5' 8", Wt. 64 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Com., working, Contact email : mariashgo24@gmail.com OR 9819524367 / 9920102623 (Regd. No. 6246)

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

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MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 27 years, Ht. 5' 3", Wt. 44 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., Working as a Sr. Officer in Bank. Contact email : rima.dsouza@hotmail.com OR 9920627802 / 9819602045 (Regd. No. 6217)

UDUPI : Mangalorean RC Parents of spinster daughter 27 years, 5' 4", Height, Wheatish, B.E. in Electronics and Communications. Working as Software Professional in BANGALORE, God fearing and family oriented. Seek alliance from Mangalorean RC Bachelors, well educated and settled, age below 32 years. Please send detailed Profile and recent photograph to email : saldanhaj@yahoo.co.in OR 0984 588 8703 and 0820 258 3452 (Regd. No. 6216)

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Disrobe priests guilty of sexual abuse of women: Catholic lawyer

(Contd.. from p. 12)

New Delhi: The 'zero tolerance on sexual abuse' policy adopted by the Catholic Church in India only addresses the issue of sexual abuse of children and not of women, which is far more prevalent in India, writes women's rights lawyer Flavia Agnes in *The Asian Age*.

Despite her anxiety that writing on this issue may be cited out of context at a time when churches and priests are being attacked, she says "the extreme vulnerability of the victims, and the attitude of the Church hierarchy of sweeping it under the carpet, compels me to write."

Agnes explained that usually the victims suffer from multiple levels of vulnerabilities, including poverty, physical ailments, family problems and even depression. Most are deeply entrenched in their religious beliefs and take the concerned priest as their spiritual guide.

"It takes a long time for the victims to comprehend that what they have been subjected to is sexual abuse, and it is

even more difficult for them to report. But worse, even when it is reported, it is usually swept under the carpet," she writes.

The noted lawyer added that the usual strategy is to keep the issue under wraps, transfer the concerned priest, and "counsel" the victim into believing that it was all her fault and thus secure her silence. She cited as example an abuse case she dealt with recently, involving two orphan sisters.

But as more such cases crawl out of the woodwork, it will embarrass the Church if stringent action is not taken in keeping with its policy of "zero tolerance", she warns.

"This must include disrobing the errant priest of his ministerial duties and also lodging a police complaint as per the mandate of the criminal statute. If such strong signals are not sent out, the congregation will not get the message and will not know how to respond when such cases come to light," she writes.

The lawyer said wrong signals were sent out by Bishop of Ooty when he re-instated a priest convicted for abuse in the US.

Agnes said that a group of Christian women in Mumbai and Pune — after working laboriously for two to three years — had drafted a policy. "But unfortunately the same is still languishing for the past three years with the concerned officials at the Catholic Bishops Conference of India, the highest body with the power to approve it." She added that Cardinal Oswald Gracias has recently agreed to implement it at least in the Archdiocese of Bombay.

where her legislators were caught on camera taking money have seriously dented her image as an incorruptible leader.

And yet, despite their many flaws, what is undeniable is that both Amma and Didi are mass leaders, able to establish an instant connect with the bulk of their voters, especially women.

Both have been able to sustain their politics around a consciously shaped poorer image, of being leaders who can be trusted with reaching out to those outside the privileged elite. Jayalalitha's liquor policy may have been a breach of trust, forcing her to now course correct and push for prohibition. Mamata's "maa, mati, manush" slogan may appear hollow now, but it hasn't stopped her from being seen as a champion of the underclass.

Their political careers have gone through many ups and downs but the two leaders have never given up the fight: for more than two decades, Mamata was a lone warrior against the Red Army in West Bengal while Jayalalitha has been in and out of prison. Their resilience in difficult times is a reflection of their addiction to power but also a sign of their determination to triumph over adversity.

Both leaders perhaps benefit from the fact that their prime opponents in their respective states are struggling for relevance. The DMK-Congress alliance is led by a 93-year-old M Karunanidhi in what is almost certainly his last battle while the Left-Congress combine in West Bengal is an arrangement stitched together in sheer desperation.

Most polls suggest that Jayalalitha and Mamata are ahead and will return to power. Whether they win or not, one thing is certain: their survival instincts and a larger-than-life personality cult will ensure that they live to fight another day.

PS: If 2016 is a year for Amma and Didi to be on test, next year could well be the year of another woman politician with similar characteristics: Mayawati, or Behenji, is yet another political "supremo" who must never be discounted.

Together, the "teen deviyan" symbolise the strength of the democratic character of Indian electoral politics as well as its alarming decline towards authoritarianism and moral vacuousness.

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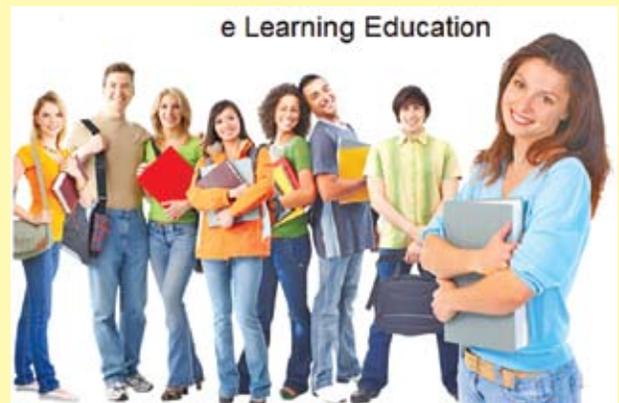
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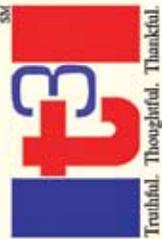
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