

# THE SECULAR CITIZEN

(Total pages 24)

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## 2017 Year for the Parish, 'communion of communities'



The Episcopal Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) has designated 2017 as the Year of the Parish. "In observance of the Year of the Parish, we keep discerning and celebrating the quality of faith in parishes. To highlight the event, the CBCP designated simultaneous-nationwide celebration in all parishes on June 11," (Read on page 10)

## COMMUNION OF COMMUNITIES

## Council of Cardinals mulling 'healthy decentralization'

In what the Holy Father has termed as a "healthy decentralization" (of power), the Council of Cardinals also known as C9, have discussed the possibility of more involvement of the clergy and laity in the appointments of bishops. Clergymen are perhaps the best source of information on the suitability of fellow clergymen for appointment as bishops. Giving the laity some say in the appointment of bishops is a welcome step.

Personally I feel that there should be similar involvement of clergy and laity in the appointments of new parish priests. There are several young and dynamic priests who may not attract immediate attention of the higher ups. Involvement of the laity and clergy will enable local bishops to make informed decisions.

I request Cardinal Oswald Gracias, one of the important members of C9, to consider putting up this suggestion before the Council at the next meeting in September .

—Prof Robert Castellino  
Orlem

## Siempre Adelante – Keep Moving Forward!

Pope Francis on 23 June 2017, addressed 600 participants at the 75th convention of the Serra International! This is a lay apostolate dedicated to promoting 'vocations' to the priesthood and the religious life, through prayer and assistance towards discernment. It took place in Rome, June 22-25, on the above theme: Siempre Adelante!

The Pope referred to the example of St. Junepero Serra, whom he canonized in 2015; who in spite of his 'limp' proceeded on his pilgrimage: "It is better to go forward limping, even despite falling; but always trusting in the Divine mercy of God!"

"Serrans are real friends who share the wonder of vocations, the courage of its definitive decisions, and the joy and fatigue of the ministry – even in their human failings; for Serrans offer their understanding and true love!"

"True friendship involves an encounter that draws one near to the other person, wherein, I give something of my own self. Jesus establishes this new relationship between man and God through the Eucharist; which transcends the law, and is grounded in trust and love: 'I no longer call you servants, but my friends" (cf. John15:15).

He compared the work of Serrans to the hospitable home of Mary and Martha, which Jesus frequently visited, and where He found rest and refreshment (cf. Luke10:38-42). And like mother Mary even accompanied Him every step to Calvary (cf. John 19:25-27).

Thus, along with the Serrans, it is our holy duty to assist priests and religious along their journey, just as the early Church interceded for St. Peter's release (Acts 12:4-5).

—Dr. Trevor Colaso, Ashburn USA.

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**'Thought for the week'**

*Simplicity is being comfortable will all the circumstances which shape our lives without worrying or making matters complicated*

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(Article on p. 10)

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**Living Spontaneously and Embracing Life**

*by Don Aguiar*

**T**rust is the highest form of the same energy as doubt. Doubt is the lowest rung of the ladder, and trust is the highest rung of the same ladder. Use doubt, use it joyfully

Have you seen any of those documentaries on the origins of planet Earth from about four and a half thousand years ago? It is simply an astounding story of an initial fireball, subjected to a huge planetary collusion, then meteorite bombardments, the arrival of literally oceans of water, the origin of primitive living organisms, climatic disruptions from snowball Earth to volcanic chaos, the oxygenation of the planet and finally after about four thousand million years the first creepy crawly appear in the oceans... After which it took another five hundred million years of trial and error to manage to give you the opportunity to – Trust, to embrace life, to live spontaneously and to meditate.

Food, water, air, energy and valuable materials are all around us. You have been invited to what may be the most amazing play in the whole universe called LIFE, surrounded by abundance.

So what's the problem, why is "trust" even an issue? Why can't you trust, to embrace life, to live spontaneously? the whole universe trust .embraces life, and is spontaneous. Trees never get neurotic, birds and animals never go psychotic.....

So what's going on? We are the most blessed creatures – who react to this amazing gift from existence by wasting vast amounts of energy, attacking ourselves, each other and this beautiful planet in a way no other life form does.

Here is the missing bit of the puzzle. First it took a few hundred million years for single cell life forms to appear and then another few billion years of biological evolution before the animals and trees appeared.

Up to this point, all life is preprogrammed how to live. Then a mere few hundred thousand years ago we arrived. Prior to the arrival of our species – no other animal has been given the gift to be free; every animal is given an already fixed program. All animals are programmed except man.

With man everything changes. The immense gift of existence/LIFE is freedom. You are left unprogrammed, you don't carry a blue print.

(Contd.. on p. 4)

(Contd.. from p. 3)

You have to create yourself, you have to be self-creative You have to bring some new element into this world of biology and that is meditation, a ray of meditation, a ray of watchfulness That does not belong to biology at all because animals and trees are not aware.

Naturally the question arises what is the connection between mediation and trust, embracing life and living spontaneously? Without meditation you will not be able to find trust in yourself. And the day of finding the trust in yourself is the greatest day in your eternal life. It changes all the visions, all the perceptions, all judgment about existence and about other people. The trust goes on growing and spreading all around you. Only then you will have unconditional trust in existence, embrace life and live spontaneously as we see in this narrative below -

Steve is the leader of his voluntary weekend charity group; he is hyperactive as per definition but often his over-ambitious attitude is misunderstood by the group leading to internal conflicts. He came to church this Sunday. After attending the Eucharist at church my friends and I love to hang out at a cafeteria with khima pau and hot, refreshing cups of chai. Fred, Donna, Megan, Aaliyah, Naomi and I sat around the table but Steve reached for the corner seat by the window and was constantly looking out, lost in himself. In the middle of our usual banter, I broke Steve's silence by asking him, how come he was not rushing to his usual weekend projects by now? Steve looked at me with despair in his eyes. He said the weekend project was in an orphanage but it stands cancelled as his team betrayed him at the last moment. He said with anger pouring with every word, "Their pace is like the turtle as against mine."

"Steve, hold on! May be they have other priorities. Don't judge people," said Donna. Steve was defensive and retorted aggressively, "Then why would they commit to be a part of the team."

He was clearly in a state that needed our attention. He had lost hope in his team and in himself and they were reflecting the same dejection towards him. He has always been a leader from his childhood and had volunteered for a number of projects but it is not a happy place to be in I realized. I asked Naomi to step in, she is a life-coach and psychologist and knows about human behavior more than any of us.

We have all been there. Conflicts happen not

## Hoverboard has Catholic nun flying high

**Bauge, France:** 78 year old Sister Fabienne, a nun from the commune of Bauge, in western France, dressed in her habit has become an internet sensation after being spotted floating into a polling station on board a hoverboard.

The French Catholic nun looked in total control of her unusual choice of transport as she went to cast her vote in the first round of the country's legislative elections in June.

The hoverboard belongs to Sr. Fabienne's friend father Aymeric de Salvert, who gave her a quick lesson. When asked about her mode of transport, she said: "Oh you know, it sounds complicated like that, but now I'm a pro! "You just have to lean forward to go a little faster, and back to brake."

Sister Fabienne, who is part of the Filles du Coeur de Marie Compatisant au Pied de la Croix (Daughters of the Heart of Compassionate Mary at the Foot of the Cross) religious com-

munity, took to the mode of transport mainly popular with younger users.

The hoverboard concept was made famous by the character Marty McFly in the hit Hollywood series, Back to the Future.

"It is the joy of living, being comfort-



able, relaxed. I still have to pay attention to move because I forget to lean forward, but it is pleasant," says Sister Fabienne.

—mattersindia

just at work but in families too. Ego clashes are a commonplace in all relationships. So, how do we maintain the balance?

Naomi said, "Have you ever seen a pendulum oscillating." We all uttered a yes in unison followed by chuckles. "So what's the pendulum got to do with my problem here?" asked Steve irritably.

Naomi said, "Steve, the pendulum oscillates full swing to either side but ultimately it rests in its mean position. If the mean position shifts, its path will change and it will not serve its purpose. What I mean to say with this analogy is that, no matter how much passion you have for something always know to return to your mean position. When you are aligned with your intention you don't get lost. You stick to your trajectory no matter what. The balancing power lies within you. If you know how to simmer your pas-

sion when needed you will never face the conflict of pace and purpose."

We all were in deep thoughts as we heard Naomi. In our minds we were relating to our situations and this analogy of alignment befitted every one of us. We generally sway and get scattered forgetting to pause and take stock of ourselves and our ecology. We need 'yoga' which is nothing but alignment of mind, body and spirit. Yoga is a practice of mindfulness. With the act of giving your attention to only one thing we all must remind ourselves and others around us about the importance of stillness. Whenever we trip our scales, we will face resistance and inertia. We must know when it is time to step in, step out and step aside.

Steve was looking relaxed and we all thanked Naomi for this awesome reminder to all of us of living spontaneously and embracing life.



## A Man of God

—**JOHN ANDREW LOBO,  
DADAR**

As a Parishioner of Our Lady of Salvation Church, Dadar, I was deeply saddened at the news of the demise His Eminence Cardinal Ivan Dias perfect emeritus of the Congregation for the Evangelisation of Peoples & Archbishop Emeritus of Bombay.

The first point that strikes me about Cardinal Ivan is that he is a Man of God, a man of prayer a man who places spirituality in the first place and rightly so. One close to Christ.

I affectionately called him a loving Cardinal. He was a silent and calm and of great encouragement to all who approached him. His Motto was "Truth and the love of God and neighbour. "As a perfect example of a Christian life, the richness and fullness of Christ was embodied in his personality. He was soft spoken and humble to the core which exuded fullness of spirituality. This elevated his leadership to the highest level as He Shepherd of his flock.

His gentle and calm nature came out when he celebrated the Eucharist. His homilies were reassuring and touching. Many were moved whenever he preached on big occasions.

Cardinal Ivan was a true of Man of God. His hardwork, his self sacrifice his generosity during his Ministry in various parishes will not go unrewarded. He did full justice to his vocation as a Cardinal till the end. Under that stern exterior was Heart of Gold. Many will carry vivid memories of his dynamism.

May God grant him every Heavenly Blessings which he richly deserves and grant him eternal peace and joy.

## The Late Cardinal Ivan Dias

Cardinal Ivan Dias was a very jovial, soft-spoken and able spiritual leader. He provided the right leadership for the Catholic Church in India. He was also a great Vatican diplomat and accepted great responsibilities in the Vatican departments in Rome. He was born on April 14, 1936 and entered the Holy See's diplomatic service in 1964. On November 8, 1996, he was made the Archbishop of Bombay. Later, he was proclaimed Cardinal on February 21, 2001 by the late St Pope John Paul II. We have lost a born leader. May his soul rest in peace.

— **Jubel D'Cruz,  
Mumbai**

## Christian are victims of Pro Hindu Policies

Christians in India are frequently the victims of violent attacks, and these have increased dramatically ever since the Hindu-nationalist President Narendra Modi came into power in May 2014. Prayer meetings are often raided and Christians beaten; many rural Christians have also been expelled from their villages and refused access to the village well and pasture land; and others have been forced to convert to Hinduism, often with violence. The Prime Minister had promised a corruption-free country. But what do we see now? Large-scale corruption and harassment of Christians for no fault of theirs.

The Catholic-Christian community in India does not indulge in terrorism, anti-national activities, smug-

gling, cheating and corruption, arson looting, rioting, communal and fundamentalist activities, criminal activities, encroaching government lands to create slums and female foeticide/infanticide. They marry at a very late age and are content with one or two children. They are extremely secular and work with honesty and dedication. But in spite of being very peaceful and law-abiding citizens, they face religious discrimination and persecution by people of the majority community..

They are now protesting against the demolition of crosses by the BMC that were built by their ancestors and are over a hundred years old. They say that the present ruling party politicians and the government is just harassing them as they want to wipe out Christianity permanently from the country. Local residents suspect that the authorities are doing this in connivance with the police to claim land for property developers because land is a premium commodity in the city of Mumbai. Christians are just 2 per cent of 14 million people in the city of Mumbai according to a recent government census. Despite being a minority community, Christians, majority of them Catholics, are well acknowledged because of the reputed schools, colleges and medical facilities they run. The government has now been pushing pro - Hindu policies to the people of the country and two years back it has even banned the consumption of beef, making it an offence punishable by a five- year jail term.

— **Jubel D'Cruz,  
Dombivili, Mumbai**

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# After You Die, Whether You Would Like To Land Up In A Niche In A Wall Or Be Transfigured As A Living Fruit Bearing Tree ?

by Eric D'Sa

We who are living in Mumbai are aware, that due to limited burial space available in the cemeteries in the city, the days of being buried in permanent graves of our own are over. A few lucky people may be buried in a family permanent grave. Some of the Catholics these days are opting to be cremated after death and be part of the ashes and bones left behind, that are placed into a permanent niche in a wall in the church compound. What happens to remaining ashes only God will know. Cremation with wood these days with a large growing population, where forests are quickly depleting, is ecologically not sustainable. The electric cremation uses a lot of power and releases into atmosphere considerable amount of CO2 gases, further warming our atmosphere. Hence, do we the people who live in large metropolitan cities, with limited high value land not available to bury us when dead, have any other option?

As a teenager, I, my siblings and few other kids played cricket in an open field next to the famous Hosur cemetery in Bengaluru. May be to ensure that we return home soon after sunset to do our home work, a rumour had been spread that ghosts from the Hosur cemetery would start roaming around, even in this play ground

after sunset. Fortunately we had a friendly high school teacher, part of a large poor family, who lived in a small single room house in a near by slum. He was studying to obtain an MA degree. He told us that on many of the late evenings, he came with his books to Hosur cemetery, and studied there in total peace and no disturbance - either from people or the ghosts. He took some of us with him on one of his late evenings study sessions at the cemetery, to get over any fear we had of ghosts.

## YOU THE CITIZENS DECIDE:

This was about 60 years ago and each time I visit Bengaluru these days, I make it a point to visit Hosur cemetery as both my parents, two of my siblings, some close relations and many of my parents friends whom I knew well, are buried there. It brings also fond memories of my carefree youth. It is one of the best kept cemeteries in India and each time I visit it, I return with great satisfaction and inner peace. Recently while on a short trip to Bengaluru, after the Sunday mass, I took an auto to go to Hosur cemetery and on the way stopped at a florist to pick up a bunch of beautiful fresh roses. When we reached the cemetery the Hindu autoriksha driver was intrigued with what I was doing with the flowers and asked permission to accompany me. He was surprised to hear that I from Mumbai, was offering some beautiful flowers at a grave of my father, who had died 50 years earlier. He took some photos of me on his smart phone placing some of the roses on the grave. He said it was to show it to the family who had no such experience of visiting a cemetery. He went round with me as I placed a rose each at some of the other graves and

said a short prayer. He said I looked peaceful and content, as I honoured the memory of the dead I knew.

So, I as a living individual, do believe there is a value in burying the dead of your family in a neat and well maintained cemetery. I have yet to meet a ghost in a cemetery, so I can not speak of what the dead think of of their soul less dead body being buried in such surroundings. Except on All Souls day, no one seems to be too worried about dying or what will happen to ones body after death. Writing what is termed a living Will, where you deal with such mundane matters, is still not caught up in India. However, recently I had as some may put it, a brush with death. As I slept awake on a hospital bed doing nothing, I did think given a choice, where I would like to be buried when dead. As a matter of fact I thought if I get well, I should take sometime to write a living will. Soon enough, after I got well and the day to day problems of the living took charge; the thought of death took a back seat.

That is until a few days ago, when I happened to listen to a Ted Talk about a new trend that has started in United States of America, where people are volunteering to a burial procedure that honours both the earth and the dead departed. A death care revolution could take place in crowded mega cities, where there is no more space for burial grounds. You would have an option of saying when I die - re-compose me. It is simple, cheap, and keeps to the tradition. The procedure consists after one dies. The body is washed and wrapped in a fresh white shroud. A piece of cloth, later to cover the face and ropes to help lower the body into the grave is attached to the body. The shrouded body is placed in a metallic returnable casket. After the usual prayers and ceremonies at home and in the church, the body

(Contd.. on p. 7)

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in the casket is taken to the burial ground next to the cement concrete box grave and the family members after covering the face, lift the body from the casket and lower it into the grave with the ropes provided. The metal casket is then returned to the undertaker for cleaning, sanitising and reuse.

The body in the grave is then covered by family members and friends with flower petals, wood chips, some microbes and bacteria. A top layer of soil is put above the wood chips before closing the grave with a porous slab on which, a board with the name of deceased person is fixed. Composting with ready availability of nitrogen, carbon and oxygen would be quick, around 9 to 12 months. If bones are required to be put into a niche, the grave may have to be opened a few months earlier. The natural decomposition takes place fast and the human compost is collected in a gunny bag and shifted to an orchard (A new Garden of Eden) outside the city, where it is put into a freshly dug pit along with other manure and fertilisers. A fruit tree sampling (except may be the problematical Apple tree) or any other, as per choice of yourself made earlier or later by the family, would be planted into this pit in presence of the family and friends of the deceased. A marble slab with your name is then put next to the sampling. Hence you will have the opportunity to use nature to convert your body after death into true life of a tree, beneficial to the earth. Your family and friends, children, grand children and even great grand children could visit this living cemetery and may be eat the fruit the family tree produces. Would you like to have this choice of being recomposed into a fruit bearing tree, a flowering tree, a banyan, teak tree or other? Tell the Archdiocese.

When I die, recompose me

# Eradicate Torture Now!

**J**une 26th is designated by the UN General Assembly as the 'International Day in Support of Victims of Torture', with a view 'to the total eradication of torture and for the effective functioning of the 'Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment'(UNCAT). According to the UN "torture seeks to annihilate the victim's personality and denies the inherent dignity of the human being. The United Nations has condemned torture from the outset as one of the vilest acts perpetrated by human beings on their fellow human beings. Torture is a crime under international law. According to all relevant instruments, it is absolutely prohibited and cannot be justified under any circumstances. This prohibition forms part of customary international law, which means that it is binding on every member of the international community, regardless of whether a State has ratified international treaties in which torture is expressly prohibited. The systematic or widespread practice of torture constitutes a crime against humanity".

Strangely enough June 26th is infamous in India. Exactly forty years ago on the night of June 25th/26th the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, had a 'state of emergency' declared all over the country. Thousands were incarcerated, many were tortured in prison, freedom of speech and expression was banned, civil liberties were curtailed and human rights violations took centre-stage including a mass-sterilisation programme. The



emergency which lasted for twenty-one months (till 21st March 1977) was surely a dark chapter of India's history.



BY FR. CEDRIC PRAKASH SJ

Today forty years after that terrible period, India is currently witnessing another 'state of emergency'. This 'emergency' is perhaps much more dangerous: there is no official 'proclamation', the moves are subtle and seemingly innocuous. Efforts are made to destroy the sanctity, the spirit and the letter of the Indian Constitution. Rights and freedom guaranteed to citizens are systematically curbed or denied. Propaganda complete with lies, half-truths and false promises, (which could put even Hitler's Goebbels into the shadow!) is dished out by the Prime Minister and his coterie, The media is gagged; most are co-opted and those who protest against the Government in any way (as with NDTV) are denigrated and have false cases foisted on them. Intellectuals who speak out, Human Rights Defenders and social activists are subject to constant intimidation and harassment. NGOs who side with the poor and marginalized are denied the possibility of receiving foreign funds. Minorities particularly the Muslims and Christians are subject to attacks, hate speeches and demonization. Fascists have the upper hand in deciding what people can read and write; dress and

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# Kovind Who?

**T**ill a few days ago most of India would have said this. Who is Ramnath Kovind, the BJP nominee for the President of India? Now we have the answer to Who he is, but not the Why, or What to expect of him. We now know that he has been the Governor of Bihar since 2015, that he is a dalit, emphasised by the media, that he is a Supreme Court lawyer, and that he belongs to Kanpur, my hometown.

I am born and bred here, where my family has been rooted for 160 years, and I am fully involved in public life. Yet, I had never heard of Kovind before he became the Governor of Bihar. Even after that there were only fleeting references to him, on his sporadic visits to the city.

To set the record straight, he was indeed born in the erstwhile undivided district of Kanpur. About 40 years ago a separate district was carved out called Kanpur Rural, and later Akbarpur, where Kovind was born. So technically he cannot be called a resident of Kanpur today. Whether he ever was, is in itself a moot question.

I wondered if I was the only ignoramus here who had not heard of Kovind. So I contacted my eminent colleagues in the Kanpur Nagrik Manch (KNM) and similar organisations, to ascertain their views. The panellists were a. Padmashree Dr Giriraj Kishore, renowned litterateur and Gandhian, b. Suresh Gupta, District President of the Rashtriya Lok Dal, c. Madanlal Bhatia, 3-time former corporator and now State committee member of AAP, d. Kuldeep Saxena, National Working Committee member of Yogendra Yadav's Swaraj Abhiyan, e. Neelam Chaturvedi, General Secretary, U.P. Mahila Manch f. Jagdambabhai, Vice President, Gandhi Peace Foundation

g. Athar Naim, district Vice President of the Congress h. Dr Farooq Ahmed Khan, Head of the Urdu Dept, Halim Muslim PG College i. Manoj Sengar, branch head of the Vishwa Gayatri Parivar and j. John Elias, former President of the United Christians Committee Kanpur. The views of such a distinguished panel need to be heard.

I posed seven questions to them and got some very enlightening answers. I will now present the questions and the answers and leave the readers to draw their own conclusions, which could be at variance to the media hype.



by chhotabhai \*

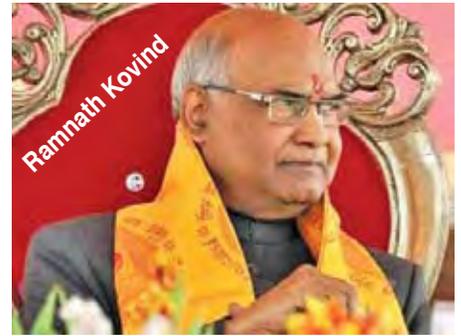
## Q1. What is the possibility of Kovind becoming the next President of India?

The respondents were unanimous in their views that Kovind would get elected with a comfortable majority, more so with Nitish Kumar and Mulayam

Singh Yadav (MSY) throwing their weight behind him.

## Q2. Do the people of Kanpur know Kovind?

There was near unanimity that he was hardly known before he was appointed Governor. Saxena said that even the rank and file of the BJP did not know him. The citizens were unaware of his achievements, if any. Jagdambabhai said that he was only known in limited RSS circles. Sengar, who has known Kovind for well nigh 20 years said that he had strong links with the common man, but because of his simplicity he did not attract much media attention. This was a bolt from the blue for Elias. Gupta opined that he had no public connect and later as a member of the Rajya Sabha (RS) too he had limited social interaction. Naim agreed. Neelam said that had he as a lawyer taken up public interest litigation or espoused social causes he would have been known, but that was not



the case. According to Bhatia, Kanpur may have been his birthplace, but it was certainly not his workplace, so how would people know him?

## Q3. Will the people of Kanpur benefit from his presidency?

Giriraj, Bhatia and Naim echoed most peoples' views that as an RS member he did nothing, so what could one expect now? If he had no connection with Kanpur, then there could be no expectation either. Besides, the President, being a constitutional head, would have his limitations. Sengar said that it would be inappropriate for the city of 5 million to have high expectations from him. Elias observed that when leaders get elevated to high office they tend to forget their roots. But Gupta felt that big trees provide shade, so some benefits could accrue.

## Q4. How popular is he, considering that he had earlier lost both the Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabha elections?

Giriraj believed that it was precisely because of his electoral losses that he was accommodated in the RS. His appeal was limited to the RSS cadres only said Jagdambabhai. But Sengar felt that winning or losing an election was no index of a person's popularity, while Elias observed that he could take a leaf out of MSY's book that "If you didn't vote for me then why should I do anything for you?" Gupta felt that the electoral losses were a clear indicator of the locus standii of the person and his party; while Naim said that

(Contd.. on p. 9)

(Contd.. from p. 8)

this showed the dichotomy between public perception and Modi's choice. Bhatia, himself a grassroots worker, said that the electorate resented candidates parachuted from outside.

**Q5. The media has highlighted the candidate being a dalit. Is this the sole criterion for choosing a President?**

This was just a political ploy according to Giriraj, to counter the dalit uprising in western U.P. Saxena saw this as part of the BJP's agenda to appropriate Dr Ambedkar, and to raise a modern day dalit icon. Interestingly, Giriraj, who received his Padmashree from then President K.R. Narayanan said that it was only three years into his presidency that he came to know that the President was a dalit! So why the dalit tomtomming now? Jagdambabhai and Elias felt that this was a political choice keeping in mind the 2019 elections. Sengar differed saying that it was not fair to emphasise the dalit angle only, as the candidate had several noble qualities and accomplishments to his name. For Gupta though, the choice was purely on caste considerations, not on merit. Naim posed a counter question, as to what Kovind had done for dalit welfare? Khan echoed this view and expressed his anguish at finding a huge hoarding outside the candidate's city residence proclaiming that he was the Governor of Bihar. Bhatia termed the media projection of the dalit angle as an erosion of the high office of the President.

**Q6. Was this another surgical strike like the one against Pakistan or demonetisation? Why didn't Modi opt for a popular consensus candidate like Shushma Swaraj?**

Giriraj said that Modi wanted a person who would blindly tow his line. Saxena apprehended that the President, far from being a protector of the Constitution, would now be a promoter of the World Bank and International

Monetary Fund. Jagdambabhai was of the view that though the public had been kept in the dark this was a well planned move. But this would backfire like the surgical strikes said Elias. Gupta said that Swaraj was rejected because she had a political stature of her own, which would not fit into



Modi's game plan. Naim saw this as a cunning move to counter the strife within the BJP, while Neelam felt that the BJP had now been reduced to a one man show, and Khan found this to be a political stunt. Bhatia reiterated that the unsavoury unfolding of events had diminished the status and office of the President.

**Q7. The candidate is a Supreme Court lawyer. Will he use his legal acumen to perhaps amend the Constitution or blindly give his approval to legislation that furthers the BJP agenda?**

This is one aspect that the media has not focussed on. Saxena was sure that this was part of the BJP's agenda, though Jagdambabhai felt that the President was bound by certain norms and the advice of others. He recalled how President Zail Singh had strongly differed from Rajiv Gandhi; while the incumbent President Pranab Mukherjee acquiesced to political pressure in dismissing the duly elected Govts in Uttarakhand and Arunachal. In contrast K.R. Narayanan was a President who did not succumb to pressure. Sengar averred that if the President was an instrument of change for the

benefit of the country then such a move should be welcomed. For Elias, the President was but a rubber stamp to whom cut and dried things would be sent for signature. Gupta doubted if Kovind had much knowledge of the Constitution. Naim was pretty certain that far reaching changes would be made against the core values of the Constitution prepared by Ambedkar. Social justice, harmony and equanimity would be put to the test. Khan concurred. Bhatia appreciated that Kovind was well educated, but constitutional changes are good only in changed circumstances, but not for promoting any hidden political agenda.

Kovind is not the first presidential candidate from Kanpur. Earlier, Padmavibhushan Capt Dr Lakshmi Sehgal (nee Swaminathan)

a close confidante of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose, was the Left parties' candidate against APJ Abdul Kalam. I once visited her at her clinic during the presidential campaign. Sitting on an ordinary wooden chair, she was attending to poor women patients. She was well into her eighties then. With a twinkle in her eye she said to me. "I had a dream that I had become the President of India. The first thing that I did was to hand over the Rashtrapati Bhawan to Mother Teresa to run a hospice for the poor!

Of such were the leaders of yesteryear. Will we see the likes of them again? Neelam summed it up, that we want a President whom we can all look up to, feel pride in, a capable person who would achieve something. Bhatia denounced the media and BJP hype about the candidate. It was not reflected in the public mood. By now the people of Kanpur should have lit pure ghee diyas and celebrated Diwali, for a fellow citizen would be the first citizen of the country. That was sadly missing. He recalled how the entire city had rejoiced a few years ago when its local 3-time M.P. Sriprakash

(Contd.. on p. 15)

# 2017 Year for the Parish, 'communion of communities'

**Manila** - The Episcopal Conference of the Philippines (Cbcp) has designated 2017 as the Year of the Parish. "In observance of the Year of the Parish, we keep discerning and celebrating the quality of faith in parishes. To highlight the event, the CBCP designated simultaneous-nationwide celebration in all parishes on June 11," Father Reginald R. Malicdem, chancellor of Archdiocese of Manila.

In every parish across the nation, various activities are designed that will revitalize our Basic Ecclesial Communities (BEC) as agents of communion, participation and mission with the active participation of other faith communities, lay organizations, movements and associations. Each parish is urged to have a parish faith formation center for parish evangelization and catechetical programmes for children, youth, adult men and women, and Bible services and studying and reflecting the Word of God.

In recent times, the Church is facing many pressing challenges. A study released by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) shows that in the last 10 years fewer Filipinos have married. Religious weddings decreased by 20.1% between 2005 and 2015, while civil marriages declined by 2.9% in 2014 compared to the previous year and by 3.6% in 2015.

In general, many parishes in the country are still alive and vibrant. Parishes in the Philippines are still full of people on Sundays and other public holidays. However, there are some signs

of decline in attendance at ceremonies in many churches. Three years ago a Social Weather Station (SWS) survey revealed that the number of Filipino Catholics who go to church every Sunday dropped from 64 to 37%. Moreover, almost 1 in 10, or 9.2% of Catholics who are registered voters, "sometimes think leaving the Church."

Bishop Socrates C. Mesiona, MSP of Vicariate Apostolic of Puerto Princesa in Palawan province, Southern Philippines states: "The result of the survey is alarming and should be viewed as a red flag that has to be taken seriously; otherwise, we might wake up one day to be following the same path experienced by many churches in the West in which they have painfully confront the reality of closing parishes due to the reduced number of active parishioners."

"The theme of the Year of the Parish 'the Parish as a Communion of Communities' invites us to discern the quality of faith life in the parish; it includes the quality of fellowship, belongingness, and participation experienced by its members.. as we collectively reflect on the situation of the parish,," said Bishop Mesiona, who is also the national director of the Pontifical Mission Societies of the Philippines and the executive secretary of the CBCP Episcopal Commission on Mission.

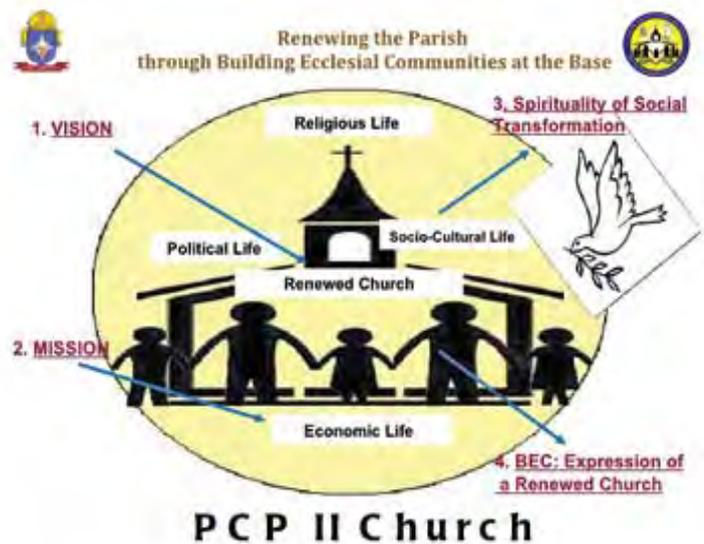
While many parishes in the country are still crowded during Sunday's masses, one can not underestimate the influence of secularism, which is gradually making inroads in the mind-set of Catholics. "We must counteract the effect by intensifying our

efforts to open dialogue and evangelize, in particular, young people, non-believers and those on the margins," declares the bishop.

Within each program, every parish has to set up and activate a parish social action commission or Caritas office initiating programmes that would assist the members of the parish and BECS address their concrete needs and concerns, including poverty alleviation, income generating programmes, livelihood, job placement, cooperatives, micro-finance, drug rehabilitation, human rights monitoring, environmental concerns (reforestation and anti-mining), disaster preparedness and management and programmes for good governance.

Other programs include the promotion of vocations to marriage, priesthood or religious life; Foster a reverent and active sacramental life in the parish; Support for a wide variety of interreligious activities and apostolic and charitable organizations serving the needy as part of social engagement; The invitation to members of the parish to explore the wisdom of the Church's social teachings; The formation of Bible study groups; Prayer meetings; Teams to visit sick people, elderly people, and homeless people.

(AsiaNews)



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## Giveme More.....MPs

Our elected representatives, who are so very dear [costly?] to us, want to remain in the news all the time so that we do not forget them. How very thoughtful! After all, they are our Netas and it is only fair that we remain in touch. Some of them actually prefer wrong type of touch and land in trouble. After Ravindra Gaikwad [Shiv Sena], we have a Diwaker Reddy [TDP] to take over from him to assert his right to walk in to catch the flight at the time of his choice [not the time limit fixed for the cattle class]. If he does not have his way [if refused] he can go to any length be it pushing the airline official, breaking the computer or printer and even physically assault an employee – all because the Neta failed to report before the counter closed. Ultimately, it is reported that someone higher up the ladder in the power hierarchy, bailed the MP and perhaps politely whispered to the airline official that he will have to let the MP board the same flight [or else?]. A private airline functions at the mercy of the government and bureaucrats / MPs.

Remember the case in Maharashtra when a private club decided not to extend free membership to bureaucrats. The club went through hell. Part of their ground was taken over in the name of road widening; members were not allowed to park their cars and what not. All because the private club thought it can stand up to these thugs. What was the result? The Club had to actually go on its knees and allow membership to the bureaucrats and then what happens? Everything is now fine.

The MPs particularly, have been elected by the people so that they can take up issues which bother the people in their constituencies and find solutions by using their clout with the concerned government or semi government authorities to ease the hardships of the people. As it is rightly believed that these worthies spend some crores to get elected and if you thought he got himself elected to serve you, forget it. Once elected, he has to first think of how to recover the amount spent on elections and they add something to it for the rainy day. If you are lucky enough to be made a minister, the process speeds up.

Forget about taking up issues in Parliament that concern the common man. First they have to attend the Parliament when it is in session. They are paid for it, provided accommodation in plush residential area in the capital but how many of them take their role seriously. An interesting piece of statistics made the social

## VIEWSON NEWS

media rounds. It is reproduced verbatim – ‘Actress Rekha attended Rajya Sabha for 18 days in 5 years and took home 66 lakhs in salary and allowances, Sachin Tendulkar attended 23 days & took home 59+ lakh. This is what happens to our taxpayers money’. There is no reason to believe that this is not true and mind you we have hundreds of MPs in both Houses of Parliament. Then we have State Assemblies!

We have a good number of activists some of whom are wasting their time in advocating talks with separatists and Naxals etc. They should concentrate on the above issues and take a proactive role in forcing the politicians and others who are running this country to behave and do their jobs seriously in the interest of the nation. Most of them are thick-skinned and unless they are shamed persistently, things will not improve and we as a nation will be heading towards being a banana republic. They have all become arrogant with a ‘don’t care’ attitude. This needs to change. It is time the general public sits back and takes notice of all the wastage of public funds in the name of service to the people.

*Why do we need nominated members in Parliament? Whoever wants to serve the country should not come through the back door. The back door should be bolted. I doubt if over the past seven decades, there have been a dozen committed nominated members who have graced the Parliament and did justice. People who have commercial interests should never be nominated because their priorities are elsewhere – to make more money without losing much from the salary as an MP. They want more...free meals, special seats, someone to receive them, someone to carry their bags. The demands are endless! This must stop.*

\*\*\*\*\*

## Speed breakers

The road transport ministry recently released some data on deaths due to faulty speed breakers for which the authorities are responsible on account of negligence and also due to speeding. Standalone deaths directly related to faulty speed breakers account for roughly 9 per day. The figure may not be astounding but the fact remains that such deaths could have been avoided. There are other deaths which are directly related to pot holes, uneven roads – all these have something to do with poor supervision coupled with



by Marshall Sequeira

greed and corruption.

Every speed breaker is to be laid according to the set standards and specifications. The Indian Road Congress [IRC] lays down the specifications from time to time. If these are followed, the accidents will be minimal. The height of the speed breaker as well as the width is important. Most of them, except in VIP areas, are faulty. Such faulty ones are conical in shape – like a crude triangle. Ideally, the top should be flat – big enough for the tyres of vehicle to rest comfortably before they glide down smoothly. To make matters worse, such speed breakers are not marked with durable white paint to alert the approaching driver. The colour of the road as well as the speed breaker being the same, it camouflages the latter making it very dangerous for the driver especially if the speed is reasonably high. Apart from this some of the vehicles get damaged due to the faulty design of the speed breakers. Ideally, there should be a warning signal some distance before the speed breaker so that the driver exercises caution and slows down. Autos jump if they do not notice the humps which cause injury to the passengers. All this causes accidents which can be fatal. The risk is higher at nights where road lighting is poor.

*Some of the speed breakers are illegal and put up by private individuals without the sanction from the authorities concerned. In this country, anything is possible. There is no fear element. People know that nothing is going to happen to them. If caught, there are ways and means of getting out of trouble. If builders can raise several floors and even buildings without due approval what is a speed breaker here and there. Thousands of buildings are illegal and dangerous. So what! It is unfortunate that every now and then the courts have to step in to put things in order. Then we speak about judicial activism. The people in power do not do their jobs properly and if the courts pull them up, the blame is shifted to the judiciary. Can we imagine our country without the judiciary?*

# Jubel D'Cruz Honoured



At the 8th Newsmakers Achievers' Award 2017, Jubel D'Cruz, a regular writer and reader of 'The Secular Citizen' received an award in the field of journalism on May 1 from the publishers of 'Afternoon Voice', the newspaper he writes for on a daily basis. The event was held at Yashwantrao Chavan Auditorium, Mumbai. Also seen on stage is Bollywood actress Sangeeta Bijlani who was the chief guest for this great event.

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# GST

## What is Cheaper and Costlier

The Goods & Services Tax (GST) council last week released the four-slab tax rates for goods and services that is likely to be rolled out from July 1. There are four slabs for the GST for both goods and services – 5 percent, 12 percent, 14 percent and 28 percent. There are also certain items that have been exempted from the tax base completely. Here is a look at what will become cheaper or costlier once GST is implemented.



### Cheaper:

**Auto:** Two-wheelers, large cars, white goods and SUVs are all expected to become cheaper.

**Branded goods:** Under GST, branded goods will be taxed at 18 percent. Currently, these goods are taxed around 23-24 percent.

**Hotels:** Good news for travelers as tax on hotels has been at 18 percent. Only high-end hotels with Rs 5,000 plus tariff will attract 28 percent. Hotels with tariff below Rs 1,000 are exempted from GST. Currently, 22 percent is levied on hotels. Restaurants too will have 18 percent tax, a drop from almost 22 percent.

**Entertainment:** For most states, movie watching will become cheaper at a uniform 18 percent. In most states, tax on movies is near 22-25 percent.



For states with low tax rate currently, this tax will be higher.

**Personal care:** Daily use products like soaps, hair oil and toothpaste is all set to become cheaper at 18 percent tax. They are currently taxed at 24-28 percent.

**Air travel:** For economy class, airfares are expected to shrink with a tax of 5 percent. Business class will attract 12 percent GST.

**Telecom:** Telecom services and ex-cise is expected to get cheaper.

**Processed food items:** These will attract 5 percent tax under GST, a fall from the 15 percent currently.



### Costlier:

**Auto:** Small cars will become slightly expensive as they now will fall under the 28 percent tax bracket.

**Tea, coffee, masala** – under GST – will be taxed at 5 percent. Currently, they are taxed at 3-4 percent.

**Gambling/Casinos:** Those fond of gambling will now have to pay a higher tax of 28 percent.

## No Tax Items

A number of food items have been exempted from any of the tax slabs. Fresh meat, fish, chicken, eggs, milk, butter milk, curd, natural honey, fresh fruits and vegetables, flour, besan, bread, all kinds of salt, jaggery and hulled cereal grains have been kept out of the taxation system.

**Home appliances:** Be prepared to shell out more for air conditioners, televisions and washing machines once GST is implemented.

**FMCG:** While soaps and toothpaste will be cheaper, other personal care products like shampoos and deodorants will be more expensive post GST.

**Metals and construction:** Metals, mining and cement will become costlier under the GST.

**Sin items:** Aerated drinks, tobacco, luxury goods will all be taxed at 28 percent.

**Charges:** School fees, courier services, Mobile charges, insurance premiums, banking charges, Wi-Fi, direct-to-home services will get costlier.

**Air tickets:** Business class is going to cost more under the GST.

The Goods and Services Tax (GST) has been finalised for almost all items by the GST Council led by Finance Minister Arun Jaitley. The council concluded its 16th meeting on June 11 where rates for 66 items were revised.

# Two Historic Stones at Rosario - Mangaluru

**V**isit the Rosario Cathedral in Bolar, Mangaluru, note a large granite slab inscribed with faded letters and a barely visible Portuguese court of arms mounted at the left flank of the entrance. Most know it belongs to the Portuguese era in Mangalore of old. The familiar stone bears the court of arms of Dom Joao V, King of Portugal from 1706 to 1750. Unfortunately, the letters are all weathered, defaced and cannot be deciphered now (picture). The court of arms, however, dates the stone and the construction of the Portuguese factory or trading warehouse at the site of the original factory church between 1652-54.



Another stone, larger and with fine details, yet lies discarded and neglected at the unused locked right flank of this Cathedral. It in all reality truly proclaims the Portuguese presence, in Mangalore. One fine day in March 2009, a history buff who frequently writes about history of Mangalore now too, was out to get information of tile factories of the Bolar area along the river and strolled along beside the 'Joyland - Infant Jesus School' where the Pinto tile factory once stood. Not far from the river edge he noticed a solid granite stone covering an old well near the old Bunt house, the plot which adjoined the Temple. The area is called even now "Haleya Kote" -Old fort. Due to the mud and



by **Ivan Saldanha-Shet**

vegetation around he could not read the matter as such though he was sure it was an ancient European relic (picture). Bringing it to the notice of the authorities including the Archaeological department was a difficult task, such is the apathy among us. Any way it was cleaned and photographed.

On April 25, 2009, Deccan Herald published the 'discovery', earlier it was carried by local web sites like 'Mangalore today.com'; 'History in the dust' and appealed the authorities concerned to take steps to preserve it. The finder brought it also to the notice of historian Alan Machado-Prabhu, 'decoding' the inscriptions with the help of international experts; the stone turned out to be the tombstone of Domingos de Mourao Coutinho, the captain of the fortress of Mangalore, who died on April 30, 1629. "It would have been installed over his grave which in all probability was located within the first church in Mangalore, the 'Nossa Senhora de Rosario', known as the 'poyeda igerji' or factory church, which was pulled down post 1784 captivity of Christians by Tipu Sultan." It is probably the only existing relic of the first church and fort which since 1568 formed a part of Mangalore's Rosario church history and brings it to proper perspective.



An expert assessment of this stone is that it is about 1.8 x 0.7 metres and bears the court of arms of the Mourão Coutinho family, prominent noblemen of 17th and 18th century Northern Portugal. It is a tombstone which bears the clear legend "Here lies Domingos de Mourão Coutinho, Captain of Fort Mangalore. He died on April 30, 1629." It clearly once lay within the first church built in Mangalore, built within the fort of Sao Se-

(Contd.. on p. 15)



(Contd.. from p. 9)

Jaiswal was elevated to the rank of a Cabinet Minister.

What more surprises does the Modi-Shah duo have in their secret cabinet? They don't even have a kitchen cabinet like Indira Gandhi. The only thing in their cabinet is to win election after election, the Presidential one included. I therefore fear for the future of my beloved country. We now know Who Kovind is, and Why he is the candidate. We are yet to discover What he will do once he ascends Raisina Hill!

STOP PRESS: This interview was conducted before the declaration of Meira Kumar as the combined opposition candidate. It is the most sensible step taken by the Congress in a long time. It has already neutralised the dalit angle and may even impact the Bihar aspect too.

- \* The writer is the Founder Convener of the Kanpur Nagrik Manch
- \* File photo shows Dr Giriraj Kishore addressing its members on the sacredness of the Constitution at Gandhiji's statue.

(Contd.. from p. 14)

bastio.

After some negotiations with the owners of the land where this 1629 tomb stone lay and with the help of the then understanding parish priest of the Cathedral Rev Stany Goveas, with difficulty it was brought to the Cathedral premises, with a view of preserving it (picture). However, this parish priest was transferred soon after, it now lies with rubble on the far right side of the Church, out of sight and forgotten. History thus finds it self in the dust as always.

(Contd.. from p. 7)

see; drink and eat. Cow vigilantes and lynch-mobs have no problem in assaulting and even killing so-called 'beef-eaters.' The powerful, the rich and the corrupt are favoured as clear seen in the 'demonetization' fiasco India has always taken great pride in an independent judiciary. Several recent appointments to the courts smack of partiality and prejudice; those who toe the line, subscribe to their ideology are favoured. Some of the recent decisions from the courts are a clear indication that the judges are compromised: they want to be on the good books of their political masters.

There is an obvious break-down of law and order in several parts of the country; the police are clearly after the dissenters and protesters (like the farmers who are protesting all over the country). It is common knowledge that torture is used extensively and on the rise in India. According to a report of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), an estimated 1,203 custodial deaths take place every year. Another study by the 'National Project on Preventing Torture in India' has estimated about 1.8 million cases of torture, ill treatment and inhuman behavior recorded annually. Instances of torture continue to rise and thousands of citizens are subjected to inhuman treatment in custody, resulting in grave infraction of their fundamental human rights and dignity.

Victims of torture who are able to come out of the clutches of the torturers have terrible tales to share. Several Muslim youth in Gujarat were arrested during Modi's reign as Chief Minister and subject to the most horrendous type of torture. One does not need to be too intelligent to realise that when the current BJP Supremo Amit Shah was the Home Minister of Gujarat many Muslim youth were brutally killed in what is referred to as 'fake

encounters.'

Recently, 'People's Watch', the well – known human rights organization, launched a National Campaign '**Make Torture Alien to our Culture**', "to show solidarity with the thousands of victims of torture in India, many of whom have also lost their lives". This timely Campaign which was addressed to the Prime Minister, had among other things this to say, "Democracy and freedom can no longer be considered a jewel when the survival of its citizens it is in question;" and urged the Government of India immediately:

1. to swiftly ratify the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, and its optional protocol;
2. to ensure that domestic legislation defines torture in line with international standards;
3. to extend an invitation to the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture for an official visit.

**The Campaign goes on to state that "the Attorney General of India Mr. Mukhul Rohatgi at the 3rd UPR process stated that, "India remains committed to ratify the Convention against Torture. We believe in peace, non-violence and upholding human dignity. As such the concept of torture is completely alien to our culture and it has no place in the governance."** Dear Mr. Prime Minister, we can only hope that the government will listen to its own Attorney General and truly make torture a completely alien concept to our Indian culture of *ahimsa*."

On June 26th however, the Prime Minister will be shopping in the United States for more arms and ammunition at the cost of the ordinary Indian citizen. Most probably he will not realise the global significance of the day; and even if he does, whether he has the courage to mainstream *ahimsa* and eradicate torture in India now!

\* (Fr Cedric Prakash sj is a human rights activist. He is currently based in Lebanon, engaged with the Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) in the Middle East on advocacy and communications. Contact: cedricprakash@gmail.com )

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# Signs you have the best husband

**You probably know your husband is a good partner. Here are some signs he is the best thing happened to you.**

**He makes you his priority:** Life can get pretty crazy but the best husband will make sure you feel like his number one, no matter what. He will make time for you and he will put his own work aside so he can be there for you.

**You are still friends:** No matter how long you have been married, he still consider you as his friend and treats you as one. There is always something to talk about between you.

**He makes you a better person:** Your husband's goodness is inspiring and he makes you want to be better. You know he's not perfect but it's his effort that mean so much to you. And he's not just a good person with you - he's a good person wherever he goes. That's what really matters.

**He values your opinion:** He's not afraid to ask for your advice or help with anything he might be struggling with. You two have an equal partnership and he's never the one to act like he knows better than you.

**He treats you as an equal:** Your husband respects you more than anyone else and he's willing to put his ego aside to make sure you know that. He supports, values and loves you.

**He cooks for you:** He may be awful at cooking but will anyway try to make your favourite dish.

**He baby sits while you sleep:** He knows you have had a hard time with the kids so he offers to play with them while you catch up on your sleep.

**H e**



**He watches movies which you love:** He may hate your 'girly' movies but will watch them just for you.

**He keeps the sparks alive:** He will take equal responsibility to nurture the relationship as much as you do.

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## Thanksgiving



**May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be Praised Adored, Glorified and Loved today and everyday throughout the world, now and forever. Amen!!**

**Ask St. Clare for three favours two impossible and say nine Hail Mary's and the above prayer for 9 days with a lighted candle and publish on the 9th day your request will be granted no matter how impossible it is**

**—Mrs. Marcilia Rodrigues**



## Declare Teresa birth anniversary world compassion day: NGO

Mumbai: The United Nations should declare Saint Mother Teresa's birth anniversary on August 26 as the International Day of Compassion, activists have said.

Such a move would perpetuate the memory of the Catholic nun who spent her entire life in selfless service toward the downtrodden and the unwanted in society, asserted the Harmony Foundation, a Mumbai-based NGO.

In a letter to UN Secretary General Antonio Gutierrez, head of the foundation Abraham Mathai, said the world body's gesture would bring hope at a time when terrorism unleashed across the world has affected every nation.

## Metro authorities relocate cross in Mahim

Mumbai : The Mumbai Metro Rail Corporation has relocated a 110-year-old holy cross in Mahim that had been removed due to the ongoing excavation work for the Colaba-Bandra-Seepz Metro 3 corridor.

Though the new location is about 20 meters away from the original, the Christians from Mahim are happy that the Metro authorities kept their promise to relocate the structure of religious importance.

According to 47-year-old Mahim resident Dominic Rodrigues, the cross was removed on June 8. "The Metro officials first got in touch with St. Michael's Church and some activists in the community. They assured us that the cross would be relocated with due diligence," Mr. Rodrigues said, adding

that the residents were happy that the Metro authorities ensured that their sentiments were not hurt in any way.

Another resident of the area, advocate A. Sodder, said they were glad the authorities were clear about their intentions. Several residents had gathered at the spot when news of the cross being removed spread. A priest had been called to perform prayers before the cross was removed. On Saturday, the priest again performed prayers before the cross was installed at the new location.

## Missing Indian priest found dead in Scotland

New Delhi: A Catholic priest, who went missing in Scotland three days ago, has been found dead, an Indian news portal reported on June 24.

According to unconfirmed reports in deepika.com, the body of Father Martin Xavier Vazhachira was found on a beach closer to his residence.

The 33-year-old priest, a native of the southern Indian state of Kerala and a member of Carmelites of Mary Immaculate congregation, served as the parish priests of St. John the Baptist's church in Corstorphine since October 2016. The parish comes under Edinburgh diocese that he joined on July 15, 2016..

Although Father Xavier went missing on June 21, the news about his disappearance appeared in media only two days later. According to the Malayalam portal, the priest had contacted his relatives in Kerala by phone on June 20 evening. He was doing doctoral studies along with the pastoral duties.

His brother Thankachan Vazhachira who works in a consumer court in Alappuzha, told the Deepika news-

paper that he had contacted Father Xavier on June 20 evening. The priest had also informed his sisters that he had been suffering from fever.

## Manila to host first Concilium conference in Asia

Manila: Manila, the capital city of the Philippines, will host the first conference of Concilium, a worldwide journal of Catholic theology, in Asia.

"Asian Christianities: (Post) Colonial Encounters," is the theme of the June 29-July 1 Concilium 2017 to be held at Vincentian-managed St. Vincent School of Theology in Manila.

Father Felix Wilfred of India, president of the Concilium, will give the keynote address at the conference that will be inaugurated by Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle, Archbishop of Manila.

In the plenary and concurrent sessions, theologians from Africa, Europe, North America and South America will engage Asian theologians will study the experience of encountering the Asian face of Christianity.

The conference will give the participants an avenue for doing theology against diverse, dynamic and undeniably (post)colonial, said Vincentian Father Fr. Daniel Franklin Pilario, chairperson of the steering committee. It is hoped to be a true encounter of dialogue and mutual enrichment, he added..

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# Inspiration!

## Try to destress your life

will definitely fly out of the window, if you spend time with friends. Your best buddies will take your mind off your troubles. You can actually relax

**Multitasking is a characteristic you all may be too familiar with. Juggling different roles of a mother, wife, daughter, friend, employee and sister is no menial task**

It's only natural for stress levels to soar high. But, in order to be at the top of all these duties, you have to find time to wash away the stress and tensions from your life, on a daily basis. Just follow these ways to destress your life.

### Dance

You must have heard this song, 'Put on your dancing shoes and dance away your blues'. It's really amazing how shaking a leg can chase away your stress in no time at all. Tune in to your favourite dance numbers and dance till you are totally exhausted. You'll surely feel fresh and content!

### Cook

This is one of the simplest ways of freeing your body and mind from all tensions. Exploring your culinary skills and trying some new dish each day helps your mind relax greatly. Kneading dough is known to be an excellent stress buster. So, become the master chef of your home and reduce stress in your life.

### Read books

You have thrillers, sci-fi, comics, pure fiction and investigative books that divert your mind from your daily concerns for some time at least. Reading demands a lot of concentration so pick up any novel and engage your mind in the unfolding of its story.

### Go jogging

Early morning jogs or even a late night walk helps reduce stress levels. Make sure you have loads of trees and grass for company! Trotting along releases healthy endorphins and refreshes your mind. It's always beneficial to leave behind yesterday's worries and start anew the next day.

### Consume chocolates

Stressed out? Eating chocolate, especially dark chocolate, brings down

and unwind with a bunch of childhood besties.

### Write it down

This is another simple way of releasing your stress. Writing about what you are going through, on an everyday basis will give a beautiful vent to your inner emotions. Share your inhibitions, fears, sorrows and joys with a tiny personal diary. Let it all out and feel much lighter than ever.



your stress levels considerably. Pop a few pieces of that bitter choc smugly sitting in your fridge and calm your jingled nerves. For once, you don't have to feel guilty about indulging yourself!

### Switch off that phone

You should be really smart to keep those smartphones aside for an entire day. Cell phones are widely known to raise your stress levels. Continuously talking on the phone or even texting throughout the day can increase your blood pressure and completely drain your mind of energy. So, chuck the phone.

### Hang out with friends

A quiet get together or a fun night out, whichever your choice, stress

- Stress may cause severe loss of mental health.
- Women refuse to accept that they get tired due to multitasking.
- You have to take care of yourself first.
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**6113. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in August 1976), Ht. 6', Wt. 80 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. HSC., Dip. in A.C. Mechanic, working as a AC Technician in Muscat. Contact Email : s u aresroshan@gmail.com

**6213. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in June 1981), Ht. 5' 7", Wheatish Complexion, Edn. PGDRM, working as a Manager. Contact email : larson316@gmail.com

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**6648. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean RC Bachelor (Born in June 1970) Ht. 5' 6", Wt. 60 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. 12th Std., working as a AC Mechanic in Abroad. Contact email : vivinacardoza18@gmail.com OR 9987433677

**6647. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean RC

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**6641. MUMBAI :** Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in July 1982), Ht. 6'1", Wt. 100 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Graduate, working as an Engineer, Contact email : melvinsaldanha20@gmail.com or 9820477618

**6637. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in February 1987), Ht. 5' 11", Wt. 70 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. T.Y. B.Com., Hardware & Networking Diploma, working as a Technical Team Leader & Coordinator. Contact email : bipinsw52@gmail.com

**6636. MUMBAI :** East Indian Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in September 1983), Ht. 5' 9", Wt. 80 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.E., working as a Technical Lead. Contact email : joy.dominic@gmail.com

**6630. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in July 1983), Ht. 5' 8", Wt. 85 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., Post Graduate, working as Associate Manager. Seeks any Roman Catholic good family background. Contact email : riya.anthony11@gmail.com OR. Mob.: 8390022313

**6626 GOA :** Goan RC Bachelor, (Born in March 1970), Ht. 5' 10", Wt. 75 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. BL/LLB., Self Employed. Contact email : gdsouza07@yahoo.com

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**6724. MUMBAI** : Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in April 1984), 5' 4", Wt. 78 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Beautiful, Edn. M.Com., works for a retail Company in **DUBAI** as Team Lead - HR Operation. Contact email : avenap@hotmail.com OR 7506113313

**6688. MUMBAI** : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in November 1988), Ht. 5' 3", Wt. 65 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. C.A. Inter, working as a Business Development Executive in **DUBAI**. Contact email : sanyo\_suares@yahoo.com OR Mob.: 9821728168

**6606. MUMBAI** : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in September 1989), Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 55 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. BDS., MDS., Doctor by profession. Contact email : florinelobo26@gmail.com

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**6114. INDORE** : Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in July 1974), Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 53 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. M.Com., well settled. Seeks a suitable match. Contact email : seema\_francis@rediffmail.com

**6689. MUMBAI** : Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in May 1990), Ht. 5' 2", Wt. 60 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Sc. B.Ed., M.A. M.Ed., Teacher by profession. Contact email : sspasware@gmail.com

**6649. POONA** : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in May 1991), Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 56 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.E. in Information Technology, working a Software Engineer in MNC. Contact email : jane.rodrigues14@gmail.com

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**6639. MUMBAI** : Protestant Spinster, (Born in June 1981), Ht. 5', Wt. 50 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.A. Journalist, Working as a Fashion Designer. Contact Mob: 9820250350

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**6635. MUMBAI** : East Indian Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in January 1990) Ht. 5' 3", Wt. 60 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn.M.Com., B.Ed., Teacher by profession. Contact email : judithds1901@gmail.com

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**6632. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in November 1989), Ht. 5' 6", Wt. 60 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.A., working as a Travel Counsellor in MNC. Contact email : denverr89@gmail.com

**6631. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in September 1983) Ht. 5' 7", Wheatish Complexion, Ph.D., from American University, working as a Senior Healthcare Consultant in a MNC Mumbai. Kindly reply with details and full length photograph to mendoncaedwina@gmail.com

**6628. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in September 1992) Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 58 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.E. (Electronics), working as an Asst. Engineer. Contact email : dsz.roshan@gmail.com OR

**6627. MUMBAI :** Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in December 1988) Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 58 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Graduate with Diploma in Interiors. working as a Interior Designer. Contact email : virlib2209@gmail.com

**6620. MUMBAI :** East Indian Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in August 1987), Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 60 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Post Graduate, working for Foreign Bank. Contact email : beann\_lam@rediffmail.com

**6617. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in November 1992), Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 60 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. MMS / MBA working as a HR in MNC. Only Child. Seeks a groom below 28 years, preferably Mangalorean. Contact email : amd19901992@gmail.com

**6615. MUMBAI :** Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in March 1981), Ht. 154 cms, Wheatish Complexion, Educated, working, Contact email : valarie.estibeiro@gmail.com

**6614. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in September 1983), Ht. 157 cms, Wt. 69 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. M.Sc., working as a Lab Technologist in Doha Qatar. Contact email : nishlasrado@gmail.com

**6560. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in December 1986), Ht. 5' 3", Wt. 79 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Com., MBA in HR, working in a Reputed MNC in Mumbai. Contact email : jfran1302@gmail.com

**6557. BANGALORE :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in August 1989), Ht. 5' 1", Fair Complexion, Edn. B.E., M.S. in California, working in CALIFORNIA, Seeks a Post graduate working in U.S. below 31 years. Contact email : jwanita@gmail.com OR helen\_monis@rediffmail.com

**6554. MUMBAI :** Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in May 1987), Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 75 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. MBA (HR), Contact email : joaquimropose82@gmail.com

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**6545. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in October 1989), Ht. 5' 8", Wt. 65 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. MBA Finance, working as a Financial analyst. Contact email : elveera.26@gmail.com

**6543. MUMBAI :** Maharashtra Protestant Spinster, (Born in August 1977), looks much younger to her age, Ht. 5', Wt. 50 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. T.Y. B.Com., working as an Account Assistant. Contact email : sonali\_waghchoure@yahoo.com

**6542. AUSTRALIA :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in September 1988), Ht. 159 cms, Wt. 57 kgs, Fair, good looking, Edn. Masters in Biotechnology from University of Queensland, Australia, working as

Scientist (Research) in Australia, Seeks qualified and godfearing boy settled in Australia, US and Canada. Contact email : patsynazareth123@gmail.com

**6538. MUMBAI :** God fearing Mangalorean RC Spinster, (Born in January 1980), 5' 6", from good family working for a MNC seeks groom. Reply with recent photo to innlo@hotmail.com

**6536. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in April 1991), Ht. 168cms, Wt. 64 kgs, Beautiful, Fair Complexion, Edn. Master in Dental, studing PG in Doctorate, Dactor by profession. Contact email : kcmesm@gmail.com

**6535. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in August 1988), Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 65 kgs, Beautiful, Very Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Sc., IT., Masters in Media Art & Animation & Editin. Working as an Editor. Contact email : simonsjl@vsnl.com

**6532. BANGALORE :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, Only Child, (Born in December 1976), Ht. 5' 2", Wt. 58 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. M.A. Communication, working as an Assistant. Contact email : ashajob@hotmail.com

**6527. DUBAI :** Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in July 1987), Ht. 5' 3", Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.A. in Mass Media, working as a Senior Executive in Govt. in Dubai. Staying with parents. Seeks a well settled and educated East Indian or Goan Bachelor. Contact email : axferns@gmail.com

**6439. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean/Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in May 1986), Ht. 5'6", Wt. 56 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.E. Comp. MBA., working for MNC. Contact email : sybil8.lobo@gmail.com

**6405. MUMBAI :** Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in July 1983), Ht. 5'5", Wt. 75 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. TYBA., working as a Receptionist. Contact email : mascarenhasprescilla@gmail.com

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## An irresistible unique offer for the entire family



# THE SECULAR CITIZEN Family Package



It is designed to help you and your family members to enjoy the whole lot of benefits in one single package and at a special low rate

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### The Package includes:

**Skill Learning Courses**  
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**Christian Marriage Proposals**  
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Wish your loved ones on good occasions in the weekly  
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**SECULAR CITIZEN**  
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Progressive minded Christian Families are participating and enjoying the benefits and advantages of this Scheme.

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### The benefits:

1. Subscription to **the Secular Citizen** for five years
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3. Opportunity to learn over 200 Skill Learning Courses of your choice at [www.limrt.com](http://www.limrt.com) for five years (normally Rs. 500 is charged to learn each course) (Under **Family Package** you can learn courses of your choice)(eLearning)
4. Membership in **Royal Christian Family** for choosing the Life Partner for marriageable family members (Normally Rs. 2000 is charged for individual member for one year period) (Royal Christian Family offers services since 36 years in providing wide choice of Proposals for marriageable aged boys and girls) ([www.royalchristianfamily.com](http://www.royalchristianfamily.com))
6. And several other offers - opportunities throughout the 5year period.

For this scheme 'Family' includes: Father, Mother and Children

Confidentiality will be maintained

### Contact :

#### The Secular Citizen

99, Perin Nariman Street, 1st Floor, Fort, Mumbai 400001

Tel.: 022 - 22693578, 22654924 Email: [secular@sezariworld.com](mailto:secular@sezariworld.com)

The amount can be paid by NEFT, Cheque, DD, MO or by Cash (in the office)

### Bank details for making NEFT :

Bank: HDFC Bank  
Branch : CST - Mumbai VT  
Account Name: The Secular Citizen  
Account No. 03552000006744  
ISFC code: HDFC0000355

**Royal Christian Family and The Secular Citizen has been serving the community for over 36/26 years**