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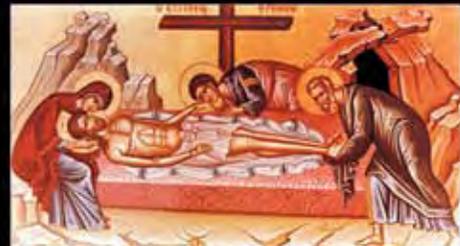
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A NATIONAL FAMILY WEEKLY

Vol.25 No.45 ■ Mumbai, November 7, 2016 ■ Rs. 5

Vatican clarity on cremation

(Read on page 3)



Tomb of Jesus uncovered first time in centuries



The tomb in which Jesus's body is believed to have been laid after his crucifixion has been exposed by conservationists for the first time in centuries.

A marble slab covering the rock-carved tomb in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem's Old City has been lifted as part of a delicate \$4m restoration of the most sacred monument in Christianity, according to a report in National Geographic.

The restoration workers will now be able to examine the original rock shelf or "burial bed" on which Jesus's body is thought to have rested.

"The marble covering of the tomb has been pulled back and we were surprised by the amount of fill material beneath it," archaeologist Fredrik Hiebert told National Geographic, which is a partner in the project.

"It will be a long scientific analysis, but we will finally be able to see the original rock surface on which, according to tradition, the body of Christ was laid."

The tomb is situated inside a structure known as the Edicule, which is being restored by a team of Greek conservationists from the National Technical University in Athens. The team previously worked on the Acropolis in the Greek capital and the Hagia Sophia in Istanbul.

Antonia Moropoulou, the team's chief scientific supervisor, said the removal of the marble slab, which measures about 3ft by 5ft, was a "critical moment" in the restoration of the Edicule. "The techniques we're using to document this unique monument will enable the world to study our findings as if they themselves were in the tomb of Christ."

The church – a huge draw for pilgrims

National Skill Conference 2016 Inaugurated



Honorable minister Shri Ramalinga Reddy inaugurated the National Skill Conference 2016 in Christ University, Bangalore which is being organized by FVTRS and Christ University. In his Inaugural speech he stated that government and NGOs should collaborate each other, so that the schemes and programmes promoted by government for the poor and marginalized utilized well. He has also suggested NGOs to innovate and invent and new models and approaches for the development of the people as they think out of box. The Hon'ble Minister for Transport, Govt. of Karnataka expressed his happiness to be part of this National Skill conference and also he appreciated the efforts of FVTRS, especially in Karnataka.

Rev. Dr. Fr. Thomas C Matthew,

and tourists from all over the world – was closed for the slab's removal, with the inside of the Edicule lit by powerful industrial lighting instead of the customary flickering candles.

The restoration project, involving about 50 experts, began earlier this year after funding was secured from donors including King Abdullah of Jordan and Mica Ertegun, the widow of Atlantic Records co-founder Ahmet Ertegun, who gave \$1.3m. The Christian denominations that jointly run the church also committed funds. The project is due to be completed next spring.

The conservationists have been working mainly at night in order to allow pilgrims continued access to the shrine. The World Monuments Fund is overseeing the restoration.

The Edicule has been rebuilt four

Vice Chancellor, Christ University, the guest of honor, appreciated the efforts of FVTRS and he mentioned that we need to be updated in our approaches as the world is changing very fast for this there is a need for constant reflections and refining.

Dr. Gandhi Doss, the Vice-President of FVTRS, Mr. P.M Philip, Executive Director and Fr. Peter Brank spoke during the occasion.

Mr. P M Philip, the Executive Director of FVTRS introduced the theme of the National Skill Conference, "Skill Training to Skill Development". The conference will conclude on 26th by celebrating the first anniversary of Skill Net Karnataka in the presence of 1000 skilled workers gathered from different parts of Karnataka. will be for two days and it will conclude Over 100 NGO leaders and academicians from all over India participated in this program.

Ranjit Kumar welcomed the chief guest and Mr. Nicholas CP, proposed the vote of thanks in the end.

—*Jimmy Mathew*

times, most recently in 1810 after a fire. The structure has been held up for almost 70 years by iron girders put in place by a British governor who ruled Palestine in the Mandate era.

The Church of the Holy Sepulchre, in the heart of Christian quarter of the walled Old City, covers the assumed site of Jesus's crucifixion, burial and resurrection.

Six denominations – Latin (Roman Catholic), Greek Orthodox, Armenian Apostolic, Syrian Orthodox, Ethiopian Orthodox and Copts – share custodianship of the cavernous church. Bitter disputes over territories and responsibilities have erupted in the past, sometimes involving physical altercations.

In a sign of the distrust between the different denominations, the keys to the church have been held by a Muslim family since the 12th century.

(source: mattersindia)

'Thought for the week'

Not everything will go as expected in your life. This is why you need to drop expectations and go with the flow of life.

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Cover : Vatican clarity on cremation:

(Article on p. 3)

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Vatican instruction brings clarity on cremation: Indian church official

by Jayeel Serrano Cornelio

Kochi: A Church official in India says the Vatican instruction on Christian burial has helped clear certain doubts about the practice of cremation.

The Vatican move "has given more clarity to the topic," says Fr Jimmy Poochakkatt, spokesperson of the Syro Malabar Church, the larger of the two Oriental Catholic rites in India.

The Church, based in the southern Indian state of Kerala, years ago approved cremation as an option. "The canon law allowed cremation and we had implemented that provision. But now the Vatican has given more clarity to it," Fr Poochakkatt told The Times of India

The Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith on October 25 released the instruction "To rise with Christ" reiterating the Church's teaching that cremation, while strongly discouraged, can be permissible under certain restrictions – and that scattering the ashes is forbidden.

The document insists that ashes should not be kept in private houses and that the scattering of ashes on land or at sea is not permitted. The instruction also says that though it is not against cremation, it continues to recommend that the bodies of the deceased be buried in cemeteries or other sacred places.

The instruction says that, "In circumstances when cremation is chosen because of sanitary, economic or social considerations, this choice must never violate the explicitly-stated or the reasonably inferable wishes of the deceased faithful. The Church raises no doctrinal objections to this practice, since cremation of the deceased's body does not affect his or her soul, nor does it prevent God, in his omnipotence, from raising up the deceased body to new life."

"When the deceased notoriously has requested cremation and the scattering of their ashes for reasons contrary to the Christian faith, a Christian funeral must be denied to that person according to the norms of the law," adds the instruction.

Fr Varghese Vallikkatt, spokesperson of the Kerala Catholic Bishop's Council that comprises bishops of Latin, Syro Malabar and Syro Malankara Churches, says the Vatican has given an option by allowing cremation. "This was already a debate among us. The changing situation, lack of space and city life has made cremation a reality. Vatican has now approved it," he said.

(Contd.. on p. 4)

(Contd.. from p. 3)

The Vatican document explains that after “legitimate motives” for cremation have been ascertained, the “ashes of the faithful must be laid to rest in a sacred place,” such as in a cemetery or church.

“The burial, the last liturgy for us, is an expression of our hope for the resurrection,” Cardinal Gerhard Müller, prefect of the congregation wrote, “and therefore the Church continues to teach that the normal burial of the body is the normal form.”

As the document explains, “By burying the bodies of the faithful, the Church confirms her faith in the resurrection of the body, and intends to show the great dignity of the human body as an integral part of the human person whose body forms part of their identity.”

She cannot, therefore, condone attitudes or permit rites that involve erroneous ideas about death, such as considering death as the definitive annihilation of the person, or the moment of fusion with Mother Nature or the universe.”

Rather, burial in a cemetery or another sacred place “adequately corresponds to the piety and respect owed to the bodies of the faithful departed who through Baptism have become temples of the Holy Spirit and in which ‘as instruments and vessels the Spirit has carried out so many good works.’”

The Vatican originally answered the question of whether or not cremation was allowed in 1963, but with the increase in both its popularity and in practices such as scattering the ashes or keeping them in the home, it found it necessary to provide a new set of norms as guidance for bishops.

The instruction emphasized that “following the most ancient Christian tradition, the

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US Elections –What Would Jesus Do (WWJD)?

The world's greatest Empire was the Byzantine Empire. The kingdom survived for about 1400 years. 330 AD till about 1453 A.D. The last Mass was celebrated on May 29, 1453 in the Hagia Sophia. Despite their hedonism, Kings and Popes ruled with authority, when Popes were temporal, not spiritual rulers. Their cultural heritage was preserved in the Renaissance. Today, the greatest Super Power is hardly 350 years old. How will future generations judge the Elections for the 45th President of the USA?

Catholics have a Hobson's choice of sorts. They have to choose between

Church insistently recommends that the bodies of the deceased be buried.”

The Vatican document is significant for the Church in India which exists in a predominantly Hindu society that practices cremation and mingling of ashes in rivers.

Hindus believe the soul is indestructible. Death symbolizes the end of the existence of a person's physical being and the start of a new journey for the soul. This soul then reincarnates in some other life form, and passes through the same cycle of taking birth, growing and eventually meeting death- only to begin the cycle afresh.

Cremation of a person's dead body is therefore, supposed to rid the departed soul of any attachments to the body its previous residence.

A traditional belief among Hindus says that a person's body is composed of five elements- earth, fire, water, air and sky. The cremation ceremonies of Hindus are directed toward returning the body to these elements. The body is progressively returned to earth, air, sky and fire by burning it under skies; and the ashes are respectfully collected and poured in a river.

It is said that excessive mourning over a deceased prevents the soul from being completely detached from its loved ones, and keeps it from undertaking its new journey- that of taking up a new life. Cremation (and subsequent ceremonies in mourning) helps remove most of those things that can act as a reminder for the person's existence, and thereby also assist the family in getting over the loss.

Source: mattersindia

Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump. Hillary Clinton does not give an unborn child a right to US citizenship, unlike illegal immigrants.

Catholics who vote for Hillary are in danger of being excommunicated. On the other hand, Catholics failed to support Republican Senator Rick Santorum, an Opus Dei member, a member of the Pope's private army.

In a recent article, Pastor Dave Ferguson speculated on how Jesus Would handle the situation today. Jesus Lived in Israel which was ruled by the Roman Empire.

There were the Herodians who were the toadies of the Romans, trying to extricate maximum benefits by their subservience.

There were the Zealots, the fundamentalist rebels, who were prepared to kill and die for Religion.

There were the Essenes, who inhabited the mountains and deserts to contemplate in spiritual wisdom.

There were the Pharisees, who were the priestly class, who exploited the religious control over the common people and conned the people by spiritual dominance. Their word was God's Word.

They all united to kill Jesus. When asked about paying taxes, (Mathew22:15-17),

Jesus Knew that they wanted to trap Him, by testing His political preferences. Jesus adroitly fended off their attacks. He Replied that they should pay to Caesar what belonged to Caesar. Jesus highlighted that we should give to God what belongs to God.

In the light of the existing scenario, the US is obligated to honor the values seeded by the Founding fathers. The US is the only mint in the world that has 'In God we trust' emblazoned on their currency.

The US dollar has the six Freemasonic signs: The Bald Eagle, The Pyramid, The All Seeing Eye, and the inscription. 'E pluribus unum', 'Out of the many, One.' The Second Coming. 'Nove ordo seculorum'. The New Age.

Is this the beginning of End Times?

—Denis Khan



World Mission Sunday

Every year in the month of October, the church sets aside one Sunday as 'World Mission Sunday' to pray for the Missionaries who are toiling in the mission stations as well as to remind the faithful of their duty to support the missions financially, and proclaim the gospel to the world, in accordance with the last command of the risen Lord to the Apostles to "Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to all creation" (Mk.16:15). This year however, there was some confusion in the minds of the faithful regarding the actual day to be observed as 'World Mission Sunday' after the publication of the 'Official' of Cardinal Oswald Gracias, dated Oct.10 In the 'Examiner' of Oct. 15-21. which stated that World Mission Sunday this year will be celebrated on October 16, whereas October 23 which was observed as World Mission Sunday world- wide. In Goa too, World Mission Sunday was observed on Oct 23. People who had come to Goa from Mumbai were in for a surprise as they had to make a second monetary contribution in Goa for the missions on Oct.23, even after fulfilling their obligation in Mumbai on Oct 16. A clarification in this connection would help .

New guidelines for cremation

Vatican's 'Congregation for the Doctrine of the faith' has issued new guidelines for cremation which state that "ashes after cremation cannot be scattered. divided up or kept at home, but have to be stored in a church - ap-

proved space. It is a well known fact that due to the space crunch faced by many churches in their cemetery, there is neither place for burial in temporary graves nor for the construction of new niches to store the remains of the dead. Cremation under these circumstances was therefore considered as the next alternative, being the most hygienic, and environmentally friendly way of disposing off the dead. People were also happy to send the ashes of their loved ones after cremation to some of their family members and their near and dear ones settled abroad. So with the new directives of the Vatican to be followed, what do we do now, and where do we store the ashes immediately after cremation, in the absence of place in the church cemeteries?

—A. F. Nazareth,
Alto Porvorim

Attitude Matters

Once a Bird asked a Bee: "After constant hard-work, you prepare honey. But a man comes & steals it. Do you not feel sad?"

Replied the Bee: "Never... Because only thing man can do is to steal 'my honey'... not the 'art of making honey'"

In this world, anyone can copy your CREATIONS but no one can copy your TALENT.....!!!

The Secular Citizen

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Fair Justice

Two newsreports in the Times of India dated 20th October 2016 on the Front page caught my attention. The first newsreport reads, **a member of the Saudi Royal family, a prince, was executed for the murder of a man – he had shot him dead during a brawl sometime in the year 2012.**

The second newsreport is of an **Ex-Corporator's son shooting dead the RTI activist Bhupendra Vira in Mumbai recently.**

Both the perpetrators of the crime are connected to high profile families – one was a prince of a Royal family while the other is the son of an Ex-Corporator in the Municipal Corporation of Mumbai; in our country politicians, even a Municipal Corporator is in the "high-Profile" category (*recently a politician commented that today, a sum of even Rs.50 Lakhs is not sufficient for a corporator to defect to another party!*).

Without going into the merits of both these cases, the point to be noted is how justice is meted out in such cases. On the one hand, even the prince of a Royal family is not spared for the crime he had committed – **he is executed!** What will happen in the present case involving the Ex-Corporator's son is anybody's guess!

The first newsreport lastly says, **The sentence reflected the kingdom's "fair justice system" - something, our country needs to reflect upon perhaps!**

—Melville X. D'Souza
- Orlem, Malad West

Cardinal Alencherry stresses collaboration of rites

New Delhi: Catholics of all three rites in India should collaborate and become open to cultural diversities for effective evangelization work, says the head of the Eastern-rite Syro-Malabar Church.



rites. The Latin rite follows the Roman liturgy that European missionaries introduced in the 15th century. The other two Eastern rites, based in Kerala, southern India, follow Syr-

ian church traditions and trace their origins to St. Thomas the Apostle.

"It is the need of the hour. All the churches are doing the Lord's work. Let us not have an exclusive attitude of evangelization work," Cardinal George Alencherry, head of the Syro-Malabar Church told ucanews.com during the Oct. 16-18 "national mission" consultation in Punjab.

"The church is not a monolithic reality," he said stressing the need for local churches to be open to a cultural diversity of faith.

The consultation, organized by the Syro-Malabar Archdiocese of Faridabad, also marked the need to foster the "ad gentes" spirit and vocation of missionaries, especially as the church is commemorating the golden jubilee of "Ad Gentes," the Second Vatican Council's Decree on the Mission Activity of the Church. Mission ad gentes generally refers to missionary outreach to people who are not Christians and helped the Eastern-rite churches open missions and dioceses outside its base in Kerala.

Rivalry and tension has often marked relations between India's two Eastern-rites with the larger Latin-rite that has on many occasions opposed the Syro-Malabar and Syro-Malankara churches having missions outside Kerala, seen collectively as Latin-rite territory.

The Church in India comprises Latin, Syro-Malabar and Syro-Malankara

The Second Vatican Council stressed the evangelization rights of all Catholics and underlined the freedom of all rites to engage in the mission of the church, paving the way for establishing the first Syro-Malabar diocese outside Kerala in 1972.

Faridabad Diocese based in Delhi was set up in 2012 to cover most of northern India. During the same period, the Syro-Malankara Church also established the Gurgaon Diocese near Delhi to help it work in northern India.

Syro-Malabar Archbishop Kuriakose Bharanikulangara of Faridabad, Syro-Malabar Bishop Sebastian Vadakel of Ujjain and Latin-rite Archbishop Albert D'Souza of Agra were among some of the 200 missionaries who attended the seminar.

Despite Indian Christians tracing their faith to apostolic times of St. Thomas and St. Bartholomew, Christians number 27 million, less than three percent of India's 1.2 billion people.

Half of them are in four southern Indian states, making their presence in northern states such as Punjab well below one percent of the population.

Hence, Archbishop Bharanikulangara told ucanews.com, the Catholic Church collectively has to reach out to a maximum number of people.

Source: UCAN

The Maharashtra Ownership Flat Act 1963 [MOFA] Comes Into Force

According to Circular Dated 9th July 2016, Issued By The Maharashtra State Police Department, The Govt Has Implemented The *Maharashtra Ownership Flat Act-1963 (MOFA) & the MRTP Act 1966..

Accordingly Builders Are Liable To Be Jailed For 3 Years, 5 Years or 9 Years Depending Upon The Nature Of Violation Of The Act..

Some Of The Violations On Which Police Can Act Are As Under :

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- (5) If The Amount Received From The Buyer Is Not Deposited In Bank In Separate Account..
- (6) If The Construction Is Not As Per The Approved Plan..
- (7) If Application 4 Formation Of Housing Society Is Not Put Up Within 4 Months Of Giving Possession..
- (8) If The Conveyance Of Land & Building Is Not Done Within 4 Months Of Registration Of The Society.



Christianity once considered a 'disease', but now 'tolerated' in Cuba

Christians in Cuba used to face constant pressure from the authorities for being thought "anti-revolutionaries". It was said that being Christian was a "disease". They were prohibited from attending university and refused access to certain fields – such as politics, psychology, sociology and medicine. Many were arrested, detained, forced to do hard labour or even killed because of their faith.

However, after constitutional reforms in 1992 and the global decline of socialism, life for Christians in Cuba started to improve and churches even experienced growth. Today, "persecution" is not normally spoken of; instead Christians speak about a "tolerance" or "flexibility". On the surface, Cuban Christians now appear to enjoy total religious freedom, but, very subtly, the government still maintains a certain control.

Mahindra buys UK bike maker

Indian automotive major Mahindra & Mahindra has acquired the UK-based two-wheeler manufacturer BSA Company for around £3.4 million.

Mahindra was choosing between motorcycle brands Norton and BSA and decided to go with BSA.

In a statement to the Indian stock markets, Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd said: "CLPL, a subsidiary of the company, has on October 21, 2016 acquired 100 per cent of the share capital of BSA Company Limited."

Classic Legends Pvt Ltd. (CLPL) is an

arm of Mahindra, and purchased all shares of BSA at a consideration of £28.33 per share.

The acquisition will enable Classic Legends to acquire or obtain licence of the BSA brand and utilise it for the sale and distribution of motorcycles globally.

UN report hails India's efforts on girl child

India has seen "dramatic" improvements in the opportunities available to the girl child, a United Nations report has concluded.

However, 'The State of World Population 2016' report by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) warns that practices that harm girls and violate their human rights, starting at age 10, prevent them from realising their full potential as adults and more needs to be done the world over.

"Both India and China, which together are home to roughly one in three 10-year-olds alive today, are among the world's fastest growing economies and have seen dramatic improvements in the opportunities available to youth," the report says.

7-Year-Old Gets Pills Instead of Toy From Dispenser

Police in New Hampshire say a 7-year-old girl inserted coins into a toy dispenser and received a plastic capsule filled with medications for blood pressure and kidney stones.

Rochester Police Capt. Jason Thomas said Tuesday the girl put a quarter into the machine for the third time at a pizza restaurant on Friday when it spit out a container that had at least three pills where the toy should have been.

Thomas says two of the pills were blood pressure medication; the third was a capsule of medication to treat kidney stones.

Transfiguration church robbed, vandalized in Israel

A church in Israel built where Christians believe the transfiguration of Jesus took place has been vandalised, with chalices stolen, icons damaged and a donation box robbed, an official said Tuesday.

Church officials believe the motive for Monday's incident was robbery and not Jewish extremism, which has been blamed for previous vandalism at Christian sites in Israel, said Wadie Abunassar, a spokesman for bishops in the Holy Land.

Abunassar could not say how many chalices were stolen from the Basilica of the Transfiguration or how much money from the donation box had been taken. Communion bread had also been thrown on the ground, Zee News reported.

My Teacher My School, short movie set for release on November 14

Mangaluru: Fr Nelson D'Almeida is ready with yet another short film. Last time, it was My Country My Life and this time it is My teacher My School. This film brings out a good rapport with teachers and students. This film invites every student to recall their student-life and remain ever grateful to their teachers for their selfless service.

The purpose of the film is to create awareness among the students especially to respect and remain grateful to their teachers and also school which is a place of nurturing good human nature and values.

Dalits, minorities denied their dues

Golden rules for achieving your goals

We all have certain goals in life but only a handful of us do what needs to be done in order to get where we want to. In order to achieve your goals, you need to be committed, motivated and invest the necessary amount of time and resources in order to get what you want in life. Here are the reasons why you should commit your goals by writing them.

Be determined: When you write down a goal, you essentially make a written record of what you want from life. And since any goal requires you to work towards it, this will act as a catalyst which will call for commitment.

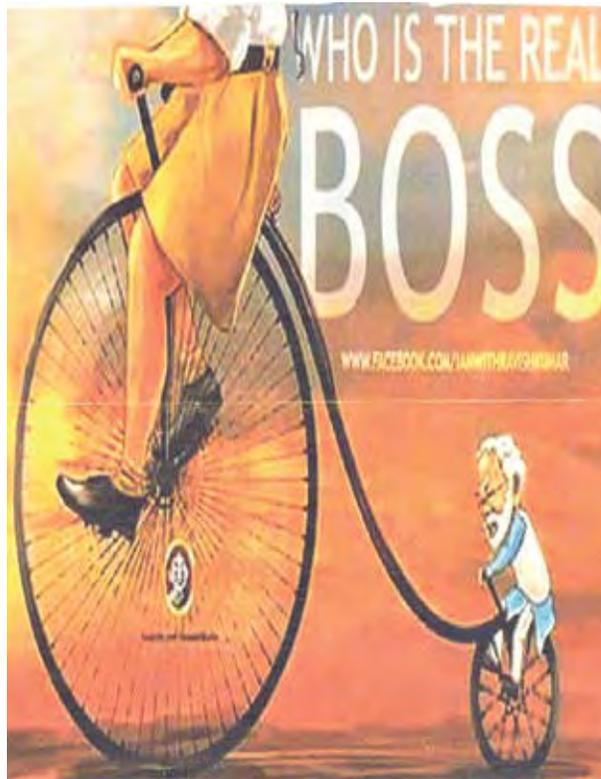
Makes the goal real: When you write something down, it develops a separate identity. The written word makes your goal more concrete, more real. It no longer stays in the realms of wishful thinking and in fact becomes something that actually exists.

Brings clarity: Writing down your goals brings more clarity in thought. When you write something down, you cannot be vague and you will have to write down exactly what you want and what you wish to achieve.

Makes it more achievable: Studies have shown that those who have achieved their goals in life and those who have become highly successful had written down their goals in life long before, when they were younger. Thus, when you write your goals down, you increase the chances of achieving them enormously.

Remember that no dream is small. Whatever you want to achieve in life is achievable, but only if you commit and do what it requires.

Magan Priya, 36, a labourer, 'sen-va' by caste, a dalit, heading a miserable family of five, is denied his due quota of foodgrain by an RSS shop owner. His pleas fall to deaf ears, Magan is abused, mercilessly insulted in front of his two semi-naked kids who went on crying for food. The hot, humid Ahmedabad afternoon of mid-October was unbearable. The wicked looking government grain shopkeeper's hungry eyes were on 13 year old girl of Magan. She had hardly any clothes to cover herself. That can be separate story how the so-called 'high-casts, sex-ploited these wretched dalits....



According to a semi official report, the BJP government of Gujarat did not utilize the central government's loan for the dalits and minorities. More than two C.A.G. reports criticized such caste based partiality. The present BJP bosses are far too busy to please Modi and Amit Shah who frequent Gujarat often. The 2017 elections may spring many unpleasant surprises as Patel community, dalits, Muslims and Christians are not happy with the BJP rule in Gujarat.

the already weak party. Hence, the RSS and Hindu extremists leave no chance to settle their age-old scores with the dalits, and minorities. "There seems to be an undeclared emergency and police raj in Gujarat..." Said kejeriwal few days ago in Gujarat. Many live in fear. "Anything can happen," said 72 year Rahim chacha, a rickshaw driver.

The government gives full-page adds in local news papers, glorifying Modis 'BRICS' success, operation strikes.....

"The RSS and 'Gav Rakshak's (cow protectors) seem to be in drivers seat! Congress is only 'nam ke vaste' (name sake) in Gujarat. Congress leaders' differences have further weakened

Uncertainties, fear, communal tension and helplessness loom large.... The poor have no tomorrow.

Gujarat:



by Ignatius Dabhi
Sr. Journalist

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Freedom First: United Nations @ 71years



BY FR. CEDRIC PRAKASH SJ

On October 13th 2016 Antonio Guterres, was elected by the United Nations General Assembly as the ninth UN Secretary- General. He was earlier nominated by the Security Council, in an unprecedented unanimous vote. Guterres was a former Prime Minister of Portugal and U.N. refugee chief. On his election he told the 193 members that the United Nations has ‘the moral duty and the universal right to ensure peace’ — and he will be promoting a new ‘diplomacy for peace, advocating dialogue to settle disputes’. He pledged to put ‘humanity first’ and to make the pursuit of peace in a conflict-torn world his ‘over-arching priority’; “in a world which is more and more multi-ethnic, multi-cultural and multi-religious, diversity can bring us together not drive us apart.” Further stating, “We must make sure that we are able to break this alliance between all those terrorist groups, or violent extremists on one side, and the expressions of populism and xenophobia on the other side. These two reinforce each other, and we must be able to fight both of them with determination.” Important words and well-received, even as he prepares to take over from the current UNSG, Ban-Ki Moon on January 1st 2017.

Not since its birth in 1948, seventy-one years ago and after the terrible World War II, has the global community been under such a severe crisis. Wars, conflicts, violence, across the world are centre-stage. The tragedy is that several of these are because of the direct or indirect interventions of some of the permanent members of the UN Security Council. The arms and ammunition industry, certain corporate and vested interests play a significant role in exacerbating these conflicts. Refugees



and IDPs, have reached a staggering sixty-five million and more, a reality which several are unable to come to grips with. Climate Change is creating havoc on countries and people, causing hurricanes, cyclones, tsunamis, earthquakes, floods from Haiti to the Antarctica. Despite the ‘Universal Declaration of Human Rights’, ordinary citizens in many countries experience the violation of their fundamental rights through xenophobia, racism, intolerance, religious fundamentalism and gender discrimination. The challenges that confront the ONE WORLD body, which was born to safeguard the earth and her peoples, are many indeed.

On October 24th, United Nations Day will be celebrated throughout the world. This year’s UN Day theme is ‘One Humanity, Shared Responsibility’ which brings awareness to the worst refugee crisis since World War II. Besides, the day will also be used to highlight concrete actions people can take to help achieve the Sustainable Development Goals; in a message for the day Ban-Ki Moon says, “humanity has entered the era of sustainability-with a global commitment to fulfil the great promise of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In this the Organization’s 71st year, we have 17 goals to propel us towards a better future for all on a healthy planet.”

In his ‘Vision Statement’ prior to his election Guterres wrote having a

value-based society is central, “peace, justice, human dignity, tolerance and solidarity are enshrined in the Charter and bind us together. These values are central to all cultures and religions in the world and are reflected in the Holy Books”. Visionary words which he would like to make a reality for all; whether he will be allowed to do so- is another question. On UN day, a concert is being organised in the UN to celebrate and reflect on the work of the UN through the universal language of music, featuring Korean Traditional Music Orchestra, Lang Lang, the world famous Harlem Gospel Choir, the Hungarian State Opera with performances by soprano Andrea Rost and other notable artists. The theme of this year’s concert is appropriately “Freedom First”.

The UN in the years to come, will have to ensure that ‘Freedom First’ for all, based on justice, peace and respect for human dignity, goes beyond the joy and comfort of a concert!

* (Fr Cedric Prakash sj is an Indian Jesuit priest and a human rights activist. He is currently based in Lebanon and engaged with the Jesuit Refugee Service(JRS) in the Middle East on advocacy and communications. He can be contacted on cedricprakash@gmail.com)

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Writing Stories Every Day Helped Me Cope With Depression

by DaMuRiq

For a while I didn't see the point anymore. I was stuck in a job stacking grocery shelves. Every night, I returned to an empty apartment that stank. I didn't like the people I hung out with. I only hung out with them because I was sure nobody else would want my company.

I even toyed with the idea of just killing myself, as I couldn't see much hope for improvement. The only reason I didn't commit suicide was because I was too much of a coward to end it all. And I hated myself for it. 'Why Don't You Write About It?'

The big problem was that I couldn't really talk about my problems. I wasn't in touch with my emotions and struggled to find the words to describe them. As a result, when I went to see

the psychologist, we'd often just end up staring at each other. I was unable to express myself at all. They had no idea how to get me out of this.

Finally, one of them said, "If you can't say it, why don't you write about it." I asked her what I should write about. "Well, your problems would be a good place to start." I told her that I didn't think that I could do that. "Can't you try?" she asked. I replied that I couldn't.

She looked at me. I looked at her. I could smell liquor and sweat from my clothes. Her name was Susan. I felt as if she was depressed as well. You can see it when that happens. There's something about the eyes which give it away. A combination of poorly concealed frustrations and strain.

"Fine, then write about something else. Tell me a story," she said. "Can you do that?" I nodded hesitantly. "What should I write about?" I asked. She glanced at a painting she had on the wall of Mount Fuji. A walk in the mountains.

Walking With Words

I'd never really tried writing before. My school didn't really encourage it. They didn't really encourage me at all, to be honest. Most of them had given up on me the same way the counsellors did. I didn't know where to start.

So I started drinking, with the notebook on the table. I didn't stop until I was unconscious. The next day was the same, though I did draw a little on one corner of the page. What did I know about mountains?

It was only on the night before I was supposed to see her again that I finally started. I was drunk. It didn't matter. Or perhaps it did. I started to search for motivation to write about walking in the mountains or how I imagined it would be. This managed to awaken

something in me.
The Question

It made me ask questions. What would it be like like to walk on the mountains? And from there it made me ask other questions. A whole tirade of them. Now, questions are nothing new. I asked hundreds of questions every day. Why me? Why does nobody care? Why does nobody love me? The problem with these questions, however, was that they were entirely self-indulgent.

This question was different. This made me think and explore something which wasn't about me.

Not that I was aware of that at the time. But Susan was aware. She realised that something had changed. And so she gave me some more stories. And I wrote them. And something had begun to change.

Curiosity Awakened

Every story she made me write allowed me to explore something new. It might have been a place, a thought or an emotion. And as I explored them, I was filled with a sense of wonder. I became capable of looking out beyond the prison of my own skull. I started showing an interest in other people and activities. I became aware of alternatives. And the first step to finding a way out of the darkness is to understand that there is a way to the light. My stories became that light. Or perhaps it is better to say they became the roadmap towards that light.

A Long Road

Now don't get me wrong. The stories were only the beginning. The point is that they changed my perspective. They helped me want to get better by showing me there was another person I could be. I could be those people in my stories. Some of them were brave. Some were smart. Some of them a lot more like me.

And once I had that hope, I found that I was able to take some of the hard steps that I needed to get out of the

(Contd.. on p. 22)

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Parenting & Teaching = Healing

by Ninette D'Souza

When Sr. Nancy Vaz, our Manager, met us before her recent transfer, in her brief address that morning made mention of a book she had read, 'The Path' by Lawrie Beth Jones. Of all she shared what stayed with me was this idea: Parenting and Teaching are Healing Ministries, compelling me to share the following reflection since I tick both boxes.

"Parenting is the easiest thing in the world to have an opinion about, but the hardest thing in the world to do."- Matt Walsh. A serious statement coming from a comedian. Parenting is not a practice. It is a daily learning experience. Trust me. We have been at it for the last 27 years, which in early childhood included not just the usual Tonsillitis and Chicken pox, but suspected T.B (later diagnosed as an Adenoid problem) and Throat Cancer (later diagnosed as an unusual lower jaw problem). As the years flew by, the tremors intensified, as it involved handling 3rd degree burns – courtesy jumping into the 'Holi Pit' of smouldering ashes and an Angioplasty done as late as last year on my 25 year old. Besides these, there were School and College related problems, Peer pressure issues, the 1st Crush and the more serious Break up that called for our undivided attention. What I have shared are a few intimate revelations that have left indelible marks on our relationship with our children. In the realm of God, I believe the small initiatives taken by Parents, against all odds, to bring succour to their children, can turn out to be very significant. So Yes, being a Parent has meant that I learnt about strengths I didn't know I had and learnt to deal with fears I didn't know existed. The paediatrician who nursed me along with my 2 boys through the early traumatic years (God Bless you Dr. Rouen Mascarenhas, wherever you are.) had a plaque on one of the walls of his consulting



room. It read 'All life is a story, lived forward, understood backwards, but a story nonetheless.' And the waiting period in that grace filled room was made easy with the numerous story books in assorted languages that forever lay strewn about. I didn't think much of the saying then but the story of my life intertwined with those of my husband and children, continues to unravel, displaying a series of events, many good, a few others not so.

With Parenting there are no real answers. Instinctively you do the right thing, you do the best you can ALWAYS. Everybody goes through the joys and difficulties involved in Parenting, which can be compared to a road trip, undertaken with no map and no schedule in place. ... Oh!! What a fascinating journey it is because, until you have counted little fingers and toes, held a little hand, kissed a little runny nose, tickled a little tummy, read to little ears, powdered a little derriere, wiped away little tears, you have not known LOVE.

"One of the most important things we adults can do for young children is to model the kind of person we would like them to be" suggests Carol B Hillman, who spent more than 20 years in the classroom and has been an Educational Consultant and an adjunct Professor of early childhood education. Children close their ears to advice but open their eyes to example. It is not only Children who grow, Parents do too. As much as we want to see what our children do with their lives, they are watching us to see what we do with ours. We can develop a future society of caring individuals if the young ones of today find in their Parents..... Spiritual individuals,

persons who are ready to reach out with their time and resources to those in need, persons who show kindness to animals and who care for the Environment.

Here are some priceless nuggets on Parenting, applicable to the old and the new.

"Silly Things about Parenting"

When they cry...kiss them.

When they are afraid... hold them.

When they speak... listen

When they ask... answer.

Let them explore... Dirt washes off Po Ra Po. Allow them to be goofy... Silly is a good thing to be. When you say Please and Thank You to them... they will say it back to you. Always do the right thing even when no one is looking... they will follow suit. There are many crises in the world... scribbling on the walls is not one of them. Reiterate that 'Faith opens many doors'... they too will believe.

"Children learn more from what you are than what you teach" opined W.E.B.DuBois, sociologist and author. The great psychologist and contemporary of Freud, Alfred Adler (1870-1937) stated over and over again that, the Teacher was the 2nd chance for every student. So powerful was the influence of the Teacher that Adler believed that, s/he could overcome nearly all of the mistakes in child rearing that the Parents had made. The critically important role of the classroom Teacher in both primary and secondary schools is being strongly underlined by new Neuro-

(Contd.. on p. 22)

Saints and SINNERS

Every saint had a past ; every sinner has a future - Oscar Wilde

The Church is a hospital for sinners, not a museum for saints. - Abigail Van Buren

by Bernie Tellis

One of the nicest things about being born on ALL SAINTS DAY , is that one gets an unearned halo, and in these times when horns are a-plenty, halos make a welcome change. There is great rejoicing then, even if the babe is female. Of-course kids today are not named after saints but after politicians, film-stars and sports folk.

Prior to Vatican II, November 1 and 2 were important church days . I recall as a little child ,following

my little birthday party, running in and out of churches, battering the gates of Heaven with storms of prayer, beseeching all the saints in the church art calendar for the salvation of souls., in the hope of gaining those much-desired indulgences.

The fact is we could do with more married and women saints, because to live in the world today , to preserve one`s sanity and sanctity, are achievements worthy of instant canonization being miracles in themselves.

The Bible is fascinating not because of the saints who march through its pages, but because of the sinners who falter there and with whom we have a lot in common. Right from Adam in whose fall we sinned all, to Cain who was not able to love his brother, to the good thief on Cal-

vary who was the first to reconcile with God and was rewarded with paradise that very day ! We venerate him as St. Dismas.

How consoling for us to see in the failings of the apostles Peter and Thomas that we`re all human, and we all succumb to temptation occasionally. However, Peter and Thomas accepted the grace of repentance and are great saints. Judas , unfortunately ,did not and instead hanged himself in despair.

We , on the other hand, seem immune to sin /shame and do not even hang our head in shame .Indeed we've made a virtue of vice for in the lyrics of Cole Porter : times have changed/the world has gone mad today /and good's bad today /and black's white today /and day`s night today ! And what of the women like Mary Magdalene who rose from being a great sinner to being a great saint. Or the evangelist Paul who was transformed from being a persecutor to becoming a propagator of the Faith!

Truly ,there are few saints who weren't sinners . Take away the sinners from the saints and all we would be left with are the Tablets of Stone ! In that lies our hope that when we`re down there`s no place to go but up .

The New Testament parables and Jesus` miracles offer us a glimpse of the possible. Whether it`s the sick being healed of their sin, the lost sheep being found ,the publican seeking forgiveness in humility, or the prodigal son being welcomed home by the father, we are constantly reminded that

heaven is not the realm of the impossible and that “ the Great Door sighs / It opens and a sinner slinks inside / and kneels in the final pew / The Maker of the Universe smiles / He made the church for this one interview ! The NT is nothing if not the inspiring story of God and sinner reconciled.

We imagine that the heavenly company will be comprised only of hermits, monks, apostles, martyrs.

Not so. Pride of place will be given also to thieves, prostitutes, samaritans and tax collectors. Not only

Will folks like Dives and pharisees find it tough to enter but also the “ chosen people “ - those of us

who adjust our halos and wash our wings on Sunday , indulge in flights of fancy during the homily, and pat ourselves on the back for our piety.

It`s not that we are greater sinners today than our forefathers were. Our sins are not so original but we`re trying our damndest to perfect them. We have learnt to commit old sins in new ways. The new creed is : “ what does it profit a man if he were to save his soul but suffer the loss of the whole world “

We`re not only corrupt ourselves ,we make a business of corrupting others. Half our sins today are the result of boredom -the play-field of Satan. Only we don`t call it sin anymore, we call it self-expression. And like our ancestors the pharisees, other people`s sins are always before our eyes whereas our own are hidden behind our back. Indeed, we`re never so happy as when we catch our neighbour in a little sin - or better still, a great one.

It would be a dull world if nothing needed mending and no one needed saving. A Std. V student wrote in his composition : “the Queen swept down the staircase in her flowing gown, tripped and fell prostitute on the floor .” The English teacher remarked in the margin, after making the correction, : “ you must learn to tell the difference between a fallen woman and one who has only temporarily lost her balance “ For that`s what we are - God`s children who
(Contd.. on p. 15)

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Grand Musical Celebration At Goregaon



WITH JOYFUL TRIBUTE TO FR. ANICETO NAZARETH – ‘THE GREAT MUSICIAN’

“The Proclaimers” organised a grand Musical ‘Felicitation Programme’ on Sunday, 16th October 2016 at 5.00 p.m. at St. Pius X College, Goregaon East, featuring 13 Choirs who sang harmonious master pieces, composed by Fr. Aniceto Nazareth - the maestro of Liturgical Hymns, on the occasion of his completion of 50 years of his Sacerdotal Golden Jubilee.

Fr. Aniceto after completing his licentiate in liturgy from Rome, on arrival he was entrusted the task to educate people of the new dimensions of liturgy. He invigorated the Archdiocesan Liturgy Committee and served as its Secretary for 30 years. As of 2016, he was still on the Board of Censors for Music in English.

Fr. Aniceto the director of ‘the Proclaimers’ was born in Mumbai and was the youngest of 14 children, two of them girls. His father John Christopher Nazareth was from Pomburpa, a small tourist resort, known for its warm and cold springs; and mother Umbelina Vaz was from Uccaçaim, Goa. Both parents played the violin. Three of his siblings chose the religious life, Stephen and Aniceto



as diocesan priests and Edvige as a Salesian Sister.

Post Vatican II, emphasis on congregational singing took precedence and so questions were raised about the need for a choir. It was in this context Fr. Aniceto started a ‘Demo’ Choir in his own words called “The PROCLAIMERS”. As part of its training, the choir focused on the new Liturgy, and sang in five voices instead of the customary 4 voices. The fifth voice sang the melody on a key convenient to the congregation, thus encouraging the participation of

the assembly. The choir encouraged congregational singing in 88 churches in the city and in 19 other towns in India. In a sense Fr. Aniceto Nazareth

led a Liturgical Renewal of the music ministry. He believed that choirs should not be shut down as they provide an accompaniment to the congregation, just as an organ does. The Proclaimers had a vision to take this teaching back to their respective parishes by forming choirs to make liturgy more vibrant, spirit filled

and meaningful. After a long break

(Contd.. on p. 15)



Report by John Mascarenhas (Jerimeri)



Jerimeri

(Contd.. from p. 14)

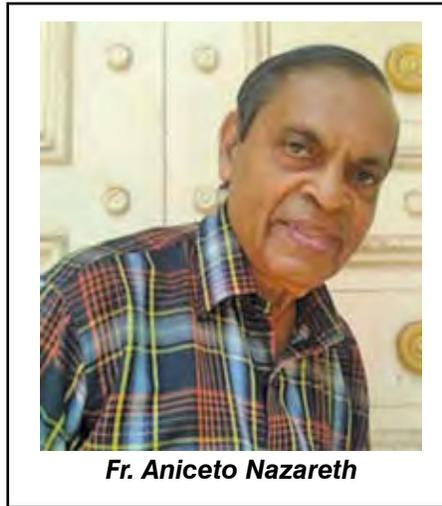
they spontaneously came together again to acknowledge the legacy Fr. Aniceto Nazareth has bequeathed our Archdiocese and pay tribute to his liturgical mystery and music genius.

Under the leadership of the core team members Anil, Cajetan, Kevin, Charmaine, John Savio, Maryanne, Maureen, Marcia, Rita and several others, the Proclaimers decided to present a musical token of love by celebrating the Golden Jubilee year of Fr. Aniceto inviting Cardinal, Bishops, Priests, Nuns, laity and well known musicians of the city and around.

The Eucharistic Congress was followed by the composition and publication of appropriate chants in keeping with the recommendations of Vatican II in which Fr. Aniceto Nazareth played a major role. He assisted Fr. Jean Mercier, in printing and distributing a series of musical scores for new hymns titled Sing a New Song, followed by a word publication "With Joyful Lips" and another abridged version "Celebration." Immensely popular hymns like 'A New Commandment, Blest are you Lord, Great Indeed are your works, Ring out your Joy, Listen let your heart keep seeking, All peoples of the universe, Blessed be God, United in one body etc were some of his most popular and widely sung hymns.

Post retirement, in his new role as a Leader Priest, he has been taking liturgical and classical music directly to his congregations. Placed in charge of training for the Revised Missal by Cardinal Oswald Gracias, he and his Team helped introduce it to the churches of Mumbai in 2011. His new Masses are based on themes from the great Masters - the Gloria based on the slave chorus from Nebuchadnazar by Verdi and an entire Mass based on Handel. The people's parts are kept easy to learn and sing.

During the programme, as a part of special tribute and felicitation originally conceived by Kevin D'Souza, the celebrity of the day Fr. Aniceto Nazareth



Fr. Aniceto Nazareth

was honoured and felicitated by Cardinal Oswald Gracias who presented a 'Memento' with a Citation of Appreciation and Gratitude for his contribution and service to the Archdiocese through the instrument of Music and hymnals. A new Book was released on the occasion of Sacerdotal Golden Jubilee Celebrations of Fr. Aniceto Nazareth. The programme was commented by Angela and choirs were conducted by Marcia, Charmaine, Rita, Maureen, Jane, Kevin, Vinita, Vincella, Cyneca, Anil, Selma, Maryanne, Naveen, Rita, Christina, Bridget, Jude, Florina, Jane, Anil, Judy, Hazel, Charlene, Merlyn, Allwyn, Arick, Anto,

(Contd.. from p. 12)

have temporarily lost our balance. If God in his compassion, were not willing to forgive and give us a helping hand up, Heaven would be empty !

Sainthood is difficult because Love is more difficult than hate.. When we think of saints we have a mental image of all the towering giants - martyrs, confessors, virgins, doctors of the Church etc, We could just aspire to be little ones and squeeze into a tiny corner of the room in one of the many mansions in Heaven, Jesus spoke of. Because we are not called to die for our Faith or to fight for it , but to live for it. Unfortunately, the majority of us are so busy crucifying the living and/or burying yje dead, that we have no time left to live for it. Others have the wrong idea of salvation : they think it`'s making their offering in the house of God and carrying it away in a package ! We don't atone

Sarah, Roland, Kate&Cajetan.

As a special attraction of tribute, a melodious and remarkable Choir of 25 priests (including Bishop John Rodrigues) in uniform was conducted by Bishop Dominic Savio.

The Musical Fiesta was organised so beautifully and systematically that three hours of time elapsed so quickly without a single minute break, absolutely amazing and mind blowing. The audience was simply flabbergasted with big round of applause for each and every piece of music sung with harmonious and melodious voices. About 13 choirs from various parishes like Sahar, Marol, Versova, Thane, Kurla, Jerimeri, Mulund, Borivali, Vile Parle, Goa choir, Priests Choir, Canada Proclaimers, The Proclaimers & a finale of all choirs joined together alongwith the congregation..... singing "O SING TO THE CHIEF MUSICALIAN". An evening well spent with heavenly music and enriching liturgy attended by Cardinal Oswald Gracias, Bishop Bosco, Bishop Agnello, Bishop Perceival, Bishop Dominic Savio, Bishop John Rodrigues and several relatives, friends and well wishers of Fr. Aniceto.

for sin in the church but at home, in the workplace, on the streetAnd that's where our modern saints are to be found : saints of the gutters (Mother Teresa) liberators of the oppressed, witnesses to the Truth, seekers after justice, builders of God's Kingdom on earth. We have to be mindful of 2 things here : that a halo has to fall only a few inches to become a noose; and that there is no short cut to paradise, especially not the kind preached by modern messiahs, men of empty hearts and full mouths, sole possessors of righteousness.

The serene, silent beauty of a holy life, says Pascal, is the most powerful influence in the world next to the sight of God. And the most holy are those whose words and deeds remind us of the most Holy One. All of us sinners are called to be saints - to do simple, ordinary, everyday things in an extraordinary way !

De-Coding The Uniform Civil Code

UNIFORM CIVIL CODE



by chhotebhai *

(Contd.. from last issue)

Instead of making insinuations, let the GOI release data from Census 2011 on what percentage of various groups are practicing polygamy or polyandry.

Today many persons in live-in relationships may be making a civil contract to avoid future complications. Why should the Govt interfere in a private matter between consenting adults?

Q7: Should TT be abolished in toto, retained or amended?

R7: This is specific to the Muslim community. Hence their views, including of their women, should be carefully considered. Nevertheless, in its current form TT seems to be an aberration of what is provided for in Islam. It considers marriage as a contract only, with terms and conditions set out at the time of marriage (nikahnama).

Some enlightened Muslims say that adequate safeguards could be incorporated into the nikahnama, to protect the interests of women and children. Perhaps Muslims could also get their marriages registered under the Special Marriage Act. This would on the one hand protect religious sentiments, while on the other one's civil rights would also be adequately safeguarded. Muslim leaders should be brought on board to propagate this.

Q8: What steps should be taken to ensure that Hindu women get equal rights in property?

R8: Though Hindus constitute 85% of the population, and have many more "customary practices" than any other community, many of which are based on a patriarchal mindset, the LC has found only one issue to address this vast population. This smacks of selective amnesia!

From what I understand, and I could be

wrong, Hindu women's rights to equality in succession are adversely affected by the provisions of the Hindu Undivided Family (HUF). This has legal sanction and even tax benefits. This is highly discriminatory. The HUF provisions should be legally abolished. They have no place in modern society. No special tax benefits should accrue to it.

There are many other "customary practices" in Hinduism that warrant attention in order to promote gender justice. Be it women fasting for the longevity of their husbands on Karva Chauth, or being made to plough the fields naked to placate the rain God Indra, there is a vast area of customs that require reform. However, other than amendments to the HUF, I don't see the GOI as a moral science teacher. Social reform is the task of society, especially of enlightened religious leaders, and not that of the Govt. The GOI should not play GOD!

Q9: Does the two-year waiting period for finalising divorce violate the Christian woman's right to equality?

R9: This is the biggest joke in the Questionnaire, and probably added as an afterthought to not make it look too Islam specific. This is again a loaded question. The two-year hiatus is not gender oriented. It is equally applicable to both men and women. Secondly, why is this "proposal" coming from the LC when there is no such demand within the Christian community?

For the benefit of those who don't know, this is a reference to Section 10A of the DA that governs Christians. This pertains to divorce by "mutual consent", hence there is no gender bias whatsoever. The Catholic Church considers marriage as an eternal bond. Even other Christian churches do consider marriage sacred, not something that one could flit in and out of like a but-

terfly. It is for this reason that earlier Sec 20 of the DA actually required that a decree of divorce granted by a lower court needed to be ratified by the High Court. This was an expensive and arduous process. Hence this section was repealed by Act 51 Of 2001, by the then NDA Govt, giving much needed relief to Christians caught in a failed marriage. It was for this reason that Sec 10A aforesaid was included. It seems a reasonable one, bearing in mind the Christian approach to marriage.

So we could say to the LC, "Thank you, but no thanks", because there is no need to create a controversy where none exists.

It is also worth placing on record that the Christian community in India, and more particularly the Catholics, have always had a healthy respect for the law of the land, even though it has often been at the receiving end of the law.

As already mentioned there was urgent need of amending our personal laws pertaining to marriage, divorce, succession and adoption. They have been addressed in part. Few would know that u/s 213 of the Indian Succession Act 1925 Christians had to pay huge amounts by way of stamp duty to get their Wills probated. This anomaly was removed through the concerted efforts of Adv Clarence Pais, who prevailed upon Sri George Fernandes, then a Union Minister, to get a suitable amendment passed in parliament. I have already touched on adoption so will not repeat it.

However, there are still many anomalies in the DA 1869 and the ICMA 1872 that need redress. For example, Sec 58 of the DA still refers to English clergymen. Sec 3 of the ICMA refers to the Churches of England, Scotland and Rome.

(Contd.. on p. 17)

(Contd.. from p. 16)

The first two have long ceased to exist in India. The ICMA also does not apply to the erstwhile states of Travancore-Cochin, J&K and Manipur (Sec 1).

These acts, while recognising a Church marriage, do not recognise a Church annulment. There are very clear procedures for this in the Canon Law of the Catholics, but civil law does not recognise it. In effect this means that what is ecclesiastically acceptable is legally not maintainable. Hence a Catholic with an annulment, who does not also get a civil divorce or annulment, and enters into a second marriage, would be guilty of bigamy u/s 494 of the Indian Penal Code. This infact is the subject matter of a writ petition filed by the same Adv Pais in the SC, because one of his clients was booked for bigamy in Criminal Complaint case No 7/11 in a court in Mangalore.

Pais made the Catholic Bishop's Conference of India (CBCI) and the AICU respondents in the case. He had also prayed that the Code of Canon Law be made the personal law of all Christians in India. When the matter was referred to me I gave my considered opinion that Pais' petition was fundamentally flawed. Firstly, the Code of Canon Law 1983 is applicable only to the Latin Rite Catholics (Can 1). There is another "Code of Canons of the Eastern Churches" promulgated in 1990. Besides, Canon Law is not applicable to non-Catholic Christians.

We also need to understand that Jesus himself laid the foundation of modern day secularism when he said, "Give to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's" (Mat 22:21). St Paul also reminds us that "all authorities that exist are appointed by God" (cf Rom 13:1). Canon Law goes one step further. It unequivocally states that it "respects the competence of civil authority in respect of the merely civil effects of the marriage" (Can 1059). It further states that one should not celebrate a "marriage which cannot be recognised by the civil law, or celebrated in accordance with it" (Can 1071:2).

It is worth noting that the canonical age for marriage of Catholics is 16 for a boy

and 14 for a girl (Can 1083:1). Can you believe that? As per the ICMA the legal age is 21/ 18; but Sec 65 says that this does not apply to Catholics, and Sec 88 says that it respects personal law. Despite these provisions the CBCI, in its wisdom, has directed that we observe the provisions of civil law and the legal age for marriage in a church therefore is 21/18.

In the light of the above, instead of advising the Christian community, and more particularly the Catholic Church, the LC and other communities in India should take a leaf out of our book, when it comes to the interface between personal law and civil rights.

Q11: Should all religions have common grounds for divorce?

R11: Only some general principles based on gender equality and natural jurisprudence should be included. Muslims see marriage as a contract; Catholics see it as an eternal sacrament. Where the twain shall meet?

Q12: Would the UCC help divorced women to get proper maintenance?

R12: In the Shah Bano case of 1985 the SC actually decreed that the 69 year old, who had been married for 43 years, should get a monthly maintenance of Rs 500/-. All hell broke loose; and political greenhorn Rajiv Gandhi succumbed to pressure, negating the SC order through enactment of what is euphemistically called the "Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Divorce) Act 1986". This closed the doors on maintenance u/s 125 of the CrPC.

In the light of the above, any step, no matter how well intentioned, needs to be thoroughly worked out, besides being socially acceptable. We cannot ram laws down peoples' throats.

Q13: How can compulsory registration of marriages be better implemented?

R13: This is one of the few practical questions raised by the LC. At present Goa, which still follows some colonial Portuguese laws, and not those of British origin, like the rest of India, has a provision for compulsory registration of all marriages, regardless of religion. This provision can be extended to the rest of the country.

Incidentally, Sec 30 of the ICMA stipu-

lates that marriages solemnised in a Catholic Church should be conveyed to the bishop, who in turn, shall file a quarterly return of all such marriages to the Registrar General of Births, Deaths and Marriages. So a marriage solemnised in a Catholic Church is a de facto and de jure registered one.

Q14: What measures should be taken to protect couples who enter into inter-religious/ inter-caste marriages?

R14: They should be advised to register their marriages under the Special Marriage Act.

Q15: Would the UCC infringe on an individual's right to freedom of religion?

R15: In the absence of what the UCC actually is/ will be, this question is infructuous.

Q16: What measures should be taken to sensitise society towards a common code, or codification of personal law?

R16: Here again two questions have been couched in one. This is most unprofessional and unbecoming of the LC. I have already spoken at length about the UCC, so there is no need to repeat it. But I do believe that reform of religious laws and practices is the better option. At present ONLY the Catholic Church has a Code of Canon Law, which though largely internal in nature, also has some external provisions, as shown aforesaid. It is easy to say that religious laws should be codified, but who will bell the cat? The UCC on the other hand could actually set the cat among the pigeons. Let us remember the old adage that fools will enter where angels fear to tread. So dear Justice Chauhan, do tread with abundant caution and ensure that so single group "dominates the tone and tenor" of what you are contemplating.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

1. The LC should have at least 3 legal luminaries to monitor the intended UCC, including one each from the Muslim and Christian communities.
2. Remember that the Constitution makes several exceptions, respecting unity in diversity.
 - The controversial Art 370 limits the powers of parliament to enact legislation for J&K State
 - Art 371 A(a)i-iv provides for respect-

(Contd.. on p. 18)

(Contd.. from p. 17)

ing the religious and social practices of Nagas, the administration of civil and criminal justice involving Naga customary law, and ownership and transfer of land and its resources.

- Art 371 G(a)-iv has similar provisions for the Mizos.
3. Portuguese laws still hold sway in Goa
 4. There are also special provisions for the Santhal tribals. I am not sure if protective laws made by anthropologist Edwin Verrier still hold for the primitive tribes of the Bastar region in Chhatisgarh, Andaman & Nicobar Islands and erstwhile NEFA region (now Arunachal Pradesh).
 5. The Khasis of Meghalaya are matrilineal, where the youngest daughter inherits the family property.
 6. We often accuse the erstwhile British rulers of divide and rule, but after their bruising in 1857 they learnt to respect the diversity of India. This is best exemplified in the army, where each regiment had its own customs. Sikhs were allowed to wear their turbans, and Muslims to grow their beards. With the West now being inundated by Muslim and Sikh migrants they too have permitted such diversity in their uniformed forces. We can even see hijab wearing women anchors on European TV channels. When the world is respecting multi-cultural practices, can India afford to regress into putting everyone into a uniform – physically, culturally or legally.
 7. Art 372 clearly states that existing laws would continue, even after the Constitution came into force.
 8. I have earlier written that school children wear uniforms, because they are vulnerable and impressionable; hence need a distinct identity and protection. However, when they grow into critically aware young adults entering college, they abandon their school uniforms. College campuses are a riot of colour, after the staid straight jackets of school kids. Is our country a mosaic of many colours, and a bouquet of several fragrances? Or is it a “one size fits all” like the RSS uniform that has been altered slightly from half pants to full length ones? The answer is more than obvious.

A few ways to be professional at work

Learning on the job can be difficult since you might not even see your mistakes coming. So without further ado, here are key elements of professionalism that you should master early in your career.



Follow the cultural norms: If you watch how others in your office operate, you'll learn all sorts of important things about 'how we do things here'. You might observe that everyone shows up precisely on time for meetings that they modulate their voices when others are on the phone and that people rely on email for non-urgent questions. These are important signals for what will be expected of your own behaviour and you'll come across as tone deaf if you ignore them.

Be pleasant and polite to people: You will have to work with people whom you just don't care for and even with people who aren't very nice. You'll look far more professional if you don't let them get under your skin and instead remain cordial and easy to work with.

Take work seriously: If you make a

(Readers, especially community leaders, and heads of organisations could use this paper for discussions, and framing their responses to the LC. The responses must be sent so as to reach the LC before 20/11/2016, at: Law Commission of India, 14th Floor, HT House, Kasturba Gandhi Marg, New Delhi – 110001; or by email to lci-dla@nic.in . Those who are unable to download the Questionnaire may contact this writer at noronha.kp@gmail.com or at 9415130822).

** The writer is a former National President of the AICU, from 1990-94.*

mistake or something doesn't go well, don't brush it off or use cavalier responses like 'my bad'. Accept responsibility for your part in what went wrong. Part of taking work seriously leads to.

Show up reliably: Unless you have pre-scheduled vacation time or you're truly ill, you should be at work when they're expecting you to be there. It's not ok to call in sick because you're hung over or because you stayed up late last night watching soccer or because you just don't feel like coming in. Being professional is the key.

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Inspiration!

the sound of your own voice. By not giving others a chance to speak or veering off in tangents you may seem unfocussed, selfish and unwilling to listen. Worse, unable to control your

What makes you look less intelligent?

We always put extra effort and time to appear intelligent. Sometimes we even try harder than we would like to admit. With all the talk about self-improvement these days, people however don't pay enough attention to self-worsening. In fact, there are many common behaviours that have been shown in one or more studies that make people less intelligent. We've compiled a list of things that might be portraying your false impression



We all like to think we are smart. However, our actions sometimes betray our intelligence in ways that we don't even notice - but are glaringly obvious to those around us. Whenever you are in a situations in which the way others perceive you is important, you need to be constantly aware of how you portray yourself. From the way you dress to the way you talk, people surrounding you will use every opportunity they can, to judge. Take these into consideration next time, you interact with anyone outside your confort zone.

Keeping It Casual

Whether you like it or not, first impressions are often how we are judged. Dressing smartly brings an air of respectability with it and so it is important to dress to impress. If your workplace has a specific dress code, it is important to follow this to the letter as even slight mistakes can come across as though you don't care, are too lazy or that you just don't understand the rules in the first place and as such people won't value your judgement as much.

Mispronunciation of Words

Everyone makes mistakes from time to time but reguarlyly misusing words or phrases may come across as though you are inattentive or don't understand the meaning of said phrase in the first place. By using buzzwords to sound smarter you may come across worse than you intended if you don't know the meaning of the word or can't explain it in simple terms.

Appearing aloof

Sometimes it's a good thing to keep yourself to yourself but being aloof can give the impression that you are other unwilling or unable to contribute to the conversation. It can also come across as though you are not focussed on the task at hand if you have a blank stare plastered across your face so try and exhibit attentive body language by sitting up straight, making eye contact and maybe occasionally nodding just so people know you are paying attention.

Being Too Talkative

"Empty vessels make the most noise." This is a saying that applies to people too, if you are constantly nattering away it will seem as though you are extremely self-involved and just love

own impulses. A good rule of thumb is to never say more than needs to be said.

Talking too little

On the other hand, being too quiet can lead people to pass judgement on you, as well. For those of us who tend to take a backseat during conversation, we know that others may come to think that we're being rude or that we don't have anything important to say. Because of this, it's important for the quiet ones amongst us to speak-up from time to time. Remember: You don't have to say a lot; you just have to say enough to let your

conterpart know you are listening and have some sort of intelligent opinion on the topic at hand.

Being Judgey

When you judge others, it shows you are only able to see the world through your own eyes and have never once thought about the fact, with seven billion people in the world, there are seven billion different ways to live. It's best not to comment on how people go about their business and just get on with yours if you can. If you can see things from several different perspectives and express this to others, they will appreciate your intelligence and insight on the matter.

Don't let your behaviour fool people into thinking you are not smart

- Most of the times, we do not even realise we are acting or appearing less intelligent and it completely affects your personality.
- It's important to understand which of your acts makes you look like a complete dumb and prevent you from making a mark with your personality.



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6485 MUMBAI: North Indian R.C. Bachelor, (Born in October 1974), Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 75 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., working for an MNC in Mumbai as Back Office Executive. Contact email : awr88@rediffmail.com (M) 8976459088 (6 p.m. to 9 p.m.)

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6434. MUMBAI : East Indian RC Bachelor, (Born in November 1978), Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 50 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. MD, MS., Doctor by profession. Contact email : rayanvincent@rediffmail.com OR 9619024829

6429. MUMBAI : Goan RC Bachelor, (Born in April 1985), 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

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6522. MUMBAI : Mangalorean RC Spinster, (Born in January 1984), Ht. 5' 6", Fair, Edn. P.hd., (Australia), Masters in Pharmacy and PhD in Chemistry and biology. Contact email : ds.charlotte@gmail.com OR 9920872720

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6474. MUMBAI : Goan RC Spinster, MBA, Fair, (Born in November 1983), 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

6468. MUMBAI : Parents of R.C. Goan innocent divorcee, 1st marriage annulled by the church, (Born in September 1980) / 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

6464. MUMBAI : RC Spinster (Born in August 1985) 5'2", MBA (F) working as Manager HR seeks alliance from Qualified Bachelors having a good family background. Reply with details and photo to maryline.sebastian7@gmail.com

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6432. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in November 1986), Ht. 5' 3", Wt. 65 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Sc., IT., MBA., working as an Analyst. Contact email : cecy.martis@gmail.com OR 9920966061

6431. PUNE : Protestant Christian Spinster, (Born in June 1986), Ht. 5' 1", Wt. 52 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.E. (Computer), working in SYDNEY (Australia), as a Software Engineer. She has a P.R. Contact email : wilson.pandit@gmail.com OR 9890815206.

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(Contd.. from p. 11)

scientific research. Recent research has uncovered a group of neurons located in the brain called 'Mirror Neurons' which are activated when we do something such as: playing music, dancing, moving our limbs for eg. They are also activated when we watch someone else do the same!. Hence when a child in the classroom sees the smiling face of the Teacher, the child responds with feelings of comfort. The important role of these Mirror Neurons thus makes it possible for a Teacher to correct attachments that are not secure, thus laying down new and positive attitudes that help the child to feel loved, cared for and nurtured, not just in the classroom but in the wider world.

The demography of our classrooms has changed radically. It is an indisputable fact that today a multitude of children come to us from dysfunctional homes. It is this very situation that allows the Teacher to become that 2nd chance, and help those children and adolescents who enter the classroom as a collection of rough and jagged edges, become refined and smooth. Edgar Lee Masters, an early 20th century lawyer in America, who was also a scholar of Greek and Latin, began to write poems which enunciated the notion of the Teacher being the 2nd chance. Through them he unites across time and space, the Teacher and the Student whose broken life is healed by a Teacher who never gave up on him, who continued to see the good in him despite the messy reality of his life. The Teacher who loved him 'best of

all the school' What a wonderful vision of the Healing and Lifesaving role of a Teacher. Masters the millionaire lawyer and poet, knew in his heart what contemporary neuroscientists are now proving: 'The Teacher IS the second chance for every child.'

"Be good to the child and he will come to you tomorrow". The potential for the Teacher to become the 2nd chance for every child is greatly reduced by: a) An Education Policy that harps on 'Inclusive Education' while paying scant attention to training mainstream Teachers to handle children with special needs. b) An Education Dept. that does precious little to provide continuing professional development. c) Social factors like accommodating a large class size in small classrooms; limited teaching resources; pressurised curriculum; an exam driven secondary educational system that lays emphasis on how many students achieve those unbelievable percentages as opposed to how many students leave school equipped to live a life of dignity, self-respect, self-confidence and the ability to be a contributing member of society. Really it is a wonder our children continue to come to us to be nurtured, to be groomed, to be HEALED.

Parents and Teachers reading this, meditate on the basic fact that our highest worth is not to be determined by how much knowledge we instill, but rather on the impact of the Healing role we play in the lives of Children gifted to us by The Almighty, either in the home or in the classroom or in both places.

(Contd.. from p. 10)

darkness. It made me want to climb that steep hill. It made me get back up again when I got knocked down. Be rest assured that I got knocked down a lot.

I'm Better Now

I've found my way out of darkness. I've built up emotional resilience. I moved out of that apartment. I'm no longer stacking shelves. My life isn't perfect, but it is better. I'm no longer depressed. And the stories? I still write them. I'd like to be an author one day. I know that I still have a long way to go. But what matters is that I've come a far longer way since that first story about a mountain walk. I've climbed a mountain on my own.

That Makes Me Wonder

Did Susan pick that topic just like that or did she see the parallel? Did she realise that depression is a lot like a mountain walk. There are so many peaks and dales, that often it's a hard slog to just walk a few miles.

Susan and I parted ways when I got better and I never managed to ask her before we did. Still, I'd like to think she did. I'd like to believe she understood how a story about a mountain walk would offer me the strength to climb out of my depression. Because that just makes it a far better story, don't you think?

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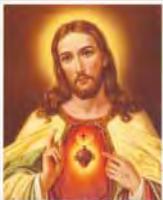
Thanksgiving



My heart felt thanks
 to
 Holy Family
 for the favours granted

—A Devotee, Bandra

Thanksgiving



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



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

— Mrs. G Pereira, Pune

Try not to commit these common driving errors



No matter how proficient driver you are but countless res lights, congested roads, never-ending traffic and threat of bad driving can make even the most expert drivers frustrated and even they can end up making mistakes. Avoiding the common mistakes while driving can help you have a safer and enjoyable experience on the road. We present here some important driving tips that must be taken care of to avoid accidents.

Give way to the vehicles moving faster than you: According to the traffic rules, the right-most lane of the road is the fast lane and it is used for overtaking. Don't block the faster traffic and shift to the left or slow lane, if you want to drive easy.

Avoid gazing an accident site: Many people out of curiosity, people are eager to know the reasons and situations of the accident in case they come across any such mishap on the road. It is the duty and responsibility of police to attend to road accidents. You must pay attention on the road ahead to avoid further mishaps. If you can't avoid the urge to help, then get off the road carefully and then go and help the victims.

Drive cautiously while driving in the dark: Driving in dark is a tricky thing and entirely depends on how far you can see ahead. Although the head lamps have got better today but mostly the judgements are based on the distant vision of the driver. Ensure to be safe by driving cautiously so that you can stop within the distance illuminated by your headlights to avoid crashing or succumbing into any hazard.

Avoid overtaking just before turning left: Do not try to overtake a slow moving car just before taking a left turn. An act of this kind will force the other driver to brake hard to avoid an accident and put you and your car at a risk of a collision. Wait a little and let the other car move ahead and then turn in at the junction.

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