

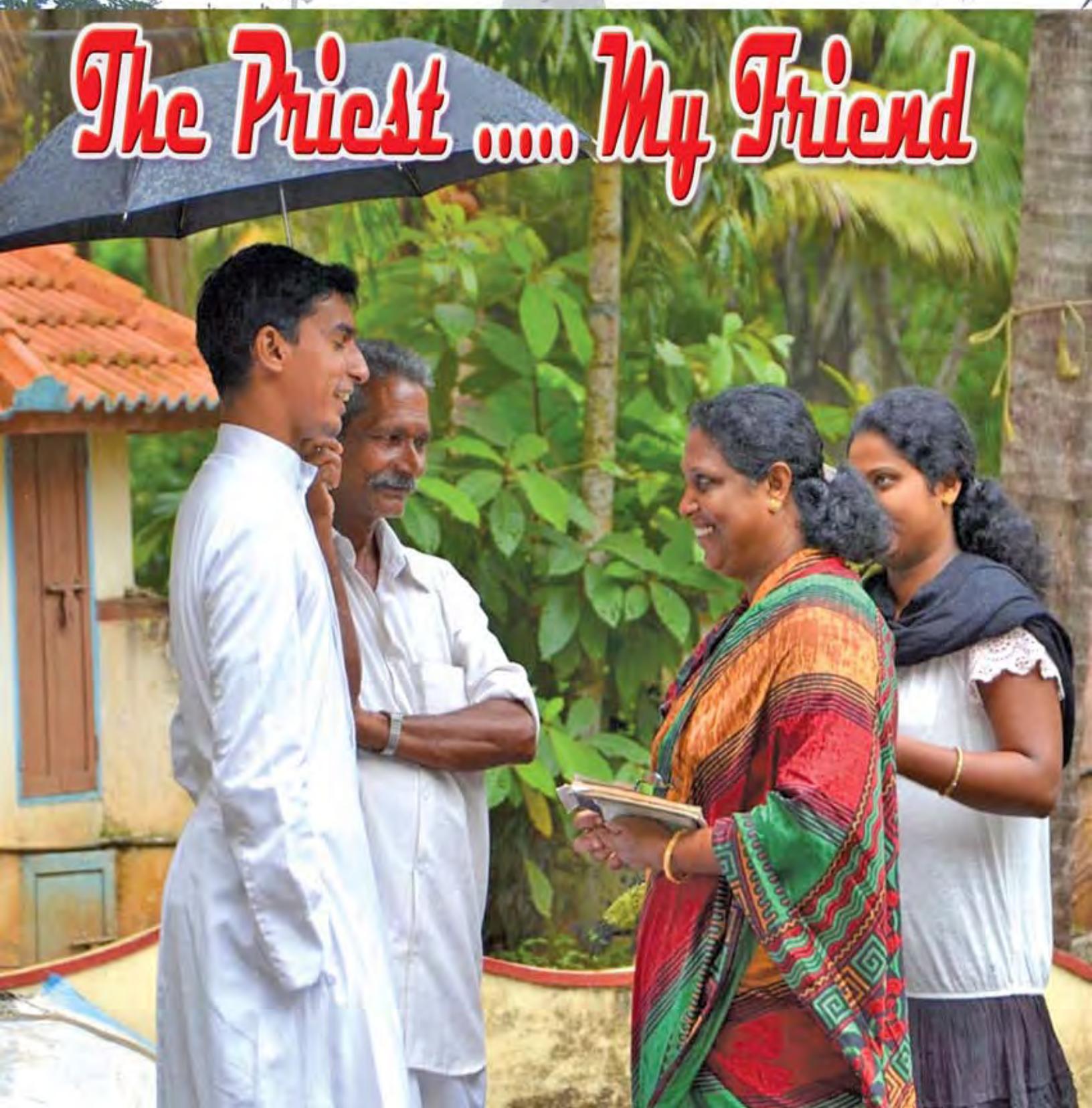
THE SECULAR CITIZEN

A NATIONAL FAMILY WEEKLY

(Total pages 24)

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The Priest My Friend



Poet, critic, teacher Eunice De Souza passes away

Mumbai: Poet, critic and teacher Eunice De Souza passed away at her home in Vakola, Santacruz (East) in the early hours of July 27.

De Souza, who would have turned 77 on August 1, had been unwell for the past few months, and it was a cardiac arrest that led to her demise.

She has left behind a lifetime's worth of writings, including her much loved poetry, critical essays on art and literature and two novels. The funeral will take place at St Anthony Church, Vakola on August 3.

De Souza was born in 1940 in Pune into a Goan Catholic family, a background that she examined and commented upon with her keen sensitivities and characteristically caustic wit in many of her poems.

Following a master's degree in English literature from Marquette University in the USA and a PhD from the University of Mumbai, De Souza began to teach English at St. Xavier's College in Mumbai. She went on to head the English department at the college, until her retirement in 2000.

De Souza's first collection of poetry Fix appeared in 1979, published by



the poets' collective Newground and established her reputation for a keen eye and a rare combination of irony and sympathy.

Many of the poems in Fix dwelt on her 'Catholic Brahmin' heritage, with De Souza skewering the pretensions and hypocrisies of the community.

In poems like Autobiographical, One Man's Poetry and Forgive Me, Mother, De Souza wove in details from her own life and that of her family, such as the death of her father when she was a child — a trauma that scarred her for much of her life.

The poet published her second poetry collection Women in Dutch Painting in 1988, followed by Ways of Belonging in 1990 and Selected and New Poems in 1994. All her poetry, including some previously unpublished works appear in A Necklace of Skulls, published in 2009.

De Souza also wrote two works of fiction, Dangerlok (2001) and Dev & Simran: A Novel (2003), besides editing anthologies such as Nine Indian Women Poets: An Anthology (2001) and These My Words: The Penguin Book of Indian Poetry (2012). Her last collection of poetry, Learn from the Almond Leaf was published in 2016.

De Souza never married, caring for her mother until the latter's death, after which she looked after an aunt who passed away a few years ago.

Source: Indian Express Ucan-India

7th Asian Youth Day kicks off in Indonesia



Jakarta: The much-awaited Catholic Church's 7th Asian Youth Day (AYD) kicked off in Indonesia on July 30 with the preliminary event "Days in Dioceses."

More than 2,000 Catholic youth from 21 Asian countries are being hosted in 11 of Indonesia's 37 dioceses from July 30 to Aug 2.

Each of the hosting dioceses has lined up series of programs such as exposures to Indonesia's Catholic faith, religious and cultural exchanges, faith sharing and interactions with local families.

On the eve of July 29, the delegates were welcomed at St. Francis Xavier Church at Kuta with Balinese traditions, Michael Fame, president of Denpasar diocese youth, said.

On July 30, Sunday, delegates attended Mass in different parishes along with local parishioners.

"The AYD is one of the best chances I have got in life. It is an occasion to exchange faith experiences with Catholic youth across Asia," said Nhem Sophead, 23-year old kindergarten teacher from St. Joseph Chumkiri Church, Archdiocese of Phnom Penh Cambodia.

The 84-young member Indian delegation is assigned in the Archdioceses of Palembang and Pontianak. They are to present a cultural show (10-minute show of dance and music) and an exhibition on Pope Francis' 2015 environmental encyclical "Laudato Si", said Father Fr. Deepak K.J. Thomas, executive secretary of the Council for Youth of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of India.

Indonesia has some 17,000 islands and is the largest archipelago in the world. It is home to over 300 ethnic groups and more than 700 languages. With more than 85% of its 250 million population professing Islam, it is home to the world's largest Muslim population, and is the fourth populous country. Yet officially it is a secular state with the Indonesian Constitution guaranteeing freedom of religion.

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'Thought for the week'

Life is not measured by the breaths we take but by the moments that take our breath away.

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You Are a Masterpiece

by Don Aguiar.

A plum once said, just because a banana lover came by, I converted myself into a banana. Unfortunately his taste changed after a few months and so I became an orange. When he said I was bitter I became an apple, but he went in search of grapes. Yielding to the opinion of so many people, I have changed so many times that I no more know who I am. How I wish I remained a plum and waited for a plum lover.

Sometimes some things are written in our fate. No matter how hard we may try to change them, they never change. ... Like the crow and the parrot were both created ugly. The parrot protested and was made beautiful. However the crow remained content with the will of the creator. Today the parrot is in a cage and the crow flies free... Behind each incident is so exquisite a wisdom that may be we will never understand it. Therefore we should never ask "Why" To the creator just thank him for small mercies.

Just because a group of people do not accept you as you are, there is no necessity for you to strip yourself of your originality. You need to think good of yourself, for the world takes you at your own estimate. Never stoop down in order to gain recognition. Never let go of your true self to win a relationship. In the long run you will regret your greatest Glory - your uniqueness, for momentary validation. Even Gandhi was not accepted by many people. The group that does not accept you as YOU is not your world.

In our world today, divisive social identities, premised on ethnicity/nationalism, ideology/religion and patriarchy/machismo emerge as among the three most resilient and potent challenges to a just and humane society. We in India are struggling against multiple injustices that stem from economic inequalities, caste discrimination and cultural hegemony, which have for ages oppressed our long suffering peoples.

Our quest must be to fulfill the vision of our God as per our Bible and our other Holy books for a just society through just means: a justice founded on liberty, equality, fraternity; a society that guarantees fundamental rights and civil liberties; is inclusive and participatory; respects and protects individual and collective identities; prioritizes basic needs over superfluous wants; privileges restoration over retribution, forgiveness over revenge.

Powerful corporate and communal forces lobbies for partisan and vested interests, polarize societies plagued by eroding identities, a sense of alienation and ridden by individual and collective fears. Such a situation breeds divisive hate politics, co-opting people into a consolidated majority that oppresses minorities and the marginalized. An underlying narrative filled with falsified myth and imagery sustains this process and is concretized in fabricated religio-political ideology, which is operationalised into an actionable agenda by the ruling party.

(Contd.. on p. 4)

India has largely sustained liberal democratic traditions for the last 70 years since its Independence. However, today, the single largest threat to India's secular democratic tradition is the rise of radical Hindu fundamentalism. The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), and its affiliates, has captured the Indian polity by promoting an extremist brand of Hinduism and is determined to transform a secular democratic India into a Hindu Rashtra, thus striking at the very idea of India born in the freedom struggle and constitutionally proclaimed secular by our founding fathers/mothers.

The Core Issues Today

The ruling elite, overtly and covertly, promotes a toxic mix of a neo-liberal corporate agenda and a narrow Hindu nationalistic agenda, that undermines India's secular democratic traditions and Constitutional values. This has several manifestations:

1. There is a display of a majoritarian hegemony with a totalitarian outlook upheld by the RSS agenda of ending diversity and establishing a Hindu Rashtra, a state with a monolithic culture. The organization, and its affiliates, has pushed its Hindutva ideology through various institutions. In the political scenario, a large number of RSS pracharakas are holding high office from that of Prime Minister, Chief Ministers, Union Ministers, State Ministers, Chairpersons of various commissions to heads of Government institutions. Divisive issues like 'love-jihad', 'Ghar Wapsi', 'Gau Raksha', ban on cow slaughter, ban on beef, anti-conversion and imposition of Hindi, among others, have vitiated politics.

2. The infiltration by RSS sympathizers has communalized institutions of democracy like the judiciary with some judges of the Supreme Court, High Courts and other lower courts upholding Hindutva ideology. Communal bias in the functioning of the police, investigative agencies, prosecution and lower judiciary is an alarming phenomenon.

3. In the field of education, the appointment of RSS sympathizers to prestigious educational institutions has undermined these institutions of higher learning. Text books have been changed to propagate Hindutva ideology and spread hate against minority communities.

4. Much of Print and Electronic Media have become tools of Government propaganda rather than a challenge to the powerful with

the truth.

5. Rule of law has been compromised as rationalists have been assassinated, vigilantism and mob violence against minorities as well as Dalits has increased and communal violence has become more frequent. Worse still, on many occasions, cases are filed against the victims rather than the perpetrators, who are felicitated instead of being punished.

6. Freedom of expression is under threat as voices of dissent are silenced by the threat of cases of sedition or other kinds of litigation. Civil society is also being silenced by the cancellation of thousands of FCRA accounts, (see the case of Compassion International – ed) imposition of sedition charges on dissenting voices or slapping of frivolous cases on NGOs.

7. Land related laws are being amended to facilitate handing over to corporates large tracts of land belonging to marginalized groups.

8. Economic policies of the Government promote corporate interests rather than those of the farming community and working masses. In addition, policies such as Demonetization and Goods Service Tax, attempt to increase Government surveillance and exercise control of every financial transaction of citizens. Social welfare measures are rebranded and their allocations are reduced considerably, pushing the poor further to the margins.

9. New laws and rules erode the rights of Minorities to administer their own educational institutions, giving the Government the right to decide students and faculty in minority institutions. The present attitude of the Government towards minorities is summed up in the words of the BJP spokesperson, "Islam and Christianity are alien to India and, therefore, even if their socio-economic condition is low, they should not be given the privilege of quota in jobs, legislative bodies and education."

10. Any form of affirmative action, be it budgetary allocations for minority welfare or reservation for minorities in jobs and educational institutions, is opposed and viewed as "minority appeasement".

The standoff between 'communalism' and 'corruption' has reached a decisive stage in India. Since the Bofors scandal the constituency of secularism has shrunk and that of 'communalism' has expanded continuously. It is a sad spectacle that at a certain point 'secularism' person of secular credentials has to defend people steeped in corruption.

The present government is working on their communal agenda to make our India for each one of them where they will reign as king/queen by just being themselves. They are on a journey to find this world and do not want to waste time for this world to find them, making things difficult for the minorities each passing day. While on the other hand - the Church in our country while preaching untidiness, team spirit, family values and most importantly of not discriminating and no social boycotting and much more good deeds as mentioned in our Bille and Holy Books among their people/laity practice just the opposite with a good amount of politics played to ensure their position while shoving under the carpet the core issues of today maybe because of their hierachal structure which leaves most of them to take their duties too lightly and by virtue of their place in the Church they can lead people to or away from God/Church. They are yet to keep space in ensuring that the present government moves and ambition in making India a 'Hindu Rashtra" does not materialize and an India where their community can be just themselves rather than otherwise and not be harassed and much worst for their belief, customs...

As is the case and all are aware of that the government recognizes the head of the community to deal with on various issues pertaining and hurting the community. In the interest of the community the head of the community should express clarity to the government on who or which organization will be representing the community in a respective matter. Presently such clarity does not exist and the government in turn exploits such situations where in the community does not gain. With this happening the people/laity are puzzled to note that the hierarchy of the Church is working to find their world in this manner that will enable them to reign as king/queen by just being themselves. However that world in due time may eventually find them and then....

Similarly - There is a world for each one of you, where you shall reign as king/queen by just being yourself. Find that world... in fact, that world will find you.

To remain silent spectators in the midst of this onslaught on the Constitutional values of equality and fraternity, secularism and pluralism is to betray our quest.

What water can do, gasoline cannot and what copper can, gold cannot. The fragility of the ant enables it to move and the rigidity of the tree enables it to stay rooted. Every-

(Contd.. on p. 5)



—Jubel D'Cruz,
Mumbai

Inaccurate Statements

The title "Educate People on Swine Flu" is a misnomer as it contains inaccurate statements.

It is well known that H1N1 is a flu which is properly called "Swine Flu", because the virus originated in a herd of swine in Mexico & crossed the animal - human barrier to go viral globally. It has nothing to do with eating pork (pig meat or any other meat.)

Similarly the Avian Flu Virus spreads through the droppings of birds & not through eating their meats. These flu viruses spread through inhalation of nasal or cough discharges of infected people.

Jubel's statement that the virus enters the human body through meat is therefore totally misconceived. So go ahead & enjoy your chicken, pork, beef, mutton etc., but take care to wash your veggies thoroughly several times to rid it of pesticides. & do avoid people with cold, sneezing or coughing in your vicinity.

Jubel D'Cruz, being a journalist, is expected to verify facts before publication & not spread wild rumors. We hope the editors will scrutinise such articles carefully before publication, & publish an authoritative statement from a reputed doctor comprehensively covering Swine Flu & Avian Flu.

—Clifford P Pais.
Malad, Mumbai

Preparing homilies, no easy task

A Catholic priest in Northern Ireland, Fr Paddy O'Kane has promised his parishioners that his homilies will no longer last more than five minutes. Fr Paddy O'Kane said "shorter homilies might encourage families to come back to church". He said that many priests, including himself, were under the illusion that their homilies are more interesting than they really are. He went on to say that a wise old priest once told him: 'If you cannot strike oil in the first five minutes, better stop drilling.'

In the West churches are spacious and have the added benefit of air con-

(Contd.. from p. 4)

thing and everybody has been designed with a proportion of uniqueness to serve a purpose that we can fulfill only by being our unique self. You as you alone can serve your purpose. You are here to be you.. Just YOU

There was a time in the world when Moses was required and he was sent, a time when Jesus was required and he was sent, a time when Mahatma was required and he was sent. There came a time when you were required on this planet and hence you were sent. Let us be the best we can be.

In the history of the universe, there has been nobody like you and to the infinity of time to come, there will be no one like you. Existence should have loved you so much that it broke the mould after making you, so that another of your kind will never get repeated.

You are original, rare, unique, a wonder a masterpiece. Let us ensure that India maintains its Constitutional values of equality and fraternity, secularism and pluralism and a secular democratic country and not turn into a communal country or be made a 'Hindu Rashtra' as is the agenda of our present government.

ditioning. In India it's just the opposite viz., there's no AC and churches are generally over crowded on Sundays with many people standing, though it must be admitted that some do it by choice. Nevertheless during hot and humid days a shorter homily would be heartily welcomed.

Ideally, a homily should be around 10 minutes beginning with an anecdote and ending with a take-away thought. To be fair, preparing a homily is no mean task. And preparing 52 homilies a year is even more daunting. A short homily will cut the workload to some extent. Exchange of priests from neighbouring parishes will further help in reducing number of homilies to be prepared. Parishioners may also assist by sending suggestions for homilies. Positive feedback by parishioners on homilies will be a source of encouragement to priests

—Prof Robert Castellino
Mumbai

East Indian programmes on TV

We East Indians (original Mumbai-kars) are a talented lot and we have several East Indian Marathi music CDs and VCDs released in the market. But not a single East Indian Marathi programme is being shown or has been shown on television, neither on DD Sahyadri, Star Pravah or Zee Marathi. Even Konkani programmes for Goans are not telecast. Its high time DD Sahyadri, Star Pravah and Zee Marathi started telecasting East Indian Marathi and Konkani programmes on their channel for the sake of the East Indians and Goans of Mumbai.

Even the East Indian Marathi language film 'Tu Maza Jeev', produced by Nelson Patel and directed by Ranjan Singh can also be shown on television.

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Whether Mumbai City Municipal Corporation Should Tax Heavily, Parking Of Private Vehicles On City Public Roads?

by Eric D'Sa

A few days ago I had to attend an important Managing Committee meeting. Though the date was fixed weeks earlier and most of the committee members had confirmed attendance, when the meeting started more than half the members were stuck somewhere on the Mumbai roads due to heavy vehicle traffic congestion. Some of them finally never turned up. A few who were at the meeting were in hurry to leave the meeting as they were aware due to the heavy traffic, they would have to spend a few hours on the road to reach home. One of my friends says these days he spends about 4 to 6 hours on the road to and back from his office. He says he is just lucky that he has a chauffeur and he can spend most of the time in the car on his smart phone or tablet doing office work. An office on wheels. Another friend who also has a chauffeur to drive him around jokingly told me that he is seriously contemplating installing a bar in his car. There has been a rapid increase in the number of private vehicles on the Mumbai city roads and the infrastructure is not coping with it. So the above is not an isolated incidence.

Sometime back I had to attend a meet-

ing on a Saturday afternoon at Bandra west and felt a bit tired to drive all the way from Deonar. Also there was at times parking problems at the location. So I called for Uber car through the app on my smart phone, and it came within 5 minutes. The driver introduced himself, confirmed my destination and I had a pleasant drive in air conditioned comfort listening to some soothing music. I could also give some thought to the days meet-

ing this new service would have had similar experience. This is not surprising since Uber has revolutionised city travel around the world. Arrogant taxi drivers who had their own demands in the past are facing severe competition and have become more flexible. The customer is enjoying the benefits of this new technology. The state government has now removed the restriction of providing licences to operate more taxis and auto rickshaws.

All this will increase competition, bring down rates and reduce the need for families to maintain their own cars. It has been calculated that one Uber car on the road, reduces the need for 8 private cars being on the road.

YOU THE CITIZENS DECIDE:

ing agenda. The traffic was heavy but moving until we came near Leelavati hospital and then it was slow going, especially when we entered a relatively narrow one way road. The problem was there were cars parked on both sides of the road and some of them looked as if they had not been moved from the location for months.

The return trip after the meeting had also a problem, as the Uber driver found it difficult to find my location through the narrow lanes and pick me up. He wasted considerable time waiting for the blockage on the road due to too many vehicles trying to enter that narrow road. Again after we were past the hospital, the journey was relatively smooth but moving slower due to the heavy car traffic of people driving back home. For both trips I payed by Paytm and was sent a receipt. Surprisingly each way cost me just Rs.15/- more than an earlier trip a few weeks earlier to the same location by an auto rickshaw had cost me.

I am narrating this incidence since Uber and now also Ola are changing how we travel around the city of Mumbai and as this new service may help us in solving the traffic problems in Mumbai City. Many commuters us-

What does a service provided by Uber or Ola accomplish. It provides prompt private car service without the expense of owning a car. It eliminates the need to employ a driver, maintain a car, have an expensive parking lot in your Society building, spend on petrol and parking fees in busy locations in the city. If you do not have a business of your own, you have to bear the depreciation of the car. Besides hiring a car gives you the flexibility to choose a small or big car depending on the number of your family members or friends who will be accompanying you. Keeping all this in mind the need to maintain your own car will be mainly to satisfy your own ego and a feeling that when you want urgently a car, you owning one gives you some comfort. One of the other side effects of owning a car is that you reduce walking even short distances, one of the causes of putting on excess weight.

If a city can be considered as a throbbing, live organisation, the roads in the city will be its blood arteries. We all know what happens when these arteries get clogged. This is seemed to be happening to our Mumbai city.

(Contd.. on p. 7)

Important Announcement

from 1st August 2017 onwards

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Due to steep rise in the cost of paper, printing and other inputs in printing this weekly the subscription rates are revised from 1st August 2017 onwards as mentioned above. We seek the support of our readers and Looking forward for your continued patronage

(Contd.. from p. 6)

It came up around 600 years ago on six sparsely inhabited islands with vast stretch of swamp land in between. It is said the Britishers took this decision to keep away from the mainland, as they did not want their trading to be disrupted by greedy rulers of small kingdoms that then ruled in the area. In any case due to a thriving export/ import trade from a safe port, a small village grew into a town and then into a prosperous city. In between the swamp land between the Islands were gradually reclaimed to house the people who migrated to this new city. So land was valuable and as such the roads were not broad, just sufficient for bullock or horse carts to move around, with some additional space for people on foot.

In the beginning of 20th century, cycles, motor cycles, buses and private cars started appearing on the roads of Mumbai and at the same time rapid increase of population. The city had sea on three sides and hence grew skywards. There was a simultaneous movement towards the remaining north and mainland. It was just lucky the city at the same time got its first railways to move commuters and cargoes. In the middle of the 20th century when Mumbai came to be known as the financial centre of India, the number of private cars kept rapidly increasing. Unfortunately there was a limit to the extent the roads could be broadened. Added to this unplanned change not much thought was given to providing parking space for private cars.

The 21st century has seen Mumbai grow into Mega City where more than 20 million people live on what is termed main island city of Mumbai. The skyline is resembling the one in Manhattan as more and more sky scrapers come up. Their first few floors are reserved for parking cars of their residents, but the space does not come cheap. Hence as there are no restrictions people are parking the cars on the roads. There are plans about building underground parking lots under public parks or in newly built special high rise buildings. But these will not come cheap and will have to be paid for by the users. Meanwhile the excess air pollution caused by diesel and petrol burning cars, are causing one more health problem to the residents.

So what is the solution? For a start the easiest is for the Municipal Corporation of Mumbai to charge the private car owners heavy parking fees for parking cars on every public road in Mumbai City. This has been done in Cities such as London and Singapore with considerable success. Many car owners will strongly protest but these days when efficient means of alternate transport is available, it can be ignored. The roads that are freed from Parking blockages will allow the traffic to move faster. The city could even consider operating electric public buses in reserved fast traffic lanes. More Metro trains can be built over the roads. There is an urgent need for suitable action to decongest the roads if the city has to prosper and for a start the municipality of Mumbai needs to begin taxing all private parked vehicles on public roads. YOU THE CITIZENS DECIDE.

Healing Services are popular

Some months ago I attended a healing service at a large gathering of about 4,000 people on the church ground. The preacher was undoubtedly a holy man. There were many healing reported at the service. The preacher named one disease at a time, prayed, and asked the people who experienced healing of that particular disease to stand. And every time, several people stood up from all corners of the ground and



gave testimony. It was an awesome experience. Several people experienced healing for ailments ranging from poor eyesight to heart ailments, from stomach problems, diabetes to even cancers. However in the following weeks and months I've not seen or heard of any of them giving witness to the healing. I am not denying that there may be one or two genuine healing. But just one or two.

There are also some healers who heal without preaching. I admire them. There's a famous oncologist in Mumbai. He's a devout Catholic. He operates with skilled hands and leaves the cure in God's hands. When his patients come for a check up he puts his hand on the operated part and tells the patient with conviction. "You're OK, come after six months for a check up". And the patient leaves fully convinced that God has worked a miracle through the good doctor. God bless him.

I am not discounting healing services. I attend them occasionally to find inner peace. And that's what healing services do. They heal the mind. Half of the illnesses are in the mind.

Miracles however are very rare. Sainthood requires two miracles to be medically authenticated. And this as we know is very difficult. Jesus Christ himself performed many miracles from changing water into wine to raising Lazarus from the dead. But even Jesus did not conduct mass healing sessions. Generally Jesus cured individual persons. Yes, Jesus cured the ten lepers, but even in this rare case, he addressed them directly(not randomly) before curing them. Mass healings, however, as seen today, lack credibility and gives our religion a bad name.

—Prof Robert Castellino
Orlem

FOOTCOM 2017

Don Aguiar.

The Bombay Catholic Sabha organized their annual football tournament called FOOTCOM 2017 which is an Inter Parish Tournament on a Knock Out basis from June 2017. The convener for the Footcom 2017 was once again Don Aguiar. This year sixteen teams participated. The initial knock out rounds was played at MSSA grounds, Dhobi Talao. The first match of the day started at 8am with the last match at 5pm and was played on all consecutive Sundays till the match scheduled for the finals. The referees for all these matches were from MDFA.

The competition was professional and tough with the duration of each half being thirty five minutes and many matches going into the final Penalty Kicks as most players representing their parish are also working for a respective company who take part in professional football and represent them in their football team as well.

The Third place, the Girls Exhibition match and the finals were held on Sunday 16th July 2017 from 2PM onwards at St Xavier's ground Parel. The supporters of the respective teams were there in full strength; they cheered and made the most of it.

The third place match at 2PM was played between – St John the Evangelist, Marol AND Our Lady of Victories, Mahim. Our Lady's of Victories FAILED to turn up and as per rule St John the Evangelist, Marol was declared the WINNER OF THE THIRD PLACE which is also called THE HARDLINERS CUP.



FOR THE FIRST TIME in the history of Footcom a WOMEN'S EXHIBITION MATCH was introduced by the Convener and was held between – St. Anthony, Malwani AND St John Bosco, Borivali. It was a very lively match which ended with St Anthony beating St John Bosco 3:0. This women's exhibition match was organized this year with the intention to promote women's



football and hold Footcom for women in the coming year.

The FINALS was played between – St Andrews, Bandra and St Paul's, Dadar. A very tough match as both teams was equally matched. St Paul scored in the 17th minute of the first half followed by St Andrews scoring in the 24th minute of the first half. The second half was interesting with supporters of both teams cheering and wanting a goal. Both teams tried scoring goals but did not succeed. It finally ended up with PENALTY KICKS. St Paul's took the first kick, however St Andrews converted all their kicks into goals while St Paul's 2 kicks was saved by St Andrews goal keeper. St Andrews won 4:3

St Andrews was the WINNERS of THE FOOTCOM 2017 TOURNAMENT followed by St Paul's being the RUNNERSUP OR SECOND PLACE.

The GOLDEN GLOVE or goalkeeper who saved the most goals was awarded to St Andrews goalkeeper while the GOLDEN BOOT or player who scored the most goals in the tournament was awarded to St John the Evangelist player Sheldon Rego.

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Stop Human Trafficking Now!

Human Trafficking' is modern day slavery; it is best defined as 'the trade in humans, most commonly for the purpose of sexual slavery, forced labor, or commercial sexual exploitation for the trafficker or others'. Most of the victims of human trafficking are children and women. According to recent estimates of the United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime (UNODC):

- 51% of identified victims of trafficking are women, 28% children and 21% men
- 72% people exploited in the sex industry are women
- 63% of identified traffickers were men and 37% women
- 43% of victims are trafficked domestically within national borders

Since the last decade, human trafficking has reached alarming proportions all over the world. Whilst there is surely a heightened awareness of this painful reality and that much more is being to combat this scourge, the bitter truth is that nothing seems to be enough. In 2013, the UN General Assembly held a high-level meeting to appraise the Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons and noted "that currently, there are millions of trafficking in persons victims in the world. Every country in the world is affected by human trafficking, whether as a country of origin, transit or destination for victims". Through a resolution it also designated **July 30th as the World Day against Trafficking in Persons**, stating that such a day was necessary to "raise awareness of the situation of victims of human trafficking and for the promotion and protection of their rights."

So as we approach another 'special day', it is important to look this scourge squarely in the face and see what can be done at every level to stop human



BY FR. CEDRIC PRAKASH SJ

trafficking. India has the dubious distinction of being a hub in South Asia for human trafficking. In March 2017, India's Ministry of Women and Child Development told Parliament that

there almost 20,000 women and children who were victims of human trafficking in the country in 2016. This number is a 25% rise from the previous year. Officials claim that this rise is perhaps due to the fact that there are more people who are not only aware of this crime but are also

reporting it. However, there are many who are convinced that the actual victims of human trafficking in India could reach mind-boggling numbers. Many do not report the crime either because they are unaware of the law, are afraid of the human traffickers or of the law enforcement officials or are just too poor to have any other option in life.

The US State Department in a recent report on 'Human Trafficking' states, "*India is a source, destination, and transit country for men, women, and children subjected to forced labor and sex trafficking. Forced labor constitutes India's largest trafficking problem; men, women, and children in debt bondage—sometimes inherited from previous generations—are forced to work in brick kilns, rice mills, agriculture, and embroidery factories. The majority of India's trafficking problem is internal, and those from the most disadvantaged social strata—lowest caste Dalits, members of tribal communities, religious minorities,*



and women and girls from excluded groups—are most vulnerable. Within India, some are subjected to forced labor in sectors such as construction, steel, and textile industries; wire manufacturing for underground cables; biscuit factories; pickling; floriculture; fish farms; and ship breaking. Thousands of unregulated work placement agencies reportedly lure adults and children under false promises of employment for sex trafficking or forced labor, including domestic servitude".

Human traffickers are powerful people with the 'right connections'; in India they are politicians themselves or if not, they have political patronage. A few years a BJP MP of Gujarat was arrested for human trafficking; last March, a BJP woman from West Bengal was charged with running a flourishing child trafficking racket and she has also named some of the other political bosses who support her; recently in May 2017, a BJP leader of Madhya Pradesh was arrested for running an online sex racket. In most cases nothing happens to such criminals, who literally get away with murder.

Human trafficking is not confined to India alone. War and conflict in several parts of the world has resulted that many people (particularly children and women) who flee war and persecution, often fall prey to unscrupulous human traffickers and/or

(Contd.. on p. 18)

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Pope may travel to Bangladesh and Myanmar in November

Vatican city: On his return flight from Georgia and Azerbaijan in October 2016, Pope Francis announced his intention to visit Bangladesh and India.

However, it appears that the slow organizational process in India has resulted in Myanmar being selected instead.

The chosen date will likely be toward the end of November. With this next visit to Asia, the pope will again travel to countries with very low Christian minorities.

In Bangladesh, with a population of 163 million, only 0.3 percent are Catholic, whereas 90 percent are Muslim. In Myanmar, the vast majority of people practice Buddhism. Of nearly 52 million people, only five percent are Catholic, a number also similar to the country's Muslim population.

Myanmar's Muslim minority, the Rohingyas, are in the middle of a serious humanitarian crisis. Persecuted and displaced in their own country, they are victims of Myanmar's government and are not recognized as citizens.

Pope Francis has expressed concern for Rohingyas on several occasions. The most recent of these was during the In-

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ternational Day of Prayer and Awareness against Human Trafficking, the Feast of St. Josephine Bakita, which took place on February 8.

Hate speeches vitiate atmosphere: Catholic Union

Panaji: Hate-speeches like the one allegedly delivered by Sadhvi Saraswati in Goa in June are vitiating the already surcharged atmosphere in India eventually leading to violence against members of minority communities, says All India Catholic Union (AICU).

"Such statements vitiate the already surcharged atmosphere. This is the type of targeting that has led to large number of lynching of Muslims and Dalits in several states in the country," AICU spokesperson John Dayal told reporters at a press conference in Panaji, capital of Goa, on July 31.

Madhya Pradesh-based Sadhvi Saraswati, who was in Goa to attend a four-day All-India Hindu Convention in June, had said that those who eat beef should be hanged.

"People who take it as status symbol to eat beef, I request the Centre to hang them in public. People will then understand that cow protection is our responsibility," Saraswati had said.

Dayal also said that AICU expressed deep concern over the government's decisions like beef ban and notifications banning cattle trade, suggesting that it would affect the marginalized and the poor in the country.

A prominent Catholic group on July 31 denounced hate-speeches made by Hindu radicals that it says "have further vitiated the surcharged atmosphere, and aggravated the communal polarization" in India.

Indonesia experiences golden season of Christian religious vocations

While European countries suffer from a lack of priests, and religious vocation seems increasingly unattractive, Indonesia, the most populous Muslim state in the world, is experiencing a golden season of Christian religious vocations. In particular, many young men are entering the seminaries. Although there are few young men asking to enter religious congregations, the number of vocations in diocesan seminaries is very high.

More than 230 seminarians attend the San Petrus Canisius Seminary in Mertoyudan, Magelang, central Java, the oldest seminary in Indonesia with its 104 years of existence. "In the Marianum Seminar at Probolinggo in East Java, which belongs to the Diocese of Malang, there are 46 seminarians," reporter Adam Suncoko tells AsiaNews.

This reality is demonstrated by the number of new priests ordained in Indonesia over the last two weeks. On July 27, in the diocese of Padang, in the western Sumatra province, bishop Martinus D. Situmorang ordained Wolfram Ignatius Nadeak and Prian Saut Doni Dongan Malau both local diocesan priests of Batak ethnicity.

On July 26, Archbishop Robertus Rubiyatmoko in Yogyakarta, Semarang diocese, ordained eight priests in the chapel of St. Paul in the Major Seminary in Kentungan. Two weeks ago, six new Jesuit priests were ordained by Msgr. Rubiyatmoko, who had received episcopal ordination just two months earlier.

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THE PRIEST MY FRIEND

by Ninette D'Souza

In the month of June I received this link(<https://focusoncampus.org/content/fr-what-a-waste>) to a video- "Fr. What A Waste" – an interesting second person testimony, a must read on the person of the Priest. As I watched it I felt blessed to have Priest Friends in my life. They uplift me with just the right message when I am down in the dumps, cheer me up with a witty remark; joke or emoji when I am upset about trifles and most importantly drench me in Prayer when I am in most need of it. They make the perfect guides on the journey of discovering my own faith and helping me to lead the children I catechize, to an Encounter with Jesus. I'm privileged to be listed as their contact and be nourished daily by their personal reflections on God's Word.

God has provided myriad opportunities through which He allowed me to interact with these 'Giants' (they are not the Fe,Fi, Fo, Fum type). These are Giants in the measure of their character. They are persons who offered me the gift of Love, whose words of Grace became for me rays of Hope in times of despair. From them I learnt that Life is not about doing the big and best things all the time. It is doing what is important and what is right. My Priest Friends often cause me to reflect on the Relationships I share which form the fabric of my life. This they achieve daily, through a line, a picture, a verse, or a Prayer. They make me examine myself as an Ambassador of God's love, thus making me more humble. They have helped me learn the value of never giving up on situations and more importantly on persons. They remind me in subtle and sometimes

direct ways that relationships need much nurturing and time to develop if they are to become a cause for Celebration.

On the solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, in Vatican City, Pope Francis



commented that being a true friend to Priests and Seminarians is a great gift the Laity can offer to the Church, because priests need real Friends too. The Pope said, "We become Friends only if our encounter with another person is more than something outward or formal. True friendship involves sharing in the life of another person, an experience of compassion, a relationship that involves giving ourselves for others. Friends stand at our side, they listen to us closely and can see beyond mere words. They are merciful when faced with our faults, they are non-judgemental. They do not always indulge us but precisely because they love us, they honestly tell us when they disagree. They are there to pick us up when we fall." He compared the Lay people who offer Priests true friendships, to the home of Bethany, where Jesus entrusted his weariness to Martha and Mary and thanks to their care, was able to find rest and refreshment.

This year at Canossa High School, Mahim, the Religion faculty decided that in the month that a class was assigned the date for the morning assembly, it would focus on the life of a

Saint whose feast was celebrated by the Church in that month. I was all set to go ahead with the life of St. Ignatius of Loyola (feast day 31st July) for the date given to me was 29th July. Due to the Unit Test schedule it got shifted to 5th Aug, which I don't look upon as a coincidence because this gave me a chance to focus on the Patron Saint of Priests, St. Jean Marie Vianney himself. I was inspired to make this assembly a little special, on account of a video on the life of a Priest, I received from a Priest Friend. I decided to make a PPT for the entire school (36 classes) which would play in every class while the assembly was being conducted over the intercom. This included

a few pictures of St. J.M.Vianney for every student and teacher to focus on while his life was being spoken of. I added the Prayer we were going to pray so that altogether the entire school would be involved in praying for our Priests. The special Hymn with which we would be concluding the assembly was also added along with a few pictures of Priests celebrating the various Sacraments, as we went through a reflection bringing to mind the different Priests who have touched our lives in some way or the other. This is my gift to all the Priests I've known, those I am currently interacting with and those whom I hope to come in contact with in future. It's my way of saying 'Thank You' for being a very special part of my life and enriching it.

In life each of us is both the giver and receiver of gifts. We are constantly changing others and being changed ourselves. If the manner in which we befriend our Priests and influence one another's lives was to become a quilt hanging on a wall, would it be an ordinary mosaic or a valued gift of beauty???

Nun celebrates Catholic wedding in Canada

Cindy and David had their religious wedding on Saturday, July 22, celebrated by... a woman.

The exceptional ceremony took place in a Catholic church at Lorrainville, 650 km west of Montreal in Canada. In the rural diocese of Rouyn-Norand in the Abitibi-Témiscamingue region, the lack of priests is such that the bishop called on the assistance of Sr Pierrette Thiffault of the Sisters of Providence.

Why Sr Pierrette? "You need to ask my bishop," she smiles, explaining that in this zone several priests are responsible for up to seven or eight different parishes each. "I was happy and proud to be able to provide this service for my diocese," she says.

Authorized by Rome Although rare, such an event is in fact authorized by canon law. "Where there is a lack of priests and deacons, the diocesan bishop can delegate lay persons to assist at marriages, with the previous favorable vote of the conference of bishops and after he has obtained



the permission of the Holy See," says Canon 1112.

"A suitable lay person is to be selected, who is capable of giving instruction to those preparing to be married and able to perform the matrimonial liturgy properly." Hence, on May 23, Sr Pierrette received the necessary mandate in the form of an authorization from Rome after her name was proposed by the Congregation of Divine Worship and for the Discipline of Sacraments. A member of the Sisters of Providence the past 55 years, Sr Pierrette is a pastoral worker in the parish of Moffett, which neighbors Lorrainville, where the wedding took place on July 22. In fact, it was

as a catechist that she came to know David, the husband when he was a high school student. Proud During the three months prior to the ceremony, she met the couple on three occasions.

"It was a mission of evangelization, that's for sure," Sr Pierrette comments, noting how she had had to explain various aspects of the ceremony to the gathering. Unable to conceal her joy at being able to celebrate the wedding, she says she was proud of her bishop's decision.

"It is a beautiful step forward for women in the Church. "However, she is equally proud of the couple she wed, and even "a little" proud of herself. And in spite of her initial apprehensions, the ceremony went well. She is now ready to do it again whenever requested and she has no doubt that in future lay people will be called to play an increasingly significant role in the liturgy.

(Source: international.la-croix.com)
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Wonder Women: Here are Delhi's bouncer sisters

Mehrunnisha Shokat Ali and Tarannum are Delhi's famous female bouncers at Hauz Khas for women safety

As it is said never underestimate power of women and this instance is proved in Delhi, capital city of our country. Mehnunnisha Shokat Ali and Tarannum are Delhi's famous female bouncers at Hauz Khas Social. The bouncer sisters have been in this profession for nearly a decade now and for the past three years, they have done 10 hours night shifts. Mehnunnisha is breaking stereotypes as she started growing up in a narrow-minded Muslim family. Mehnunnisha's family was in Saharanpur which is approximately 200 km from Delhi. She wanted to join an army or wanted to become a police officer but unfortunately, her dad was a bit conservative who opposed her dreams. But destiny had different plans for Meherunnisa which changed her life forever.

Her father lost money in trading shares, and even people around her started making fun of her skinny looks. Within no time, Meherunnisa started gyming and also gained some muscles. Meanwhile, she also got a job offer as a female bouncer in Delhi. Later, Meherunnisa's sister Tarannum also joined in as a bouncer, and both provide tight

security to the women at events.

Meherunnisa's shift at the bar starts around 7 pm and gets over in the morning. She said it took a lot of time for her father to accept his daughter would leave to work every evening and return in the morning.



"My daughter is not cheating or stealing; she is doing the job of a man, I am proud of them," said Meherunnisa's mum Shama. Surely these 'Wonder Women' of India are breaking stereotypes.

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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. O. D'Souza, Bandra (W)

Prayer to St. Expedite for solving a financial crisis



I call forth the Power and the presence of **St. Expedite** in my time of financial trouble. I offer my body, heart, mind and soul upon your altar of light. I have faith and trust and complete confidence that you will be my strength in this time of need. Quickly come to my assistance.

(State Your Petition) _____
My financial need is urgent. Be my

Light and Guide in this situation so that I may live with peace, love, prosperity and abundance and in the Praise of God.

Amen. (Promise Publication)

—Robert R.

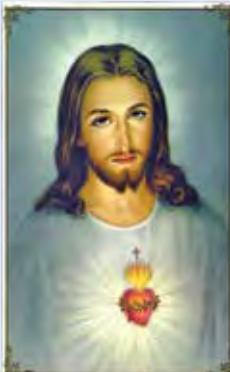


PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

"Holy Spirit, thou who makes me see everything and shows me the way to reach the ideal. You who gives me the divine gift to forgive and forget the wrong that is done to me and are in all instances in my life with me. I, in this short dialogue want to thank you and confirm from you once more that never want to be separated from you, no matter how great the material desire may be. I want to be with you and my loved ones in your perpetual glory. Amen".

—Helen Rodrigues, Mumbai

Prayer & Thanksgiving Prayer to the Sacred Heart



Oh Lord Jesus Christ, to Your most Sacred Heart I confide this intention (your request). Only look upon me, then do what your love inspires. Let your Sacred Heart decide ... I count on You ... I trust in You ... I throw myself on your mercy. Lord Jesus, You will not fail me.

Sacred Heart of Jesus, I trust in you.
Sacred Heart of Jesus, I believe in your love for me.

Sacred Heart of Jesus, Your kingdom come.

Sacred Heart of Jesus, I have asked you for many favors, but I earnestly implore this one. Take it, place it in your open Heart. When the Eternal Father looks upon it, he will see it covered with your Precious Blood. It will be no longer my prayer, but yours, Jesus. Sacred Heart of Jesus. I place all my trust in You, Let me not be disappointed. Amen.

—A Devotee

Unfailing Prayer to St. Anthony



O holy St. Anthony, gentlest of Saints, your love for God and Charity for his creatures, made you worthy, when on earth, to possess miraculous powers. Miracles waited on your word, which you were ever ready to speak for those in trouble or anxiety. Encouraged by this thought,

I implore of you to obtain for me (request). The answer to my prayer may require a miracle, even so, you are the Saint of Miracles. O gentle and loving St. Anthony, whose heart was ever full of human sympathy, whisper my petition into the ears of the Sweet Infant Jesus, who loved to be folded in your arms; and the gratitude of my heart will ever be yours.

—Mrs K. M. D'Souza, Dadar

Is Facebook A Boon Or A Threat?

Facebook has created an open door for freedom of expression: for religion, for the cultural values and laws of world communities, and the effective management of the internet. It is "somewhat a pledge" of allegiance for over 1.25 billion active users of Facebook around the world, to be a platform for communication and social networking.

The open door policy, unfortunately, turns out to be a welcome mat for villains, carpetbaggers, scoundrels and scalawags. The free access of information and the need for our protection has created a fine line task for internet organizations. Offensive material is still infiltrating and Facebook does its best to ban and remove potentially disturbing videos. Have we crossed the Rubicon? Most unlikely, I feel.

Honestly, Facebook is a brave, new medium for the voice of communities across world nations, for once, literally making the world a living 'village'. "You are great, O Lord and greatly to be praised... You have made us for yourself and our heart is restless until it rests in You." – Saint Augustine.

Facebook is the most popular channel for instruction, education, faith formation, highlighting the rich values to be found in our social and secular

networking. We only need protection from misguided forces who try to exploit the services given online free to friends and visitors.

The internet, sadly enough is often misused and abused by people with bad visions who run wild in the open play field of Facebook, thinking they can wash their dirty linen in public.

The Facebook system depends largely on users, and so it must protect their aims and polices. Reporting abuses to the team of Facebook moderators to scan and remove unpleasant content is a shame. Tackling this problem takes its time and toll to eradicate images and news that go viral around the world. I was told it covers almost 36 hours to wipe out an offensive material.

Many users have drawn attention to sexualized pictures of children, photographs that often get the police to arrest the very people that reported the offense, for sharing the visuals. I have observed that often the offending images remain for quite some time. We need to help the Facebook teams. Especially, those we can block, we should.

It has been said that images flagged on 'report button' webs have remained. Facebook says, at times that they did not breach "community standards". It is important and disturbing to pass opinions on the issues. Yet, we ask Facebook to reconsider the impact of warped and false communications entering the minds of young people and fellow friends. If the young are vulnerable, they are easily exploited online to enter dark areas of corruption and sin. "No one sins by an act he cannot avoid." Saint Augustine.

Facebook must try to be more responsible for what is being put up, displayed and shamelessly kept open



BY MELVYN BROWN

to innocent citizens by perverted users and their contacts. Young ones are very easily led, they are easily exploited online. Freedom to think and express opinions is no doubt noble, not if anyone is at the mercy of the media, making mountains out of molehills.

"There are thousands hacking at the branches of evil to one who is striking at the root." –Henry David Thoreau.

Facebook users must brave the odds and collectively raise the shield of protection to wipe away the corrupting elements that brazenly enter our homes and hearts with false beliefs under automated news which Facebook some say is to blame: this is not true.

Rumors, false news, promises and advice traumatize users, and dark threats to send "secret messages" to ten or more of our friends, must Stop. It's a mind-game-blackmail.

We, the regular users of Facebook will do our best to crush the evil worming its way out of the woodwork. Let us recall the words of Daniel Webster: " We are all agents of the same supreme power, the people."

Facebook is the need of the hour. Respect it. Keep it clean and alive.

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Must have kitchen tools

Cooking is an art and with the right kitchen tools, it can be hassle free, fast and enjoyable

Enven if you have no desire to ever attempt advanced level recipes and only plan to cook simple family meals like spaghetti, fresh salads, a few side vegetables or bake the occasional birthday cake, cupcakes or brownies, make it easy on yourself by properly outfitting your kitchen. You will be amazed at how much easier, faster and more enjoyable cooking becomes when you have the right tools. These are some of the must haves-

Knives:

Those blocks full of knives look nice on your counter but you really only need three-a serrated knife, a nine to 10 inch long chef's knife and a paring knife are good basics. Knives are one thing you don't want to buy without holding first; they should feel natural in your hand. Buy the best knives you can afford as they will last for many years.

Sturdy thick cookware:

One of the best investments you can make in the kitchen. You don't have to purchase a complete set. Choose only the pieces you need or will use regularly. The three most important pieces used in the kitchen: large stockpot, a saucepan (medium size) and a saute pan.



Grill pans

Grill pans have gained popularity in recent years. They are great for those without a barbecue or who don't want to grill outside in the winter but who



still want those nice grill marks on their food and equally tasty dish to eat. For summer dishes like burgers, roasted salmon, meatballs and marinated vegetables, a grill pan is a must.

Instant read thermometer:

Found in nearly every supermarket meat section or with other kitchen gadgets, an instant-read thermometer is essential for making sure meat and poultry are safely cooked and done to your preference.

Baking tools:

At least one nine by 13 inches baking pan, roasting pan and rack, pizza pan, baking sheets, three quarter rectangular and eight inch square glass baking dishes.

Measuring spoons and cups:

Pretty basic because some people may think they are not necessary. If you follow recipes, they're especially important. They come very handy while baking.

Colander and strainer:

Whether you are rinsing beans or draining your vegetables, you are going to need a colander. Strainer is mostly used for liquids.

Cutting boards:

It is essential to have separate cutting boards for your meats and your veggies to avoid cross-contamination. You can have one in plastic which is easily washable for meat and a wood cutting board for day-to-day vegetable dicing and chopping.

Kitchen scale:

If you are on a weight loss journey or you like to follow recipes to perfection, a kitchen scale is a great investment. Compact



and lightweight, this can come handy while preparing elaborate recipes.

Pizzas stones for the perfect crust:

Unlike thin metal baking sheets that always burn the bottom of cookies before they are done, stones cook evenly. For the perfect pizza, set your oven on a high temperature and heat the stone first, then place your pizza on it. Stones come in a variety of sizes and shapes like round for pizzas, rectangle with or without rims and many more.

Inspiration!

What defines character?

Work would be a lot more pleasant if it were seen as an opportunity for self-expression and growth - in terms of what we can give to it rather than what we get from it

Your real job in life is self-development. As you build a career, you gradually define your character. Most people worry about what their salary or position will be in the future, but a more valid question would be, 'What qualities do I want to have in five years?' Your career is the canvas on which you will create that person.

Review your goals

Today, take time to review your goals. Step back from your daily routine and see life as a unified whole. Ask yourself these questions: 'What do I really want in my life? Life's goals can be attained only after they have been identified, so take a few minutes to write down what is most important to you. Once you know your priorities and keep them clear, you are on your way to a truly successful life.

Success

The drive to succeed is a primal force - seem even at the cellular level. Most people define success according to salary, title or status - what we might call the social symbols of success. But there is another, more important way to look at the subject. "Inner success" has little to do with rewards or recognition. It is defined by what you are rather than what you have. A truly successful person is happy and contented and lives according to his or her own prin-

ciples. On his deathbed, not even a workaholic gasps out, "I wish I could have spent more time at the office." In the end, a successful life is judged by the simplest of questions: "Have I lived up to my ideals? Have I loved and been loved?"

and strength of will. Once you accept an obligation, be willing to move mountains to accomplish it! Never try to shift your responsibility to someone else.

Patience & perseverance

No career can be successful without patience and perseverance. To achieve results you need to accept the natural rhythms of people and projects. Impatience simply adds tension, not efficiency. Discipline yourself to stay with a task until it is finished, even if it takes great will power. Accept people as they are, not as you wish them to be. When you support others with patience and faith in their potential, you open the door for miracles to occur.

Integrity

If there is a single quality that society needs today, it is integrity. The business world, especially is crippled by a lack of morality. Yet, virtue is personal—it must begin with you. Don't sacrifice your integrity for a temporary advantage, because ultimately, how you work will help define who you are. Never, but never, lie or cheat or intentionally hurt others. You shrivel with every dishonorable act.

Hard work

There is no substitute for plain hard work. Lazy people do not succeed, nor are they happy, because both success and happiness require energy. Doing your job without intensity is a formula for failure. Edison said, "Genius is 10% inspiration and 90% perspiration." If you train yourself to break through resistance points, the inner temptation to give up, you'll find new strength flowing into you—a kind of second wind. One way to be a winner is to put energy into everything you do, even small tasks like answering email.

Be Enthusiastic

Don't be afraid to let people see your enthusiasm. Act enthusiastic even when others are not, and you'll be surprised at how easily others accept your ideas. Being positive unleashes your own strength and creativity and attracts help from other people. Positive enthusiasm will also strengthen your power of willingness.

Take responsibility

Accepting responsibility requires both strength of mind and strength of mind

The Six Pillars of Character



CITIZENSHIP RESPONSIBILITY FAIRNESS CARING TRUSTWORTHINESS RESPECT

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(Contd.. from p. 9)

smugglers. The UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) states that, "Over half of the world's refugees are children. Many will spend their entire childhoods away from home, sometimes separated from their families. They may have witnessed or experienced violent acts and, in exile, are at risk of abuse, neglect, violence, exploitation, trafficking or military recruitment" The ISIS has captured an estimated 3,000 Yazidi women and use them as sex slaves. Several other refugee and migrant women virtually have no choice but to allow themselves to be sexually exploited since they are in the clutches of powerful traffickers.

The Asian Movement of Women Religious Against Human Trafficking (AMRAT), is a network of over fifty religious congregations of South Asia, with a 'collaborative commitment' to address key issues, to find solutions and put an end to this modern-day form of slavery and exploitation. Since its inception a few years ago AMRAT members have done creditable work among victims of human trafficking. Speaking at the last General Body Meeting which was held in Kochi in November 2016 Sr. Jyothi Pinto BS (former Superior General of the Bethany Sisters and the Foundress of AM-

RAT) said, "the world doesn't change one person at a time. It changes, as networks of relationships from among people, who discover they share a common cause and vision of what is possible."

AMRAT's vision and actions have been consistent with the stand that Pope Francis has taken against human trafficking. He has called human trafficking "a crime against humanity" "a form of slavery", "a grave violation of human rights" and "an atrocious scourge". He has also said that there is also "evidence which brings one to doubt the real commitment of some important players." He has emphasized the need of having **Partnerships** to combat this evil and as a fourth pillar to the already existing '3P' pillars: **Prevention, Protection and Prosecution.**

Addressing a group of ambassadors newly accredited to the Vatican on Dec 12th 2013, Pope Francis underscored that it is a disgrace that persons "are treated as objects, deceived, assaulted, often sold many times for different purposes and, in the end, killed or, in any case, physically and mentally harmed, ending up discarded and abandoned."

Reminding ourselves of the words of Martin Luther King "our lives begin to end the day we become silent about the things that matter" we all need to do all we can to stop human trafficking now!

* (Fr Cedric Prakash sj is a well-known 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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Nuns Offer their 'Blindness' For World's Salvation!

As India celebrates 70 years of her Independence on 15 August, the 'Little Missionary Sisters of Charity' (LMSC) or Sacramental Sisters of St. Don Orione, also remember their 90th anniversary.

Their unique mission is very special; which is to offer for the salvation of the world their 'blindness'! This minuscule congregation of 'blind nuns' are consecrated to the Perpetual Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament! They wear a distinctive white habit, a red scapular, and a white Host embroidered on it. They are only present in Italy, Spain, Philippines, Kenya, Argentina, Brazil and Chile.

These 'blind sisters' attend computer classes, so as to enable them to bring before the Most Holy Eucharist, the numerous petitions they receive through their Facebook account. In their utter 'blindness' they dedicate each day of the week for a particular intention – Mondays for the sick, Tuesdays for youth, Wednesdays for peace, Thursdays for vocations, Fridays for elderly, Saturdays for children, and Sundays for families.

This reminds me of 'White Cane Safety Day', observed annually on 15 October; which was also named as 'Blind Americans Equality Day' by President Barak Obama.

St. Orione their renowned founder revealed: "I intend to offer with this 'new blind branch', a beautiful lily before the throne of the Blessed Virgin Mary; so that she with her own holy hands, offers it up to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, the Light of the world" (cf. John 8:12; 9:5).

—Dr. Trevor Colaso,
(Ashburn, Virginia, USA).

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RF101945	RF101914	RF101163	RF101051
RF101921	RF101893	RF101205	RF101048
RF101940	RF101915	RF101184	RF101038
RF101933	RF100894	RF101189	RF101031
RF100003	RF101890	RF100648-	RF101030
RF101914	RF101899	-RF100936	RF100984
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RF101946	RF101233	RF101188	RF101150
RF101927	RF101059	RF101174	RF101131
RF101307	RF101230	RF101175	RF101117
RF101942	RF101228	RF101172	RF101013
RF101909	RF101216	RF100739	RF101123
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RF100873	RF100684	RF101494	RF101197
RF100839	RF100644	RF101477	RF101179
RF100837	RF100641	RF101458	RF101135
RF100828	RF100631	RF101413	RF101133
RF100827	RF100626	RF101322	RF101131

MATRIMONIAL

MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic spinster (Born in April 1973), 5' 5" tall, looks much younger to her age, good looking, fair complexion with qualifications, B.Com. (Mumbai), M.B.A. Finance (Canada), M.B.A., (H.R.) and Diplomas in I.T. (NIIT), Comp. (APTEC), and Cert.Ind Acct. (I.C.A.), working in good position. Graduate / Post Graduate unmarried R.C. Bachelors upto 47 years, employed in good position and well settled in Mumbai or abroad. Contact email.: bellweather77@yahoo.com OR Mob.: 9892700617

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6564. DUBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in November 1987), Ht. 179 cms, Wt. 78 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Mechanical Engineer, working as an Engineer. Contact email : godfreyjoelfernandes@gmail.com

6743 DUBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in September 1976), Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 76 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. BBA., working as a Key Accounts Manager / Sales & Marketing. Contact email : wilsonalmeida87@yahoo.com

6562. MANGALORE : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in November 1981), Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 58 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. PUC + Computer diploma, having own business in ABROAD. Contact email : melvin6680@gmail.com

6559. MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in July 1985), Ht. 5' 8", Wt. 80 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. XII, working on Cruise Ship. Currently he is in Mumbai. Contact immediately. Contact email : mascarenhas_k@ymail.com

6553. GERMANY : German Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in August 1980), Ht. 175 cms, Well built, Fair Complexion, Edn. Normal School Cheff. Working as a Cheff. Contact email : evascherrmann@yahoo.de

6551. MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in February 1959), Ht. 5' 7" Wt. 60 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. SSC., having own business. Contact email : pearlfernandes81@yahoo.in

6549. MUMBAI : Tamilian Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in December 1983), Ht. 5' 10" Wt. 72 kgs, Tan Complexion, Edn. MBA (ICFAI), working as

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For Tel. Nos. Please contact on
022-22693578 / 9820485389
or Email :
royalchristianfamily@gmail.com

a AVP in Citi Group Chennai. Contact email : ponsil@rediffmail.com

6547. MUMBAI : Keralite + Mangalorean Roman Catholic Widow, (Born in July 1959), Ht. 5' 11", Wt. 75 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. SSC, working for Diamond Company as a Asorting Diamond. No encumbrance, having own Flat. Seeks a simple and poor girl. Contact Mob: 9821078194.

6546. MUMBAI : East Indian Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in December 1987), Ht. 171 cms, Wt. 80 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. HSC., Diploma in Aviation, working for a Foreign Cruise line in USA as a Security Officer. Contact email : stayblessed1287@gmail.com

6544. MUMBAI : Mangalorean RC Bachelor, (Born in June 1986), Ht. 5' 11", Wt. 80 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Com., + Diploma, working on Cruise Ship. Contact email : roshandsouza412@yahoo.com

6541. MUMBAI : Mangalorean RC, (Born in January 1969), Ht. 5' 10", Wt. 80 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. SSC, having own business. Contact email : allwynsequeira@gmail.com

6539. MUMBAI : Mangalorean RC Bachelor, (Born in February 1982), Ht. 5' 8", Wt. 65 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Sc., MBA., working for Bank in DUBAI. Seeks a Mangalorean educated, homely girl. Ready to settled in Dubai. Contact email : roshandsouza5in@gmail.com

6534. MANGALORE : Mangalorean RC Bachelor, (Born in March 1980), Ht. 5' 8", Wt. 69 kgs, Handsome, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.A., Having

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

own business and accommodation. Contact email : proposal564@gmail.com

6533. MUMBAI : Goan RC Bachelor, (Born in April 1983), Ht. 5' 8", Wt. 69 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Com., Wheatish Complexion, Working with Disney Cruise line, Well settled. Contact email : joseph_almeida15@yahoo.in

6531. POONA : Tamilian RC Bachelor, (Born in May 1975), Ht. 6', Fair Complexion, Handsome, Edn. M.Com., Having well established business. Contact email : tony137@rediffmail.com

6523. MUMBAI : Goan RC Bachelor, (Born in November 1986), Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 68 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.E. Electronics, working as a IT Engineer. Contact email : sandra-noronha75@gmail.com

6521. MUMBAI : Goan RC Bachelor, (Born in December 1976), Ht. 6', Fair, Handsome, Edn. B.Sc., MBA (HR) full time, working as Manager in MNC. Well settled. Seeks alliance with Goan RC Spinster. Contact email : alliancedec2@gmail.com

6515. MUMBAI : East Indian RC Bachelor, (Born in June 1989), Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 64 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. P.G.D.B.M., working as a H.R. Contact email : leo.rglobus@gmail.com

6510. MUMBAI : Mangalorean RC Divorcee, (Born in February 1981), Ht. 5' 10", Wt. 80 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. Masters in Computer, working as a Sr. Tech. Anyl in Bank. Contact email : melwyngdsouza@gmail.com

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6742. AUSTRALIA : Goan Roman Catholic spinster, (Born in December 1989), Ht. 5' 2", Wt. 57 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.A. working as a Project Manager. Contact email : mark.alvares16@gmail.com

6528. DUBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in April 1985) Ht. 5' 7", Beautiful and Fair Complexion, Edn. Masters in Health, Care (MHA), Employed as a Manager in MNC Dubai, is looking for a suitable alliance between the ages of 32 to 36 with a height 5' 10" and above. Kindly respond directly to the party by email : aara8185@gmail.com with your photograph.

6033 ABU-DHABI : Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in May 1979), Ht. 5' 2", Wt. 58 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. M.A. Eng., Literature, working as a Copy Editor. **Contact email :** barretto.lorraine@gmail.com
OR 9730454857

6428. MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in August 1988), Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 65 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. M.A. (Lit) Teacher by profession. Contact email : shalantam@gmail.com

6427. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in April 1985), Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 65 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.E., working as a Sr. Analyst in MNC. Contact email : joe51in@yahoo.co.in

6426. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in August 1989), Ht. 5' 3", Wt. 50 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. Bachelors in Physiotherapy, working as a Physiotherapist. Contact email : tracy.veigas89@gmail.com

6423. MUMBAI : Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in July 1986), Ht. 5' 8", Wt. 61 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. M.Sc. working for Govt. Firm. Contact

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email : graciav765@gmail.com

6422. MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in July 1969), Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 56 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, looks much younger to her age, Edn. HSC., working as admin. Executive. Contact email : marthapereira2000@gmail.com

6421. MUMBAI : Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in June 1989), Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 64 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Sc. Computer, working as a Graphic Designer. Contact email : kgfrancis@rediffmail.com

6420. MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in May 1991), Ht. 5' 6", Well built, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Graduate, working as an Accounts Executive. Seeks a Goan RC Bachelor below 30 years. Contact Email : taureangirl1991@gmail.com

6417. MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in August 1988), Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 65 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. C.A., working as a C.A. Seeks a Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor. Contact email : rosefina.20@gmail.com

6414 MUMBAI : Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in July 1989), Ht. 5'1", Wt. 48 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., (Banking & Insurance) working as a Consultant. Contact email : rosemarybharda@yahoo.com OR 9224780162

6736. BANGALORE : Goan Roman Catholic spinster, (Born in February 1987), Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 55 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Masters in Library & Information Science, working as a Librarian, seeks a suitable match. Contact email : gracefreitas@rediffmail.com

6678. MUMBAI: Mangalorean Roman

Catholic Spinster, (Born in September 1990), Ht. 5' 3", Wt. 50 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. BE (IT) MBA - Post Graduate Marketing, working as a IT & Financial Consultant. Contact email : md8officemail@gmail.com

6568. NEWYORK : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in December 1990), Ht. 157 cms, Wt. 60 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. M.S. in Computer Science (USA), working as a Software Engineer. Seeks a similiar qualification, having HIB Visa and working in USA below 30 years. Contact email : joymachado312@gmail.com

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

6417. MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in August 1988), Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 65 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. C.A., working as a C.A. Seeks a Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor. Contact email : rosefina.20@gmail.com

6406. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in May 1987), Ht. 5', Wt. 46 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Sc., MBA working as a HR. Contact email : picardo.princiaj@gmail.com

6400. DUBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, B.Com, (Born in December 1986), Ht. 5' 4", working for a Bank in Dubai Contact email: lavinalobo11@gmail.com

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6337. M.P. : Protestant Christian Divorcee, (Born in July 1980), Ht. 5' 3", Wt. 52 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.E. (Computer Science), MBA (HR), working as a Senior Manager , MNC Mumbai. Seeks a match residing in Mumbai, having a decent qualification and well settled. Contact email : estherjoseph@rediffmail.com

6377 USA : Parents of RC spinster (Born in June 1984) / 5'4", Slim, Fair, MBA working for a reputed company in USA, invites alliance from RC bachelors, qualified professionals well settled from good Catholic family background upto 37 years. working in US only. Kindly reply with profile and a recent photograph to divineword121@gmail.com

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

6263 MUMBAI : Mangalorean RC Spinster, (Born in January 1990), Ht. 5' 2", Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Com., Dip. in Mktg., working as a Sales Coordinator. Contact email : mflavy@yahoo.com

6325 MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in July 1986), Ht. 163 cms, Wt. 62kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. M.D. (Ophthalmology) Doctor by profession. Seeks a Mangalorean bachelor from Mumbai or Mangalore below 32 years, preferably Medical profession. Contact email : rufa0107@gmail.com

6392 MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in May 1989), Ht. 5' 3", Wt. 54 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. MBA in Pharma Management, working as a Senior Process Associate at TCS. Seeks a well educated and well settled bachelor. Contact email : zenalobo89@yahoo.co.in

6402 MUMBAI : Goan RC Spinster, (Born in Auguts 1978), Ht. 5'2", Wt. 60 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Post Graduate working as a Support

Analyst in Airlines. Contact email : erminda3561@gmail.com

6448 MUMBAI : Mangalorean RC Spinster, (Born in October 1985), Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 65 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, beautiful, Edn. B.Com., working as an Asst. HR Officer. Contact email : genesalis@yahoo.com OR 9324515797

6305 MUMBAI : Goan RC Spinster, (Born in October 1985), Ht. 5' 6", Wt. 80 kgs, Fair Complexion, Good looking and smart, Edn. B.E. (Electronics), working as a Manager in IT Company. Contact email : carmina_fernandes@hotmail.com OR 9867725912

6032 DUBAI : Goan RC Spinster, (Born in April 1976), Ht. 5' 2", Wt. 41 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.A., working as a Secretary. Contact email : track_1976@yahoo.com OR 9730454857

6004 AHMEDABAD : Goan R.C. Spinster, (Born in September 1984), Wheatish, slim, good looking, aged 31 years, Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 49 kgs, Edn. B.A., PGDMFI, Pursuing MBA, working as a Senior Officer in Bank. Seeks a educated, well settled bachelor from decent and respectable family. Contact email : steffi8138@gmail.com / jerrypeter02@yahoo.com OR 079-22162694

6462. MUMBAI : East Indian RC spinster, (Born in February 1989), Ht. 5' 2", Wt. 49 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. BMS., MMS (Mum. Uni.) working as a Data Analyst. Seeks well educated and working and setted abroad, preferably dubai. Girl willing to relocate any city in the world. Contact email : melwyn_dsilva@hotmail.com

6300. GOA : Goan RC Spinster, (Born in August 1982), Ht. 5', Wt. 55 kgs, Fair Complexion, good looking, Edn. SSC., self employed. Contact email : 4.saviola@gmail.com OR 9769598323

5619 DUBAI : Mangalorean R.C. Spinster, (Born in November 1981), Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 60 kgs, Fair Complexion, Working in Govt. Hospital in Dubai as Specialist Doctor (M.D.) Seeks a well qualified bachelor from Decent family.

Kindly send the profile and recent photograph to Email : alliance12313@yahoo.in

5997 MUMBAI : Mangalorean RC Spinster, (Born in October 1974), Ht. 5' 3", Wt. 70 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.D.S. Dentist by profession. Email : drcleona@yahoo.com

6129 MUMBAI : Tamilian RC Spinster, (Born in December 1983), Ht. 4' 11", Wt. 58 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., working for Bank, Contact email daisy.dec1@gmail.com

6192 MUMBAI : Goan RC Spinster, (Born in August 1986), Ht. 5' 6", Wt. 65 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B. Pharma & MBA in Clinical Research, working as an Asst. Manager. Seeks a Enginer or well settled and educated. Contact email : cosmetony52@yahoo.com

6226 MUMBAI : Goan RC Spinster, (Born in June 1989), Ht. 5' 2", Wt. 45 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., working as a Supervisor in Bank. Contact email : rodriguesmary898@gmail.com

6246 MUMBAI : East Indian RC Spinster, (Born in October 1986), Ht. 5' 8", Wt. 64 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Com., working, Contact email : mariashgo24@gmail.com

6330 MUMBAI : Goan RC Spinster, (Born in March 1985), Ht. 5' 1", Wt. 56 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., MBA (Finance) working as an Asst. Manager in Bank. Seeks a suitable match. Contact Email : oldgoa2012@gmail.com

6345 MUMBAI : Goan / Mangalorean RC Spinster, (Born in October 1988), Ht. 5'1", Wt. 64 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., working bank. Seeks a well qualified boy. Contact email : idsouzsa14@gmail.com

6482. K.S.A. : Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in July 1983), Ht. 160 cms, Wt. Normal, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Sc. in Chem/ PGDMLT, Pathology Lab Technician (Instructor) in **KSA** since 10 years, well settled, seeks a suitable match. Contact email : matthew_680@yahoo.com

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Website: **www.limrt.com** Email: **info@limrt.com** Mobile: **09820485389**
Office address: 99, Perin Nariman Street, 1st Floor, Fort, Mumbai 400001, India



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

The Family Package is just Rs. 5000 for five years and the benefits are worth many fold more

The Package includes:

Skill Learning Courses
(over 200 courses to make your personality more smarter)
www.limrt.com

Christian Marriage Proposals
(for marriageable family members) from Royal Christian Family

Advertisement Space:
Wish your loved ones on good occasions in the weekly
The Secular Citizen

SECULAR CITIZEN
weekly for 5 years
A NATIONAL FAMILY WEEKLY
Published since 26 years
and much more

Progressive minded Christian Families are participating and enjoying the benefits and advantages of this Scheme.

We invite you too to be one among them

Skill Learning Courses are ideal for school-college students, Professionals and Businessmen and all those who want to reach next level in their life: www.limrt.com

A five year period package at Rs. 5000 brings you whole lot of important rare to get benefits and facilities several times more than the worth

The benefits:

1. Subscription to **the Secular Citizen** for five years
2. Advertisement space in the **Secular Citizen** (every year worth Rs. 1000) for five years **Rs. 5000**
3. Opportunity to learn over 200 Skill Learning Courses of your choice at 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 marriageble 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)
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

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